



Agudas Achim Congregation

401 E. Oakdale Blvd., Coralville, IA 52241

Phone: 319-337-3813

www.AgudasAchimIC.org

July 2018 / Sivan–Tammuz 5778

FROM THE RABBI

Esther Hugenholtz

Of Tents and Temples

‘Mah tovu ohalecha Ya’acov, mishkenotecha Yisrael’ – ‘how good are your tents, oh Jacob, your dwelling-places, oh Israel.’ This classic line from Parashat Balak (Num.

24:5) was uttered by the prophet Bilaam. Bilaam was a non-Jewish prophet who was commissioned by the Moabite king, Balak, to curse the Israelites as they camped at the borders of the territory of Moab, a large throng of refugees. As Bilaam was poised to utter the curse, blessings poured from his lips instead. In recognition of this, we sing or say this

verse every time we enter the synagogue or begin the morning service. What I love about this verse is that it’s not just a description what is but of what ought to be: in short, it’s aspirational. Bilaam isn’t blessing houses, but tents and sanctuaries (the Hebrew word

‘mishkan’ can be translated as either dwelling or sanctuary). A tent is an open, portable space. A sanctuary is a place for holy encounter and refuge. Bilaam isn’t only saying that the Jewish people should be blessed, but that *we ourselves*

A tent is open to the world: hospitable and engaged. A sanctuary provides us with a safe and protective space. One invites us to share our blessings with the world; the other allows us to cultivate those blessings for the edification of our own community. To be strong, to feel centered in our Judaism, to be the best Jews and human beings we can be, we need both.

should be a blessing: by creating spaces that guarantee kindness, relationship, compassion, safety and openness. It is no coincidence that the Rabbis who crafted our liturgy put this verse right at the beginning of the service: it frames our intentions for everything we do at the synagogue.

As we are glancing towards the High Holidays, it’s worth

contemplating in what ways our synagogue can be an ‘ohel’ (tent) and a ‘mishkan’ (temple/sanctuary). In what ways can this beautiful building that this community proudly created serve that dual purpose? (I’m deeply indebted

(Continued on page 2)

FROM THE RABBI

Esther Hugenholtz (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

to Rabbi Portman and the Building Committee for making it so – what a great gift to a new Rabbi). We can be more like a tent in the sense that a tent creates community in a flexible, creative way. We can pitch a tent in ways that are helpful: experiment with new spaces for our children (please note the new quiet play corner in the front of the sanctuary), think about ways of welcoming people into our ‘open tent’, through education, outreach and social activities (would you ever consider bringing a friend to services?). Maybe, once our synagogue fills up during the High Holidays, we can think of ways to reach out to our friends who may not have been at Agudas Achim for a while. Or think of someone who needs a place at a Rosh haShanah dinner table. Somewhere in the new year (2019), I hope to launch a ‘Taste of Judaism’ program as provided by the Union for Reform Judaism’s ‘Audacious Hospitality’ outreach organization: three sessions on the basics and big ideas of Judaism: everyone is welcome!

Likewise, we can help transform our synagogue into a sanctuary. Through continuing to work on the inclusion of LGBTQ members, people

with disabilities and interfaith families. As we turn to Rosh haShanah and Yom Kippur, we can turn inwards with the question on how to shine our blessings outwards: how do we want to engage with the world? How do we envision *tikkun olam* (repair of the world? What local social justice activities would we like to engage in? How do we build the Jewish values of our community while also respecting our natural diversity as a community? And how can we use the sacred space of our physical sanctuary as a place to connect, breathe and recharge?

A tent is open to the world: hospitable and engaged. A sanctuary provides us with a safe and protective space. One invites us to share our blessings with the world; the other allows us to cultivate those blessings for the edification of our own community. To be strong, to feel centered in our Judaism, to be the best Jews and human beings we can be, we need both. As the Haftarah from the Prophet Micah, accompanying Parashat Balak states: ‘Higid lecha adam mah tov’ – ‘God has told you, oh human, what is good’ – ‘and what the Eternal requires of you: only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.’ (Micah 6:8). May we be called to do much goodness and spread loving-kindness, both inside and outside the walls of our tent.

WARM UP AMERICA

Constance Berman

Warm Up America will meet
July 22 at 10:00 a.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kathy Jacobs

I have spent the last week starting this message, scrapping it and starting over. If I listed all the news items that broke my heart or roused my ire, I would fill this page with a litany of injustices I see currently playing out in our country.

By the time you have read this, I will have missed the June 30th Saturday morning service to march with other citizens to protest child separation and the many injustices associated with it. Both the USCJ and URJ have encouraged members to join local marches and related activities that day. I am pleased to see their support for action on the local and national level. I expect I will have seen some of you there.

July means we are reaching the end of the Congregational year. We are closing one budget and moving to the next. We have some fiscal challenges ahead. We need to budget about \$25,000 – 30,000 for patching the driveway next summer and must plan for an estimated \$100,000 to completely redo the parking lot in the not too distant future. These amounts are only our portion of total costs, which we will share with the City of Coralville. It is also time to make some repairs to our Torah scrolls. How fortunate that the recent auction provided for 80% of the total cost needed for the HD Video system installed in June! Thanks to all who contributed!

In July, the board will review the list of desired results and priorities we set based upon the search committee's rabbi selection process. We will plan to update the data captured at that time, to assure we continue to prioritize our efforts to serve your needs and wants appropriately. During the rabbi's first year we worked to introduce her to you and the wider community, install her, and facilitate engagement with her. Next year, we will begin to think strategically with her. We will also take the next steps in her immigration process.

Please welcome new converts Alicia Maxwell, Shelley Goffstein, Shellie Smith and Ava Liang (soon to be Braverman). They studied hard with Rabbi Hugenholtz and I am so pleased for them.

A group of people are enthusiastically studying trope with David Weltman, as an initial step to read Torah at future services. There may be an option for training others in the future. I happened to be in the building this month while they were working and enjoyed the sounds coming from the conference room.

I'm investigating interest in the creation of a bereavement group. Please let me know if you would like us to provide such a group to meet at our synagogue, open to members and non-members alike.

We are considering options for a Saturday morning youth program for children whose parents attend the Saturday morning service. This will supplement the quiet play area in the sanctuary with supervised activities for more active children. I'm also investigating interest in the

creation of a bereavement group. Please let me know if you would like us to provide such a group to meet at our synagogue, open to members and non-members alike. To indicate your interest in the bereavement group, or wish to provide input about the Saturday morning youth program, please contact me at kathymjacobs@icloud.com.

We plan to have a second round of CPR and Heimlich technique training with the assistance of the Coralville Fire Department this fall. Reminder, if you have completed accredited CPR training within the last 3 years, please contact the office so we can add you to the count of members with training. We are only interested in the number trained and will not save or publish names.

Do you have other ideas for future consideration, or want to talk one on one? If so, let's meet. I will buy you a cup of coffee or other beverage of your choice. The summer is an excellent time to get together and become acquainted!

CONGRATULATIONS TO AGUDAS ACHIM'S NEW JEWS!



TIKUN OLAM

Agudas Achim's Tikun Olam committee recently donated \$500 to each of the following causes:

- Consultation of Religious Communities Common Fund
- Ecumenical Minority Scholarship Fund
- Free Lunch Program
- Shelter House

Thank You to everyone who helps make these donations possible!

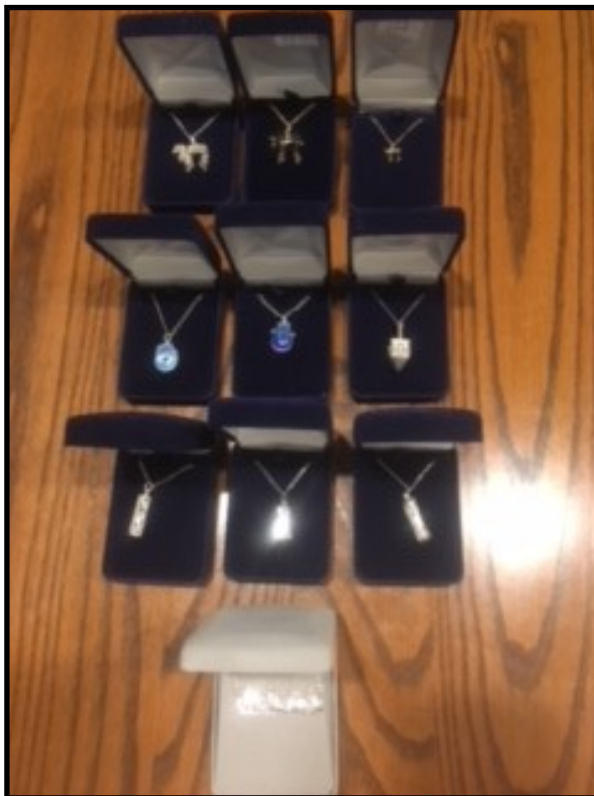
SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE

| Torah Portion | Date | Service Time | Service |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Pinchas (Numbers 25:10–30:1) | Friday, July 6 Saturday, July 7 | 7:30 p.m. 9:30 a.m. | Bat Mitzvah of Lily Zukin Bat Mitzvah of Lily Zukin |
| Matot-Masei (Numbers 30:2–36:13) | Friday, July 13 Saturday, July 14 | 7:30 p.m. 9:30 a.m. | Mishkan T'filah (Reform) Sim Shalom (Conservative) |
| Devarim (Deuteronomy 1:1–3:22) | Friday, July 20 Saturday, July 21 | 7:30 p.m. 9:30 a.m. | Mishkan T'filah Sim Shalom |
| Vaetchanan (Deuteronomy 3:23–7:11) | Friday, July 27 Saturday, July 28 | 7:30 p.m. 9:30 a.m. | Mishkan T'filah Sim Shalom |

GIFT SHOP NEWS

Joanne Margolin

Jewelry, jewelry, and more jewelry -- we have a bumper crop! There are over two dozen new Stars of David, chais, hamsas, mezuzahs, a couple of 'Jerusalem scenes', and even a silver dreidel on a chain. You can't miss them when you look at the Gift Shop case!

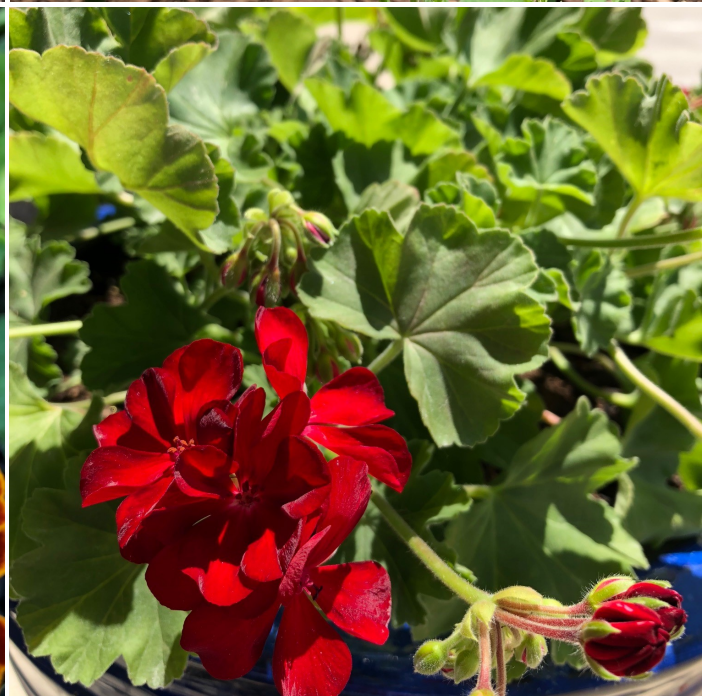


SYNAGOGUE GROUNDS

We want to thank Myra Clark, who has been planting flowers and tending to and beautifying the synagogue's grounds. Thanks for everything you do, Myra!

We also want to thank Michael Clark who has put in lots of time and work here, as well as Michelle Stalkfleet and Pat Levin who have helped tend to Agudas Achim's plantlife.

Thank you all!



SISTERHOOD NEWS

Beverly Jones

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 way of starting the new year off by coming together, meeting new people, and catching up with old friends in a relaxing atmosphere.

Dues

Now that a new fiscal year is upon us, we'll be asking for your annual Sisterhood dues contribution of \$36.00. Your dues support Agudas Achim by helping to fund special projects/purchases for the Religious School, Library and Kitchen, and for major holidays; as well as our own programs. You may

send your check for \$36.00, made out to Sisterhood, to our Treasurer, Joni Caplan, 520 Brookland Park Drive, Iowa City, IA 52246. There is also a Sisterhood membership checkoff on the Agudas Achim Fair Share Dues Form which you recently received, and payment may be included with your dues.

Thank You

Our thanks to Deb Carneol for her amazing presentation on the World Marathon Challenge which she gave at our Mitzvah Fund Brunch on June 24. We had a capacity crowd at Vesta, and our fundraising for charity was very successful. We also want to thank Nancy Sprince who organized the Mitzvah Fund Brunch. If you still want to make a donation, send your check, made out to Sisterhood, to Joni Caplan.

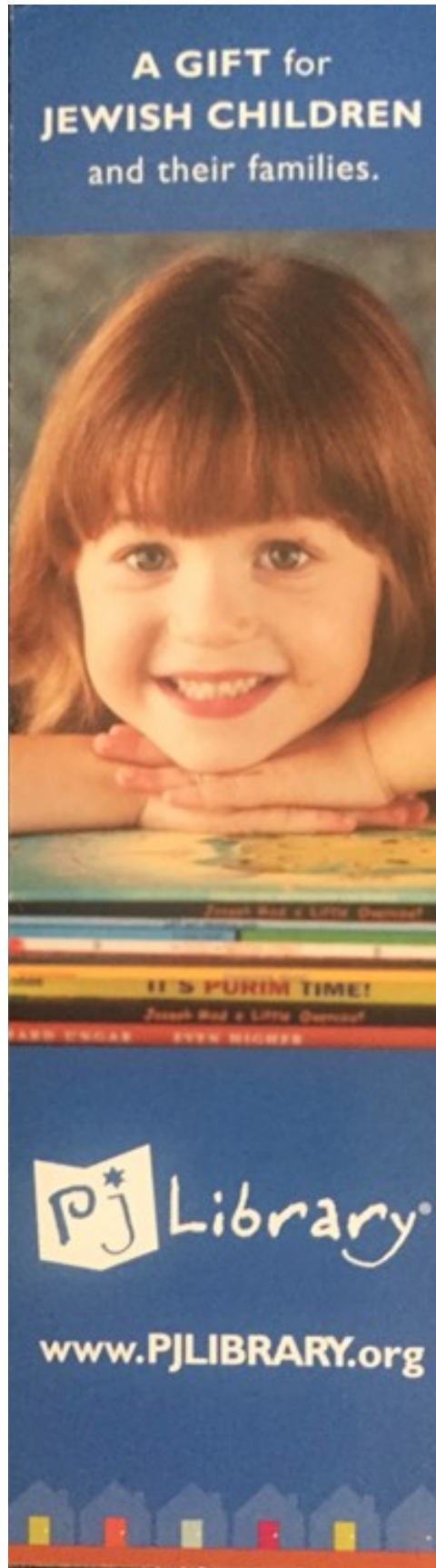
JULY YAHREZEITS

Morris Aizenberg
Jelena Laneeva Bardach
David Owen Berg
Robert "Bob" Braverman
Regina Brecher
Morris L. Breggin
Sam Brodsky
Elizabeth Potter Brown
Helen B. Dunn
Gerald Engman
Burton Frank
Denise Guédon
Anitra Haendel
Richard Jacobs
Ruth Jacobs
Phyllis Jadryev

Daniel Joseph
Morris Isadore Kaufman
Max Kerber
Robert Kieso
Irwin Kline
Miriam Kubby
Julius Kunik
Rose "Rae" Levin
Lillian Levine
Jack Madison
Norman Madison
Meir Markovitz
Frances Milavetz
David Nadler
Ida Paul
Annie Addison Picard

David Pitzele
Marvin Pomerantz
Rose Portman
Charles Rotman
Mildred Schapira
Katherine Schor
Joseph Schwartz
Ned Siner
Jules Ben Standig
Lillian Sterman
Kalman "Sunny" Sunshine
Arthur Wallace
Ted Willner
Craig Zwerling

**FROM THE STACKS:
!ATTENTION PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS!**



1. What is “PJ Library”?

“PJ Library” sends free, award-winning books that celebrate Jewish values and culture to families with children 6 months through 8 years old.

2. How do I sign up my kids?

Children whose parents live in this area receive the materials free as the synagogue’s gift. Just email Agudas Achim Libraries at library@agudasachimic.org or phone the office at 337-3813.

3. What about my grandkids?

Grandparents are asked to donate \$20/year for each non-local grandchild enrolled. Again, just email Agudas Achim Libraries at library@agudasachimic.org or phone the office at 337-3813.

4. Can older kids receive books?

Kids ages 9-11 can join “PJ Our Way” to choose their own free chapter books! Kids in both age groups? Sign up for both!

5. How can this program be free?

Costs are covered by Agudas Achim’s partnership between the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, members of the PJ Library Alliance, and families who “Pay it Forward” to make sure PJ Library can reach more families.

6. Need more information?

Visit the website: <https://pjlibrary.org/home>

Email Agudas Achim Libraries: library@agudasachimic.org

LILY ZUKIN BAT MITZVAH



Please join us for the Bat Mitzvah of
Lily Zukin

On Saturday, July 7 at 9:30 a.m.
A kiddush Luncheon will follow.

Lily will begin her 7th grade year in the fall at Northwest Junior High. She is a ravenous reader, creative artist and writer, and loves her dogs. Lily is also involved in theatre, taking acting classes at Nolte Performing Arts and was recently a member of the run crew for Young Footlitter's production of Aladdin.

DON'T FORGET



...to turn in your Fair Share forms!

DONATIONS

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Agudas Achim Sisterhood: for Camp Scholarships

Charlotte Bernstein: In memory of Joseph Bernstein

Andy & Sarah Frank: In memory of Lauren Reece Flaum

Michael & Susan Jaskolka

Steven & Barcey Levy: In Honor of Clara Ruth Welter, new daughter of Lauren & Dan

David & Martha Lubaroff: In memory of Albert Lubaroff and Sydney Josselson

Jonathan & Pamela Sabin: In memory of Howard Arthur Sabin

CEMETERY FUND

Richard & Goldene Haendel: In memory of Anitra Haendel

GARDEN FUND

Michael & Myra Clark

Marvin & Sandra Denburg: In appreciation of Myra and Michael Clark for their outstanding work in making our outdoor space blossom and thrive

Irwin & Patricia Levin: In memory of Katherine Schor & Rose Levin

Steven & Barcey Levy: In memory of Jessica Thurston

GENERAL GIFTS

David Schapira: In memory of Farel, Leo & Mildred Schapira, and Abraham & Gitel Dicker

LIBRARY FUND

Sam & Marj Kuperman: In memory of Burton Frank

Rhoda Vernon: In memory of Lillian Sterman

REECE FLAUM TERRACE

Steven & Barcey Levy: In memory of Jessica Thurston

SCHOOL FUND

Stanley & Jane Zukin: In memory of Walter & Sylvia Zukin, and Samuel Shetzer

SISTERHOOD MITZVAH & MEMORIAL FUND

Nancy Sprince: In memory of Dorothy Buddelof

TALMUD TORAH FUND

Barbara Levin: In memory of Sarah Glaser

Betty Myers: In memory of Esther Kunik

TIKUN OLAM FUND

Robert & Vida Brenner: In memory of Louise Alweiss

Robert Clinton: In memory of Jennifer Pavelich Clinton

Kathleen Jacobs: for Free Lunch Program

TORAH ENHANCEMENT FUND

Alex & Ronit Cohen: In memory of Jacob Kosobucki

JULY 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---------|--|--|--|---|
| 1 Warm-up America 10:00 am-noon Introduction to Judaism 7:30-9:30 pm | 2 Sisterhood Board Meeting 7:00-8:00 pm | 3 | 4 Office Closed | 5 Calendar Meeting 7:00-8:00 pm | 6 Office Closed LILY ZUKIN Bat Mitzvah Shabbat Evening Service 7:30-8:30 pm | 7 LILY ZUKIN Bat Mitzvah Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 am – noon |
| 8 Introduction to Judaism 7:30-9:30 pm | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30-8:30 pm | 13 Office Closed Shabbat Evening Service 7:30-8:30 pm | 14 Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 am – noon Children's Service 11:00 am |
| 15 Introduction to Judaism 7:30-9:30 pm | 16 Executive Committee Meeting 7:00-8:00 pm | 17 | 18 | 19 Ritual Committee Meeting 7:30-8:30 pm | 20 Office Closed Family Chavurah 6:30-7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service 7:30-8:30 pm | 21 Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 am – noon |
| 22 Warm-up America 10:00 am-12:00 pm Introduction to Judaism 7:30-9:30 pm | 23 | 24 | 25 Free Lunch 11:30 am- 1:00 pm | 26 Board Meeting 7:00-8:00 pm | 27 Office Closed Shabbat Evening Service 7:30-8:30 pm | 28 Shabbat Morning Service (lay-led) 9:30 am – noon |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 Calendar Meeting 7:00-8:00 pm | 3 Office Closed Shabbat Evening Service 7:30-8:30 pm | 4 Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 am – noon Children's Service 11:00 am |



**“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; Susan Ausman | At Large 1 | Susan Ausman |
| Membership | Loraine Brenner | At Large 2 | Jonathan Sabin |
| Ritual | Peter Rubenstein; Alan Weinstein | At Large 3 | Janice Weiner |