



# Agudas Achim Congregation

401 E. Oakdale Blvd., Coralville, IA 52241

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

## June 2018 / Sivan–Tammuz 5778

### FROM THE RABBI

*Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz*

As we are looking towards the summer (you, know, that thing that follows winter in Iowa) and we are taking summer vacations, we can use this space to reflect on what has been a busy, productive time. Summer in the Jewish calendar has traditionally been a quiet time, probably because going anywhere and doing anything in the heat of the Land of Israel was a tall order: and that sounds like good advice in the Midwestern heat too. The summer calendar lists the 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz (remembering the breaching of the walls of Jerusalem by the Romans) and Tisha b'Av (the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av which is the date that the Romans destroyed the Second Temple in 70 CE) so it has been tempting to see this quarter of the wheel of the year as reflective, contemplative and even a little contrite as we prepare for the High Holidays. While we are not facing the historical challenges that our ancestors did in the Land of Israel, it does make psychological and emotional sense for us to use this time to take stock. As for me, I've already started thinking about the High Holidays and the theme I would like to bring to our community as your Rabbi. The theme, which I will talk about more in future articles over the next few months is 'Be a Blessing': in what way can we be a blessing to ourselves, to those around us and the entire world? I don't want to give away the goods too soon but would like to 'plant' this idea in all of us as we move into a quieter, more reflective time of year.

I, too, have been reflecting a great deal on my first ten months in this pulpit. This past weekend was pretty representative for the blessings this congregation has given with already. Thoroughly enjoying our Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Juan Mejia, we had a wonderful set of days: a soulful, traditional Kabbalat Shabbat service, a lively and engaging personal narrative from Rabbi Mejia,

a musical Reform Shabbat morning service with some more great words of Torah from Rabbi Mejia, while in the afternoon, we buckled down to play Dungeons and Dragons at the synagogue: a 'pilot' project to perhaps bring in more gaming and games afternoons into the Shabbat afternoon slot. On Sunday morning, Rabbi Mejia brought us insights from his emerging Jewish communities from Latin America and on Sunday afternoon, we got to enjoy the silver-tongued Dr. Cargill in his capacity as Auctioneer at a wonderful, fun, family-friendly Auction to raise funds for our security system. I myself might have spent a bit of money on a gorgeous sterling silver Tiffany dish – I couldn't resist and it was for a noble cause. It is only appropriate to recognize the many volunteers and staff members who pitched in behind the scenes to make the Auction go without a hitch. Thank you all for your incredible hard work. All in all, it was wonderful to see our congregation come together for this wide range of events: the spiritual, the communal, the social and the intellectual.

As summer pushes on, we are starting to complete the cycle of the year. This year's Bar and Bat Mitzvah students are in full swing and I'm taking tremendous pleasure and pride in seeing them shine and making their birthright their own. The Disability and LGBTQ Inclusion Committee at the synagogue has been launched with the help of the Ruderman Foundation and the USCJ (if you want to join, please do!) My Introduction to Judaism class is in its home stretch and my students are becoming more apt at decoding Hebrew and wrestling with transformative Jewish ideas. I am proud to say that I am finalizing my candidates' conversion to Judaism: a first time for me as a congregational rabbi in the United States. We as a community look forward to welcoming our new Jewish

**FROM THE RABBI**  
*Esther Hugenholtz (cont.)*

siblings with open arms. Sonja Spear and myself will be attending NEWCAJE, a world-renown educational conference in Hartford, Connecticut, so we can come back with new ideas for our Hebrew and Sunday school education. I will also be teaching (and representing Iowa City) at Limmud Chicago/Midwest in August which I am very excited about. Likewise, I had the pleasure and honor of doing a Pulpit Swap with Pastor Bill Loving last month, where we preached at our respective pulpits and I gave a talk on the Brexit Referendum three (!) times (at the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council, the University of Iowa Retirees Association and at Oaknoll). What all these events and projects have in common is that they are manifestations at a process at work: of deeper integration, connection and relation. It's been a fulfilling and rewarding experience to make this community our new home.

So as I look to summer, to my vacation and my garden, to the High Holidays in the not-so-distant future, I feel richly blessed. There is much going on and more in the woodworks. If you want to get involved: as a volunteer, a Torah reader, a student, a congregant, a questioner, a setter-upper of the Oneg on Friday nights or Saturday mornings, a participant on committees or whatever it is, just come and find me. I'm not going anywhere.

Have a wonderful, nourishing, restful and reflective summer.

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**  
*Kathy Jacobs*

June has been a busy month so far. We have been happy to see old friends turn up at services, and enjoyed sharing them with visitors. The programs featuring Rabbi Juan Mejia, our scholar in residence, were well attended, inspiring, and very enjoyable.

The new HD security cameras were installed and are in operation and the auction to raise funds to pay for them was fun for those who attended. Dr. Robert Cargill, a friend of the congregation, called our auction. I must thank Sandra Denberg who conceived the plan to hold the auction, and her committee: Sue Weinberg, Nancy Sprince, Esther Retish and Donna Rodnitsky who with the help of our staff, Karen Brady and John Wertz, made the event possible. On the day itself, Dr. Robert Rodnitsky, Paul Retish, Jean Cadoret and Joni Caplan helped us run the event. The synagogue raised over \$6,000 during this successful event.

Our annual congregational meeting will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, June 14. We will recap the events of the Year so far and update you on the progress of the Second Century Fund, our endowment program. I hope you will join us.



**LOGAN JASKOLKA BAR MITZVAH**



Please join us as  
**Logan Meir Jaskolka**  
is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah  
Saturday, June 16, 2018, 9:30 a.m.

Kiddush Luncheon to follow

## SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE

Torah Portion	Date	Service Time	Service
<b>Shelach</b> (Numbers 13:1–15:41)	Friday, June 8	7:30 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah (Reform)
	Saturday June 9	10:00 a.m.	Learner's Service <b>(no Torah service):</b> Lev Shalem (Conservative)
<b>Korach</b> (Numbers 16:1–18:32)	Friday, June 15	7:30 p.m.	<b>Bar Mitzvah of Logan Jaskolka</b>
	Saturday, June 16	9:30 a.m.	<b>Bar Mitzvah of Logan Jaskolka</b>
<b>Chukkat</b> (Numbers 19:1–22:1)	Friday, June 22	7:30 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
	Saturday, June 23	9:30 a.m.	Sim Shalom (Conservative)
<b>Balak</b> (Numbers 22:2–25:9)	Friday, June 29	7:30 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
	Saturday, June 30	9:30 a.m.	Sim Shalom

## DONATIONS

### RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

**Sue & Ken Blackwell:** In memory of  
Rose Baskin Tear

**Richard & Ellen Caplan:** In honor of Jacob Cohen,  
Aharon Zingman, Cael Jones Bar Mitzvahs

**Richard Levine**

**Richard & Karen Lipman:** In memory of  
Maurice Lipman

### CAMPAIGN TO HONOR RABBI PORTMAN

**Phillip Horwitz & Catherine Bradley**

**Neal & M.J. Weintraub**

### CEMETERY FUND

**Richard & Goldene Haendel:** In memory of  
Sarah Haendel

**Michael & Joanne Margolin:** In memory of  
Grace Bernstein

### FINE ARTS FUND

**Helen Goldstein:** In memory of Etta S. Tunik

### LIBRARY FUND

**Richard & Ellen Caplan:** In memory of Carl Caplan  
and Benjamin Sideman

### TIKUN OLAM FUND

**Richard & Phyllis Braverman:** In memory of  
Lee & Frances Green

**Kathleen Jacobs:** for Free Lunch Program

### TORAH FUND

**Doug & Beverly Jones:** In memory of  
Louis Solganick

### SIM & SARA STRAUSS FUND

**Stephen & Susan Strauss:** In memory of  
Samuel Osdoba

### ONEG FUND

**Richard & Ellen Caplan**

### SISTERHOOD FUND

**Nancy Sprince:** In honor of Rabbi Hugenholtz's  
Spring Tea

**Ellen Widiss**

## SCHOOL NEWS

*Sonja Spear*

School is out for the year! I remember how exciting that first day of summer was when I was a kid. It gave me time to dream and plan, to make up games and to have adventures. One of the great things about teaching is that I get to experience that excitement even as an adult. Summer is still a time to dream and plan, only now I am dreaming and planning about the Hebrew School and Sunday School.

I have been working with the children of Agudas Achim long enough that I have seen some of them grow from little kids to b'nei mitzvah. That's long enough to have tried a few experiments, to see some of them work and some of them fail. So this summer, I am looking for fresh inspiration.

Rabbi Hugenholtz and I will be attending NewCAJE, the premier conference for Jewish educators, where I will be looking for new ideas and creative curriculum.

I would love to carry your questions and interests with me to NewCAJE. Is there anything you would like me to investigate? Subjects you would like me to explore? Please let me know.

## WARM UP AMERICA

*Constance Berman*

Warm Up America will meet June 17.

## INCLUSION COMMITTEE

*Esther Hugenholtz*

On the May 23, Inclusion Specialist Jennifer Gendel came here from Chicago to help us launch our first Inclusion Committee at Agudas Achim. Jennifer works for the USCJ (Conservative Movement) and the Ruderman Family Foundation. She has provided training for congregations who want to become more inclusive with regards to disability, but this work can also be extended to other forms of inclusion, such as LGBTQ inclusion and advocacy for Jews-of-Color.

Both the USCJ (through their work with the Ruderman Family Foundation) and URJ (through their Audacious Hospitality program) endeavor to make the Jewish world a more welcoming and more diverse place where we can all learn from and be strengthened by the wide range of the human experience.

It was with these goals in mind that eight members of Agudas Achim came together on May 23 to evaluate and discuss how we can begin this holy task.

Our next meeting is at the synagogue, at 7:30 p.m., on June 6.

Any member is more than welcome to join us - all we ask for is your enthusiasm, passion and inclusiveness.

## LUNCH & LEARN

Shabbat Lunch & Learn, Saturday June 9, 12:30 p.m.

### **Wired – Our Jewish Digital Presence and How to Use it**

With the impending launch of the new Agudas Achim website in mind, this session will look at how the contemporary Jewish experience is impacted by digital media, what some of the personal and ethical implications are and how we can best utilize our online presence to showcase our best Judaism and build community.

## SISTERHOOD NEWS

*Beverly Jones*

### Sisterhood Mitzvah Fund Brunch

You are cordially invited to Sisterhood's annual Mitzvah Fund Brunch

**When:** Sunday, June 24, 11:00 a.m.

**Where:** Vesta, 849 Quarry Road, Coralville, around the corner from the Marriott Hotel (Please note that Vesta opens at 11:00 a.m.)

**Program:** Agudas Achim member Dr. Deb Carneol will describe her participation in a 7-day, 7-continent marathon. On January 28, 2018 the 777 World Marathon began in Novo (Antarctica), followed by marathons in Cape Town (South Africa), Perth (Australia), Dubai (United Arab Emirates), Madrid (Spain), Barranquilla (Columbia), ending in Miami on February 5.

**Cost:** \$18.00/person over the price of the lunch. You will be ordering your own lunch from the menu.

Your \$18.00 contribution will support the the Torah Fund of Women's League of Conservative Judaism, the YES Fund of Women of Reform Judaism; and in honor of our speaker, Clubfoot Solutions.

Deb chose Clubfoot Solutions, which manufactures and distributes the Iowa Brace (designed by Dr. Ignacio Ponseti of the University of Iowa) to clubfoot children around the world, as the charity she would support through her participation in the 777 World Marathon. As Deb stated, she is "running so clubfoot children can walk."

**RSVP:** Please contact [sisterhood@agudasachimic.org](mailto:sisterhood@agudasachimic.org) by Thursday, June 21 to RSVP. Send your check for \$18.00, made out to Sisterhood, to our Treasurer, Joni Caplan, 520 Brookland Park Drive, Iowa City, IA 52246. You may also pay at the door.

Donations over the \$18.00 minimum are welcome. This event is open to all synagogue women, their spouses, partners and guests.

## JUNE YAHREZEITS

Estelle Altschul  
Norman Altschul  
Samuel Bar  
Joseph Bernstein  
Dorothy Buddelof  
Margie Byrd  
Jennifer Clinton  
Ethel Eisen  
Sarah D. Glaser  
Moshe Green  
Hilda Kessler Gilbert  
Jack Klein  
Jacob Kosubucki  
Dan Kubby

Esther Kunik  
Bessie Marcus  
Russell Smith McGinnis  
Fannie Middleman  
Sebastien Isaac Picard  
Marian Prager  
Albert Abraham Pruchno  
Lauren Reece Flaum  
Becky Robin  
Richard Stephen Rochman  
Bill Sackter  
Rose Dovitz Sanders  
Nina Sawyer  
Samuel Shetzer

Bill H Shields  
Benjamin Sideman  
Alexander Simon  
Frances Wieseneck  
Beatrice Willner  
Sylvia Zukin



## THE GIFT SHOP

Joanne Margolin

I've just received a fabulous shipment of mezuzzot, candleholders, and tallisim. The designs of all are beautiful and unique, and different from any we've had before. I look forward to you seeing them the next time you're at the synagogue!

Joanne Margolin, 351-2181 or [jrmargolin@gmail.com](mailto:jrmargolin@gmail.com)

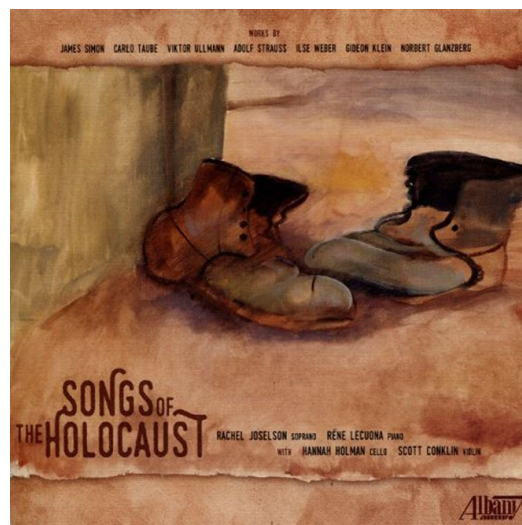


## FROM THE STACKS

Michael Sellz

### Songs of the Holocaust

Please disregard that the vocalist and I are married. The voice and the accompaniment are beautiful and heartfelt. The songs were written by artists and composers at the Terezin concentration camp, most of whom did not survive, but their artistry displayed a courage to illuminate even the darkest, most brutal and sorrowful circumstances. The first song, "Ich weiss bestimmt, ich werd dich wiedersehn," (I know for certain that I will see you again) by Adolf Strauss, might be heard as a lovely song about two lovers reuniting, but the composer was eventually executed at Auschwitz. Imagine the despair and suffering and hear the expression of hope. One survivor, Norbert Glanzberg (1910-2001), wrote songs in memory of those who perished. The liner notes include an essay about the prison camp at Terezin, biographies of the composers and poets, and full texts and translations. Rachel has performed these songs at the United Nations, the Illinois Holocaust Museum, and numerous universities and synagogues. Find *Songs of the Holocaust* in the Braverman Library at CD/Classical/Vocal/Holocaust.



## JUNE 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 9:00am - 10:00am Talmud Study Group 1:00pm - 2:00pm Created in God's Image 7:30pm - 9:30pm Introduction to Judaism	28 Office closed	29	30 6:30pm - 7:30pm Auction Committee meeting 7:15pm - 8:15pm Social Committee	31	1 Office Closed 7:30pm - 8:30pm Shabbat Evening Services 8:45pm - 9:45pm Rabbi Juan Mejia: Juan in a Minyan talk	2 9:30am - 12:00pm Shabbat Morning Services with Rabbi Juan Mejia 11:00am - 12:00pm Children's service 2:00pm - 3:00pm Rabbi Juan Mejia - Dungeons and Dragons workshop
3 9:00am - 10:00am Last Talmud Study Group until Fall 11:00am - 12:00pm Rabbi Juan Mejia - Nuevos Judios talk 3:00pm - 6:00pm Fundraiser Auction for Security System Upgrade with Robert Cargill 7:30pm - 9:30pm Introduction to Judaism	4 6:30pm - 7:30pm Torah Trope Class 7:00pm - 8:00pm Sisterhood Board Meeting	5	6 7:30pm - 8:30pm Disability Inclusion Committee Meeting	7 7:00pm - 8:00pm Calendar Meeting	8 Office Closed 7:30pm - 8:30pm Shabbat Evening Services	9 10:00am - 12:00pm Learner's Service 12:30pm - 1:30pm Lunch & Learn: Digital Presence
10 9:00am - 10:00am Morning Minyan at Agudas Achim 7:30pm - 9:30pm Introduction to Judaism	11	12	13	14 7:00pm - 8:00pm Annual Congregational Meeting 7:30pm - 8:30pm Ritual Committee	15 Logan Jaskolka Bar Mitzvah Office Closed 7:30pm - 8:30pm Shabbat Evening Services	16 9:30am - 12:00pm Shabbat Morning Services
17 7:30pm No Intro Judaism class	18 4:00pm - 5:00pm Tikun Olam Meeting (?) 7:00pm - 8:00pm Exec. Committee	19	20	21	22 Office Closed 6:00pm - 7:30pm Family Chavurah 7:30pm - 8:30pm Shabbat Evening Services	23 9:30am - 12:00pm Shabbat Morning Services
24 11:00am - 12:00pm Sisterhood Mitzvah Fund Brunch @ Vesta 7:30pm - 9:30pm Introduction to Judaism	25	26	27 11:30am - 1:00pm Free Lunch 7:15pm - 8:15pm Social Committee (?) 7:30pm - 8:30pm Ritual Committee Meeting	28 7:00pm - 8:00pm Board Meeting	29 Office Closed 7:30pm - 8:30pm Shabbat Evening Services	30 9:30am - 12:00pm Shabbat Morning Services

## LIMMUD CHICAGO & MIDWEST

Early bird registration for Limmud Chicago & Midwest ends June 15.  
For more information see [www.limmudchi.org](http://www.limmudchi.org)

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Save the date: June 14, 7:00 p.m.  
For Agudas Achim's **annual congregational meeting**.  
All members encouraged to attend.

**“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:**

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