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## Congregation Agudas Achim, Laredo, Celebrates 85th Birthday and Hosts Baseball Team from Israel

by David A. Blumberg



*Israel baseball team with congregation after enjoying 3Hs (Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, and Hummus).*

In March, 2022, David A. Blumberg was preparing a grant for Homeland Security for Congregation Agudas Achim of Laredo, and found some interesting documents. He realized that the congregation was approaching eighty-five years of Judaism in Laredo, Texas, not only serving the Jewish community but the community at large.

Congregation Agudas Achim is an unaffiliated synagogue with a conservative leaning. For Friday services they use their own prayerbook that is trilingual (Hebrew, English, and Spanish). Since the pandemic, as in many congregations, all services are held on Zoom and in person. If a member needs a minyan for a *yahrzeit*, the group

is always there.

A few years ago, the shul was part of a documentary titled, “There are Jews Here” that appeared on PBS. The congregation is still alive and well. But the number of congregants is declining. Even so, congregants’ celebrations and all the major Jewish holy days services are held.

In 1938, when the congregation was incorporated, the city’s population was about 37,000 and in 2023, the population is about 329,000. In 1980, it was estimated that there were about 420 Jews in Laredo. Today there are fewer than

[continued on page 4](#)