



Agudas Achim Congregation

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www.AgudasAchimIC.org

February 2019 / Shevat – Adar I 5779

FROM THE RABBI

Esther Hugenholtz

"So, let the witness be our writing."

It was one of many powerful moments in the new Holocaust film 'Who Will Write Our History', shown at the FilmScene. Watching the movie three times (twice in preparation and once on the big screen) made it a tour-de-force every time. As my husband and I were walking back to the car through a blustery Iowa City snowscape, reflecting on the movie and the panel I had the honor to serve on (alongside Professor Lisa Heinemann and our own Susan Simon) made me realize how grateful I am. Grateful to be a rabbi, to be in the United States and to be able to bless people through the power of language.

Many cultures have creation myths where deities wrested our universe from clay or sea; in ours, God *speaks* the world into being – a feat praised in the 'baruch she'amar' prayer in the morning service: 'baruch she'amar v'hayah ha'olam' – 'blessed is God Who spoke and the world came to be' would be a literal translation of the text. Our words and writings are witnesses – historian Emanuel Ringelblum, the initiator of the Oyneg Shabes Archive in the Warsaw Ghetto was absolutely right. And we must bear testimony to our highest principles through them.

In our hyper-literate culture of today, where we so rely on the written word in our daily communications, this is all the more true. We have to be the upholders of words as sources of truth

and the guardians when words are used as the harbingers of falsehood. We have the ability to grant kindness and issue blessing through our words or to cut down, humiliate and hurt people through them (this concern increases exponentially with internet access and an anonymous social media account).

As the winter lull is coming to a close and the rhythms of Jewish (and working) life have geared up again, there have been and continue to be opportunities at the synagogue to engage with sacred text, words, writings, stories and ideas.

For Tu Bishvat and Martin Luther King Day, Hillel Director David Weltman and I got together to do a text study on 'Seeds of Justice' where we looked at the Tree of Life as a template of the human soul and how we can develop our humanity to become more receptive of the biases we hold and work towards greater justice. We intend on doing another study session with a similar theme in the weeks leading up to Purim. The Introduction to Judaism course is now in full swing with a record number of 17 (!) participants (which gives me no greater joy!) The congregation has other plans too, including a Sisterhood Winter Tea (all genders welcome and where words will build friendships and bounds), a Bereavement Group (where the power of words will be used to heal and comfort) and a Musical Sephardi Shabbat plus dinner (where words will bring music and joy). Not before long, we will be

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FROM THE RABBI

Esther Hugenholtz (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

heading in the direction of Pesach, where Judaism created the template of transforming trauma into empathy, survival into learning, through the Haggadah, where we are charged to tell this story to our children again and again.

Words are everywhere. In the newscycle, in our learning and in the Torah of our lives. Please be encouraged to find the words that give you strength, meaning and compassion – and to create worlds by sharing them with those around you.

EARLY KEYBOARD SOCIETY CONCERT



Corina Marti, harpsichord

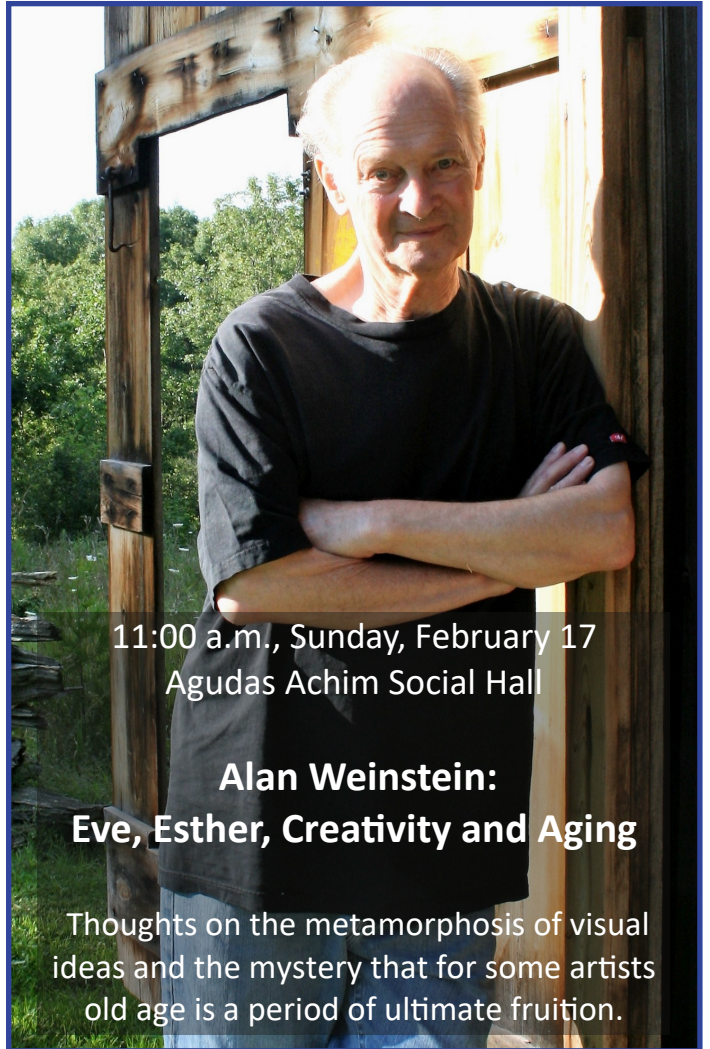
3:00 p.m., Sunday, February 10
Agudas Achim Congregation

WARM UP AMERICA

Connie Berman

Warm Up America will meet on Sunday mornings from ten to noon twice in February, on the 3rd and the 17th. Some of us have been very busy! See you there, Connie and Fred George.

ALAN WEINSTEIN EVENT



11:00 a.m., Sunday, February 17
Agudas Achim Social Hall

Alan Weinstein: Eve, Esther, Creativity and Aging

Thoughts on the metamorphosis of visual ideas and the mystery that for some artists old age is a period of ultimate fruition.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Beginning Wednesday February 6, the Caring Committee will pilot a six-week Bereavement Support Group facilitated by Martha Lubaroff.

The initial meeting will be held in the conference room from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. Group members will establish a regular meeting time at the first meeting.

Anyone grieving the loss of a loved one is invited to participate. Those with questions or interest in participating can email Martha at mlubaroff@gmail.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kathy Jacobs

January is ending with a blast of arctic air, and I hope that February will be milder. We will begin the new month with a visit from Cantor Joel Caplan, son of members Ellen and Dick Caplan, who will lead Friday and Saturday services this weekend. I plan to attend both services, what a treat! Friday should be warmer, so I hope that many of you will also be able to attend and welcome him back to Iowa.

The cold and snowy weather slowed things down in January as we canceled a service, a few religious school classes, and the offices a couple of days due to snow. Because of cold and gloomy weather the Jewish (Mussar) value I will be struggling with this new month is Zerizut (enthusiasm) as I try to overcome inertia and infuse some energy into my activities. There is a lot to inspire me and I'm determined to resist the call of my favorite chair in the warmth of my sunroom when opportunities

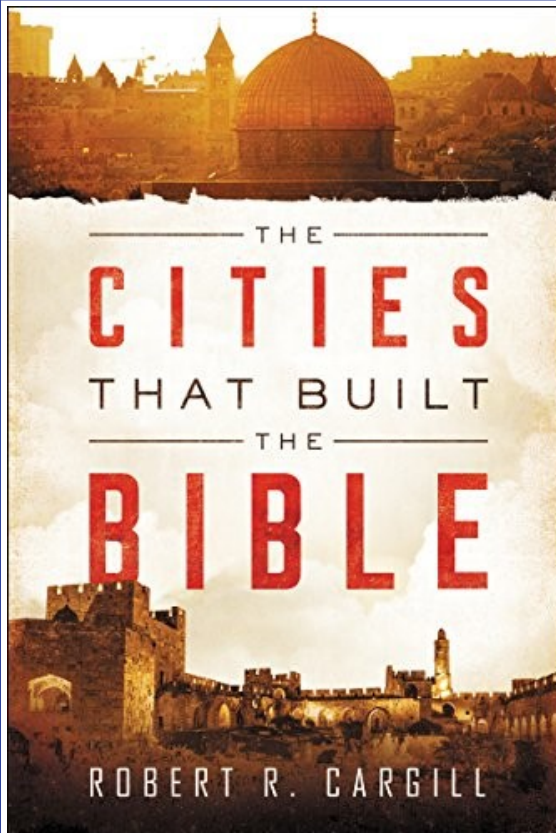
arise. Check the synagogue calendar, there are activities to inspire you too.

I'm encouraged in this struggle because of the new board chairs and their wonderful ideas for youth programs and membership. Also, Sue Weinberg, Shelley Goffstein, the rabbi and I will be attending a Conservative Movement program in Chicago this month, "A Relational Approach to Membership, Marketing and Communication". I hope to return with good ideas. I look forward to stopping by the Hungarian Kosher Grocery in Skokie on the way home.

Maybe I won't find it so hard to find Zerizut this month after all. I hope the Groundhog will find his shadow and that you will also find sources of energy and enthusiasm this month. Happy February!

FROM THE STACKS

Michael Sellz



The Cities that Built the Bible by Robert Cargill

Last fall at the Synagogue we had the privilege to hear Dr. Cargill's lecture series on the New Testament Bible. In his book Dr. Cargill, Professor of Classics and Religious Studies at the University of Iowa, takes a unique approach to both Old and New Testaments by examining eleven ancient cities to show that the texts are "*literary attempts to convey ideas about God and his activity in history, and the words used to convey these ideas could (and did) vary from manuscript to manuscript.*" He added, "*And this is okay!*" The scholarship is expansive but very readable, adding personal experiences (and some jokes!). If you consider the Bible to be the word of God, prepare to be challenged in your beliefs. Dr. Cargill shows that the Bible is "*the product of dozens of authors and hundreds of anonymous editors and redactors,*" and "*the interaction of biblical text and archaeological record.*" Find **The Cities That Built the Bible** in the Braverman Library at 220.91/Car. During February it may be the Featured Item on the New in the Library shelf.

SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE

Torah Portion	Date	Service Time	Service
Mishpatim (Exodus 21:1 – 24:18)	Friday, February 1	7:30 p.m.	Conservative service led by Joel Caplan
	Saturday, February 2	9:30 a.m.	Conservative service led by Joel Caplan
Terumah (Exodus 25:1 – 27:19)	Friday, February 8	7:30 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah (Reform)
	Saturday, February 9	9:30 a.m.	Sim Shalom (Conservative)
Tetzaveh (Exodus 27:20 – 30:10)	Friday, February 15	7:30 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
	Saturday, February 16	9:30 a.m.	Sim Shalom
Ki Tissa (Exodus 30:11 – 34:35)	Friday, February 22	7:30 p.m.	Sephardic Dinner & Musical Service
	Saturday, February 23	9:30 a.m.	Sim Shalom

SISTERHOOD NEWS

Beverly Jones

Winter Tea

Sisterhood's annual Winter Tea will be held on **Sunday, February 17, 2:30 p.m.** at the home of Shelley Goffstein, 403 N. 7th Ave., Iowa City. All are invited. You need not be a Sisterhood member to attend.

Program: Sisterhood members Jeanne Cadoret and Thérèse Guédon will describe their recent trip through Vietnam and Laos. Unfortunately, most of us know about this part of the world through war. Come and learn Jeanne's and Thérèse's impressions about the people, the culture, and the land as they exist today. Refreshments will be provided by the Sisterhood Board. We will also be treated to some Vietnamese snacks.

In addition, we will be holding our annual "**Goods and Services Silent Auction**" to raise funds for Sisterhood. Although optional, we hope that you will consider donating an auction item. Just as importantly, we hope that you will bid on the items.

For the "Goods" part of the Auction, we are looking for donations of new or gently-used items. Suggestions include Judaica, home decor items, artwork, books, jewelry, or kitchen, dining, and entertainment items. Please, no advertising or promotional items.

Some suggestions for the "Services" part of the Auction include baked goods, a home-made dinner for a family, fresh garden items in season, a hand-knit item, an evening of child care, or a lesson(s) in a foreign language, computer use, or musical instrument.

RSVPs are encouraged. Please contact sisterhood@agudasachimic.org to rsvp, if you have questions, need a ride, or if you have an item for the auction.

While the Winter Tea gives us the opportunity to relax, schmooze, and get together with friends, it will be cancelled if there are severe winter storm warnings for that day.

SCHOOL NEWS

Sonja Spear

It's always struck me as ironic that Tu B'shvat, a celebration of trees, falls in the coldest days of winter in Iowa. There is so much snow on the ground that it's hard to imagine spring.

But the **First** and **Second Grades** are already preparing for Passover. They planted parsley for Tu B'shvat that should be ready to harvest for the *seder* in April. This being Iowa, the potting soil was frozen solid. I would like to thank Logan Jaskolka and Ari Collins for thawing it in the oven.

The **Second** and **Third Grades** have been learning about *mitzvot*. They have talked about acts of kindness and caring as well as *mitzvot* specific to holidays. They reviewed the blessings over fruit that they learned for Tu B'shvat and discussed what the word "mitzvah" means in these blessings.

Then they drew big posters of Mitzvah Person (a tracing of a kid), and represented various *mitzvot* on the heart of and in the mind of Mitzvah Person. They will go home to perform *mitzvot* this week. For every *mitzvah* that they can explain, they will put a link in a paper chain. When the chain is long enough, they will earn a party.

Sunday School was lightly populated this week because the older kids (**Fourth Grade and up**) had a

program on Saturday instead. They met for a lively, interactive Shabbat service. The kids played tambourines and blew *shofarot*. They also meditated during the *Shema*.

Logan and Ari led the Torah service. It was wonderful to see recent B'nei Mitzvah model leading a service for the younger kids. The Rabbi invited the kids to wrap their heads in scarves like Israelites and get on a "time machine" back to the giving of the Torah. The Rabbi talked about the difference between living under Pharaoh's law and living under the Torah, which is a guide to living responsibly in freedom.

All in all, it was an engaging and lively service. Students can study prayers in Hebrew School and learn about Judaism in Sunday School, but nothing substitutes for experiencing a Shabbat service, especially with your family. I will plan another Shabbat service for the spring.

It may not seem like it right now, but spring is right around the corner. I am already looking for Hamentashen bakers and volunteers for the school's Purim Carnival in March! If you are good at face painting, baking cookies, or running a game booth, let me know!



FEBRUARY 22 AT 6:00 P.M.

SEPHARDIC DINNER & MUSICAL SERVICE

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$18 / INDIVIDUAL OR \$45 / FAMILY. ALL ARE WELCOME; DONATION SHOULD NOT BE A BARRIER TO PARTICIPATION. BRING A FRIEND!

PLEASE RSVP TO THE OFFICE BY FEBRUARY 20.

DONATIONS

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Jerry Naylor: In memory of Mary S. Naylor

Jonathan & Susan Simon: In memory of Alex & Irene Simon

Jeffrey Whitebook: In memory of Maynard Whitebook

2ND CENTURY FUND

Julia Gelfand & David Lang

Steven & Barcey Levy

David & Tamara Schoenbaum

ADULT ED

Paul & Esther Retish: Thank you for Robert Cargill lectures

BUILDING FUND

Kathy Ormond: In memory of Waverly Ormond

CEMETERY FUND

Miriam Canter: In memory of Arthur Canter

Julia Gelfand & David Lang: In memory of Lawrence Gelfand

Sam & Marj Kuperman: In memory of Boris Kuperman

Jack Snider: In memory of Betty Snider

FAMILY ASSISTANCE FUND

Josh Braverman: In memory of A. Kent Braverman

GARDEN FUND

Carrie Z. Norton: In memory of Morris Ziskind

Jonathan & Susan Simon: In memory of Liba Goldberg

GENERAL GIFTS

David & Constance Berman: In memory of Judy Goldfein & Doris Hoffman

Jody & Janie Braverman: In memory of Laverne Siebuhr

Kenneth Hill & Elana Buch: In honor of Mila Leah Hill baby naming

Kathleen Jacobs: In honor of new Membership Chair, Shelley Goffstein

Kathleen Jacobs: In honor of new Youth Chair, Shellie Smith

LIBRARY FUND

Paul & Esther Retish: In memory of Arthur Canter and Andrea Levey

PRAYERBOOK FUND

Kathleen Jacobs

Nancy Sprince: In memory of Benjamin Sprince & Belle Coster

REECE FLAUM TERRACE

Jerry Naylor: In memory of Mary S. Naylor

SCHOOL FUND

Stanley & Jane Zukin: In memory of Lama Shetzer

SIM & SARA STRAUSS FUND

Stephen & Susan Strauss: In memory of Meyer Markovitz and Isaac Strauss

TALMUD TORAH FUND

Jonathan & Susan Simon: In memory of Mendel Goldberg

TIKUN OLAM FUND

David & Martha Lubaroff: In memory of Sidney Josselson

Jerry Naylor: In memory of Mary S. Naylor

LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

The congregation extends its condolences to Karen Brady on the death of her mother, **Bettye Patrick Pallesen**, who died on Saturday, January 12.

FEBRUARY 2019

FEBRUARY 2019					1 Office Closed Shabbat Evening Service led by Joel Caplan 7:30-8:30 pm	2 Shabbat Morning Service led by Joel Caplan 9:30 am–12 pm Children’s Shabbat Club 10 am-12 pm
3 Talmud Study Group 9-10am Sunday School 10am-12pm Warm-up America 10 am-12 pm	4 Hebrew School 4:15-6:15pm Sisterhood Board Meeting 7-8 pm Introduction to Judaism 7:30-9:30 pm	5 Jewth 7-8:30 pm	6 Adult Ed Committee 6:30-7:30 pm Board Meeting 7-8:30 pm	7 Calendar Meeting 7-8 pm	8 Office Closed Shabbat Evening Service 7:30-8:30 pm	9 Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 am–12 pm Children’s Shabbat Club 10 am-12 pm
10 Talmud Study Group 9-10am Sunday School 10am-12pm Early Keyboard Society Concert 3-5 pm	11 Hebrew School 4:15-6:15pm Introduction to Judaism 7:30-9:30 pm	12 Jewth 7-8:30 pm	13 Hebrew School 4:15-6:15pm	14 Inclusion Committee 7-8 pm	15 Office Closed Family Chavurah at Andy & Sarah Frank’s home 6-7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service 7:30-8:30 pm	16 Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 am–12 pm Children’s Shabbat Club 10 am-12 pm
17 Talmud Study Group 9-10am Sunday School 10am-12pm Warm-up America 10 am-12 pm Sisterhood Winter Tea, home of Shelley Goffstein 2:30-4:30 pm	18 Hebrew School 4:15-6:15pm Executive Committee 7-8pm Introduction to Judaism 7:30-9:30 pm	19 Jewth 7-8:30 pm	20 Hebrew School 4:15-6:15pm	21 Ritual Committee 7:15-8:15 pm	22 Office Closed Sephardic Dinner & Musical Shabbat Evening Service 7:30-8:30 pm	23 Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 am–12 pm Children’s Shabbat Club 10 am-12 pm
24 Talmud Study Group 9-10am Sunday School 10am-12pm	25 Hebrew School 4:15-6:15pm Introduction to Judaism 7:30-9:30 pm	26 Jewth 7-8:30 pm	27 Free Lunch 11:30 am-1 pm Hebrew School 4:15-6:15pm	28 Board Meeting 7-8 pm	1 Office Closed Shabbat Evening Service 7:30-8:30 pm	2 Hillel B’Nei Mitzvah 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 am–12 pm Children’s Shabbat Club 10 am-12 pm

FEBRUARY YAHREZITS

Eleanor Blauner
John Brady
Fannie Saltzman Braverman
Arnie Breggin
Irene Brodsky
Donald Cohn
Mike Donner
Sara Dorfman
Edith Davidson Estin
Louis Friedman
Sadie Friedman
Samuel Goldman
Harley William Goodman
Bertha Graber
Vera Gutierrez
Schuyler Schenck Haskell
Patricia Hass

Jacob Horowitz
Maurice Joselson
Allen Kraft
Betty Krantz
Donia Kuperman
Edith London
Albert Lubaroff
Arthur Margolin
Dinah Leah Markovitz
Samuel Markovitz
Patrick McEwen
Bess Millstein
Joann Sprinkman Picard
Dorothy Pliner
Rose Lee Pomerantz
Louis Rosenbaum
Mark Rosenthal

Sanford G. Rossen
Marcia Williams Roston
Mary Saletta
Gertrude Sandler
Jay Sandler
Jessica Schwartz
Harry Shulman
Sam Skorton
Goldie Solganick
Gladys Paul Spiller
Wayne VanArendonk
Pat Vunderink
Nancy McGinnis Whitehead
Alan Widiss
Ralph Wingo
Earl Yanney

**“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
President Elect	Sue Weinberg	Sisterhood Liaison	Nancy Sprince
Vice President	Jeff Braverman	Social	Beverly Jones
Treasurer	Mindy Russell	Tikun Olam	Martha Lubaroff
Board Secretary	Janelle Jaskolka	Ways & Means	Mindy Russell
Adult Education	Frank Salomon; Daphne Lison	Youth	Shellie Smith
Membership	Shelley Goffstein	At Large 1	Jonathan Sabin
Ritual	Peter Rubenstein; Alan Weinstein	At Large 2	Janice Weiner