



Agudas Achim Congregation

401 E. Oakdale Blvd., Coralville, IA 52241

Phone: 319-337-3813

www.AgudasAchimIC.org

December 2025 /Kislev-Tevet 5786



Happy Hanukkah!
December 14 - 22

FROM THE RABBI

Esther Hugenholtz

As an (almost) American-by-Choice, I have really come to love and appreciate Thanksgiving. I never grew up eating turkey, although I did grow up eating cranberry sauce, and had to receive a course in American pie crust-making from an actual American to understand the subtleties of 'flakiness', but over the eight years I've been here, I've made Thanksgiving my own. I even manage to cook the turkey right!

This year, my family decided to up the ante. In early November, I had the distinct privilege of dining at a Native American restaurant in the Twin Cities, Owamni. Founded by 'The Sioux Chef' (pun intended) Sean Sherman, I got to taste the indigenous flavors of the land. I was so inspired by this that my friend and I embarked on a quest to Birchbark Books, a Native American bookstore, to buy Chef Sherman's cookbook. I had now committed to that most American of activities: a 'project.' My project would be to cook a

Thanksgiving dinner inspired by Native American cuisine. The food was delicious and nutritious: maple syrup-glazed roasted squash and root vegetables, wild rice, wojape (a tart, flavorful berry sauce), corn cakes, smoked fish and bean spread, salad with dried cranberries, walnuts and roasted apple and squash and of course, turkey with a juniper-sage rub. (I also threw in a pumpkin pie and cranberry sauce for tradition's sake). I did some learning with my kids about the Native peoples of this land, the true (and gruesome) history of Thanksgiving and we honored the land and its people through meaningful readings and prayers as an act of 'cultural appreciation.'

In preparation for this project, I was following a lot of Native American content creators on social media. As an immigrant, I feel a particular obligation to learn about America's true and

(Continued on page 2)

FROM THE RABBI

Esther Hugenholtz (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

unflinching history and these content creators talked about the myriad of responses and reframings of Thanksgiving among the diverse Native American community. Many Native Americans view Thanksgiving as we might view 'Yom ha'Shoah', a mournful day to remember genocide and cultural loss, rather than a day of gratitude. Others embrace a 'reframe' of the day as a way to center and showcase Indigenous culture and wisdom, encouraging the rest of us to be more thoughtful and curious about our relationship to this land.

I will be the first to admit my profound ignorance on Native American and Indigenous culture – these are my first steps to deepen my own awareness. I take inspiration from this two-pronged approach to contested historical memory: reckoning (acknowledging profound loss, demanding recognition of said loss) and reclaiming (reframing tragedy to make meaning out of it on one's own terms, filtered through the lens of one's wisdom tradition). I see both those impulses in Jewish memory too. Our days of mourning are days of ritualized reckoning for the tragedies which have befallen our people (think of Yom ha'Shoah and Tisha b'Av) while holidays like Hanukkah, Purim and Pesach are the reclaiming of a story of resilience and triumph and imbuing it with new wisdom and meaning. Both paths offer a unique kind of catharsis. Sometimes we sit with grief, other times with joy. Sometimes we are clear-eyed about what others have inflicted upon us; other times, we wrestle with what we have inflicted upon others. Both are needed for a mature understanding of our place in the world.

For the last two thousand years, Hanukkah itself has gone through such a transformative process. Where the Maccabeans arguably started off as heroic, the Hasmonean dynasty ended up in persecution and disaster. Where the Book of Maccabees recounts and celebrates military victory

of the few over the many, the Rabbis in the Talmud bring a story of a single cruse of oil lighting the menorah for a miraculous eight nights in order to emphasize a message of peace and light at a time of division and loss. Hanukkah contains both reckoning and reclaiming, and I believe this is what has given an otherwise minor festival remarkable adaptability and staying power.

Among the worries and woes of the world, I encourage you to lean into whichever characteristic of Hanukkah that brings you meaning, light and joy. Perhaps this is a moment of Jewish defiance, resilience and pride and you channel your inner 'Judah Maccabi'. Or perhaps this is a time to tenderly and gently grow the light, focusing on the blessings of hearth and home, increasing the light every day, channelling your inner 'Rabbi Hillel'. Perhaps we seek comfort or inspiration, reprieve from sadness or cultivation of strength. The beauty of Hanukkah is that we experience it on our terms.

As we fry up our latkes, feast on our sufganiyot and spin our dreidels, we can have thankful hearts for the enduring creativity of our Jewish tradition. We are still here, and we still harness the power of sacred community. We realize our values through the sensitivity and solidarity we bring to our world around us, and we can showcase honest debate and thoughtful grappling with the challenges we face. As we cozy up to Cozy Season, I invite you of the opportunities at Agudas Achim that allow us to do this work. Lea Haravon-Collins' 'Toxic Polarization' session, the Hanukkah Bazaar which is both a fundraiser for our synagogue and an opportunity to support local and national charities, our learning opportunities and much more. *Oh, the weather outside is frightful, but the flame of the menorah is so delightful...* (we all know the original ditty was written by two Jews* anyway).

Chag Urim Sameach, a very happy (and tasty!) Festival of Lights!

*The authors of 'Let It Snow' were Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne, in 1945.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lori McMann

Growing up in a relatively small town, if we seemed to lack initiative or motivation, my friends and I were often told by our parents that we needed to “make our own fun.” This was, notably, a long time before the internet and a little while before a shopping mall opened in our town. Summer provided tons of options for walking to friends’ houses, bike rides, and meeting up at the city swimming pool. But then, just like now, winter brought long evenings and short days. Situated just two degrees of latitude north of Iowa City, my hometown experienced the same unpredictable and often harsh winters. So we did indeed “make our own fun,” especially from December to February.

Likewise, I think of winter as the season in which we must also “make our own light”. The “light” of optimism, appreciation for the positive, and making the most of the time we have together with our loved ones is what we can bring to this time of year. This is not always easy, I know. We hope that our programming helps you find both “light” and “fun” in multiple ways.

The community’s Chanukah Party (Sunday December 14) is the centerpiece of our winter social events! Please see the information in this bulletin about attending. (RSVPs are strongly encouraged to help us plan for amounts!) While this is organized by the Social Committee, we need additional help for this party. If you are either an experienced latke-maker or you’d like to learn how, we could use your help! (See the Sign-up Genius to volunteer.) The Makers & Bakers Bazaar will precede the party, with homemade goodies, crafts, books published by fellow congregants, Agudas Achim gift shop items, and information about philanthropic organizations. We encourage you to bring a menorah from home to light, and get ready to spin a dreidel, sing (and possibly even dance!) It is always a fun-filled afternoon and evening with

our community, and you are welcome to bring a friend!

Opportunities for learning abound, to help us bring another kind of “light” to examine our world from new perspectives. Lea Collins will bring her amazing experience in the multi-faith One America Movement program to lead a second “Fighting Toxic Polarization” session. There’s no need to have attended the first one to join her for this one. The first session was thought-provoking and engaging,

with a unique aspect of experiential learning that got us up out of our seats and questioning our assumptions. We’ll have a second documentary, *No Other Land*, in our mini-series on Israel-Palestine. The first

documentary, *We Will Dance Again*, is available to stream online if you missed our showing of it. It explored tragic first-person accounts, and I appreciated being able to process my reactions and share my thoughts in the safe space of a group.

Our usual monthly activities will hopefully help you find the “fun” and fellowship that we all need! Mah Jongg continues to draw even more eager players each week, and Senior Brunch (third Thursday of the month) is always a hit. A special Hanukkah-themed Tot Shabbat will kick off the first Friday evening of the month. Sunday School will have its own special party in the morning to wrap up before Winter Break, but we hope you’ll return that afternoon to celebrate with the whole community. Mostly, I hope that you all find joy and warmth in this season.

Wishing you a Happy Hanukkah (or Chanukah, if you prefer!),

Lori McMann

Our usual monthly activities will hopefully help you find the “fun” and fellowship that we all need!



MAKERS AND BAKERS- 2025 HANUKKAH BAZAAR

WHEN: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 4:00-5:30 PM.

WHERE: AGUDAS ACHIM LOBBY

COST: FREE TO ATTEND!

**COME SHOP CRAFT ITEMS, ARTWORK, BAKED
GOODS, TREATS, AND BOOKS CREATED BY
OUR TALENTED MEMBERS! THE AGUDAS ACHIM
GIFT SHOP WILL ALSO BE OPEN FOR YOUR
CHANUKAH NEEDS AND MUCH MORE!**

**QUESTIONS? EMAIL
SOCIAL@AGUDASACHIMIC.ORG**

Makers, bakers, authors, and other creatives: [Sign up](#) to sell your work. This is a fundraiser for Agudas Achim so we ask that 20% of sales be donated to the synagogue.

Email social@agudasachimic.org for more information.

CONGREGATIONAL CHANUKAH PARTY



December 14, 5:00-7:00 pm
Agudas Achim Social Hall

Candle lighting, singing, latkes, and more! Children 12 and under are free. Member cost is \$20 per adult and \$10 per child age 13-17.

Non-member cost is \$25 per adult and \$15 per child age 13-17.

Please register by December 8 so we'll know how many latkes to make!

PLEASE JOIN US
TO CELEBRATE

[RSVP link](#)


[Sign up](#) for a two-hour slot (or more) to volunteer for various roles.



Calling All Bakers! Donations Needed for the Hanukkah Bake Sale




Tikkun Olam and the Sunday School are partnering to raise money for the Immigrant Welcome Network of Johnson County at the Hanukkah Bazaar.



The kids will make brownies. We welcome any and all sweet contributions. Baked items can be dropped off during Sunday School (9:15-12:15) on December 14th or when the Bazaar opens at 4:00 that day.

We especially appreciate items that are already individually wrapped or bagged. Please include a note if your goodie includes common allergens (tree nuts peanuts, seeds, dairy). Gluten-free items are always wonderful.

Your contribution will help immigrants adapt to American life, including finding a place to live, buying necessary items, and learning English.



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Sonja Spear

Break out the dreidels, it's Hanukkah time!

Well, okay, we just celebrated Thanksgiving. But if you count by Sundays, Hanukkah is just around the corner. The kids are getting ready to celebrate. We have a Hanukkah party planned for **December 14** with games and treats for everyone. We will have regular Sunday School for half the session and start the party at **11:30**. Want to come? Parents are welcome to join the festivities at any point after 11:30.

To get ready for the party, the kids are learning about Hanukkah. During *Hineh Ma Tov Time*, we sang *Dreidel, Dreidel, Dreidel* with silly variations. The kids called out things that the dreidel might be made of – Slime! Metal! Meat! (Yick.) I had to come up with a rhyme on the spot. (What rhymes with “meat?” Eat. You fill in the rest.)

We also learned the Israeli song *Ner Li* (I Have a Candle). This is not the most exciting song, but it includes some great vocabulary: *Ner* (candle), *’adlik* (I light, as in *I’hadlik ner*), *neri* (my candle), and *shir* (song). If you want, you can remind your child about the word *ner* when you light Hanukkah candles at home. Speaking of lighting candles, of course we are learning the Hanukkah prayers.

The Kindergarten is making Hanukkah decorations and learning about all things Hanukkah, including dreidels and gelt. That's old hat for Avery's class, so they are spending more time on the Hanukkah story. They are listening to different versions and comparing and contrasting to see which they like best.

Hersh's class did a unit on Havdalah, which made them curious about Eliyahu HaNavi, the prophet

Elijah. They learned stories about the biblical Elijah and his tense relationship with King Ahab. This led to a discussion of what makes a good king or a bad king. Even though that discussion seems far from Hanukkah, it is a good introduction to the whole idea of a religion organized around the Temple and a king. There are some not-so-nice rulers at the heart of the Hanukkah story, after all.

Mal's class is also tackling Hanukkah from an historical perspective, namely Jewish pirates of the Caribbean! The *B'chol Lashon* (In Every Language) curriculum pairs Hanukkah with the history of the expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492 and the European colonization of the Caribbean. It sounds very bland when I put it that way, but I really mean: *Jewish pirates of the Caribbean!* Some colorful members of the tribe sailed under the *Magen David* and crossbones, making as much trouble for the Spanish as they could. The parallel to the Maccabees may be a little stained (something, something, fighting for freedom), but it's a great introduction to a global history of Jews.

The *B'chol Lashon* curriculum has been under revision for several years, but it is gradually becoming available again. I hope to include more of it in the spring.

Of course, life can't all be fun and pirates. I spent 45 minutes with B-Mitzvah students just focusing on decoding Hebrew. It's hard work, but the kids are doing well. They know more than they think they do!

Enjoy Thanksgiving, because after the break we will be careening towards Hanukkah! We're almost prepared.

FACEBOOK PAGE

Agudas Achim Congregation IC

The "[Agudas Achim Congregation IC](#)" Facebook page is back! Please follow us there for event announcements and updates. Note: link may not work if you are not logged in.

Special Hanukkah Tot Shabbat

Join Mal Hellman and Sam Brotman on Friday, December 5, 5:30 p.m. at Agudas Achim for a special Tot Shabbat. Pizza will be provided after the short service. This program is designed for younger children but older siblings as well as adult family members are welcome to join. RSVP kindly requested.



Hershel &
The Hanukkah
Goblins

[RSVP Link](#)

Fighting Toxic Polarization

Part II

Lea Haravon Collins works with the One America Movement which seeks to bring Americans together across lines of division. Based on her learning experience with the OAM, she will lead Part II of a workshop discussing toxic polarization on **Saturday, December 6 after services (approximately 12:30 p.m.)**. Attendance at Part I not required.



For a short, informative video about the One America movement, check out <https://oneamericamovement.org/>

KISLEV YOGA

THE ESSENCE OF KISLEV:

IN THIS DROP-IN CLASS, WE FOCUS ON LIGHT, HOPE AND STRENGTH AS THE DAYS GET SHORTER AND WE APPROACH OUR FESTIVAL OF REDEDICATION. WE WILL COME AWAY WITH A SIMPLE MOVEMENT PRACTICE THAT WE CAN ADD TO OUR DAILY ROUTINE. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

NO PREVIOUS YOGA EXPERIENCE
NECESSARY!

**DATES: NOVEMBER 23 & 30,
DECEMBER 7**

2PM-3PM

LOCATION: AGUDAS ACHIM

**OPTIONAL, BUT NICE TO HAVE:
YOGA MAT, LARGE TOWEL, OR
BLANKET**

**TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE
INFO: LESLEA-
COLLINS@OUTLOOK.COM**





Queer Jewish Meet Up

Tuesday, December 9 , 7-8 pm

Big Grove Iowa City

1225 S. Gilbert St.

Anyone who identifies within the Jewish
and LGBT+ communities is welcome!

Your first drink is free!



This event is associated with the Agudas Achim Congregation of Iowa City and Coralville.



January Yoga Class:

TRANSFORMATIVE TEVET

In this drop-in class, we will join Yogic practices, Jewish wisdom and the fresh start of the secular new year to both steady ourselves and spark transformation in these deep and dark winter weeks. We will come away with a simple movement practice that we can add to our daily routine. Everyone is welcome. No previous Yoga experience necessary!

Date: Sunday January 18, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Location: Agudas Achim Congregation, Coralville IA

Bring: Yoga mat, large towel, or blanket (optional, but nice to have)

For more information: leslea-collins@outlook.com

ADULT EDUCATION NEWS

Barney Sherman

Those who drove through the wintry roads for our screening of *We Will Dance Again: Surviving October 7th* felt amply rewarded—both by the documentary itself and by the shared experience of watching it with fellow congregants. We expect the same to happen next Sunday, December 7, when we conclude our series with the Oscar-winning *No Other Land*.

The screening begins at 6 p.m., and everyone is invited—feel free to bring friends!

Special thanks to Steven Gross for organizing the showing of *No Other Land* and to Rabbi Esther for suggesting that we pair it with *We Will Dance Again*.

On Saturday, November 15, dozens of people joined us—both in person and on Zoom—for a Kiddush talk by University of Iowa biblical scholar Robert Cargill. We're grateful to him for sharing his expertise so generously and engagingly. Special thanks as well to those who made the event run smoothly behind the scenes, including Beverly and Doug Jones, Alexandra Geraets, Lori McMann, Maurine Neiman, Margaret Phillips, and John Wertz.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Karen Lipman

Mazel Tov! Share Your Simcha News!

We love celebrating joyful moments in our community—weddings, births, graduations, new pets, anniversaries, and other non-work related news. If you or your family have a simcha (happy occasion) to share, let us know so we can announce it here. Please email membership@agudasachimic.org with the information to share by the 24th of the month. Let's spread the joy!

Mazel Tov to:

Linda Kerber on the Bar Mitzvah of her grandson Daniel Abraham Kerber in Indianapolis on October 25. His proud father, Rabbi Justin Kerber, officiated

Welcome to new members:

Jim and Bonita Bunton
Nicholas Harshman
Ethan and Jennie Begun and family

GIFT SHOP

Joanne Margolin

The gelt is here, and so is everything else you'll need for Chanukah! We have new candles, some new menorahs, and plenty of decorations and cards (both, again at 10¢ each).

In spite of the cost of everything having gone up, I've kept all of the triangular-boxed candles at \$12. There's a rectangular box of colorful candles which are \$8, and the "standard" candles are now \$4. There are also "Chanukah For A Cause" candles - the company selling the candles will donate a portion of the proceeds of these to the Autism Society, a national organization supporting individuals and families dealing with Autism and related conditions.

The cost of this year's gelt is more than what our retail price was last year (!) so I had to raise that. I

regret to say it's now \$1 a bag and \$24 a box, but still the same "Made in Israel" yummy chocolate! And if you hop to it, there are still a few boxes of last year's gelt - at last year's price. And I can attest that you wouldn't know the difference!

Along with all of that, there are some new mezuzahs as well.

I plan to be at the Gift Shop on Sunday, December 7 and 14, from 10-12:30, and also on December 14 from 4:30 until the Chanukah Party winds down.

While synagogue gift shops are closing all over the country, we continue on! Thanks for supporting our gift shop - I look forward to seeing you!

Tax Planning Considerations for 2025: Maximizing Your Donations Through Your IRA

Year-End Tax Review and Planning

As the year draws to a close, many individuals find themselves reviewing their taxes to identify any last-minute opportunities to improve their tax situation. It is especially important to note that there have been several changes affecting 2025 and 2026 tax filings. To ensure you are well-prepared and take advantage of updates, consider reaching out to your CPA or tax attorney for professional guidance.

Utilizing Your IRA for Charitable Contributions

When planning your taxes for 2025, you have the option to use your IRA to make contributions and dues payments to Agudas Achim. IRS regulations permit individuals aged 70 ½ and older to make these tax-free gifts directly from their IRAs to their chosen charities. If you reach the age of 73 this year, the IRS mandates that you begin taking annual withdrawals from your IRA, known as Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). This may provide you significant tax savings.

Your IRA may be the optimal asset for you.

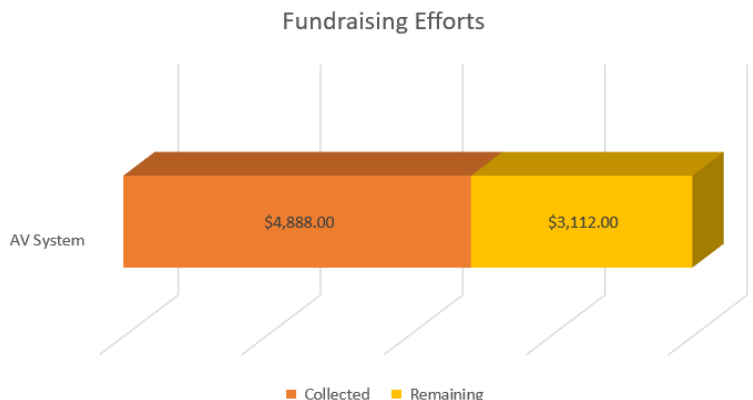
Tax-Free Gifts and Compliance with RMD Rules

By making charitable contributions and your dues payments from your IRA, you can fulfill the RMD requirements while benefiting from tax-free giving. These contributions will not be included in your adjusted gross income, providing notable tax advantages regardless of whether you claim the standard deduction or choose to itemize your deductions. To maximize these advantages, it is important not to personally take distributions before making donations to Agudas Achim from your IRA. Consult with your IRA administrator and tax attorney to determine the method that best suits your individual tax situation.

CONGREGATIONAL NEEDS FUNDRAISER

Our congregation regularly undertakes smaller fundraising initiatives that require support. Contributions of any size are welcomed and typically meet the immediate needs of these projects. If you have a particular interest in a specific initiative, we encourage you to consider offering your support.

Thanks to generous donations, we previously met our target for Torah Repairs. The installed AV system currently lacks complete funding. Additional support for the fundraising effort would help to reach this funding goal.





SAVE THE DATE


Membership Shabbat 2026



SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

9:30 AM SERVICE

WITH LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW



COME CELEBRATE SHABBAT
WITH NEW AND OTHER MEMBERS
BEING HONORED!



MORE DETAILS TO COME!

WE WILL DANCE AGAIN SURVIVING OCTOBER 7TH

Sunday, Nov 30, 6PM

tinyurl.com/wewilldanceagainic



DUAL DOCUMENTARIES

Film screenings of two documentaries from Israel-Palestine
offered in dialogue with guided discussions following

NO OTHER LAND

Sunday, Dec 7, 6PM

tinyurl.com/notherlandic



Agudas Achim Congregation
401 Oakdale Blvd
Coralville, IA 52241

Join us on Sunday, December 7 at 6:00 p.m. for our screening of *No Other Land*. Thank you to everyone who joined for our screening of *We Will Dance Again*.

No Other Land:

No Other Land chronicles the plight of Masafer Yatta, a Palestinian community in the southern West Bank, that faces continuing violence from Israeli settlers and soldiers. Filmed over the course of five years, *No Other Land* documents home, school, water well, and road demolitions and their protests by displaced residents.

We Will Dance Again (screening was held November 30):

The dream of a music festival celebrating friendship, love, peace and freedom was shattered on a day that must never be forgotten. Participant video and interviews from victims and heroes at the Nova EDM music festival, as well as Hamas videos showing the murderous attack, combine in this important documentary to record forever the terror of October 7th, 2023. *Trigger warning: Violence, terrorism, gunshots*

MUSSAR

Lea Haravon Collins

In a quiet moment, I am loving, calm, kind, and patient. But throw life's events at me, and these values can often vanish like mist, leaving a scowling ogre behind.

And then, in another quiet moment, I become that steady even soul once again. Then life shows up... you get the cycle.

I have always looked for a way to "marry" my values to my actions. Nothing ever quite stuck until I discovered, over ten years ago, a methodology that helps the heart understand what the mind knows: * the practice of Mussar.

In case this word is new to you, Mussar can be described as "a traditional Jewish path of spiritual development that leads to awareness, wisdom, and transformation... The goal of Mussar is to release the light of holiness that lives within each soul...All [Mussar practices] are intended to...bring about change at the root of our nature" (source: <https://mussarinstitute.org/what-is-mussar>).

If you know me even a little bit, you have surely heard me talk about Mussar, as I have found the practice to be personally transformative.

Would you be interested in studying this hands-on experiential spiritual practice with me this January?

The class, *Pathway to the Inner Life* sponsored by [The Mussar Institute](#), meets six times in person on alternating weeks. During the "off" weeks, we connect with study partners to discuss the learning and practices of the character trait that we are

studying (for example, humility, strength, patience, anger, etc.).

The dates for this Sunday 2-3:30 p.m. in-person course are:

January 4
January 11
January 25
February 8
February 22
March 8

Registration is open. There is a charge for the class. If financial constraints are an issue, scholarship possibilities are available.

If you want to know more or would like the registration link, please contact me directly (leslea-collins@outlook.com) or check out <https://mussarinstitute.org/> .

More information about the class [here](#). To see my bona fides (and those of other Mussar facilitators who lead online classes), please go [here](#).

Thank you letting me know if this adventure might be of interest to you. And thank you for your potential interest in Mussar!

* "Making the heart feel what the intellect understands" is a beautiful definition of Mussar coined by Rabbi Eliyahu Lopian (1876-1970) in his work *Lev Eliyahu*.

Leslea Haravon Collins

<https://lesleaharavoncollins.substack.com/>

MAHJONG

All ages and life stages are welcome to join us. Experienced players, as always, are welcome to join a player's table. Please bring your 2025 card if you have one.

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



WALK-IN-WALKIN'

Wintery Weather has started.

Agudas Achim provides a way to walk indoors, on hard surfaces and/or carpeting, with friends or alone, in that peaceful quiet so hard to find in December.

The Synagogue is available 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays when the office is open, for Walk-In Walkin' alone or in groups, with places to sit and decompress afterward. Use it as quiet "me time," or arrange to meet your friends for a bit of exercise and a schmooze.

Try it, you may like it.



WARM UP AMERICA

Warm Up America members knit, crochet, or crohook 9" x 7" synthetic yarn patches which we assemble into afghans for those who might benefit from added emotional or physical warmth. We donate these afghans to local service organizations for distribution.

In November, we delivered nine large 5 ½' x 4 ½' and three smaller afghans to Houses Into Homes. We meet on alternate Sunday mornings. Our last 2025 gatherings will be on December 14 and 28, 10:30 a.m., in the social hall. Join us?



NOVEMBER ONEG HOSTS

Thank you to November's oneg hosts:

Tikkun Olam Committee

Hersh Rephun

Beverly Jones

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

BOARD MINUTES

There was no November board meeting.

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

John: administrator@agudasachimic.org

Rabbi Hugenholtz: rabbi@agudasachimic.org

Sonja: principal@agudasachimic.org

SYNAGOGUE SENIORS

Mark your calendars for the next Synagogue Seniors Brunch on Thursday, December 18. Our speaker will be Lea Haravon Collins who will talk about her Jewishly-themed Yoga Class and do a short chair yoga demo with everyone. Don't miss it! Watch your email for more information. If you are not on the Synagogue Seniors email list, but would like to be added, just email janezukin@gmail.com

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

Yiddish Study Group

Mondays and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Book group

Fourth Wednesday of every month at 1:00 p.m.

Talmud Study Group

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom.

Seniors Group

Third Thursday of every month at 11:00 a.m.

Intro to Judaism Class

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

SHABBAT SERVICES

[Streaming link for Zoom services](#)

Vayishlach (Genesis 32:4-36:43)	Friday, December 5	7:00 p.m.	Lev Shalem (Conservative)
	Saturday, December 6	9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah (Reform)
Vayeshev (Genesis 37:1-40:23)	Friday, December 12	7:00 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
	Saturday, December 13	9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem
Miketz (Genesis 41:1-44:17)	Friday, December 19	7:00 p.m.	Lev Shalem
	Saturday, December 20	9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah
Vayigash (Genesis 44:18-47:27)	Friday, December 26	7:00 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
	Saturday, December 27	9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem

DECEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

See Mahjong / Warm Up America / Yoga dates elsewhere in bulletin.

Tot Shabbat- Hanukkah Themed	Agudas Achim	12/5	5:30 p.m.
Toxic Polarization Workshop	Agudas Achim	12/6	12:30 p.m.
<i>No Other Land</i> Film Screening	Agudas Achim	12/7	6:00 p.m.
Queer Jewish Group	Big Grove	12/9	7:00 p.m.
Hanukkah Bazaar	Agudas Achim	12/14	4:00 p.m.
Hanukkah Party	Agudas Achim	12/14	5:00 p.m.

OFFICE CLOSURES

The synagogue office will be closed Wednesday, December 25 through Monday, January 5.

NOVEMBER DONATIONS

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Tova Vitiello: in memory of Kathryn Messer
Arthur Bonfield: in memory of Doris Bonfield

CEMETERY FUND

Lorraine Dorfman: in memory of Bertha Tiss

FAMILY ASSISTANCE FUND

Naomi Bloom and Ellen Marie Lauricella: in memory of Sherman Bloom

GENERAL FUND

Jody and Janie Braverman: in memory of Dana Coles, Rosalie Braverman, and Jean Breggin

Emily Johnson

Marcus and Joan Nashelsky

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