



AGUDAS ISRAEL CONGREGATION

CHAI LITES

RABBI RACHAEL JACKSON
505 Glasgow Lane, Hendersonville, NC 28739
828-693-9838
agudasisrael@gmail.com

Celebrating 100 Years 1922—2022
www.agudasisraelsynagogue.org
http://www.facebook.com/agudas.israel

SUMMER 2022
JULY-AUGUST
2 Tammuz—4 Elul, 5782
Vol. 1

Message from Rabbi Rachael Jackson



One of the questions I am often asked when I say I study Torah, and invite others to do so as well, is what this ancient text has to do with us today. My simple answer is community.

I believe that the Torah talks extensively about creating and maintaining community. From the first

seeds of Abraham hearing the call to 'go forth', *lech lecha*, to Moses gathering all the Israelites on their way out of Egypt. From the anxiety of crossing the Red Sea to the doubt in leadership with the building of the Golden Calf. The details in the laws given in the book of Leviticus are mostly how people ought to treat one another.

The Torah can show us what it is like to be in community, with all the joys and sorrows therein. We can learn so much about ourselves and our communities by reading about their community and the commentators' explanations. They don't always get it right and neither do we.

I also think that being a people who study Torah is another kind of community. Jews across the world are engaging with these texts and applying what is read to modernity. Recently I have been challenged by what SCOTUS has decided on many of the cases before them. I not only go to the texts, but I go to a community who understands what it means to be a Jew in this country. A community who can see a slippery slope with allowing prayer on a football field and sees the erosion of separation of church and state in many of this year's rulings. We come together as a "people of the book" community. Even if there are individuals in the community who never open the book itself. We are a peoplehood.

With all our events and services and happenings, we have ways of coming together as a community. Sometimes, it's OK to just want to be in community with others, no event necessary. As an old quip goes "Shlomo goes to synagogue to talk to God. Plonit goes to synagogue to talk to Shlomo".

Whatever the reason you study Torah, or don't, or come to Agudas Israel, I hope you find community. I hope you find meaning and meaningfulness. I hope our community continues to be a place you can call home.

With prayers for abundant blessings,
Rabbi Rachael Jackson
agudasrabbi@gmail.com

What's Happening This Summer at Agudas?

SISTERHOOD MEMBERS LUNCH OUT

Monday, July 18 at 11:45am
at Sol Y Luna Mexican Restaurant, Laurel Park

BROTHERHOOD BREAKFAST MEETING

Sunday, July 24 at 9:30am
at Agudas Israel

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS BRUNCH

Sunday, July 31, 11:30am-1pm
at Agudas Israel
Sponsored by the Membership Committee

SISTERHOOD FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON

Tuesday, August 16, 11am
at Champion Hills Country Club

CENTENNIAL GALA - DINNER AT BUBBE'S 1922

Sunday, August 28, 5:30pm
at Agudas Israel

HIGH HOLY DAYS 5783

Mark your calendars with these important dates:

EREV ROSH HASHANAH
Sunday, September 25

ROSH HASHANAH
Monday, September 26

EREV YOM KIPPUR-KOL NIDRE
Tuesday, October 4

YOM KIPPUR
Wednesday, October 5

SUKKOT
October 9-18

SIMCHAT TORAH
Monday, October 17