

# CONGREGATION AGUDATH JACOB

AUGUST 2025 AV 5785/ELUL 5786

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From the Desk of  
Rabbi Ben-Zion Lanxner

## Anti-Zionism is Anti-Semitism!

Let me try to explain this in a different way, as Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks z"l, used to say: "**The Violence that starts with the Jews, Never ends with the Jews**" or in other words, "today's Anti-Zionism is the same as Anti-Semitism".

**Before they hated the Jews. Now they hate Israel. What's the difference?**

**None. You and I feel that same hate. Israel and the Jewish People are ONE and Indivisible! AM ECHAD=ONE NATION!**

**So, as I said... Before they hated the Jews. Now, they hate Israel...**

**Do you know Why?**

**There is something about the Jews that makes people awkward, uneasy, socially uncomfortable, to the extreme point of causing mental discomfort.** And there is equally **something about Israel** that makes people uncomfortable, and it is rarely not what they say it is.

They will point to politics, the Settlers in Judea and Samaria (Yehuda and Shomron), borders, and wars.

But scratch beneath the outrage, and you'll find something deeper.

A discomfort not with what Israel **does**, but with what Israel **is**.

A nation this small should not be this strong. Unacceptable, for any logical reason! Period.

Israel has no oil. No special natural resources (especially after returning the entire Sinai desert for a Peace treaty with Egypt in 1973).

The State of Israel has population barely the size of a mid-sized American city, as New York!

Israel is surrounded by **150 million** enemies. Hated in the United Nations.

Since its inception, they are targeted by terror. Condemned by celebrities. Boycotted, slandered, and attacked.

And still, they thrive like there is no tomorrow.

In military. In medicine. In security. In technology. In agriculture. In intelligence. In morality. In sheer, unbreakable will.

**They turn desert into farmland** with drip irrigation, also sometimes referred to as **trickle irrigation**. *(This system was developed in Israel in the 1950s and 1960s, primarily by Simcha Blass and his son, Yeshayahu. The technique involves delivering water directly to the plant's roots through small diameter plastic tubes with emitters, minimizing water waste and maximizing efficiency).* G-d will reward them, as Isaiah (35:1) says, 'The desert will rejoice... and blossom like a rose'". Wherever Jews have lived, all through their journeys, they have turned wildernesses into blossoming meadows. Monotheism – the idea of morality and Truth – were spread by the Jew.

Wherever the Jew has lived, that idea has taken hold. Where they have not, it has not. The deserts that have welcomed the Israelite have become Edens. Those who reject them will eventually descend into chaos.

The Midrash teaches: we need to be welcoming to the Torah scholars in our midst. They should be spoken about in our homes; their ideas should be taken seriously. The society that rejects the Jew will crumble. In the great words of Malachi, last of the prophets, "**a time will come when large civilizations of Esav will revert to chaos**".

A world that rejects the Nation of Israel and its message cannot last. By faithfully committing to our destiny, we bring blessings wherever we are welcomed. It might sound a little too biased coming from me, so how about listening to Mark Twain's essay "Concerning the Jews"

*"If the statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one percent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous dim puff of star dust lost in the blaze of the Milky Way. Properly the Jew ought hardly to be heard of, but he is heard of, has always been heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people, and his commercial importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk. His contributions to the world's list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine, and abstruse learning are also away out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers. He has made a marvelous fight in the world, in all the ages; and has done it with his hands tied behind him. He could be vain of himself and be excused for it. The Egyptian, the Babylonian, and the Persian rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; the Greek and the Roman followed, and made a vast noise, and they are gone; other peoples have sprung up and held their torch high for a time, but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, or have vanished. The Jew saw them all, beat them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?"*

**They make water from air.** **Watergen** is the pioneering Israeli company that has become the global leader in the atmospheric drinking water devices (AWG) market. *(The Israeli company **Watergen** uses Atmospheric Water Generation (AWG) technology to extract and purify water from the air. This process, also known as air-to-water technology, involves drawing in ambient air, filtering it, and then using a heat exchange process to condense water vapor into liquid form. The resulting water is then filtered and mineralized to create potable drinking water).*

**They intercept rockets in mid-air**, with the Iron Dome. (Iron Dome is a short-range missile defense system developed by two Israeli firms—Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel Aerospace Industries).

**Their Viper Talon, Israel's top speed combat Jet**, the latest of Israel Air force fleet, is one of the most maneuverable fighter jets in the world.

**They rescue hostages** under the nose of the world's worst regimes.

**They survive wars** that were supposed to wipe them out, and win.

*(The war of Independence 1948, the 1956 Suez/Sinai war, the Six Day War in 1967, the 1973 Yom Kippur war, the 1982 Lebanon war, the 2006 Lebanon war, the 2023 Hamas/Hezbollah/Houthi/wars, 2025 Rising Lion war against Iran...)*

The world watches all this and can't make sense of it, it is much too inconvenient, it does not look right...the Jews are victors? Impossible! It does not sound right; it sounds too contradictory. So, they do what people do when they witness strength they can't understand.

They assume it must be cheating. Or it must be American aid.  
It must be foreign lobbying. It must be oppression. It must be theft.

It must be some dark trick that gave the Jews this kind of power.  
Or it must be blackmail. Because heaven forbid it's something else.  
Heaven forbid it's real. Heaven forbid it's earned.  
Or even worse, it must be destined.

The Jewish people were supposed to disappear a long, long time ago.  
That is how the story of exiled, enslaved, hated minorities is supposed to end.  
But the Jews didn't disappear. On the contrary, the Jews thrived in their DNA's handicap called "**Am Kashheh Oref**" "a stiffed- neck people", rightfully so, we are obsessively stubborn, not because we wanted to be, but we were forced to, and that obsessive stubbornness became the reason of our Jewish People's resilience.

They actually came home, rebuilt their land, revived their language, and brought their dead back to life — in memory, in identity, and in strength.

One might suggest that to be totally not normal. Nor is it political.  
What it really is, it is down straight a prophecy from biblical times.

There's no cheat code that explains how a group of people return to their homeland after 2,000 years of exile, pogroms and Inquisitions.

There is also no rational path from gas chambers to global influence.

And there is equally no historical precedent for surviving the Babylonians, the Assyrians, the Greeks, the Romans, the Crusaders, the Inquisition, the pogroms, and the Holocaust, and still showing up like clockwork on Monday in Haifa, Jerusalem or Tel Aviv.

Israel doesn't make sense. But so does its name of biblical origin, coming from wrestling with G-d and prevailing!

Unless you believe in something beyond the math, and beyond the logic.

## And this Divine phenomenon and involvement is what drives the world crazily insane!

Because if Israel is real, if this inconceivable, ancient, constantly hated nation is somehow still “Chosen, Treasured, protected, and thriving, then maybe G-d isn’t just a myth after all.

Maybe G-d, the G-d of Israel, the Creator of this world, maybe Hashem is still keeping His promise and His Covenant (Brit) to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and to the generations after them, as it says in Deuteronomy 11:12 **“It is a land which Hashem your G-d looks after, on which Hashem your G-d always keeps His eye, from year’s beginning to year’s end”**.

So, maybe G-d is still with us, with His people, with His Holy Land of Israel. Maybe He is real and still writing the story...

Maybe history isn’t random.

Maybe evil doesn’t get the last word.

Maybe the Jews are not just a regular people... but a testimony, His testimony.

That is what they can’t stand, nor can they approve of anything Israel does.

Because once you admit that Israel’s survival is something out of the ordinary, out of conceivably “normal”, or isn’t just impressive, but “Divinely ordained”, then, everything changes.

Your moral compass has to reset.

Your assumptions about history, power, and justice collapse.

You realize you are not just watching the end of an empire.

You are indeed witnessing the beginning of something eternal.

So, what would be their normal reaction to this? They deny it.

They smear it. And rage against it.

Because it’s easier to call a miracle “cheating” than to face the possibility that indeed, G-d keeps His promises to His Chosen People.

And as He has kept them then, He is keeping them now and He will still keep them until the Coming of the Messiah at the end of days.

May it be soon and in our days. Amen.

Chazak, Chazak, veNitchazeik! Am Israel Chai!

*Rabbi Ben-Zion Lanxner*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As many of you know, I recently returned from a medical solidarity mission to Israel, as part of a delegation of about 20 Jewish doctors of various specialties (I was the token epidemiologist) mostly from the U.S. The trip was sponsored by a couple of Jewish medical organizations. This was not a “tourist” experience, but an opportunity for the group of us to be brought up to speed on the status of our homeland post-October-7th as related to medical care, disaster response, and government and military healthcare infrastructure. I’d never before had the privilege to take part in anything even remotely like this trip.

Our experiences included academic lectures, on-the-ground training exercises, guided observation of secure facilities, candid briefings from national leaders, such as the Surgeons General of both the IDF and the Israeli Air Force, and visits to military facilities (e.g., Bahad 10, south of Be’er Sheva), medical centers (both Sheba Tel-HaShomer and Soroka, the latter the hospital complex hit by an Iranian missile attack), and Magen David Adom’s ultra-secure underground command bunker (no photos or recordings were allowed). This is just a sample; I’m leaving a lot out.

Additionally—and this is difficult for me to write about—we spent a good part of one day in Otef Gaza. This included a visit to the Holit *kibbutz*, which was devastated by Hamas; we entered the ruins of the victims’ homes and heard from a survivor, in explicitly nauseating anatomical detail, how each family was demonically slaughtered. We were standing right there, on the site. We also spent time at the Nova Festival grounds, containing individual memorials to each of the hundreds of young murder victims, one of the eeriest experiences of my life. As well, we visited the now famous burned vehicles compound near Netivot, and passed a few hours in Sderot where from the Kobi Hill lookout we were able to see into Gaza. Throughout, we received first-hand testimony from wounded soldiers, massacre survivors, and traumatized first responders, and were confronted with photos, video footage, audio recordings, and first-person descriptions of lethal injuries to our fellow Jews. Even though all of us there were medical people of one sort or another, well versed in gore, bearing witness to the physical details of the carnage was harrowing. I imagine it will never leave me.

One more tidbit to report: at the start of the week we were briefed, explicitly, on how to respond if we were to come under attack, whether at our hotel, while out in public, or on the bus taking us throughout the country, especially in the Negev and the Gaza Envelope. We all had the excellent Home Front Command app at our disposal, which I suspect that almost every Israeli has on their cell phones. Well, just before dawn on our last full day, the alarm went off and woke us all. The app alerted us of an incoming missile attack in the Tel Aviv City Center (from the Houthis, presumably), and we were instructed that we had 90 seconds to leave our rooms (in our sleep clothes) and head to an inner stairwell, fortified to be bomb proof. After 10 minutes, we got the all-clear (either Iron Dome did its thing or the missile was a dud), and we headed back to our rooms to pack. Strange as it may sound, I didn’t perceive that anyone was too shocked by this turn of events, either us or the locals. In fact, at breakfast a couple of us said, almost with some levity, if that’s possible, that now we can say that we got the full Israeli experience. Our brothers and sisters in Israel must be the most resilient people on the face of the earth.

There is much more that I could tell you, but I won’t go into any of the sickening details here. If I were to add one thing, however, it’s this: don’t believe any of the lies of the Western media about what has occurred since October 7th. When it comes to the current military operations, Israel is as close to unified as it has ever been; there is almost zero support for a two-state solution, emphatically most of all from the almost two million Arab Israelis; the IDF may be the most morally careful and upstanding military force in the annals of history; and the enemies of our people are guilty of actions so barbarically evil that it is nearly impossible to find the words to describe them. Sadly, these demons still have their supporters among U.S. and European politicians, in

Western media outlets, and on college campuses. From my perspective, the collective evil and complicity of this new manifestation of Jew-hatred, and I know that this may seem like hyperbole, is a sign that we may be nearing the time of the *Geulah* (Final Redemption), as the Torah and our rabbis prophesied. For me, it's thus a privilege to be alive at this point in history.

Finally, all of us at CAJ, as committed religious Jews, should feel an obligation to stand up for the truth as proud Zionists and not shy away from calling out the lies of those who continue to misrepresent what has occurred and is occurring in Israel and here in the U.S. and throughout the Jewish diaspora. May Hashem protect us and our allies. *Am Yisrael chai*.

*L'shalom,*  
Jeff Levin





2025

**5785/5786 Selichot: Saturday, September 13, 2025.**

**Havdalah: 8:30 p.m. followed by Refreshments & Movie**

**Selichot Service IN-PERSON & [Live on Facebook](#) at 10:00 p.m.**

**Rosh HaShanah: Sept 22 – Sept 24**

Erev Rosh HaShanah: Monday, Sept. 22, 6:00 p.m. IN-PERSON & [LIVE on Facebook](#)

Rosh HaShanah: Tuesday, Sept. 23, 10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON & [Live on Facebook](#)

**Tashlich:** Wednesday, [Sept 23 at 4:45 p.m.](#) Brazos Park E. 3516 N. MLK, Jr. Blvd.

Rosh HaShanah Day 2: Wed., Sept. 24, 10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON & [Live on Facebook](#)

Shabbat Shuvah: Saturday, Sept 27, 10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON & [Live on Facebook](#)

**[Kever Avot: SEPTEMBER 28](#)**

Sunday, [September 28](#), 10:00 a.m. at CAJ Cemetery

**Yom Kippur: October 1-2**

Erev Y. K. Kol Nidre: Wednesday, October 1, 7:00 p.m. IN-PERSON & [Live on Facebook](#)

Yom Kippur: Thursday, October 2, 2025.

Shacharit, 10:00 a.m., [Yizkor, 12:30 p.m., Mussaf, 1:30 p.m.](#)

[Mincha, & Neilah: 5:30 p.m. IN-PERSON & LIVE on Facebook](#)

**and Break the Fast at 7:30 p.m. in our Social Hall**

## **Sukkot: October 6-14**

Erev Sukkot: Monday, October 6, 6:00 p.m. IN-PERSON & LIVE [on Facebook](#) with  
**Kiddush in the Sukkah.**

Sukkot Day 1: Tuesday, October 7, 10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON & Live [on Facebook](#) Followed  
by **Kiddush & Luncheon in the Sukkah.**

Shabbat Chol Hamo'ed: Friday, October 10, 6:00 p.m.

Shabbat Chol Hamo'ed: Saturday, October 11, 10:00 a.m.

**Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah,**  
**Tuesday, October 14,** at 10:00 am IN-PERSON & LIVE [on Facebook](#)  
Followed by YIZKOR at 11:15 a.m.

**Followed by Kiddush in the Sukkah.**



## August Service Schedule

### Friday, August 1

Kabbalat Shabbat	6:00 pm
Candle Lighting	8:07 pm

### Saturday, August 2

Shacharit	10:00 am
Shabbat Ends	9:03 pm

### Friday, August 8

Kabbalat Shabbat	6:00 pm
Candle Lighting	8:01 pm

### Saturday, August 9

Shacharit	10:00 am
Shabbat Ends	8:56 pm

### Friday, August 15

Kabbalat Shabbat	6:00 pm
Candle Lighting	7:54 pm

### Saturday, August 16

Shacharit	10:00 am
Shabbat Ends	8:49 pm

### Friday, August 22

Kabbalat Shabbat	6:00 pm
Candle Lighting	7:46 pm

### Saturday, August 23

Shacharit	10:00 am
Shabbat Ends	8:40 pm

### Friday, August 29

Kabbalat Shabbat	6:00 pm
Candle Lighting	7:38 pm

### Saturday, August 30

Shacharit	10:00 am
Shabbat Ends	8:31 pm



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August 11

Shayna Via

August 13

Colleen Wolf

August 17

Kathleen Keller

August 19

Judy Hersch  
Aislinn Brooks

August 31

George Keller

Rabbi Lanxner

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

**August 11**

**Ray & Shayna Via**

**August 19**

**Miguel & Lourdes Perez**

**August 21**

**Barbara & Darryl Dankenbring**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Order Your Lulav & Etrog Set

Each set includes Etrog, lulav, myrtles, willows and a lulav bag.

Quality Set \$60

Payment is required with order by  
Friday, September 19, 2025 at noon.

## **THANK YOU** for your donations in July!

### **Shabbat**

Susan Raphael  
Inez Bonneville  
George & Kathleen  
Keller

Joseph Settle  
Steven & Carrie Draher  
Jori Samuel  
Javis Howeth

Jeff Levin  
Susan Lanxner

### **Refuah Shleimah**

Georger Keller  
Rabbi & Susan Lanxner

### **In Memory of**

Samuil Godon  
Semyon Papernov

Jose Olachea (Pati Haessley's Brother)  
Rabbi & Susan Lanxner

### **In Honor of**

Inez Bonneville, Joseph Settle and Jori Samuel (for all their hard work)  
Rabbi & Susan Lanxner

### **Mazal Tov**

Kathleen Keller (on her new position)  
Rabbi and Susan Lanxner

Abbye and Susan Silver (on their  
grandson)  
Rabbi and Susan Lanxner

# YAHREZEITS

The following names of dearly departed will be read aloud by the Rabbi preceding the Mourner's Kaddish on Shabbat morning. It is fitting and customary that the nearest of kin be present in the synagogue for the recitation of this special prayer in their memory. Attendance not only honors the departed but also enhances and guarantees that a Minyan is present to recite the Kaddish.

## **Kaddish will be read on August 1**

Av 6	Charles Brodkey Gussie Rosenbaum Emanuel Rubel
Av 7	Alek Genecov* Rachel Goodman* Pat Henry Howeth
Av 8	M Cohen* Betty Levy
Av 9	Mark Emanuel Wolf*
Av 10	B M Goodman*
Av 11	Mr Samuel Lynn* Benjamin V Schiller, Jr Elliot Wolpo
Av 12	Sol Kempler Gita Papernov Hannah Rosenblatt Norman Smith*

## **Kaddish will be read on August 8**

Av 13	Dolores Gurkoff
Av 14	Isaac Feldt*
Av 15	Charles Goldstein Haskell Harelik* Robert Mitchell Harvey Slutsky
Av 16	Mamie Commer* Isador Ellis*
Av 18	Joe Ellis
Av 19	Jacob (Jake) E Gandler* Alberta E Griffith Howeth

## **Kaddish will be read on August 15**

Av 20	Lee David Miller* Esther Samet* Charles I Silver* Ben Tobolowsky*
Av 21	Marilyn Ellis Mrs Emma Lynn*
Av 22	Irwin "Buddy" Levy*
Av 23	Abe Berlowitz*
Av 24	Rachel Aronson*

Av 25	Violet H Lyons* Rachel (Rae) Levin* Hildur Metz
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## **Kaddish will be read on August 22**

Av 28	Israel Chodorow* Eunice Rosen Adolph Schein*
Av 29	Sam Aronson*
Av 30	Gertrude Brickman Helen Marie Hoffman Mitchell Stein Sam S Taub*
Elul 1	A S Kaplan*
Elul 2	Bessie Chodorow* Nathan Hoffman* Lilye (Goltz) Silver Sidney Solomon*
Elul 3	Chester Zeichner

## **Kaddish will be read on August 29**

Elul 4	Morris Marcus*
Elul 5	Minnie Rae Fink
Elul 7	Esther Brown* Jake Aaron Hayman* Julius Jacobson*
Elul 8	Dora Berlovitz* Marthe Bloch Heyman* Bennie Markusfeld* Gina Marie Perry-Valusky
Elul 9	Jacob Halpern
Elul 10	Bessie Chernoff* Isaac Wolpo Anna Wolstein Jonas Samuel Zackin