



Agudas Achim Congregation

401 E. Oakdale Blvd., Coralville, IA 52241

Phone: 319-337-3813

www.AgudasAchimIC.org

August 2018 / Av–Elul 5778

FROM THE RABBI

Esther Hugenholtz

Singing 'Olam Chesed Yibaneh' ('the world will be built on love') at a Neshamah Carlebach concert with almost five hundred Jewish educators, cantors and rabbis is a very special treat that Sonja Spear, our Hebrew School Principal and I got to enjoy. A small delegation of us had the privilege of attending the NewCAJE (Conference of American Jewish Educators) gathering in Hartford, Connecticut for five days of learning, singing, workshoping, praying, schmoozing and networking. My motto for the intense five days became 'party late, pray early, learn lots of Torah in between.' There were song and comedy sessions deep into the night, regular minyanim early in the morning, a cornucopia of fully catered kosher meat (pastrami, brisket, corned beef, salami, turkey – and those were just the cold cuts) but most importantly, an ocean of experience and methodology to dip into. I sat at the feet of seasoned educators who shared tips for children's Shabbat services, Holocaust education, envisioning leadership for one's congregation and many more relevant topics to the contemporary Jewish educational field. There were conversations in between sessions that were important, meaningful and useful, exploring our children's mental health, the pressure on modern American parenting, on cultivating meaningful Jewish life for our youth and how to equip a new generation of young Jews with an enriching and life-sustaining (and perhaps even life-saving) connection to our tradition, our Torah and God. In short, we came back inspired.

The value of these kinds of conferences for a geographically isolated community such as ours is a price above pearls. We at Agudas Achim are part of a larger Jewish context that can inspire, influence and support us, and through technology – be it travel or internet – we can connect in ways unimaginable to our forebears. The American Jewish world offers us a plethora of options for Judaic enrichment – like the denominational biennials and NewCAJE, but also like Limmud Midwest or spiritual retreat centers and many others. As some of our children return from summer camp, we are intimately familiar with how powerful and formative these experiences are. And how important it is to Jewishly recharge our batteries.

At the same time, we should not underestimate ourselves. In only six weeks or so, we are going to come together for the High Holiday services. The light will be mellow, the sanctuary will be full, and in that moment, we bring our hopes and dreams, our fear and love into our beautiful prayer space. Much like a conference, there's a 'retreat'-like element to the High Holidays. We lay down our burdens to say 'hineini', here I am. I am here in this present moment to seek something that we stir my soul and bind the bonds between us: as a Jewish community and all who are part of us, Jew and non-Jewish loved ones alike. So this year, I would encourage you to capitalize on that potential: how

(Continued on page 2)

FROM THE RABBI

Esther Hugenholtz (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

can we see the High Holidays as a place of retreat, recharging and blessing? How can we come into this experience with our richness, ambivalence, questions, joy, love, loss and anger and be strengthened by the sacred community we are building? Some of us may come every week. Others may seek out the High Holidays as a lodestar to reconnect: whatever it may be; do connect and I invite you to connect consciously; to give yourself the gift of time and space and of a tradition that can hold so much for us.

The theme for these High Holidays will be 'be a blessing'. When God called Abraham unto his mission, God didn't just say, 'OK, Abe, just get up and go!' God enticed Abraham to explore his inner universe first by saying 'lech lecha' – 'go into yourself.' The High Holidays present us with the perfect opportunity to heed that calling in our own lives. Only through knowing our own soul can we be a blessing to others. Only by retreating into sacred space and building meaningful community can we

bring justice, kindness and peace in the world. I invite you to think about ways to do this; a small ritual in your own home, perhaps, I also invite you to wear WHITE to High Holiday services if you feel called to: a color that represents our wholeness and purity, the potentiality of our souls to become something more and for our lives to be transformed.

A Neshamah Carlebach concert with five hundred colleagues is a wonderful thing. But you know what? I'm even more excited for the High Holidays here and for the new year that we will enter: a year of continuing relationship, a year of growth, of goodness and of recommitting ourselves to our values. I hope we will partner with each other to bring those intentions to fruition. I look forward to continuing that journey with you. 'To a land that I will show you.'

Shanah tovah u'metukah – a good and sweet year to all of us at Agudas Achim, to our friends and loved ones and to the world entire.

TIKUN OLAM

The Tikun Olam committee has taken on a project that is sponsored by the Rotary Clubs. It is called Operation Warm.

We will identify one or more beneficiary organizations serving local children and adults in need and will provide them with brand new warm coats for the winter.

New coats will help enhance the self esteem of children. These coats are well made and very warm. If you are interested in participating, please consider making a donation to Tikun Olam and designate Operation Warm. It will help us purchase more coats.

OPERATION[®]
warm | **more**
than
a coat[®]

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kathy Jacobs

I have been reviewing the synagogue calendar while preparing to meet with the board chairs tonight. Those of us who schedule events meet monthly to share ideas and plans for programs and activities. It provides us with a view of the religious calendar and an opportunity to collaborate or offer support to one another as we plan events.

Today, I was struck by how early the high holidays will be this year. Selichot, which falls on the evening of September 1 this year, is a reminder that they are coming soon; it can serve as a prompt for self-reflection ahead of Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur. Erev Rosh Hashanah comes as early as September 9, and we will be symbolically casting our sins upon the waters on Monday, 9/10, as we observe Tashlich, after enjoying the Rosh Hashanah lunch following services that morning.

The Ritual committee has been actively planning for these services. Several synagogue members will visit our cemetery for the Kever Avot prayers on Sunday the 16th as we remember family and friends we have lost. On the evening of September 18, we will join with other Jews for the solemn Kol Nidre service. Then come Yom Kippur and Yizkor on the 19th. Sukkot will follow swiftly, with visits to

the Sukkahs that family members and friends have built. (Does anybody want to sign up to help erect the Synagogue's Sukkah? Let me know). It will end with the month, because Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah will jump-start the month of October, falling on the 1st and 2nd.

Summer has been incredible at the Synagogue. We have seen friends who had left us, who stopped by to share a Shabbat service as they traveled through Iowa on vacation. Past B'nai Mitzvah children, now grown, have joined us for a day or two, and we have met visiting brothers, sisters, and other family members. While we were sad to lose friends, who had to move to new assignments in faraway places, we have also met new families who have now become members.

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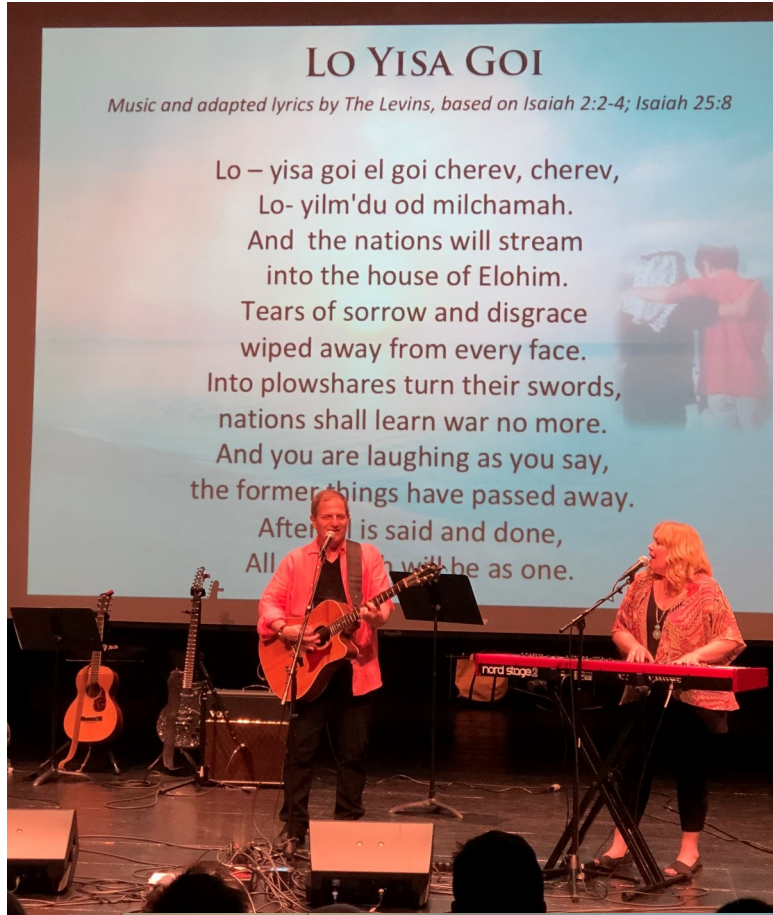
I'm ready now to turn toward an early fall festival season and enjoy the vast numbers who will join us for the high holiday services. (That reminds me, are any of you interested in greeting people as they arrive for holiday services, or ushering? Let me know). And honey cake bakers and other sweet dish makers, please remember it's almost time to sign up to prepare delectables for Sisterhood's famous "Not Only Honey Cake Oneg." Yum! (See Sisterhood news on page 7.)

WARM UP AMERICA

Constance Berman

Warm Up America meets certain Sundays from 10:00 a.m.—noon.
WUA's August dates will be **Sunday, August 12** and **Sunday, August 26**.

newCAJE CONFERENCE PICTURES



SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE

| Torah Portion | Date | Service Time | Service |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ekev <i>(Deuteronomy 7:12–11:25)</i> | Friday, August 3 | 7:30 p.m. | Sim Shalom (Conservative) |
| | Saturday, August 4 | 9:30 a.m. | Mishkan T'filah (Reform) |
| Re'eh <i>(Deuteronomy 11:26–16:17; Numbers 28:9–15)</i> | Friday, August 10 | 7:30 p.m. | Bat Mitzvah of Pam Hills |
| | Saturday, August 11 | 9:30 a.m. | Bat Mitzvah of Pam Hills |
| Shoftim <i>(Deuteronomy 16:18–21:9)</i> | Friday, August 17 | 7:30 p.m. | Bat Mitzvah of Margalit Frank |
| | Saturday, August 18 | 9:30 a.m. | Bat Mitzvah of Margalit Frank |
| Ki Tetze <i>(Deuteronomy 21:10–25:19)</i> | Friday, August 24 | 7:30 p.m. | Mishkan T'filah |
| | Saturday, August 25 | 9:30 a.m. | Sim Shalom |
| Ki Tavo <i>(Deuteronomy 26:1–29:8)</i> | Friday, August 31 | 7:30 p.m. | Mishkan T'filah |
| | Saturday, September 1 | 9:30 a.m. | Sim Shalom |

CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC *Sunday, August 26, 11:30 a.m.*

The end of August is a time of new beginnings for the members of Agudas Achim.

We're coming back together as a community after a summer of vacations and travels.

We're beginning to prepare for the High Holy Days. We're welcoming the start of the new Religious School year.

It's time for a picnic!

Please join us on **Sunday, August 26, 11:30 a.m.** at Agudas Achim for our annual congregation-wide picnic as we celebrate the first day of Sunday School.

The picnic is being co-hosted by the Religious School Committee and the Social Committee.

We will be serving kosher hot dogs and veggie burgers. We are asking attendees to provide a parve (non-dairy) side dish or dessert. If you're unsure whether something is parve, please contact sisterhood@agudasachimic.org.

Other questions? Contact principal@agudasachimic.org.



SCHOOL NEWS

Sonja Spear

I am writing this on the train to NewCAJE, a conference of Jewish educators meeting in Connecticut. I am looking forward to meeting my colleagues from around the country. I am also excited to explore fresh ideas and perspectives on Jewish education. I am sure that I will be trying new ideas and techniques this school year!

Sunday School starts **August 26 at 10:00 a.m.** We will have our traditional picnic with hot dogs at 11:30. Parents and others are warmly invited to join the kids for the picnic. The picnic is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends, meet new people, and chat with the teachers. Sunday School ends at 12:00 as usual, but the picnic goes on until everyone goes home.

One small change from previous years: Sunday School students from Fourth Grade through the B'nei Mitzvah Class will have two class meetings on Saturdays in January. On those weeks, their class will not meet on Sunday. The details are in the calendar on the synagogue's website.

I have added these Saturday meetings to the students' schedules because I believe that the best, most natural, and easiest way for children to learn how to participate in a service is simply to do it! At the same time, I understand all of the competing claims on a family's time on the weekends. I hope that two days in January is enough to provide a taste of the service.

I believe that the kids will benefit from participating in a service without the pressure of preparing for Bar Mitzvah or any sense of being "on stage" for a special occasion. We will spend part of the day practicing and discussing part of the service. When those prayers come up in the service, we will join the congregation and pray as a community. I will send parents more details as January approaches.

I am looking forward to hearing about everyone's summer adventures!

CPR TRAINING



We had a successful first CPR, AED and Heimlich Maneuver training in March, and we will be having another training in the coming months, likely in October after the High Holidays.

If you are interested, please let us know by August 15 by contacting the office at secretary@agudasachimic.org or 319.337.3813.

SISTERHOOD NEWS

Beverly Jones

Rosh HaShanah Oneg

It's never too early to mention Sisterhood's fabulous "Not Only Honey Cake Oneg" following Erev Rosh HaShanah services on Sunday, September 9. Help us celebrate the New Year of 5779. We are asking for volunteers to provide traditional honey cakes, other desserts that use apples or honey, or desserts that use ingredients reminiscent of the season. In addition to baked goods, we can also use fruits, nuts; and of course, anything made with chocolate. If you can help, please contact sisterhood@agudasachimic.org.

Fall Welcome Event

Save the Date of Sunday, September 23, 2:00 p.m. for our annual Sisterhood Fall Welcome Event. It will be held at the home of Jayne Sandler, 41 Tucson Place, Iowa City. This is our opportunity to get

together with old friends, meet new Sisterhood members and make new friends. It gives us a chance to have an afternoon to relax and schmooze; and of course, to enjoy refreshments provided by the Sisterhood Board.

Dues

We hope that you will become a member of Sisterhood for 2018-19 with your annual dues contribution of \$36.00. Your dues support special Synagogue projects, Sisterhood activities, and our membership in both Women's League for Conservative Judaism, and Women of Reform Judaism. Checks should be made out to Sisterhood, and mailed to our Treasurer, Joni Caplan, 520 Brookland Park Drive, Iowa City, IA 52246. If you still have your Fair Share Dues Form, please consider the option of checking off the Sisterhood membership box.

AUGUST YAHREZEITS

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Adele Anolik | Rebecca Engman | David Milavetz |
| Charles Anolik | Eleanor Frank | Selma G. Rose |
| Jack Balch | Frank Phillip Friedland | Sylvia Roston |
| Janusz Bardach | Louis Ginsberg | Walter Roston |
| Eli Braverman | Ann Hecht | Sam Saltzman |
| Dr. Victor Brecher | Donald Herbach | Muriel Savin |
| Samuel Brenner | Dorothy Haber Kaufman | Miriam Silversteen |
| Ida Canter | Pat Kean | Robert Soldofsky |
| Harriet L. Clark | Milton Klausner | Morris Tiss |
| Charlotte Cohn | Marilyn Krachmer | Louis J. Tunik |
| Brenna Davidson | Robert Kubby | Murray Weiner |
| Katharine Anne DeVore | Getzel Levin | Julie Whitebook |
| Abraham Dicker | Jacob Louis Levin | |
| Rosa Dicker | Mortimer Levine | |

FROM THE STACKS

Dick Caplan

A gift has arrived at the Agudas Achim Library in the form of a spiral-bound brief historical account of Congregation B'nai Jacob of Ottumwa and the Jews of that city who formed and maintained that synagogue until its discontinuation in 2018. This booklet came to Agudas Achim as inheritors of the spirit of their congregation—and one of its Torah scrolls.

Memories of Congregation B'nai Jacob, Ottumwa, Iowa, was sent to us by its author, Arnold Sigel, with a kind note of his appreciation for our continuation of their synagogue's memory through our acceptance of their memorial plaques as well as one

of their torahs. He had lived in Ottumwa for 63 years before retiring with his wife Laural to Phoenix in 1996. Having lived there for so long and having been congregational president for 35 years (!) he is an appropriate spokesperson for this story. This booklet includes as addenda two other brief historical summaries prepared earlier by Dr. Sam Bookin and Ms. Bessie Ullman, Ottumwans whose documents were filed at the Ottumwa Historical Society.

Unfortunately, none of the three authors provides either a date of authorship nor, with rare exception, dates to mark landmarks for the people and events cited. Even so, to anyone interested in a bit of the saga of Jews and Jewish life in the southeast quadrant of Iowa, this booklet beginning in about 1850, raises the curtain via names of persons and families, their many businesses, and (occasional) professional identities and their contributions to their larger Ottumwa community. Find it in the Becker Adult Learning Center at 977.7/Sig.



Memories of Congregation B'nai Jacob Ottumwa, Iowa

By
Arnold Sigel



977.7
Sig

Dedicated to all past and present members of Congregation
B'nai Jacob

BAT MITZVAH OF PAM HILLS

Please join us on Friday, August 10
and Saturday, August 11 as

Pam Hills

is called to the Torah as a
Bat Mitzvah.

Luncheon to follow Saturday
morning service.



BAT MITZVAH OF MARGALIT FRANK



Please join us Friday August 17 for
Shabbat evening services and then
again on Saturday August 18, as

Margalit Frank

is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah.

Shabbat morning services will
be followed by a celebratory
kiddush luncheon.

DONATIONS

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

Ewa Bardach & Hani Elkadi: In memory of
Jelena Laneeva Bardach

June Braverman: In memory of Bob Braverman

June Braverman: In memory of Charles Rotman

Dorothy Paul: In memory of Ida Paul

Jeff & Gail Portman: In memory of Bill Sackter

Nancy Sprince: In memory of Craig Zwerling

Mel & Diane Sunshine: In memory of
Kalman Sunshine

Sue Weinberg & Robert Armstrong: In honor
of the New Jews

GENERAL FUND

Jeff & Sara Braverman: In memory of Helen Dunn

Jody & Janie Braverman: In memory of
Morris Breggin

Christina Canganelli: In honor of Mark & Jayne
Sandler's 25th wedding anniversary

Kathleen Jacobs: In memory of Richard Jacobs and
Ruth Jacobs

Bob & Maureen Wallace: In honor of Marvin &
Sandra Denburg's 50th Wedding Anniversary

BUILDING FUND

Sue Weinberg & Robert Armstrong: In memory of
Figaro Jacobs

HIGH HOLIDAY/CANTOR FUND

Mel & Diane Sunshine: In memory of Sam Brodsky

LIBRARY FUND

Arthur & Miriam Canter: In memory of Ida Canter

RABBI PORTMAN PROGRAM FUND

Richard Levine: In memory of Mortimer Levine

BRAVERMAN TALMUD TORAH FUND

Eloise McCuskey: In memory of David Pitzele

TIKUN OLAM FUND

Mel & Diane Sunshine: In honor of Mark &
Jayne Sandler's anniversary

SIM & SARA STRAUSS MEMORIAL FUND

David & Penny Strauss

Stephen & Susan Strauss: In memory of
Meir Markovitz

FAIR SHARES



Less than half of the Fair Share
forms have been turned in.
The synagogue depends on you.
Please return your form today!

AUGUST 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---------|--|---|--|---|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 Calendar Meeting 7 - 8 pm | 2 Shiva for Wolfgang Leander @ Frank Salomon's house 7:30-8:30 pm | 3 Office Closed Shabbat Evening Service 7:30-8:30 pm | 4 Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 am – noon Children's Service 11 am |
| 5 Yahrzeit Minyan for father of Hersh Regehr 9:30-10:30 am Introduction to Judaism 7:30-9:30 pm | 6 Sisterhood Board Meeting 7 - 8 pm Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30-8:30 pm | 7 | 8 Executive Committee Meeting 7 - 8 pm | 9 Inclusion Committee Meeting 6 - 7:30 pm | 10 Office Closed PAM HILLS Bat Mitzvah Shabbat Evening Service 7:30-8:30 pm | 11 PAM HILLS Bat Mitzvah Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 am – noon |
| 12 Warm-Up America 10 - noon Introduction to Judaism 7:30-9:30 pm | 13 | 14 | 15 Adult Ed Committee Meeting 6:30 – 7:30 pm | 16 Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30-8:30 pm | 17 Office Closed MARGALIT FRANK Bat Mitzvah Shabbat Evening Service 7:30-8:30 pm | 18 MARGALIT FRANK Bat Mitzvah Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 am – noon |
| 19 Introduction to Judaism 7:30-9:30 pm | 20 | 21 | 22 Free Lunch 11:30 am-1 pm | 23 Board Meeting 7 - 8 pm | 24 Office Closed Shabbat Evening Service 7:30-8:30 pm | 25 Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 am – noon |
| 26 Warm-Up America 10 - noon Sunday School Begins! 10 am -noon Congregational Picnic 11:30 am – 1pm Introduction to Judaism 7:30-9:30 pm | 27 Hebrew School Begins 4:15-6:15 pm | 28 | 29 Hebrew School 4:15-6:15 pm | 30 | 31 Office Closed Family Chavurah 6 - 7 pm Shabbat Evening Service 7:30-8:30 pm | 1 Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 am – noon Children's Service 11 am Selichot Service 9 - 10 pm |

**“As tiny scales join to form a strong coat of
armor, so little donations combine to form a large total of good”**

From the Talmud

Should you desire to make a contribution, may we suggest any of the following synagogue funds:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Braverman Talmud Torah <input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Fine Arts Fund <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Garden & Landscaping Fund <input type="checkbox"/> High Holiday/Cantor Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Lauren Reece Flaum Terrace Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Library Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Louis Ginsberg Youth Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Marcus Scholarship Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> The Rabbi Portman Program Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Book Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary Fund <input type="checkbox"/> School Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Sim & Sara Strauss Memorial Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Sisterhood Mitzvah & Memorial Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Synagogue Assistance Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Tikun Olam Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Torah Enhancement Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Kadima Fund |
|---|--|

Contribution in memory of _____

Contribution in honor of _____

| STAFF | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Rabbi | Esther Hugenholtz | Youth Director | Bennett Shapiro |
| Administrator | Karen Brady | Office Secretary | John Wertz |
| Principal | Sonja Spear | Custodian | Amos Kiche |
| BOARD OF TRUSTEES | | | |
| President | Kathy Jacobs | Religious School | Rebecca Romano O'Neill |
| Past President | Michael Flaum | Sisterhood Liaison | Nancy Sprince |
| President Elect | Sue Weinberg | Social | Beverly Jones |
| Vice President | Jeff Braverman | Tikun Olam | Martha Lubaroff |
| Treasurer | Mindy Russell | Ways & Means | Mindy Russell |
| Board Secretary | Janelle Jaskolka | Youth | Sarah Frank |
| Adult Education | Frank Salomon; Daphne Lison | At Large 1 | Susan Ausman |
| Membership | Loraine Brenner | At Large 2 | Jonathan Sabin |
| Ritual | Peter Rubenstein; Alan Weinstein | At Large 3 | Janice Weiner |