

# Congregation Agudas Achim - Ezrath Israel

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☆ JULY – AUGUST 2012 ☆ BULLETIN ☆ TAMMUZ – AV - ELUL 5772 ☆

## Rabbi's Message

### A Tale of Two Talmuds

It is the best of all books and it is the worst of all books. Yes, there are two Talmuds! I am not talking about the Jerusalem Talmud and the Babylonian Talmud -- which are the two parallel versions of the Gemara from ancient times. Rather, I am referring to two news articles that recently arrived on my computer, about two completely different and utterly contrasting views of Jews and the teachings of our Talmudic based tradition held by leaders of two different Asian peoples -- the South Koreans and the Iranians.

Hy and Sylvia Sandler were good enough to pass along to me an amazing report translated from a Korean newspaper, The headline reads: "Talmud Study now Mandatory in South Korea." It goes on to say that, "Close to 50 million people live in South Korea and everyone learns Gemara (Talmud) in school. "We tried to understand why the Jews are geniuses and we came to the conclusion that it is because they study Talmud" said the Korean ambassador to Israel! According to this diplomat:

"Jews have a high percentage of Nobel laureates in all fields: literature, science and economics. This is a remarkable achievement. We tried to understand what is the secret of the Jewish people? How they - more than other people - are able to reach those impressive accomplishments? Why are Jews so intelligent? The conclusion we arrived at is that one of your secrets is that you study the Talmud."

Training for mental agility and creativity is not the only reasons the South Koreans are interested in studying Talmud. The ambassador also explained that the Korean people sense an affinity with Jews because, "In the Jewish tradition family values are important... You see it even today - your practice of the Friday evening family meal. In my country we also focus on family values. The respect for adults respect and appreciation for the elderly parallels the high esteem in my country for the elderly."

Contrast this view of the Talmud with that of many Iranians, as expressed in the most vitriolic manner this week by the Iranian representative to an intergovernmental conference on drug trafficking and enforcement. Mr. Rahimi stated that, (quoting the NYTimes article on the subject,) "...the Talmud teaches Jews to think they are a superior race." Rahimi went on to say that the Zionists "... think God has created the world so that all other nations can serve the Jews." He continued in this vein, claiming before an international audience that the Zionists are in control of the international drug trade and as proof of that, there are no Jewish addicts, and incidentally, Jews started the Bolshevik revolution.

Barry Schrage, the visionary President of our Combined Jewish Philanthropies, calls our attention to this article and draws conclusion that it "confirms all of our worst fears and puts to rest any fantasies about a 'rational' Iran. The differences between Iranian anti-Semitism today and Nazi Germany's version in 1939 have now virtually disappeared." Schrage concludes with the warning: "Iran is clearly committed to the annihilation of Israel, if not the Jews as a people." Perhaps the Jews and the South Koreans, who live in the shadow of an irrational nuclear armed neighbor, should make common cause and try to eliminate the threat of nuclear weapons in the hands of the Iranians and the North Koreans as well.

In any event, this could be a very difficult summer to Israel, the Middle East, and the world with the crises brewing Syria, Egypt, Gaza, and with the increasing severity of international sanctions

on Iran coming into force. In these difficult times – we need all the wisdom of our ancient traditions – and we – the Jewish people -- need all the friends we can get!

Rabbi David Kudan

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### Temple President's Message

To the congregation:

I want to thank the congregation for reelecting me to another term as president. However, the turn out at the annual meeting was disappointing. There was less than a dozen congregants (non-board members) present. This is the kind of apathy that is hurting the temple. The same dozen or so people have to run everything, from bingo to the services. Yet everyone complains!

This is your temple! If you do not come to the annual meeting to express your point of view, we will do not complain later. The temple needs money and workers. Yet the attitude is let someone else do it. No matter what your age, physical condition, or financial status, there are jobs you can do. It is time to step-up and help. The holidays are around the corner. Start the new year off right by helping your temple. Have a healthy and safe summer.

President Philip Butkovitz

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### Adult Education Fund

To: Arthur Kahn, In honor of his receipt of the Executive Director's Award from the Malden Chamber of Commerce  
From: Barbara & Don Weiner

### Building Fund

To: Sue & John Walsh, In honor of their grandson, Brendon's high school graduation  
From: Dina Fox

To: Temple, In memory of Milton Drevitch  
From: David & Katrina Posner

To: Temple. We, the Bands, Ethel, Richard & Loretta want to thank everyone who sent donations & cards in memory of my late husband & father Murray. Your condolence prayers and good wishes went a lot at this difficult time.  
From: The Band Family

To: Arthur Kahn, In honor of his receipt of the Executive Director's Award from the Malden Chamber of Commerce  
From: Allan & Laraine Alpert

To: Temple, In appreciation for Rabbi Kudan who officiated at our beloved Murray's funeral. He is truly a "real mensch".  
From: The Band Family

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**Please --- Help your synagogue by paying your Dues!!!! We are now beginning our new year. PLEASE HELP US OUT.**

**Thanks!**



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### Brotherhood News

Greetings, Everyone,

The Installation Breakfast was another Brotherhood rip-roaring success. A big thank-you to Phil\_Butkovitz for his (as-usual) enjoyable dining experience. Bob Gautreau was the special entertainment.

Those who attended had a very nice time. The previous slate of officers was sworn-at...er, I mean sworn IN. (Boy, are we gluttons for punishment.

This forth-coming year promises to be one of improvements and recruitment. I invite all present Brotherhood members to attend more meetings and see what's new. You will be pleasantly surprised. I also invite all 'non-members' to join. We have projects in the works I'm sure you would love to get your hands on. Besides the dancing girls, I mean. Have a safe summer and I hope to see everyone soon.

Les Lerman, President

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### Ritual committee

It was a very dark, gloomy and rainy Saturday morning. I picked up Dina at the usual time, but neither one of us was very sure we would have a minyan for services that morning. When we arrived, Wayne was there, and Phil was there. We knew the Rabbi wasn't scheduled to be there, and now the four of us were pretty much convinced that we would be leaving early. But then, just before 9:30 Frank Goldman pulled into the parking lot, followed by Al Baum. We were feeling a little more optimistic, even though we still had only six people. At about 9:45 when we were ready to call it a day (well, call it a Shabbat without a minyan day), Leslie and Elaine Lerman came. When David Alpert arrived, we knew we could have a service. We began with the Torah door open, and in walk Steve and Marshall Levy. Soon Phyllis Werlin and Alan arrived. We ended up with about 14 or 15 people on that gray, rainy Shabbat. If we can do that well when it's raining, imagine what we can do when the sun is shining! But it's up to you, the members of our congregation, to ensure a minyan every week. We're talking maybe two hours out of your busy lives to relax, let the world spin without us, and give thanks to G-d. Have a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing you on Shabbat.

Paula Z. Sack, Chairperson (781-321-2476)

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## Recycle

Recycle your Ink Jet cartridges, dispose of your cartridges in the marked box in the Temple office. Not only are you recycling, we will be getting back a donation that will be used for office supplies.

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## The Tree of Life

The TREE OF LIFE is on the wall in the lobby at the entrance. Not only does this enhance the beauty of our Temple, but the purchase of a Leaf is a way to permanently commemorate a joyous occasion, a special day or a Memorial. Please consider the purchase of a Leaf on our Tree of Life.

**CONTRIBUTION - \$200.00**

For more information, inquire at the Temple Office (781) 322-7205.

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**\*\*\* DO YOU NEED A RIDE TO A CONGREGATION FUNCTION OR SERVICE? \*\*\*\***

Call Don Weiner at (781) 324-0108. He will try to arrange transportation for you.

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## Bikkur Cholim/ Visiting the Sick

Please call the office or have someone call on your behalf if you are ill, or know of a congregant who is ill and would like a visit by Rabbi Kudan. The only way Rabbi Kudan will know if you are hospitalized or ill is if he is notified.

Please rest assured that the Rabbi does his best to protect a person's privacy.

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## Neal Sherman Youth Group

***Rabbi Howard K. Kummer Memorial Scholarship Fund Donations:***

The fund will continue to help sponsor events that involve our children. The Kummer Fund will continue to donate to a high school senior of a member going on to college.

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<p>Do you have a Simcha coming soon? Let us help you celebrate such Happy Occasions. Sponsor an Oneg or Kiddush and enjoy with Family and Friends. Call Marilyn Masters (781) 322-2035.</p>
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## TEI Cemetary

**CEMETERY CHANGE -----** The price of lots for the Ezrath Israel Cemetery in Danvers are: members \$900.00 and non-members, \$1100.00.

Don Weiner, Chairperson (781) 324-0108

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Have you given your E-mail address to the office for our TEI Lifeline? We are trying to keep everyone updated on all important Temple news electronically. So, if you want to be included on this listing, please leave your information with Dina in the office at (781) 322-7205 or send to Laraine Alpert at [Lja609@aol.com](mailto:Lja609@aol.com).

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## Oneg/Kiddush Sponsors

Please consider full or partial sponsorship of an Oneg Shabbat (Friday night after services), a Kiddush (Saturday morning after services) or even a Friday Night Dinner in honor of a simcha in your life, in memory of a loved one, or just because you want to. Call the shul office at 781-322-7205 for details.

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## \*\*\*\*\*Saturday Minyans\*\*\*\*\*

We are in need of YOU, our members, to attend Saturday Morning Services as often as you can (Men & Women). Services begin at 9:30 am, followed by Kiddush.

Come and enjoy the services and friendship of our weekly "Minyannaires."  
Hope to see you soon!

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## Bingo News:

Bingo is one of our Temple livelihoods; think of this as giving a few hours a month as a nice donation to the Temple. PLEASE HELP!!! -- If anyone would like to lend a hand on Tuesday nights -- please get in touch with me. We especially need sellers on the floor for the first half.....for as long as you can stay...maybe 1 – 2 hours, once or twice a month. I will be more than happy to hear from you.

Bobbi Epstein  
(781) 324-7562

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## Sisterhood Greetings

Shalom,

Well, we made it to the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer. And we are so deserving of the couple of months we will have without Sisterhood meetings! But will we, can we, have the laziness of summer without the Sisterhood on our minds? I can unequivocally say, No! I believe we are always planning for next year's agenda even when we are asleep. O.K, I am exaggerating. But, there's not a day that goes by when wisps of Sisterhood thoughts somehow come to mind.

We have had a wonderful, event-filled 2011-2012 year and have planned for an equally exciting 2012-2013 year. We are looking forward to our Sisterhood Membership Luncheon on October 28, 2012; a Holiday Craft Fair, November 11, 2012; the Jewish Book meeting on November 19, 2012; the Chanukah celebration on December 2, 2012; our lovely winter get-together February 10, 2013; our Passover meeting March 18, 2013 and I am honored to announce our 60<sup>th</sup> Donor Dinner on May 5, 2013. We are also anticipating our Sisterhood Sabbath on May 31, 2013. On top of all the grand events being planned, yes, in our sleep, we will also be preparing to present a new slate of officers in the spring. What an exciting 2012-2013.

Sisterhood members are very hard-working, dedicated women. I would like to thank the members who have been organizing, coordinating, preparing, setting up tables, cooking, shopping, etc., etc., etc. They ensure that everything comes together very smoothly. It is a privilege to be part of such an industrious, competent and respected group of women. My deepest appreciation goes to the women who are Sisterhood members at this time. In my heart, it is essential to honor those who have been Sisterhood members before us. And, in advance, thank you to every new member. Together we make up a beautiful mosaic of the past, present and future of the Sisterhood of Congregation Agudas Achim-Ezrath Israel.

Warm wishes for a healthy, happy summer,

Cheryl Rivers  
Sisterhood President

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### Officers of Sisterhood Congregation Agudas Achim-Ezrath Israel (2009-2011)

President	Cheryl Rivers	(617) 389-1447
First Vice President	Elaine Lerman	(781) 233-5477
Second Vice President	Ilysa McCarthy	(781) 322-3693
Third Vice President	Amanda Alpert	(781) 231-1140
Treasurer	Marilyn Masters	(781) 322-2035
Financial Secretary	Carol Sugerman	(781) 321-4535
Recording Secretary (Body)	Barbara Kahn	(781) 321-1177
Recording Secretary (Board)	Phyllis Werlin	(781) 321-0238
Corresponding Secretary (Body)	Sharon Shopnick	(781) 321-4441
Corresponding Secretary (Board)	Helen Baum	(781) 322-8914

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### Sisterhood Calendar (2012-2013)

August	27	Board Meeting
September	10	Regular Meeting (Chair-)
October	4 28	Board Meeting (Thursday) Membership Luncheon (Sunday) (Chair –; Reservations)
November	5 11 19	Board Meeting Holiday Fair (Sunday) Regular Meeting – Jewish Book month (Chair-Dina Fox)
December	2  17	Chanukah Brunch (Sunday) (Chair – Ilysa McCarthy) Chanukah Board Meeting
February	10	Sunday Breakfast Get-together
March	4 18	Board Meeting (Present Slate of Officers to Board) Regular Meeting(Present Slate of Officers to Body)
April	8 22	Board Meeting Pre-Donor Meeting(Election of Officers)
May	5  31	60 <sup>th</sup> Annual Donor Luncheon (Sunday) (Chair – ; Reservations) Sisterhood Sabbath (Friday evening) (Chairs – Carol Sugerman and Amanda Alpert)
June	3	Board Meeting – calendar meeting

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### Sisterhood Judaica Shop

Just a reminder then Judaic Shop will be "open" during the summer. Just because Sisterhood meetings have ended for the year, does not mean the Shop is "closed". Call Laraine at 781-231-1140 or email [lja609@aol.com](mailto:lja609@aol.com) if you are looking for a shower/wedding/hostess or baby gift. We have lots of mezuzahs in stock plus many other Judaica items including jewelry.

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### Hostess Fund

Arlene and Herb Baron – Anniversary  
Laraine Alpert - Birthday

## Sisterhood Contacts

### Club-o-Grams:

Club-o-Gram cards are sent out for any and all occasions. Cost is \$2.50 each. Sent by chair Barbara Weiner - (781) 324-0108 or Bobbi Epstein - (781) 324-7562.

### Kitchen Fund:

Other Donations can be made to support the Sisterhood kitchen – contact Kitchen Fund chair Beverly Visnick at (781) 388-6995.

### Kitchen Committee:

The Sisterhood Kitchen Committee can always use assistance for Kiddushes, Temple Functions, and Sisterhood meetings and dinners. If you can offer some help, either in food preparation or setting tables, contact Marilyn Masters at (781) 322-2035.

### Judaica Shop:

The Sisterhood Judaica Shop, which resides in its beautiful home in the front lobby of the building, has many items for all occasions. If you are interested in purchasing items, contact Laraine Alpert at (781) 231-1140.

### Hostess Fund:

Donations to help defray the cost of meetings in honor of Birthdays and other occasions can be made to Hostess Fund chair Maxine Lepore at (781) 322-6868.

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## Kitchen Fund

From: Paula Sack, “With sincere and deep appreciation to my Temple friends for their Get Well wishes. I am also deeply grateful to those people who made our Yom Ha’Shoah services so meaningful and such a success.”

From: Beverly Visnick, “In honor of granddaughter Cora being awarded a Fulbright Scholarship.”

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The following donations were received at the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Donor Luncheon:

From: Beverly Visnick (to Hostess Fund), “In honor of Sisterhood’s 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Donor Luncheon. Also, in honor of co-chairs Barbara Kahn and Helen Baum, and Marilyn Masters and her Kitchen Crew.”

From: Bobbi Epstein, In honor of Sisterhood Donor Dinner

From: Cheryl Rivers, In honor of Lena & Jared’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary, Elise & Jeff’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary, Marion’s Birthday in June and Elise’s Birthday in June

From: Dvora Zimmerman, Sorry I can’t be with you all.

From: Arlene & Herb Baron, In honor of the birth of great-granddaughter, Raia Monteiro. (Parents – Candice and Michael Monteiro)



## Sisterhood Club-O-Grams

### CONGRATULATIONS:

To: All of the graduates, College, High School, Middle School and many others!  
From: Sisterhood Congregation Agudas Achim – Ezrath Israel

To: Bella & David Westerman, In honor of grandson Aaron becoming a Bar Mitzvah  
From: Congregation, Brotherhood, Sisterhood, Barbara & Don Weiner, Bobbi Epstein, Marilyn Masters, Beverly Visnick, Arlene & Herb Baran

To: Lee & Frank Goldman, In honor of granddaughter Rachel becoming a Bat Mitzvah  
From: Congregation, Brotherhood, Sisterhood, Barbara & Don Weiner, Marilyn Masters, Dina Fox, Bobbi Epstein, Barbara & Arthur Kahn, Paula Sack

To: Harriett Sherman, In honor of grandson Louis' graduation from Bentley University  
From: Beverly Visnick

To: Barbara & Arthur Kahn, In honor of granddaughter Madeline Leeds becoming a Bat Mitzvah  
From: Congregation, Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Sheila & Maurice Kipnis, Marilyn Masters, Laraine & Allan Alpert, Dina Fox, Bobbi Epstein, Barbara & Don Weiner, Arlene & Herb Baran

To: Dvora & Jack Zimmerman, In honor of 50th wedding Anniversary  
From: Arlene & Herb Baran

### GET WELL:

To: Larry Mortell  
From: David & Bella Westerman

To: Mrs. Anite Schulman  
From: Beverly Visnick

To: Dan Miller  
From: Bella & David Westerman

To: Mrs. Melody Thomson  
From: Bella & David Westerman

To: Marshall Aronson  
From: Congregation, Elaine, children & grandchildren, Beverly Visnick, Burt, Long, Cora & Kyra Visnick, Alan, Lorinda, Tyler, Sarah, Bryce & Ian Visnick

**CONDOLENCES:**

**To: Ruth Goldberg, In memory of dear brother  
From: Helen & Al Baum**

**To: George Marshall & family, In memory of dear wife, Sarah  
From: Bella & David Westerman**

**To: Mrs. Sandra Swartz, In memory of dear husband, Lester  
From: Sheila & Maurice Kipnis**

**To: Dorothy Scott, In memory of dear mother, Chana Seldin  
From: Congregation, Sisterhood, Barbara & Don Weiner, Marilyn Masters, Sheila & Maurice Kipnis, Dina Fox, Bobbi Epstein, Laraine & Allan Alpert, Paula Sack, Helen & Al Baum, Carol & Alan Sugerman, Maxine Lepore, Sylvia & Hy Sandler, Cheryl Rivers, Beverly Visnick, Arlene & Herb Baron, Lorraine Bendell,**

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## **JF&CS Family Table Helping Those in Need**

**Congregation Agudas Achim - Ezrath Israel has partnered with JF&CS Family Table and will be collecting food for their monthly distributions.**

**Jewish Family & Children's Services Family Table provides low-income families, isolated seniors, disabled adults, unemployed, working poor and Waltham residents with emergency or monthly groceries.**

**JF&CS has grown dramatically since its inception, and have gone from assisting 40 families in 1993 to assisting over 400 families in Greater Boston today. With the donations of food from 48 collection sites, JF&CS Family Table currently provides Kosher food, fresh produce, dairy products, meats, and Jewish ritual and holiday items each month.**

**We have been asked to make a commitment to collect 1 lb boxes or bags of rice or raisins every month. Our goal is to collect ten of each item before delivering them for distribution. We hope you will help us reach our goal.**

**Next time you purchase your family groceries; won't you please add one of these items to your shopping cart and bring it with you to the temple? Please help us fulfill our responsibility to provide the corners of our field for the poor and needy. Help us make a difference and help feed the hungry in our community.**

**A collection bin has been set up in the Temple office.**

**Thank you,**

**Phyllis Werlin  
Family Table Site Coordinator for AAEI**