

# CONGREGATION AGUDATH JACOB

July Iyar/Sivan 5779  
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From the Desk of

Rabbi Ben-Zion Lanxner



Summer has finally arrived, some of you have already returned from having dropped off your children at camp, some are just about to go on vacation, some are just happy to take it back a little ... the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer and the time for us to slow down a bit, sit back a bit and look at what we have. My first suggestion: **“Count your Blessings every morning”**.

מודה אני לפניך מלך חי וקים, שהחזרת בי נשמת  
 בחמלה רבה אמונתך  
 I thank You, living and eternal Sovereign, for Your  
 kindness in restoring my soul.  
 How great is Your faithfulness.

When at least twice daily we say the **“Shema Israel”**, we express our sincerest and honest belief to love Almighty G-d with all our hearts, with all our soul and with all that is ours; it is a way for us to strengthen our belief in the Oneness of the G-d of Israel.

In last week's Parsha of Beha'alotcha, the Torah teaches us that “When you kindle the lamps or candles, toward the face of the Menorah, shall the seven candles cast light” **בהעלתך את הנרות**.

**אל מול פני המנורה, יאירו שבעת הנרות**. It does not really translate “when you kindle”, but when you “elevate” the candles, (Beha'alotcha) in other words, when you elevate G-d and put G-d first place, it will

elevate you equally and will elevate and strengthen your belief in Him.

That reminds me of a story *where a very successful businessman goes on an airplane and happens to sit right next to a little girl who was sitting there alone, by herself. At first, he was surprised to see such a little girl sitting by herself with nobody else watching or taking care of her. As the airplane enters a series of air pockets, the airplane goes totally berserk, up and down, left and right and everybody is screaming and fearful of what might happen next. Holding on tightly to his chair, the businessman looks at the little girl, and realizes that she is not scared at all, she sits very calm on her seat, even drawing something on a paper. The airplane having finally resumed flying on its course, the businessman decides to inquire about the girl's calmness. How did you not fear the worst when the airplane went crazy, asked the man to the little girl? The girl responded very calmly and said: “Sir, you have to understand that the pilot on this plane is my Dad, and he is the best pilot ever in the entire world! I know that he will bring me home safe as he always does! That's why I never fear, I know I can count on him!”*

My dear friends, I want you to know deep in your heart and soul, that G-d is our personal pilot, and if we have as much belief in Him as this little girl has in her father, **Our Father in**

**Heaven, “Avinu Shebashamayim”** He will for sure lead us safely home. All it takes is a little belief and there are no limits to what we can accomplish here on earth, for our families and for our communities. We only have to work a little harder every day to come closer and connect with G-d.

Why am I talking to you about getting closer with G-d? Well, as your Rabbi, it is my responsibility to guide you and teach you about the ways to bring elevation to your bodies and to your **Jewish G-dly souls** (to use an expression of the Tanya) and consequently, get a closer connection with G-d. The more you engage in this spiritual exercise, the stronger your belief in G-d’s Torah will develop, the more you study His Torah and meditate on it, the happier you will be in observing G-ds commandments, and the more involved and participatory in Jewish community life and in your Synagogue you will become.

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## HONORS & ALIYOT

For most of our newest members, as you already are familiar to study Torah on a regular basis, observe Shabbat and Holiday rituals, there are some customs and traditions that I assume, you might not be yet as familiar, and for that reason I would like to clarify some aspects of Synagogue rituals.

Having said all that, let me show you how practically you can develop your personal connections with Almighty G-d, His Will and His Word, His Torah through those rituals.

**First** and foremost is participating in all our Religious services during our Jewish Calendar year. Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat services, Shabbat morning services and Sunday morning services (Beginner’s short service) should be attended on a regular basis. It will help you getting familiarized with our prayer book **Lev Shalem** which also will give you many opportunities to learn from the many

commentaries on any particular prayer you are interested to deepen your knowledge.

**Secondly**, by attending services regularly, you will get used to the melodies, “The Nussach Hatfilah”, the modes and tunes sung during Shacharit and Mussaf services.

**Thirdly and most important part of our services is The Torah service.** The Torah service has 3 parts, the opening of the Ark and removing the Torah Scroll from the Ark (Aron Hakodesh), The Torah Reading, and the returning of the Torah to the Ark.

Receiving an honor in the Synagogue is a very special experience which has to be taken seriously and appreciated. It draws a blessing not only for the individual, but equally for his family and the entire community.

There are two different categories of honors. The honor of **opening and closing of the Ark**, and the honor of **receiving an Aliyah** (Being called to the Torah). We believe that the Torah is the most precious gift G-d gave to the Jewish People. It is a Tree of Life to all those who grasp it and all who hold onto it are blessed. Its ways are pleasant, and all its paths are peace.

## Explanation of the Honors

**1 / Opening and closing the Ark:** The **Aron Kodesh (Holy Ark)** is a reflection of the Ark in the Holy Temple. It is the holiest space in the Synagogue, and thus it is the holiest location of the entire community. Because of its unique holy nature, we place a **Parochet (curtain or door)** in front of the Ark. At special moments during the service we open the Ark, which thus opens the Gateway to Heaven, and lets the holiness shine forth.

Now that we have a better understanding of this particular Honor, one will also understand how important the receiving of this honor is. Therefore, I want you to realize that there is an old custom in most of our Synagogues to

associate a donation/pledge for the privilege of receiving this honor, quite similar of the Holy Temple time. Remember, receiving the **Opening and the Closing of the Ark** is a **HONOR** and a **PRIVILEGE**. Please, act accordingly and be as generous as you can. (My Zaidy z"l, use to tell me to always be as generous as I can, in matter of Tzedakah (donation), explaining that the more one gives, the more one receives back (in Godly Blessings).

2 / **Aliyah** (being called to the Torah): "Aliyah" means "ascend", referring not just to the climbing up to the reading table on the Bima (the platform), but mostly also to a spiritual ascend or elevation. Our Sages explain that G-d is in a constant dialogue with His people through His Torah and speaks it to all who listen or study His Torah. After the destruction of both our Holy Temples and our Exile, the custom was that whomever was called to receive the Honor of an Aliyah, he would read by himself the section of the Torah he was called for, and G-d would speak through him as he became G-d's messenger. That custom changed due to the fact that with the dispersion of the Jewish people being exiled from our Holy Land and from the Jewish Centers of Learning, not too many people had the opportunity to learn knew how to read the Torah anymore.

### **How important and special is the Honor of being called for an Aliyah?**

As mentioned above, the Torah is the most special and precious thing a Jew possesses. Kabbalah explains that our Neshamah, our Soul, is divided in five parts (without going too much in details). Every part of these five sections of the Soul gets an elevation during our ascending to the Bima, the platform where the Torah is being read, and our reciting the Torah Blessing, affirms to the entire Congregation, that Blessed be G-d Who has Chosen us among all peoples, giving us the Torah. Not only our entire body, our entire persona gets elevated through this honor, but also as the Zohar tells us (Vol. 2, p. 161b) our Soul, including all parts which are in

the spiritual realms beyond this world, experience an elevation at that moment and become ever closer to our Creator. For the above reasons, people vie for this privilege. *(This also explains why auctioning of the Aliyot is not considered out of place for a Synagogue, and is even encouraged. Bidding for an Aliyah expresses our appreciation and yearning for spirituality, like the prayers themselves).*

### **How important and special are the Honors of Hagba'ah & Gelilah (Lifting or raising & dressing or wrapping the Torah)?**

When one is called to the Honor of **Hagba'ah & Gelilah**, Kabbalah teaches us that one reaps the benefits, energies and spiritual uplifting of all the previous Aliyot, and receives their reward all "rolled in one". (based on the Shulchan Aruch, the Code of Laws & Zohar). Basically, when one is called to perform the very holy ritual of raising the Torah scroll (the Torah being the holiest ritual object the Jewish Nation possesses today) and displaying it to the entire Congregation, one is re-enacting our teacher Moses receiving the Torah on Mount Sinai and teaching it to the People of Israel. That is why the Honors of **Hagba'ah & Gelilah** are generally given to some of the most scholarly or prominent people in the Congregation. Accordingly, a donation is also pledged for the Honors.

When one only thinks for a minute, what being called to receive an Aliyah means, one can only imagine how special this is. As it is the ultimate level of learning Torah a Jew can get, because the words are G-d's words, and through the Aliyah, one draws strength from it as one gets close to G-d. In the old days, people would call the Gabbai Rishon (the one in charge of dividing the Aliyot between the members of his congregation) in the middle of the week making a pledge or a donation for one of the 10 Honors given during the Torah reading (7 Aliyot, 1 Maftir Aliyah and "Hagba'ah" raising the Torah, and "Gelilah" rolling and closing it). It would be

kind of a silent auction, as anyone could raise his pledge in order to get that particular Aliyah.

Today, only High Holy Days Aliyot and Ark opening Honors are auctioned off. As I explained earlier, being called to receive an **Aliyah** is a tremendous **Honor** and a **Privilege**. As you get this great opportunity, remember how important it is to maintain this Synagogue so that you and your family, your entire Congregation and future generations of Jews can have such a beautiful and holy place to celebrate and worship the One G-d of Israel.

***Make it a priority to keep Agudath Jacob open for the next generation. Your generosity will be very much appreciated.*** I would be remiss if I am not mentioning that you can also send a donation to our Synagogue, in honor of a **birthday** in the family, for a **speedy recovery** wish to someone you know, for a **Bar/Bat Mitzvah**, for a **Yahrzeit**, for a **Newborn baby**, in honor of someone getting a **promotion**, in honor of an **Anniversary** ....**just pick up the phone and call our office and a special card will be sent immediately notifying the person you are making a donation for.**

Finally, I would like to call upon each and every member of Agudath Jacob.

***Get involved in leading parts of services,***



***and Torah and Haftarah chanting.***

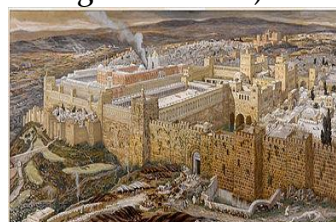


***Call me to discuss which part you would be interested to learn and I guarantee to make this happen. It would be so wonderful to have some of you lead part of our regular Shabbat services or even some of the High Holy Days services. Please, don't be shy, (you don't have to be an opera singer), we are all Family.*** (In our next Newsletter, I will explain all the various Aliyot, all the various parts of the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services and Ark opening Honors).

Here are some photos of Rabbi and Susan visiting our campers at Green Farm Camp in Bruceville and our campers and counselors at Young Judaea in Wimberley.



Mark your calendar: Sunday July 21 is the **Fast of the 17<sup>th</sup> Day of Tammuz** (the weekly announcements will have a detailed explanation and meaning of this Fast).



Have a great and relaxing summer.

***Rabbi Ben-Zion Lammner***

## July Service Schedule

<b><u>Friday, July 5</u></b>		<b><u>Friday, July 19</u></b>	
Kabbalat Shabbat	6:00 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat	6:00 p.m.
Candle Lighting	8:19 p.m.	Candle Lighting	8:15 p.m.
<b><u>Saturday, July 6</u></b>		<b><u>Saturday, July 20</u></b>	
Shacharit	9:30 a.m.	Shacharit	9:30 a.m.
Shabbat Ends	9:19 p.m.	Shabbat Ends	9:13 p.m.
<b><u>Friday, July 12</u></b>		<b><u>Friday, July 26</u></b>	
Kabbalat Shabbat	6:00 p.m.	Kabbalat Shabbat	6:00 p.m.
Candle Lighting	8:18 p.m.	Candle Lighting	8:11 p.m.
<b><u>Saturday, July 13</u></b>		<b><u>Saturday, July 27</u></b>	
Shacharit	9:30 a.m.	Shacharit	9:30 a.m.
Shabbat Ends	9:17 p.m.	Shabbat Ends	9:08 p.m.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**July 1**  
Henry Hacker  
**July 13**  
Laynie Miller

**July 19**  
Carolyn Neuwirth  
**July 21**  
Cheryl Hersh

**July 26**  
Inez Bonneville  
**July 29**  
Jaece Rogers



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

**July 2**  
Jerry & Gloria Gurkoff  
**July 3**  
Rabbi & Susan Lanxner

**July 13**  
Jim & Morasha Stuckey  
**July 28**  
Jeff & Lea Levin



OUR  
RELIGIOUS  
SCHOOL  
STUDENTS  
RE-  
ENACTING  
THIS VERY  
SPECIAL  
MOMENT  
IN OUR  
PEOPLE'S  
HISTORY!



## **Special Donations:**

*Leonard Englander*

## **June Shabbat Food Sponsors:**

*Howle Family*

*CAJ Programs*

*Joseph Settle*

*Rabbi Lanxner*

## **Shabbat Donations**

### May 25

*Joseph Settle*

*Abbye & Susan Silver*

*Jim & Morasha Stuckey*

### June 1

*Judy Hersh*

*Joseph Settle*

### June 8/Shavuot June 10

*Judy Hersh*

*Javis Howeth*

*Jim & Gabrielle Howle*

*George & Kathleen Keller*

*Jeff Levin*

*Joseph Settle*

*Abbye & Susan Silver*

*Jim & Morasha Stuckey*

*Gloria Yoder*

### June 15

*Inez Bonneville*

*Judy Hersh*

*Javis Howeth*

*Jim & Morasha Stuckey*

### June 22

*Henry Hacker*

*Joseph Settle*

### June 29

*Henry & Hope Hacker*

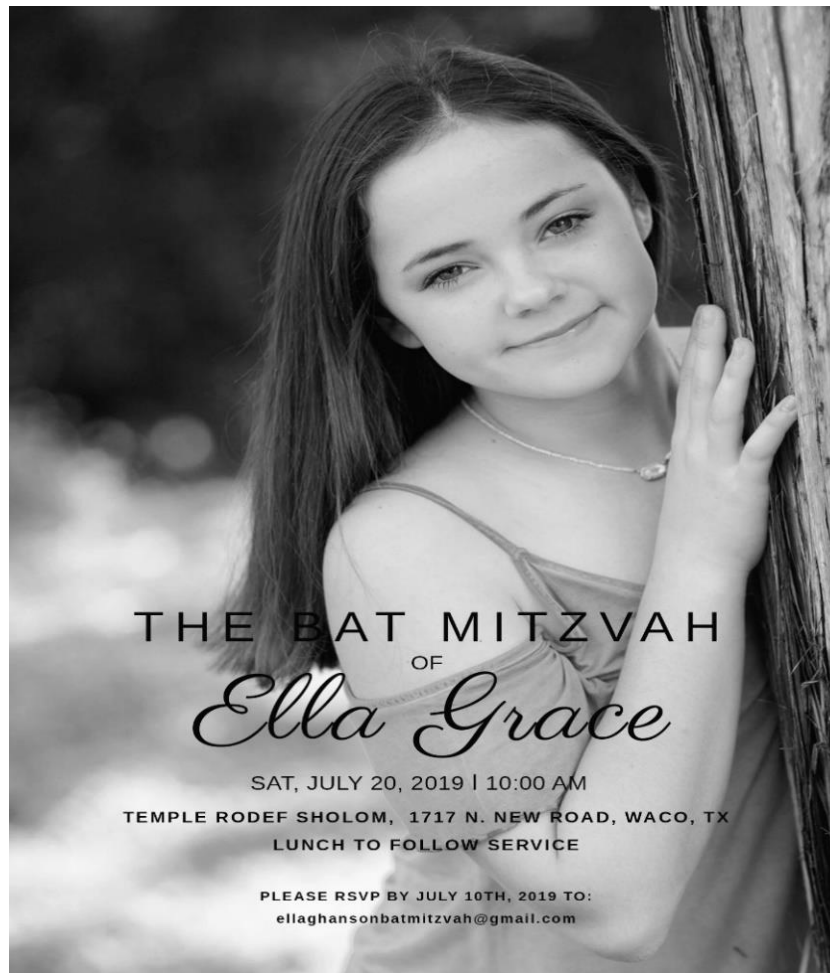
*Javis Howeth*

*Jim & Gabrielle Howle*

*George & Kathleen Keller*

*Joseph Settle*

*Jim & Morasha Stuckey*



*In Loving Memory*



**Deanna Stupak**  
Phyllis & Mahmoud  
Akmal

**Mandel Citrin**  
**Phil Citrin**  
**Dorothy Gulman**  
Jeff Levin

**Samuel & Sylvia**  
**Chernoff**  
Ellen Chernoff Simon

**Rosaline Gardner**  
Rina Ruttenberg &  
Daniel Holland  
Phyllis & Mahmoud  
Akmal

**Hilda Ruttenberg**  
Rina Ruttenberg &  
Daniel Holland  
Phyllis Akmal

**Rebecca Zoblotsky**  
Morris Zoblotsky

**Gene Goltz**  
**Marian Marks**  
**Siedhoff**  
**Isadore Budin**  
**Mary Budin**  
Florence Hersh



**HOW TO OBSERVE THE YAHRZEIT**

It is traditional to kindle a Yahrzeit Candle in the home on the evening Yahrzeit begins. It should remain lighted until sunset the next day. Possible prayer before lighting a Yahrzeit candle: Eternal God, I/we light this candle in memory of (name) \_\_\_\_\_, my/our beloved (relationship) \_\_\_\_\_. The light of the flame rekindles all the warm memories of the moment we shared together, and reassures me /us that a piece of his/her soul dwells in my/our heart(s) forever. May his/her soul be bound up with the bonds of eternal life. Amen. Candles are available at the Gift Shop. Every effort should be made to say Kaddish at congregational services. It is meritorious to perform some Mitzvah or to contribute to the synagogue in commemoration of the deceased.

**Kaddish will be read on July 5**

<i>Tammuz 3</i>	<i>Sam Levy</i> <i>Esther Goldie Lubin</i>
<i>Tammuz 4</i>	<i>Lt. A. J. Englander</i> <i>Tillie Goodman Goldstein</i>
<i>Tammuz 5</i>	<i>Annie Geetah</i> <i>Gus Holste</i> <i>Sadie Wolkoff Kaplan</i> <i>Abe Wizig</i>
<i>Tammuz 6</i>	<i>Hyman Fogel</i> <i>Reva Green</i> <i>Morris Zoblotsky</i>
<i>Tammuz 7</i>	<i>Leslie Hoffman</i>
<i>Tammuz 8</i>	<i>Sam Marks</i> <i>Mary Robinson</i>

**Kaddish will be read on July 12**

<i>Tammuz 9</i>	<i>I. Adams</i> <i>Dora Kleiman</i> <i>Morris Rosenberg</i> <i>Mamie Sampson</i>
<i>Tammuz 10</i>	<i>Adolph Beerman</i> <i>Isadore Dansky</i> <i>Max Miller</i> <i>Anna Neuwirth</i>
<i>Tammuz 11</i>	<i>Israel Genecov</i> <i>David Harris</i>
<i>Tammuz 12</i>	<i>Mrs. L. Gershowitz</i> <i>Harry Hoffman</i>
<i>Tammuz 13</i>	<i>Meyer Heyman</i> <i>Fannye Smith</i>
<i>Tammuz 14</i>	<i>Nathan Neuwirth</i> <i>Sam Pinchuk</i> <i>Max Siegel</i>
<i>Tammuz 15</i>	<i>Ben H. Green</i> <i>Matley Harelik</i> <i>Robert Settle</i>

**Kaddish will be read on July 19**

<i>Tammuz 16</i>	<i>Mrs. M. Adams</i> <i>Phillip Koss</i> <i>Molly Sorkin</i> <i>Marie Solovey Wanger</i>
<i>Tammuz 18</i>	<i>Annette Fox</i>
<i>Tammuz 19</i>	<i>Louis Ringold</i> <i>Isaac Draiman</i>
<i>Tammuz 20</i>	<i>Edwin Bernard Dreyfus</i> <i>Ethel Dickwolf</i> <i>Benson Offit</i> <i>John Perry</i>
<i>Tammuz 21</i>	<i>Sam Katz</i>

**Kaddish will be read on July 26**

<i>Tammuz 23</i>	<i>Gitle (Gussie) Jacobson</i> <i>Claire Seriff</i>
<i>Tammuz 24</i>	<i>Max Israel</i> <i>Ida Knobler</i> <i>Mary Novy</i> <i>Morris Rubinsky</i>
<i>Tammuz 25</i>	<i>Kate Kahan</i>
<i>Tammuz 26</i>	<i>Izadore F. Aronson</i> <i>Hannah Wolpo Gray</i> <i>Sidney Lynn</i>
<i>Tammuz 27</i>	<i>Leon Jacobson</i> <i>Herma Benjamin</i>
<i>Tammuz 28</i>	<i>Ida Budin</i> <i>David Fuller</i> <i>Edna Levy</i>
<i>Tammuz 29</i>	<i>Mose Genecov</i> <i>Emanuel Wizig</i>

## July 2019

28 Sivan 5779 - 28 Tammuz 5779

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 4:55AM/8:03PM  28 Sivan Arachin 15	2 4:56AM/8:03PM  29 Sivan Arachin 16	3 4:56AM/8:03PM Rosh Hodesh I  30 Sivan Arachin 17	4 4:57AM/8:03PM Rosh Hodesh II OFFICE CLOSED HAPPY JULY 4TH!	5 4:57AM/8:03PM ii7:45PM Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m.	6 4:58AM/8:02PM §8:47PM Shacharit 9:30 a.m.
7 4:59AM/8:02PM Minyan & Classes 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  4 Tammuz Arachin 21	8 4:59AM/8:02PM  5 Tammuz Arachin 22	9 5:00AM/8:01PM  6 Tammuz Arachin 23	10 5:01AM/8:01PM  7 Tammuz Arachin 24	11 5:01AM/8:01PM  8 Tammuz Arachin 25	12 5:02AM/8:00PM ii7:42PM Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m.	13 5:03AM/8:00PM §8:45PM Shacharit 9:30 a.m.
14 5:04AM/7:59PM Minyan & Classes 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  11 Tammuz Arachin 28	15 5:04AM/7:59PM  12 Tammuz Arachin 29	16 5:05AM/7:58PM  13 Tammuz Arachin 30	17 5:06AM/7:58PM  14 Tammuz Arachin 31	18 5:07AM/7:57PM  15 Tammuz Arachin 32	19 5:08AM/7:56PM ii7:38PM Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m.	20 5:08AM/7:56PM §8:41PM Shacharit 9:30 a.m.
21 5:09AM/7:55PM §8:40PM Fast of Tammuz 17 Minyan & Classes 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  18 Tammuz Temurah 2	22 5:10AM/7:54PM  19 Tammuz Temurah 3	23 5:11AM/7:53PM  20 Tammuz Temurah 4	24 5:12AM/7:52PM  21 Tammuz Temurah 5	25 5:13AM/7:52PM  22 Tammuz Temurah 6	26 5:14AM/7:51PM ii7:33PM Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m.	27 5:15AM/7:50PM §8:35PM Shacharit 9:30 a.m.
28 5:16AM/7:49PM Minyan & Classes 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  25 Tammuz Temurah 9	29 5:17AM/7:48PM  26 Tammuz Temurah 10	30 5:17AM/7:47PM  27 Tammuz Temurah 11	31 5:18AM/7:46PM  28 Tammuz Temurah 12			