



# Agudas Achim Congregation

401 E. Oakdale Blvd., Coralville, IA 52241

Phone: 319-337-3813

[www.AgudasAchimIc.org](http://www.AgudasAchimIc.org)

## March 2025 /Adar-Nisan 5785

### FROM THE RABBI

*Esther Hugenholtz*

There is a paradox that the blessings in our lives are often the hidden or unapparent ones. We rely on these blessings and take them for granted: clean, running water from our tap, electricity, a warm home, a body that (mostly) does what we need it to. Family members who love us, friends who support us. We make it through each day stabilizing our lives through the dependency these things offer us. As Joni Mitchell once sang 'you don't know what you've got till it's gone.' This is why most major wisdom and faith traditions around the world, including our own, focus on a gratitude practice. '*Modah/Modeh/Modet ani lefanecha Melech Chai v'kayam*', we say in the mornings, 'I gratefully acknowledge before You, enduring and living Sovereign', '*...shehechezarta bi nishmati b'chemlah, rabah emunatecha*' – 'for You have returned my soul to me with kindness - how abundant is Your faithfulness to us!'

Just like God is invisible to the world (as the Book of Esther hints at) through 'hester panim', the theological concept that God hides God's essence from us so that we may uncover it, the things that keep our synagogue a community are also often from our view. This applies to many social institutions and as a beneficiary of Iowa City's excellent school district, I marvel at the smooth and intuitive operation of my children's schools. *We don't know what we've got until it's gone.*

This is why I am very grateful to David Lubaroff, our President, for writing his clarifying piece on how our synagogue's governance works. This is not

innate knowledge; in fact, not even in rabbinical school did I learn about Boards and Bylaws and term periods and communal management. Yet our synagogue runs, smoothly and gently, through an often-invisible small army of volunteers, lay leaders, professionals and donors. Every part of this operation requires intentionality, strategy and a greater perspective. From the Weekly Email that lands in your inbox to the lox we put on our bagels after services. In a sense, a synagogue is like the government of a small village; direct democracy in action, a place to incubate not just deep spiritual truth and warm belonging but also civic duty.

As I have passed my seventh year for Agudas Achim, I never cease to be amazed by this small army of lay leaders, professionals and donors that keep us going and growing. Even when Moses was battling the Amalekites, his hands were held up supportively by others. Yitro dispensed good management advice. And the Talmud has many stories of synagogue management; on how to steward the collective coffers and kitchens of the community, on how to fundraise for a new building (yes, donor plaques existed in the Roman era too!) and much more. Likewise, our team hold up our synagogue, its operations and its soul. Knowing how this system works, why it is important and how you can contribute it guarantees our continuity.

Of course, the mission of a synagogue is to not merely guarantee its continuity: it is so much more. But we cannot realize our mission without the

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## FROM THE RABBI

### *Esther Hugenholtz (cont.)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

guarantors of community. In a time of much political and economic upheaval, the soft-spoken stability of who we are is a true gift. We have been here for over a century and hope to be here the next century too. There is a role for everyone to

play, from President to occasional envelop-stuffer, High Holiday greeter, Oneg-supplier, or just to see your smiling faces walk through the door. I feel grateful that we can know what we have got, and we will continue to build it and keep it going.

With gratitude for each and every one of you.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### *David Lubaroff*

Dear Congregants:

I have less than 4 months remaining in my two-year term as president of Agudas Achim Congregation. In some of my monthly pieces distributed as part of the monthly Bulletin I have written about our rabbi and the lay leaders that make up the board of directors and how they work together to benefit our synagogue and its members. The four months run-up to the next president and board prompted me to write this piece on synagogue governance, who are involved and what are their responsibilities. But first some history and background on the subject.

A synagogue is known by a few different names, such as *beit k'nesset* (literally, House of Assembly), synagogue, shul, and temple. A synagogue is a *beit tefilah*, a house of prayer, a *beit midrash*, a house of study, and a social welfare agency. These terms seem to simplify the modern functions of today's Jewish house of worship. I consider our synagogue, Agudas Achim, more than a house of prayer, study, and welfare. It also functions as a house of education that is separate from the traditional religious school where our children learn the Hebrew language and history and prepare for their B'nai Mitzvot. Our adult education committee, chaired by Lisa Heineman, offers many programs that continues and expands on Jewish topics. Agudas Achim also offers a well-stocked library, housed in a beautiful and functional section of our

building. Teresa Weiner continues to monitor the current collection, adding new books as they become available. We also offer many life-enhancing activities such as Talmud study, yoga, "Warm Up America," and Mahjong. Thus, it functions as a gathering place for the Jewish community, a JCC without the pool and exercise equipment. We exercise our minds and let them grow through stimulation much like our muscles grow from physical exercise.

A synagogue is governed by a board of trustees (or just board) composed of lay members of the congregation. According to the current by-laws of Agudas Achim the following people make up the board: rabbi, president, vice president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer, all of whom constitute the executive committee of the board. The remaining members include chairpersons of the following committees: ritual, social, adult education, education (religious school), tikkun olam, membership, and youth, plus three at-large positions and the principal of our religious school. In addition to the standing committees, we have the following *ad hoc* committees that are not members of the board: facilities, library, art, technology, kitchen, caring, grounds, cemetery, and others who fill crucial roles in our synagogue community.

The board of Agudas Achim works with our rabbi in a sacred partnership. A sacred partnership is a

*(Continued on page 3)*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*David Lubaroff (cont.)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

committed relationship that is built on trust, respect, and communication and, in our case refers to a relationship between the rabbi and board as well as our congregants. Our partnership has been operating under two important words, Trust and Collaboration, as developed at our board retreat in 2023. Although the lay leaders on the board are responsible for synagogue governance and the rabbi is responsible for the religious and spiritual activities, Rabbi Hugenholtz and the current board truly work in a sacred partnership, mostly through executive committee and board meetings as well as a biweekly meeting with the president, president-elect, and administrator. Although there seems to be a separation of duties for the rabbi and the board, we all work as a collaborative group.

Synagogues do not work in a vacuum without guidelines and sources of important information. Each Jewish denomination has its associated organizations. Because Agudas Achim is dually affiliated with the Reform and Conservative movements, we have access to the offerings of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) and the United Synagogues for Conservative Judaism (USCJ). We have utilized both the URJ and USCJ to enhance our governance with their offerings to the congregation. Jewish leadership has evolved over time. Since the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE, there has been no single organization or group that has a leadership position over the entire Jewish diaspora.

Prior to the 18th and 19th centuries a loose collection of learned rabbis governed the dispersed Jewish communities. Great parts of Central Europe accepted the leadership of the rabbinical Council of Four Lands from the 16th to the late 18th centuries. With the development of the secular modern world, and as Jews were welcomed into non-Jewish society, Jews began to leave the Jewish ghettos in Europe, and simultaneously rejected the traditional

roles of the rabbis as communal and religious leaders. Following the Renaissance there was an assimilation with the cultures of the Jewish diaspora which continued to minimize roles of rabbis in governing synagogues. Synagogues are, for the most part, independent community organizations. In the United States, at least, individual synagogues do not answer to any central authority. In the modern world of synagogues, the separate, but collaborative governance of secular and religious duties are described earlier in this message.

Many of us face the problem of having too many things to do in life, and this leads to a paucity [or a lack] of congregants who volunteer to serve on the board. It is difficult to offer such positions to congregants that have no previous board or committee experience. I have considered organizing a board boot camp where we would educate members on what is involved in the lay leadership. So – if, as you read this piece, you are interested in exploring future board positions, please reach out to me at [president@agudasachimic.org](mailto:president@agudasachimic.org) or Lori McMann our president-elect at [lmcmann@umich.edu](mailto:lmcmann@umich.edu).

Finally, our rabbi and lay leadership work hard on synagogue governance with full offerings for the benefit of all Agudas Achim members. We realize that one size does not fit all so we continue to plan new things, be they religious/spiritual, educational, or social. Our latest initiatives are aimed at the senior members and families of interfaith or blended relationships. Please keep reading the monthly bulletin and the weekly “This Week at Agudas Achim” emails.

Best regards to everyone.

David

## SCHOOL NEWS

*Sonja Spear*

March is all about Purim, so let's start with the exciting stuff! Purim this year will be a *wicked* good time.

School meets at the usual time on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. We'll hold the Purim spiel at 10:30 followed immediately by the carnival at 11:00 – 12:15. Of course, parents will come for the Purim spiel and stay for the carnival. But the spiel is not just for families. Everyone is invited! The Kosher Hams have been working very hard. They would love a warm audience to clap and laugh and sing along.

Grab some Hamantaschen or other treats at the annual **bake sale**. (Bring cash!) This year, the kids will use the proceeds to jump start their new Youth Group. Speaking of which, we could still use **contributions to the bake sale**. They don't have to be Hamantaschen. Anything you or your kids want to bake will be welcome. (*Ahem*. Rice Crispy Treats.) Just remember to include a list of any ingredients that are common allergens (tree nuts, peanuts, dairy, eggs, seeds).

Preparing for Purim has been intense in the last few weeks. Moreh Hersh puts the Kosher Hams through their paces. The kids learn their lines, reach for the high notes, and try not to miss their cues. Those not in the spiel made props and backdrops. The very youngest (Hannah and Avery's classes) learned the Purim story. Avery's class even created cartoons of each scene and taped it to the wall in the right order.

When Mal's class was not rehearsing, they were delving into the deeper meaning of Purim. Among the questions they pondered: Are we each nasty like Haman, brave like Esther, and foolish like Ahashuarus at some point in our lives?

Of course, we are still learning *tefilah*. We worked on the Torah service in the Fall. Now, we are turning to Kabbalat Shabbat. The whole school sang "Shalom Aleichem," a song greeting the Shabbat

angels. But first, the kids all shook hands, saying "shalom aleichem" to each other. The proper response is "aleichem shalom." Rabbi Esther showed everyone how to wear a *tallit*.

Avery's class has been working hard on the alphabet. They have sung the alphabet song while taking turns pointing to the letters, focused on particular letters, and found those same letters in books. The Hebrew alphabet is hard to read, but I think they've got it! Hersh's class reviewed consonant-vowel combinations. They're about to start work on "Shalom Aleichem." Hannah's class made groggers and learned the Purim story. Mal's class has completed the Torah Service and is moving on the Kabbalat Shabbat.

But first, everyone learned "*Yom Huledet Sameach*" because last Sunday was Rabbi Esther's birthday! The school sang Happy Birthday to her in Hebrew and gave her an enormous card. The kids and teachers had a lot of fun sneaking around to get it signed without her knowing. It was a little bit of Purim joy at the end of February. Chag Purim sameach, everyone! Happy Purim!



## MAHJONG

Join us for Mahjongg at 1:00 p.m. in the synagogue on the dates below. Bring a Mahjongg card if you have one. It is helpful to know by the Friday before the Sunday game who is planning to play so please email the host if you plan to play. Beginners and walk- ins are always welcome.

[RSVP to Karen](#) [RSVP to Jayne](#) [RSVP to Corvin](#)



### Upcoming Dates

March 9- Jayne  
 March 16- Karen  
 March 23- Corvin  
 March 30- Corvin

## MARCH YAHRZEITS

Dora Anixt Corn	William Herman	Louis Rosenbaum
Asher Bar-Lev	Benjamin B. Hertz	Mark Rosenthal
Max Berkowitz	Jacob Horowitz	Sanford G. Rossen
Eleanor Blauner	Dora Joseph	Marcia Williams Roston
Fannie Saltzman Braverman	Allen Kraft	Mark Rothstein
Joan Clements Bryant	Betty Krantz	Mary Saletta
Allen Buch	Donia Kuperman	Gertrude Sandler
Elizabeth Buch	Joseph Landweber	Jay Sandler
Corinne Chapman	Jean Leiberman Lenett	Sam Sandler
Donald Cohn	Helen Leah Lison	Reuben Savin
Morris Dicker	Benjamin London	Farel Schapira
Mike Donner	Edith London	Leo Schapira
Hyman Dubin	Albert Lubaroff	Jessica Schwartz
Stanley Edwards	Esther Margaret	Ed Singer
Edith Davidson Estin	Anna Markovitz	Sam Skorton
Louis Friedman	Dinah Leah Markovitz	Gladys Paul Spiller
Sadie Friedman	Andrew Marks	Sari Sprince
Samuel Goldman	Amanda Miller	Sara Strauss
Harley William Goodman	Bess Millstein	Pat Vunderink
Bertha Graber	Joann Sprinkman Picard	Eileen Wallace
Arthur Gross	William Henry Picard	Irwin Weinman
Vera Gutierrez	Dorothy Pliner	Olive Wertz
Harriet Blakeslee Hall	Rose Lee Pomerantz	Nancy McGinnis Whitehead
Schuyler Schenck Haskell	Lucile Potter	Dale Wilhelm
Patricia Hass	Joseph Prager	Ralph Wingo
Isaac Heller	Joseph Rose	Daniel Wolf

## FEBRUARY DONATIONS

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

**Nathan Eugene Savin and Susan Enzle:** in memory of Lucille Potter

**Rody Gessner and Michelle Edwards:** in memory of Stanley Edwards

**Bob and Donna Rodnitzky:** in memory of Dorothy Pliner

**Jeffrey Whitebook:** in memory of Maynard Whitebook

**Ray and Lindy Buch:** in memory of Joyce Schiller

### BUILDING FUND

**Marcus and Joan Nashelsky**

### GENERAL FUND

**Jody and Janie Braverman:** in memory of Ralph Wingo

**Kay Braverman Trust**

**David Schapira:** in memory of Leo and Farel Schapira

### GENERAL FUND, CONT.

**Jody and Janie Braverman:** in memory of Arnie Breggin & LaVerne Siebuhr

**Marilyn Winick:** in memory of Phyllis Braverman

**Jeff and Sara Braverman:** in memory of Phyllis Braverman

### PORTMAN PROGRAM FUND

**Nathan Eugene Savin and Susan Enzle:** in memory of Reuben Savin

### LAUREN REECE FLAUM TERRACE FUND

**Jose and Susan Assouline:** in memory of Lewis & Barbara Goodsell, Gary Goodsell, and Simon & Liliane Assouline

### SAFETY FUND

**Sanctuary Community Church**

### TORAH FUND

**Anonymous**

## Martha Lubaroff is Turning 85



Please join the Lubaroff family and friends in honoring the event at Agudas Achim on Friday evening, March 28, 2025 with Shabbat services and a special oneg. Services at 7:00 pm followed at approximately 8:30 pm for the oneg. Musical entertainment by the Saul Lubaroff Quartet - Saul Lubaroff, saxophone; Andy Parrot, guitar; John Wertz, bass; Oriana Ross, violin.

Martha has been active in Agudas Achim synagogue activities and governance for over 50 years. She taught preschool, served as president, secretary, chaired the Tikkun Olam committee, and moderated the bereavement support group. Outside the synagogue she co-founded the Iowa City Hospice and served on the Iowa City Human Rights Commission and the Friends Board - Iowa City Senior Center.

Please come and have fun with us as we congratulate Martha on reaching an important milestone.

## COVID COMMENTS

*Bob Wallace, Barcey Levy, Jane Zukin*

There has been a lot of respiratory infection activity in the Eastern Iowa community recently. The hospitals and emergency departments have been active. **COVID-19** is still circulating in the community, and according to CDC, deaths are still occurring nationwide. The usual vaccine recommendations are still in place. If you are over 65 years, CDC recommends that you receive a second shot of the current COVID-19 vaccine. Using the home test kits, available from pharmacies, is also still recommended if you become sick.

Right now, epidemic **influenza** is very active in Iowa and the local community, both in adults and children. If you've not had your annual influenza vaccine, it is not too late. Please see your health care professional about this vaccine if you have questions.

You may also have been hearing or reading about **bird flu**. This is another type of influenza virus that has been spreading around the world, mostly by migrating birds. It has been spreading locally and nationally in poultry flocks and other farm animals, which is why the price of eggs is so high. A few people have become sickened by this virus, likely spread by contact with poultry and other farm animals. Fortunately, this virus has not been shown to transmit among humans, but experts are concerned that this could happen in the future. Vaccines for this virus are being made, but they are **not available** to the public at this time. Also, people have asked if eggs are safe to eat because of this outbreak. There is no evidence now that bird flu is transmitted from eggs. However, uncooked eggs can spread other infections, such as Salmonella bacteria, and it is important that eggs be properly boiled or cooked for that reason. We will keep you posted on this issue.

To your health!

## WARM UP AMERICA

*Therese Guedon, Jeanne Cadoret, & Jeanne Abrons*

Congratulations! Warm Up America finished a dozen afghans in January and February, 2025. We'll start our next afghans on March 9 and 23, 10:30 a.m. - noon, in the social hall.

Join us? No skills necessary.



## ADULT EDUCATION

*Lisa Heineman*

We're collaborating with Tikkun Olam! Adult Ed collaborated with Tikkun Olam on two big events recently, one on immigration and one on non-binary/trans gender identity. Both events brought together urgent contemporary issues with Jewish teachings, and in both cases we learned from dynamic guests from the community.

Tikkun Olam is always looking for more people to work on particular projects. You don't have to go to all the meetings: just do what you're passionate about! If you want to work on immigration issues, trans issues, or Free Lunch for hungry people, please contact Mal Hellman ([mallory-hellman@uiowa.edu](mailto:mallory-hellman@uiowa.edu)) or Sonja Spear ([principal@agudasachimic.org](mailto:principal@agudasachimic.org))

We're collaborating with City Jews! Torah for our Time – a collaboration with City Jews, our Public Space Judaism initiative– got off to a terrific start in February. Despite bitter cold and treacherous ice, we had good turnout for lively discussions of democracy and immigration.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 5, 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Public Space One (538 S. Gilbert St.). The theme will be Racial Justice. On Wednesday, April 2 (same time, same place), we'll discuss Reproductive Justice.

We're learning Hebrew! Our Adult Torah learners have gotten off to a rousing start. Thanks to Sonja Spear, Alicia Maxwell, and Peter Rubenstein for their teaching prowess!

Our big event for March will be a visit by historian Prof. Samira Mehta, director of Jewish Studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She'll have three public events during her time in Iowa City:

- **Tuesday, March 25, 7:00 p.m., Prairie Lights:** Reading from Mehta's recent book, *The Racism of People Who Love You* and interview with Prof. Ari Ariel (UI) on her current work on Jews of Color
- **Wednesday, March 26, 4:00 p.m., 704 Jefferson Building (129 E. Washington St.):** Reading from Mehta's forthcoming book, *God Bless the Pill: Sexuality and Contraception in Tri-Faith America*
- **Thursday, March 27, 7:00 p.m., Agudas Achim:** Discussion of interfaith families and Mehta's book *Beyond Chrismukkah: The Christian-Jewish Interfaith Family in the United States*. We're delighted that the National Center to Encourage Judaism is helping to support this event.

For more on Agudas Achim's initiative on interfaith families, see *Interfaith Families* later in the bulletin. You won't want to miss these upcoming events - mark your calendars!

**April 6, evening:** Peace & Justice Seder at the Senior Center

**May 30, overnight:** Tikkun leil Shavuot @ Sacred Collective



**City Jews & Agudas Achim Synagogue present**

## **Torah for our Time**

How does the Jewish tradition of questioning, exploring, and revising ancient wisdom address urgent questions of our day? Torah for our Time is for everyone - Jewish, Jew-ish, Jew Curious, or Just Plain Human.

- Feb 5 Democracy: Disagreement for the Sake of Heaven*
- Feb 19 Immigration: Welcoming the Stranger*
- Mar 5 Racial Justice: Moses's 'Dark' Wife*
- Apr 2 Reproductive Justice: Life & Personhood*
- Apr 16 Climate & Environment: Healing the World*
- Apr 30 Israel & Palestine: All in the Image of God*
- May 7 Gender Identity: Androgynous Adam*
- May 21 Economic Inequality: Opening our Hands*



For more info:  
[adulted@agudasachimic.org](mailto:adulted@agudasachimic.org)

Wednesdays 6-7:30 pm  
Public Space One  
538 S. Gilbert St.

Attend the whole series -  
or drop in and out as you like!

**City Jews:**  
***Building community, fostering Jewish culture & learning,  
and deepening spiritual connection in downtown Iowa City***

# ADAR YOGA CLASS: FROM SORROW TO JOY

SUNDAY MARCH 9 AT 2PM  
@ AGUDAS ACHIM

WHEN THE MONTH OF ADAR ENTERS,  
INCREASE IN JOY.  
~ TALMUD, TAANIS 29.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME.  
NO PREVIOUS YOGA  
EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!



IN THIS DROP-IN CLASS, WE WILL JOIN YOGIC PRACTICES, JEWISH WISDOM, AND ADAR'S THEME OF JOY TO TRANSFORM CHALLENGES INTO CELEBRATIONS. WE WILL EXPLORE SEVERAL OF THE FOURTEEN (!) HEBREW WORDS FOR JOY, COMING AWAY FROM EACH GATHERING WITH A SIMPLE MOVEMENT PRACTICE THAT WE CAN ADD TO OUR DAILY ROUTINE.

OPTIONAL: YOGA MAT, TOWEL, OR BLANKET

FOR MORE INFO: [LESLEA-COLLINS@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:LESLEA-COLLINS@OUTLOOK.COM)



# **FAMILY LOUNGE**

Families with young children are invited to come play, sip coffee, and meet other parents in the family lounge behind the Becker Room. Come to as many as you would like!

**MARCH 30 10:15-11:15 AM**

**HOSTED BY SAM BROTMAN**

**INTERESTED IN HOSTING A PLAY DATE?**

**CONTACT THE OFFICE TO FIND OUT HOW!**

# Join Us!

## Agudas Achim Synagogue Seniors

**THURSDAY March 20**  
**11 am to 1 pm in the**  
**SOCIAL HALL**

*Please join us for Synagogue Seniors in March when Dr. Marcus Nashelsky will present "A Day in the Life of an Iowa Medical Examiner." Are the depictions of medical examiners on television shows accurate or just Hollywood? **PLEASE RSVP by Monday, March 17** so we can plan appropriately for brunch. Reserve your spot by emailing: [janezukin@gmail.com](mailto:janezukin@gmail.com)*

## Coffee, Conversation, and a Nosh

- However you define "seniors" is up to you
- Bring a friend
- Make a new friend
- Group meets the third Thursday of the month
- To reserve your spot email: [janezukin@gmail.com](mailto:janezukin@gmail.com)



***Karen Lipman & Jane Zukin***



**SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP SHABBAT and LUNCH**  
to welcome new members and  
honor longstanding members  
**Saturday, March 29, 2025**

**Help us provide a warm welcome to the following families  
who joined Agudas Achim Congregation in 2024-25**

Emma Barnum and Sam Caster & Family  
Adrien Kaplan  
Barney Sherman  
Miriam Yang  
Jessica and Gerald Saul & Family  
Margaret Phillips  
John Wertz  
Hillary and Luke Granfield & Family

Melissa Hill Jones & Eric Jones  
Eleanor Price and Alex Anderson  
Tova Vitiello  
Solomon Jones & Hannah Chase  
Noah Stein & Family  
Dani English  
Susanna Rodriguez & Family  
Seth Andrew & Lana Zak & Family

***Honoring Past Presidents***

*Michael Flaum  
Chuck Friedman  
Vickie Ginsberg  
Kathy Jacobs  
Joel Kline*

*David Lubaroff  
Rita Marcus  
Michael Margolin  
Sue Weinberg*

*Janice Weiner  
Teresa Weiner  
Alan Weinstein  
Jane Zukin*

***Honoring Longstanding Members***

*Richard Braverman  
Ellen Caplan*

*Jeanne Cadoret  
Tom Gelman*

Reform service 9:30 a.m.; Lunch after. [RSVP at this link.](#) [Sign up to bring food here.](#)



Please join  
Jayne and Mark Sandler  
as Jayne celebrates the  
anniversary  
of her Bat Mitzvah  
with luncheon following on  
Saturday, March 22, 2025 at  
9:30 a.m. at  
Agudas Achim Congregation.



Please join  
us for the Bat Mitzvah of  
Meredith London on  
Friday, March 14, 2025 at  
7 p.m., and Saturday,  
March 15, 2025 at 9:30  
a.m. Bagel luncheon to  
follow Saturday service.

## NEW AGUDAS ACHIM INITIATIVE – INTERFAITH FAMILIES

Agudas Achim is planning a new initiative designed to encourage member families of interfaith/blended marriages to participate in synagogue events. We are well aware that some non-Jewish spouses/partners are hesitant to join in activities offered by Agudas Achim. We want to address this issue so that all members feel comfortable at our offerings. We want to hear from members wishing to attend a gathering to discuss the needs and wants from leadership. Interested in participating in an initial meeting? Send an email to [president@agudasachimic.org](mailto:president@agudasachimic.org).

## CONGREGATIONAL NEEDS FUNDRAISER

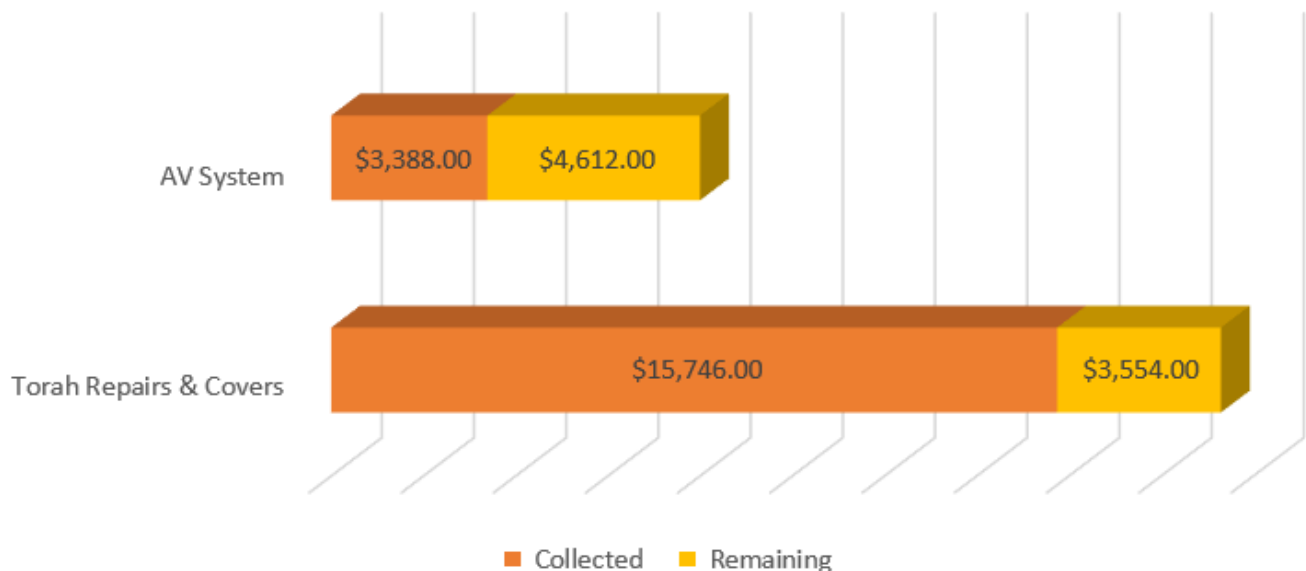
This space is dedicated to our congregation's smaller projects, and for people that may have a special passion in these areas of need to help us.

Our Torahs were repaired recently by a Sofer, but one of our torahs now has a tear in the parchment that tore through the Hebrew writing, making the Torah not Kosher and therefore unusable for the time being. Further funds will be needed to repair this.

Additionally, our AV System has been installed and we are still needing donations to complete this fundraising project. We now are able to successfully ZOOM our services regularly straight from the Bimah.

Check out our progress! Please consider donating to these important projects!

### Fundraising Efforts



## PASSOVER GOODS

The first seder this year is April 12. Passover foods will again be available at the First Avenue Hyvee store starting the first week in March. Last year was very successful due to the support of our congregation. Let's do it again!

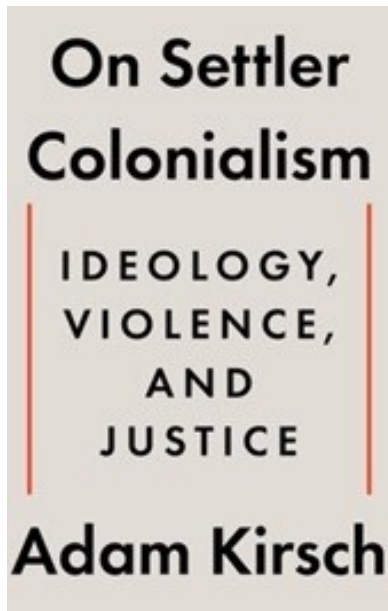
## LIBRARY NEWS

*Teresa Weiner*

NEW in our library!

From the flap copy:

“This short book is the first to examine settler colonialism critically for a general readership. By critiquing the most important writers, texts, and ideas in the field, Adam Kirsch shows how the concept emerged in the context of North American and Australian history and how it is being applied to Israel. He examines the sources of its appeal, which, he argues, are spiritual as much as political; how it works to delegitimize nations; and why it has the potential to turn indignation at past injustices into a source of new injustices today.”



## FEBRUARY ONEG HOSTS

Thank you to February's oneg hosts:

**Lori McMann, Lisa Heineman, David & Martha Lubaroff and the Social Committee.**

[Sign up to host an oneg at this link.](#)

## BOARD MINUTES

February board meeting minutes can be found [here](#).

## BUDDY SYSTEM

Interested in having a buddy or being a buddy?

Information can be found [here](#).

## SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR 2025

The schedule for 2025 can be found [here](#).

**Trying to reach the office or someone else at the congregation?**

Hannah: [office@agudasachimic.org](mailto:office@agudasachimic.org)

John: [administrator@agudasachimic.org](mailto:administrator@agudasachimic.org)

Rabbi Hugenholtz: [rabbi@agudasachimic.org](mailto:rabbi@agudasachimic.org)

Sonja: [principal@agudasachimic.org](mailto:principal@agudasachimic.org)



## RECURRING GROUPS WITH FIXED TIMES/DATES- [CALENDAR ON WEBSITE](#)

<p><b>Yiddish Study Group</b></p> <p>Mondays and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom.</p>	<p><b>Book group</b></p> <p>Fourth Wednesday of every month at 1:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Talmud Study Group</b></p> <p>Sundays at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom.</p>	<p><b>Seniors Group</b></p> <p>Third Thursday of every month at 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Intro to Judaism Class</b></p> <p>Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.</p>
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## MARCH SPECIAL EVENTS

Torah for our Time: Racial Justice	Public Space 1	3/5	6:00 p.m.
Purim Storytime with Rabbi Esther	ICPL	3/6	10:30 a.m.
Purim Carnival	Synagogue	3/9	During Sunday School
Adar Yoga	Synagogue	3/9	2:00 p.m.
Interfaith Families Discussion w/ Samira Mehta	Synagogue	3/27	7:00 p.m.
Martha Lubaroff Celebration service and oneg	Synagogue	3/28	Oneg 8:30
Family Lounge	Synagogue	3/30	10:15 a.m.
<b>Save The Date:</b> Communal Second Seder	Synagogue	4/13	Details to come

See Mahjong / Warm Up America dates elsewhere in bulletin. Services / bat mitzvahs below.

## SHABBAT SERVICES

[Streaming link for Zoom Shabbat services](#)

<b>Tetzaveh</b>	Friday, March 7	7:00 p.m.	Lev Shalem (Conservative)
<i>(Exodus 27:20-30:10; Deut. 25:17-19)</i>	Saturday, March 8	9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah (Reform)
<b>Purim Megillah Reading</b>	Thursday, March 13	7:00 p.m.	
<b>Ki Tissa</b>	Friday, March 14	7:00 p.m.	<b>Meredith London Bat Mitzvah</b>
<i>(Exodus 13:17-17:16)</i>	Saturday, March 15	9:30 a.m.	
<b>Vayakhel</b>	Friday, March 21	7:00 p.m.	<b>Jayne Sandler Bat Mitzvah</b>
<i>(Exodus 18:1-20:23)</i>	Saturday, March 22	9:30 a.m.	
<b>Pekudei</b>	Friday March 28	7:00 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
<i>(Exodus 38:21-40:38; 12:1-20)</i>	Saturday, March 29	9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem

# PURIM STORYTIME With RABBI ESTHER

THUR, MARCH 6, 10:30 – 11 AM

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STORYTIME ROOM



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Rabbi	Esther Hugenholtz	Administrative Assistant	Hannah Sandler
Administrator	John Wertz	Custodian	Amos Kiche
Principal	Sonja Spear		

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