

THE AGUDAGRAM

Agudas Israel Congregation

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Sivan/Tamuz 5785

Officers:

Richard Kline, Ritual Leader

Debbie Walko, President

Marlene Leonard, Vice President

Richard Rockman, Secretary

Helene Kline, Treasurer

Richard Kline, Financial Officer



SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING

June 13- Parashat Beha'Alotcha- 8:19pm 

June 20- First day of summer- Parashat Shelach- 8:21pm 

June 27- Parashat Korach- 8:22pm 

July 4 - Parashat Chukat - 8:21pm 

Please note: Services on Shabbat begin at 9:30am. When in-house, a security guard will be present for our safety!

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, BONNIE YANUSKIEWICZ, & PAULA SOKOLOSKI.

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



From Cantor Ramón Tasat to You...

דברים היוצאים מן הלב נכנסים אל הלב

Words that come from the heart enter the heart

Israel 2025: A Healing Trip Through Music & Prayer

One day in late April I received a phone call: More than 30 Latin-Americans Cantors were planning a trip to Israel to volunteer, would I want to help lead it? I was overwhelmed with many classes to teach, rehearsals to lead, concerts to organize. 8 days in Israel! I hesitated, but Roanne, my wise wife, looked me in the eyes and said: "You have a responsibility, you must go! I led from my heart and accepted the invitation.

Flights to Tel Aviv: Emunah, an act of faith against the odds – Just one day before my scheduled departure to Israel, a missile fired from Yemen landed at the Ben Gurion Airport. My flight was canceled, rebooked and then with tears in my eyes, read the message that the new trip was also canceled. The news, the war. All the airlines have canceled their flights but somehow, the gates open and, this time, courtesy of El Al airlines, I arrived in Tel Aviv a day late.

From Stone to Song -- Thursday morning, May 8, we took the light rail to where we sang all the way through the winding streets of the Old City, reconnecting with stones that hold centuries of tears, hope and return. We pray together at the Western Wall in the Equal Section of the Kotel (Ezrat Israel)—a sacred space where all voices are accepted. At this service I had the honor of chanting from the Torah facing the millenarian stones upholding Jewish history. Later in the evening we partnered with Jaialim del Asado, a network of volunteers who cook for the IDF soldiers Argentine BBQ. Young people, 18 years old, who have already lost a friend or a family member in battle. We cooked barbecue and sang. They shared their stories, their inner strength, their open arms. We blessed and hugged, singing late into the night.

Har Herzl, a Living Memory of a Modern State – Har Herzl is Israel's national military cemetery. Each grave tells a personal story. Photos, handwritten letters, flags, musical instruments are next to the tombstones. In Har Herzl, the pain is not concealed, love is not contained, Memory is eternal. "The righteous, even in death, are called alive." (Bereshit Rabbah 49:4) We stood on top of the hill, near the tomb of Theodor Herzl, the dreamer of a Jewish state, all feeling the gravity of Jewish history. Im tirtzu ein zo hagadah, (If you will it, it is no dream.) The dream came true—the cost enormous. we must remember both.

Singing for Compassion, Singing for Hope – At the Shiba Hospital, Israel's largest and most advanced medical center, we sang for soldiers with missing limbs, neurological disorders and trauma survivors. Sderot and the communities of Otef Aza—places whose

names have been engraved into Jewish trauma and resistance since October 7 awaited us. Sderot, a city where bombed houses are everywhere and streets became battlegrounds. Re'im—the site of Nova, where more than 360 young people were killed while dancing for joy, for peace and for life. A park transformed into a sacred space where I finally understood the words from the Torah:

וְכָלֵהָ עָם רָאָה תִּיהֶ קוֹלָהּ “And we the people saw the voices.”

Makhon Volcani is an agricultural research institute where Israel's ingenuity shines. In this place of innovation and environmental wisdom, Torah meets technology. A reminder that Israel is not only weapons—it is also incredible agricultural and scientific progress. Here we gather the lemons that the laborers, long gone, cannot.

One of the most emotionally challenging experiences of the trip came soon after at Kikar Hahatufim, the Hostages' Square. A public square covered with photos of hostages that are still held in Gaza. The same tender photos that plaster the entire country. A space where anguish and hope coexist. We met Luis, who looked at horror in the face and survived to tell all of us his recollections, declaring to the world that the suffering and cruelty experienced in Gaza was not a folk story. And listening to Dani Miran, father of the hostage Omri Miran, still held in Gaza. Dani, an immigrant from Iraq, became one of the soldiers who planted the Israeli flag at the Old City. Now he finds himself powerless to bring his son back home.

We were scheduled to offer a concert. Instead, we arranged a large circle. Our voices became vessels containing the pain, the longing, the refusal to surrender. At that exact moment the news came through the gigantic TV screens: Idan Alexander, after 580 days a young Israeli American soldier was going to be released. We were overwhelmed by the emotion, tears flowed incessantly. We hugged each other. The expectation was enormous. No one moved. For an hour, we became part of a national moment of tikva, of hope—endless, for those waiting for so many months. "Even when redemption seems far away, a single spark of it can fill the entire world with light." (Rav Kook)

What did we learn? Our voices can help heal. Every gesture of solidarity, no matter how insignificant, is a thread in the tapestry of the survival and renewal of our people. One living human tapestry Moti Hammer אנושית רקמה When I die, something of mine, something of mine will die in you. When you die, something of yours in me will die with you. Because all of us, yes all of us are all one living human tapestry and if one of us goes away from us something dies in us and something, stays with him. If we'll know how to comfort, to run away from hostility, if only we'd know. If we'll know how to quiet our rage upon the fury of our humiliation, to ask for forgiveness. If we'd know how to start from the beginning.

We are so grateful to Cantor Ramon for his service and spiritual leadership to our community!

MAY DONATIONS RECEIVED

Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

From	In Memory of
Lois Sugarman	Barry Sugarman, brother-in-law
Sherri Klemow Shevlin	Bessie Klemow & Ruth Klemow
Bruce & Kate Miller	Cecelia Miller, mother
Faye & Richard Bishop	David Bishop, grandfather
Faye & Richard Bishop	Edith Wagner, friend and wife of dentist
Gary F. Clark	Ethel Clark, mother
Howard Rockman	Florence Kashnitz, aunt
Gary F. Clark	Herbert Clark, father
Lois Sugarman	Jean Sugarman, mother-in-law
Lois Kline Bailey	Jeanne Kline, mother
Shirley Brenner, Cindy, Debbie & Family	Jerry Brownstein, brother & uncle
Lois Sugarman	Kalman Sugarman, father-in-law
Edward Geller	Naiomi Jaffe, aunt of Shayna
Nathan & Laura Katz	Nathan Gersteen, grandfather
Miriam Weidenfeld	Phyllis Landau, sister
Carlos Buchbinder	Rudolpho Suess, grandfather
Faye & Richard Bishop	Samuel Gandell, grandfather
Faye & Richard Bishop	Sidney Schwartz, neighbor on Tamrack St and friend of family

AIC Endowment Fund

In Memory of Marilyn Bergstein
 Evelyn & Jay Lipschutz
 Susan & Paul Brenner

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 office.

Our Shabbaton was such a success!

We'd like to continue with more, similar programming. If you have any ideas for programming, events, holidays, or have something to celebrate, please reach out so we may coordinate something with you and your family. Being together as a congregation is so important and uplifting to the soul!

June (Sivan/Tammuz) 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.

SIVAN_____JUNE

7 Stanley Brenner 6/3
7 Louis Matlow 6/3
7 Sylvia Narrow 6/3
7 William Smulyan 6/3
8 Harry Goldberg 6/4
9 Gertrude Gordon 6/5
10 Eva Kahn Landy 6/6
10 Rabbi Joseph Miller 6/6
10 Rochelle Goldman 6/6
10 Blanche Schwartz 6/6
11 Benjamin Glass 6/7
11 Benjamin Levine 6/7
11 Sidney Bauer 6/7
11 Aaron Lintz 6/7
12 Joseph Brown 6/8
12 Jakob Spanier 6/8
13 Bessie Brenner 6/9

13 Faye Orkin 6/9
13 Sarah Deitch 6/9
14 Elizabeth Gildenberg 6/10
15 Sol Schmerin 6/11
15 Sandra Graylin 6/11
15 Bertha Schwartz 6/11
15 Lillian Keich 6/11
15 William Silverman
6/11
17 Helen Burkat 6/13
18 Anna Stolboff 6/14
18 Herbert Narrow 6/14
20 Edna Glass 6/16
20 Morris Bar 6/16
21 Max Figlin 6/17
23 Sgt. Harry Cohn 6/19
24 Louis Syken 6/20
24 Richard Lande 6/20

24 Fanny Kline 6/20
24 Simon Lande 6/20
25 Arnold Ber 6/21
25 Michael Brenner 6/21
25 Bessie Glickman 6/21
27 Carl Jaffe 6/23
28 Dorothy Druian 6/24
28 Abraham Brownstein 6/24
30 Ely Abramson 6/26

TAMMUZ__JUNE/JULY

2 Alvan E. Baum 6/28
3 Ray Rockmaker 6/29
3 Max Kaplan 6/29
4 Mark Janov 6/30
4 Irving Refowich 6/30
5 Anita Deitch 7/1

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

JUNE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Shalom to all,

It's been a very difficult past month. Our family dealt with the loss of my brother-in-law. Unfortunately, Jimmy was Larry's second brother to pass away from cancer. May his memory be a blessing. He was my age. One sees how fragile life is when this occurs. Therefore, we should make each day meaningful and live each day to the fullest - without taking what we have for granted.

May 21st, a very sad reality occurred when a beautiful, young couple, employed by the Israeli Embassy, walked out of the Capital Jewish Museum only to be gunned down. They had everything to look forward to as they were planning for a long, happy future together.

Then, just this past Sunday, while peacefully protesting in Boulder, Colorado, approximately 12 individuals, who were trying to get the word out to free the remaining hostages taken in Israel, were brutally injured by an attacker because of hatred. I heard on the news, the attacker was planning for over a year to wipe out Jews but waited to carry out this act until after his own daughter graduated from school. These two senseless incidents were done by individuals who acted out because of hatred.

Janice Schoem, one of our newest AIC members and I, along with 60 other women golfers, were playing on June 2nd at Eagle Rock for the International Women's Golf Day. Female golfers all over the world get together, wearing red and white, to celebrate this friendly day. After golfing, we sat down at a picnic table to eat lunch with six other ladies. As we talked, Janice mentioned her recent trip to Spain and discussed how it was sad that in some areas she visited, there were no more traces of the previous Jewish communities and heritage except for Cordoba. She talked about visiting a location where a synagogue once stood; it is now a hotel. It is sad there are no signs or any indications about the previous synagogue or its heritage.

I then talked with ladies who were sitting at our table, most of them I did not know previously, about how I was having a difficult time coming up with my president's message due to the trying circumstances in DC and Boulder, Colorado. I learned that having discussions about this with non-Jewish people really did help get the word out that it is not OK. We talked about the Holocaust and how it has impacted everyone and how it is not okay for professors at colleges and universities where our children and grandchildren have gone to minimize the Holocaust and to "brainwash" the students. We spoke about how many young people really do not know about the Holocaust and the difficulties of being Jewish during these times.

To me, it felt very good to get the word out and discuss my feelings. I expressed how I wanted to use kindness as a high point for this message but was having a difficult time putting it together. So, in light of all of the sadness we have experienced, I want to replace the hate with acts of kindness. We must get rid of hatred and turn it around with kindness and education. I believe Janice and I made an impact with these ladies. In a discussion at

Shabbat services, Richard Kline kept reiterating that we cannot stay silent; we need to share that antisemitism is not okay! We need to speak out if something wrong because of what happened during the Holocaust. We cannot stay silent! In our ladies' discussion, we decided it's okay to agree to disagree however it is not okay to hurt and kill people.

I pray for those injured, those who lost their lives and for their family members. I hope that the remaining hostages of October 7th be released soon. We need more acts of kindness in our lives that would change people's world for the better instead of hatred. Attached are some examples of kindness that I came across.

"Each person who delivers kindness stays with us forever." – Robin S. Sharma

There is no wrong way to perform an act of kindness." – Catherine Ryan Hyde

"Be the reason someone smiles. Be the reason someone feels loved and believes in the goodness in people." – Roy T. Bennett

Every small, unselfish action nudges the world into a better path. An accumulation of small acts can change the world."

Robin Hobbs

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie Walker". The ink is a light grey or blue color.