

# CONGREGATION AGUDATH JACOB

OCTOBER 2025 ELUL 5785/TISHREI 5786

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From the Desk of  
Rabbi Ben-Zion Lanxner



There is no Rabbi's column this month, as he is still recuperating from his recent surgery. FYI, he is feeling much better, thank G-d, and looks forward to being back in shul before too long. But we all want him to rest up first!

Please continue to offer prayers for a Refuah Shleimah (perfect healing). You should use the maternal form of the Rabbi's name: HaRav Ben-Zion ben Devorah.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There is great joy in being a part of a community, especially being with one's people, religiously speaking. In religious communities, multiple individual persons become a oneness, a union of people. The name of our *shul*, Agudath Jacob—the union of Jacob—reflects that reality. We are a union, a unity, of the descendants of Jacob. There are over a quarter of a million people in Greater Waco, of which maybe about 250 or so, more or less, are Jews. So that is one tenth of 1 percent of the population. Without our community's two Jewish congregations, we would be tiny dots lost amidst the mass of others, with no meaningful, spiritual connections with each other.

The reasons to join a synagogue, or at least to attend services, holidays, and special events, are many. Foremost of course is to fulfill religious obligations. It is a *mitzvah* to come to *shul* or temple, actually several *mitzvot*. But besides that reason in the realm of communal obligations, there is a positive interpersonal reason: it is simply good for our lives and our well-being to find ways to congregate with fellow Jews. So how best can a congregational leader help to move the needle?

Guilting people into *shul* because of the harm to oneself or others of missing an obligation maybe works, but is not the best way to "sell" *shul*. Stressing negativity—the negative implications of not fulfilling *mitzvot*—perhaps can work in the short-term, but longer-term, in my opinion, the best way is to stress the positivity that results from *shul*. What I am speaking of here is the pleasure of simply being around other Jews, not just in the sanctuary or chapel, but in the social hall or during communal meals or while working together inside the *shul* or on the grounds or even out in the community, or just being social together. Behavioral scientists and social workers call this kind of benefit "social support."

The social and personal benefits are why support groups are so popular and valuable. We may have heard of or participated in support groups for military veterans, ethnic minorities, survivors of divorce from abusive spouses, recovering alcoholics, patients suffering with rare illnesses, and so on. Simply being around others who share your experience, who understand your life's journey and your challenges, who speak the same "language," with whom you can let down your guard—this can be such a source of relief and comfort. And, as scientific research tells us, such support may actually be healing, in the literal sense of the word, emotionally and even physically.

So, as we get ready to begin our new Jewish liturgical year, please consider ways that you can become more involved and more present at CAJ, our very own Jewish support group. One way is at services, of course, but there are also other ways. By coming to *davven* on *Shabbat* not only can your attendance and participation provide objective benefits to our fellow congregants—e.g., enabling *minyanim* for saying *kaddish* or for taking out our *Torah* scrolls—but it can provide all of us an outlet for experiencing the camaraderie of our fellow Jews.

As noted at the start of this message, our people constitutes a tiny minority of Central Texans and so gathering together can provide a wonderful source of sustenance and comfort and friendship—fellowship, as our Christian neighbors might say. We are a built-in social circle, of friends and fellow worshippers, and we are blessed to know that there are always folks around who would have our back in times of need. Like with any family, there are sometimes divisive issues that arise among us, but when it matters, we know that we can count on each other to be there. This is a blessing beyond measure.

In closing, as we enter this new Jewish year let us all look for ways that we can become more involved in *shul* and more connected with each other, both inside and outside of *shul*. These bonds not only will help to ensure the continuation of our religious community, but will enrich our lives, personally and communally.

*L'shalom,*  
Jeff Levin

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Yom Kippur: October 1-2

Erev Y. K. Kol Nidre: Wednesday, October 1, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday evening at 7:00pm we will have our Kol Nidre service at the Shul. Joseph and Jeff will lead the service.

The following morning, Thursday, we have once again been graciously invited to the Temple for Yom Kippur service which begins at 10am. They have asked that visitors register at [trswaco.org](http://trswaco.org). Their Yizkor and Neilah service begins at 4:30pm followed by a break the fast. Please RSVP to [trs.adm@trswaco.org](mailto:trs.adm@trswaco.org) for the break the fast.

### Our Invitation from Temple Rodef Shalom

**Oct 2: 10 am Yom Kippur Morning Service**

**4:30 pm Yizkor**

**5:30 pm Ne'ilah**



**Guests and Non-Members: Please  
register [online](http://trswaco.org)**

The office will be closed 10/2, 10/8, 10/9, 10/13 and 10/14 for the High Holidays.

## October Service Schedule

<u>Friday, October 3</u>		<u>Friday, October 17</u>	
Kabbalat Shabbat	6:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat	6:00 pm
Candle Lighting	6:53 pm	Candle Lighting	6:36 pm
<u>Saturday, October 4</u>		<u>Saturday, October 18</u>	
Shacharit	No Service	Shacharit	10:00 am
Shabbat Ends	7:45 pm	Shabbat Ends	7:29 pm
<u>Friday, October 10</u>		<u>Friday, October 24</u>	
Kabbalat Shabbat	6:00 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat	6:00 pm
Candle Lighting	6:44 pm	Candle Lighting	6:29 pm
<u>Saturday, October 11</u>		<u>Saturday, October 25</u>	
Shacharit	10:00 am	Shacharit	10:00 am
Shabbat Ends	7:34 pm	Shabbat Ends	7:22 pm
		<u>Friday, October 31</u>	
		Kabbalat Shabbat	6:00 pm
		Candle Lighting	6:22 pm
		<u>Saturday, November 1</u>	
		Shacharit	10:00 am
		Shabbat Ends	7:16 pm

❖ **Sukkot plans are being worked out, please have patience as we work together through this. There will be future notices for the upcoming services.**



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

October 2  
Loren Schwartz

October 9  
David Rosen  
Donald Lynn

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



October 24  
**Brian & Jasmine  
Presser**

**THANK YOU** for your donations in September!

*Shabbat*

Javis Howeth

George &

Kathleen Keller

Susan Raphael

Jeff Levin

Steven Draher

Rabbi and

Susan Lanxner

Inez Bonneville

Henry Hacker



*In Memory Of*

Marthe Heyman

Benjy Bauer

Estelle Goldfeder

Jeff Levin

# 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 October 4

Tishrei 2	Luis Meinstein*
Tishrei 4	P Markusfeld*
	Lillie Seigel
Tishrei 5	Lionel Ellis
	Grace Goldsmith
	Sarah Kirschner*
	Fannie Klein
	Louis W Wizig*
	Mrs. Sadie Putterman Wizig
Tishrei 6	Sarah Brockman
	Dora Woolf
Tishrei 7	William Bell*
	Germaine Caron
	David Chozick
	Shirley Greenberg
	Irving Hershkovitz*
Tishrei 8	Dr Eli Berkman*
	Sadie Hoppenstein*
	Ida Silevitch*

## Kaddish will be read on October 11

Tishrei 9	Mrs. H (Anna) Hoffman
	Mary Levy
	Hyman Miller*
	Jack Schaevitz*
Tishrei 10	Solomon Blank
	Lillian Epstein
	Irving Frankfort
	Baile Raize Markman*
	Moshe Fishel Markman*
Tishrei 11	Jules Bolch
	J Markusfeld*
Tishrei 12	Freidman Goldberg
	Albert Rupenstein
	Perry Segal
Tishrei 13	Evelyn Julia Dalkowitz*
	Emma Wizig Gallo
	Sarah Rebecca Harris*
	Mrs. Harry Levine
Tishrei 14	Morris Chazanow*
	Sarah Harris
	Jacob Kessler
	Jacob Kroll*

Tishrei 15	Sophie Adams
	Estelle Falgout
	Meyer Jerwick

## Kaddish will be read on October 18

Tishrei 16	Ike Commer*
	Mrs. Sam Katz
	Bertha Wood
Tishrei 17	Zalman Tannenbaum
Tishrei 18	Helen Fitterman*
	Lorraine Hoppenstein*
	Mrs. Hannah Knop*
	Boaz Levinson
	Stella Somlo Milberger*
	Sidney Samet*
Tishrei 21	Jacob Aronson
	Sarah Beerman*
	Estelle Goldfeder
	Bess Levinson
	Max Udashen*
Tishrei 22	Minna Adams
	Julia Ellis
	Harry Lapin
	Scott Vaughan

## Kaddish will be read on October 25

Tishrei 23	Frieda Atals
	Abraham B Blank*
	Billy Dwayne Brooks
	J Harold Simon
Tishrei 24	Sarah Levy Bell*
	Mark Harris*
	Joe Rubel*
	Bernice Shapiro
Tishrei 25	Rabbi Charles Blumenthal*
	Bernard Hersh*
	A Rubinsky*
Tishrei 26	Gary Gurkoff
	Samuel Patlis
Tishrei 27	Eric Engleman
	Baby Harelik
	Gertrude Harris*
Tishrei 28	Rebecca Jacobson
	Joseph M Schwartz*