



Agudas Achim Congregation

401 E. Oakdale Blvd., Coralville, IA 52241

Phone: 319-337-3813

www.AgudasAchimIC.org

July 2019 / Sivan – Tammuz 5779



FROM THE RABBI

Esther Hugenholtz

I never thought I'd say this as a congregational rabbi who attends lots of meetings, but I wholeheartedly enjoyed our Congregational Meeting. It was well attended, thoughtful and engaging and, perhaps less expected: moving. It was bitter-sweet saying goodbye to the Board leadership that welcomed me on board almost two years ago. (Now past) President Kathy Jacobs has been an incredible partner during this time with her signature compassion, wisdom, patience and insight. Almost two years ago, when I inducted the Board around the intensity of the High Holiday period, she said that she would have 'the Rabbi's back', and she has been true to her word. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with our Board and its diverse leadership. We have had meaningful

brainstorming sessions and discussions about the Jewish Future and we even had fun with an Escape Room exercise organized by our unparalleled Janelle Jaskolka. The honor was entirely mine when I could bless our outgoing leaders for how well they have served our community and how wisely they have shepherded us through the challenges of our times. Likewise, it was a delight to welcome and bless the new Board. I am very excited to partner with Sue Weinberg. Sue's hospitality to our family when we moved here will never be forgotten and I have every confidence that Sue will make a stellar President. Sue's energy, drive, attention to detail and people-centered approach will be a huge asset

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FROM THE RABBI

Esther Hugenholtz (cont.)

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to our community as we strategize and build for the future.

We also welcomed the Regional Director of the Jewish Federation's Network of Independent Communities (talking about a mouthful here!) Andrew Feuerstein. Andrew has been impressed with our community and is eager to partner with us on bringing new energy to the community-building and fund-raising mission of our local Federation. With an understanding heart of the particular challenges and blessings of small community life, he knows how instrumental it is that we remain 'plugged into' the larger Jewish context. As I have said before: we are not the periphery, but the cutting edge. Small communities bring a nimbleness to Jewish community life that is imperative. We are creative and plucky; we are welcoming and friendly and we are open to learning.

With the risk of betraying my marital bias, I am also very proud of Dave Middleton, our Safety Committee chair and his entire team for working so hard on safety issues. He has worked on the important goal of keeping our community safe and open.

All in all, it was a great meeting that shows that we have stuff happening in our Iowa City community even in the lull of summer. Speaking of which: we also have had a new Hillel Director join our community. A big 'mazal tov' to Ashley Carol-Fingerhut. Hailing from Chicago and with a diverse professional background steeped in work for environmental NGO's, Ashley brings her refreshing, passionate and humane spirit to the position. I've had the pleasure of dining and meeting with her and the students at Hillel are lucky to have her. I look forward to collaborating with her in the time to come and to continue bringing our two communities closer together.

The month of June also saw two events of interest in our community. We enjoyed a great turnout for

our Tikkun Leyl Shavu'ot, our Shavu'ot evening learning event. I am so proud of all who presented interesting sessions, ranging from Handel's oratorio 'Athalia' to Jewish views on Revelation, the legal basis for the modern State of Israel and Jews in science-fiction. A dedicated contingent of congregants stayed up all night learning and we greeted the dawn with a special and moving dawn prayer service.

The second event was the Pride Parade. Although Agudas Achim had no official presence at Pride, some congregants took a Rainbow-themed Star of David flag and marched with our friends from First Presbyterian Church. Signalling support to the LGBTQ community from a faith perspective is a life-affirming act. I am so proud of all who attended and hope to repeat it next year.

As for me? For those of you who have seen me in recent weeks, you can tell that I'm pretty big right now! I am hoping to work throughout the month of July before we welcome our baby girl in early-to-mid August. If you want to meet with me, connect in some ways or if you would like me to reach out to you before I go on leave, I make myself wholly available to you. As I am holding the sacred tension between anticipating new life and being aware of its innate fragility, I know where to bring my gratitude. I am grateful for holy community, for the wisdom of the Jewish tradition, for the blessings of family (and the University Hospital!) and look forward to, God willing (and if I'd be the superstitious type, I'd add 'puh puh puh!), delivering happy news.

We have good stuff going on here. I would like to wish all of you a wonderful, restorative, not-too-hot Iowan summer. Safe travels and wishing you much rest and relaxation. My heart overflows for the almost two years I've spent with you and I am very excited for what is yet to come. Thank you all for being my community and for becoming my family. May we have many *simchas* together and enjoy much *nachas*. *L'chaim*, to life!

LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

Beverly and Douglas Jones are proud to announce the birth of their grandson **Gideon Ganek Jones**, who was born to their son Nathaniel and his wife Robin on Monday, June 17 in Berkeley California.

There will be a baby blessing for Janice Weiner's granddaughter, **Alaska Latham**, on Saturday, July 20 at 11:00 a.m.

ANTISEMITISM DISCUSSION GROUP

The Antisemitism discussion group will meet on **Wednesday, July 10 at 12:30 p.m.**

This group allows Jewish and Jewish-adjacent members of the community a safe space to process our thoughts and feelings about increasing antisemitism.

JULY YAHRZEITS

Estelle Altschul	Esther Kunik
Norman Altschul	Rose "Rae" Levin
Jelena Laneeva Bardach	Jack Madison
David Owen Berg	Bessie Marcus
Joseph Bernstein	Meir Markovitz
Morris L. Breggin	Sebastien Isaac Picard
Elizabeth Potter Brown	David Pitzele
Jennifer Clinton	Marian Prager
Charlotte Dobie	Albert Abraham
Ethel Eisen	Pruchno
Sarah D. Glaser	Lauren Reece Flaum
Denise Guédon	Bill Sackter
Richard Jacobs	Nina Sawyer
Daniel Joseph	Mildred Schapira
Morris Isadore Kaufman	Bill H Shields
Max Kerber	Jules Ben Standig
Hilda Kessler Gilbert	Kalman "Sunny"
Jack Klein	Sunshine
Irwin Kline	Arthur Wallace
Dan Kubby	Frances Wieseneck
Miriam Kubby	Beatrice Willner

WARM UP AMERICA *Connie Berman*

Warm Up America has had a productive moment of making squares -- now to get them laid out, sewn together, and edged. In July we will meet on July 14 and 28, 10:00 a.m. – noon.

Sometimes we listen in on other things. Sometimes we just find things in the cupboard where you've left them. Sometimes it's crazy. Sometimes it's quiet. But the amount of love put into these efforts is limitless. Thanks for all your efforts and see you soon!



TALMUD STUDY GROUP

The Talmud Study Group will meet on Sunday, July 7 at 9:00 a.m. The group will then be on break for the summer.

All are welcome!

SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE

Torah Portion	Date	Service Time	Service
Korach <i>(Numbers 16:1 – 18:32)</i>	Friday, July 5	7:30 p.m.	Sim Shalom (Conservative)
	Saturday, July 6	9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah (Reform)
Chukkat <i>(Numbers 19:1 – 22:1)</i>	Friday, July 12	7:30 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
	Saturday, July 13	9:30 a.m.	Sim Shalom
Balak <i>(Numbers 22:2 – 25:9)</i>	Friday, July 19	7:30 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
	Saturday, July 20	9:30 a.m.	Sim Shalom
Pinchas <i>(Numbers 25:10 – 30:1)</i>	Friday, July 26	7:30 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
	Saturday, July 27	9:30 a.m.	Sim Shalom

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sue Weinberg

Thank you for the honor and privilege of being elected president of Agudas Achim. I will do my best to live up to the trust you have invested in me. I am so grateful for Kathy's guidance these last two years; I know I have big shoes to fill but I look forward to her guidance and wisdom over the next year as she settles into her role of Past President.

Over the next few months, my focus will be on supporting the committee chairs as they form their committees and plan their activities, making sure that the synagogue is prepared for Rabbi Hugenholtz's upcoming maternity leave (yay-a new Jew is coming into our congregation!), and working with the Safety committee to identify and implement measures to keep us secure. The rabbi and I will be working closely to ensure that her absence goes as seamlessly as possible. There are already plans in place for rabbinic coverage of the high holidays: Rabbi Mike Gilboa (spouse of former Agudas Achim member Emily Schoerning) will be leading services in Rabbi Hugenholtz's absence, and we will also welcome Jerry Sorokin back to help lead services.

The congregational meeting was well attended and Dave Middleton presented a thoughtful and informative powerpoint on the work that the Safety Committee has been doing. There was also a presentation by Andrew Feuerstein, the Jewish Federation of North America Regional Director. He is looking forward to partnering with us to expand the role of the Federation in Iowa City. As was mentioned at the congregational meeting, we will have to do some fundraising to meet the necessary expenses of security and High Holiday rabbinic coverage, there will be more discussion on that at a later date.

If you have questions, concerns, suggestions, or just want to chat please feel free to reach out to me. There are many of you I don't know but would like to, so I would be happy to meet for coffee (or tea in my case).

B'shalom,
Sue

LETTER FROM SUSAN AND JON SIMON

June 12, 2019

Rabbi Hugenholtz said *home* is not one place, it is where you are and where you have been, it is “the past, present and future”, it is Jewish values and “transformational learning”, it is support and love. After nearly 50 years living in Iowa City, we have moved to live the next chapter in our life adventure near our children (and theirs) in Maryland. For 49.5 of those 50 years, we have been members of Agudas Achim. Our sons each had his first Jewish ritual in the Sanctuary; each had his Bar Mitzvah there, each had his “Auf ruf” there, and Rabbi Portman officiated at their weddings. Jon’s parents celebrated their 50th Anniversary at Agudas Achim, and their funerals were held there. Iowa City was where we resided, but surely Agudas Achim has been our home.

We are deeply grateful to David and Martha Lubaroff, Bob and Maureen Wallace, Rita Marcus and David Roston for hosting a Kiddush luncheon to give us a chance for one more Shabbat together and a chance to say “L’hitraot” to many friends.

Some folks took the mike to say things that were deeply touching to us, and we want to say to you that we are grateful for your friendship and the blessing of living in this community.

Rabbi Portman has been a quiet important influence on us both. He was willing to say, “You should do that” or “You shouldn’t do that” when it was needed. And, of course, he was there at our side for the simchas and sorrows of our full busy life. We have been thrilled to get to know Rabbi Hugenholtz – in a few years, we feel like we have known her forever and she has touched our minds and our hearts.

We know we’ll make some friends here (even have a few imports from Iowa City), and are delighted to be spending more time with our children and grandchildren. But a 50-year warm and supportive community is an irreplaceable treasure.

We certainly plan to visit Iowa City. Meanwhile, if you happen to be in the DC area, please look us up.

B’Shalom!

MAHJONG GROUP

Thanks to Dina, Karen, and Ellie for a fun afternoon of learning MahJong at the synagogue! About a dozen eager learners participated. The group plans to meet again on **Sunday, June 30 at 2:00 p.m.** Newcomers are welcome!



SISTERHOOD NEWS

Beverly Jones

Baby Shower

Help us celebrate this wonderful event with Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz and Dave Middleton in honor of the upcoming arrival of their Baby Girl.

Hosts: Sisterhood of Agudas Achim

Where: Agudas Achim

When: Sunday, July 14, 2:00 p.m.

RSVP: sisterhood@agudasachimic.org

This is a family event. Spouses, partners, and children are welcome.

Rabbi Hugenholtz is registered at Target for baby gifts. [Click here to view the registry.](#) If reading this in print, contact the office for the link. We will also be letting you know about an option to provide meals, child care, and other services for the

family. But remember: It's your presence that's more important than your presents.

The Sisterhood Board will provide cake and beverages. Please consider bringing an appetizer, snack, or dessert to share.

Sisterhood Board

If you've ever been interested in taking on a more hands-on role with Sisterhood, and have ideas about programming, fundraising, communication, or social action, please contact us at sisterhood@agudasachimic.org to sit in on a Board Meeting. We are looking to expand our horizons for 2019-20.

SISTERHOOD MITZVAH FUND BRUNCH AT VESTA



I was honored to attend the Sisterhood Mitzvah Fund Brunch at Vesta where we enjoyed delicious food (their beetroot salad comes recommended) and listened to a very special speaker. Sammie Spells, new to our community, spoke about her experience as a transgender woman, educating our community further on LGBTQ issues. Sammie sparkled with humor, clarity and compassion. Thank you, Sisterhood, for hosting such a unique and important event.

-Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz

JULY 2019

Mon	1	Sisterhood Board Meeting	7:00 PM
		Intro to Judaism	7:30 PM
Thurs	4	Office Closed - Happy 4th!	
Fri	5	Shabbat Evening Services	7:30 PM
Sat	6	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
Mon	8	Intro to Judaism	7:30 PM
Wed	10	Antisemitism Discussion Group	12:30 PM
Fri	12	Shabbat Evening Services	7:30 PM
Sat	13	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
Sun	14	Warm-Up America	10:00 AM
		Sisterhood Baby Shower	2:00 PM
Mon	15	Executive Committee Meeting	6:30 PM
		Intro to Judaism	7:30 PM
Thurs	18	Ritual Committee	7:15 PM
Fri	19	Family Chavurah	6:00 PM
		Shabbat Evening Services	7:30 PM
Sat	20	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
		Alaska Latham Baby Blessing	11:00 AM
Mon	22	Intro to Judaism	7:30 PM
Wed	24	Free Lunch	11:30 AM
		Calendar Meeting	6:30 PM
Thurs	25	Board Meeting	7:00 PM
Fri	26	Shabbat Evening Services	7:30 PM
Sat	27	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
Sun	28	Warm-Up America	10:00 AM
Mon	29	Intro to Judaism	7:30 PM

FAIR SHARE FORMS

Members should be watching their mail for their Fair Share forms for fiscal year 2019-20 that are currently being sent. Please return your forms to the office by **July 31**, and begin fulfilling your pledges. Timely receipt of forms and payments is critical to the congregation's operations and will ensure your uninterrupted privileges as a Member-in-Good-Standing. If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact Administrator Karen Brady at 319-337-3813 or administrator@agudasachimic.org.

DONATIONS

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

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

Richard & Judy Hurtig: In memory of Irving Warren

Steven & Barcey Levy: In memory of Jessica Thurston

Carrie Z. Norton: In memory of Dee W. Norton

SISTERHOOD MITZVAH & MEMORIAL FUND

David & Constance Berman

Helen Ziskind: In memory of Bessie Josselson and Sara Middleman

GENERAL FUND

Alex & Ronit Cohen: In memory of Jacob Kosobucki

GARDEN FUND

Jonathan & Susan Simon

CEMETERY FUND

Sam & Marj Kuperman: In memory of Steven Frankel

FINE ARTS FUND

Helen Goldstein: In memory of Etta S. and Louis J. Tunik

PRAYERBOOK FUND

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

PORTMAN PROGRAM FUND

Steven & Barcey Levy: In memory of Jessica Thurston

TIKUN OLAM FUND

Moshe & David Ledebor: In memory of Russell S. McGinnis

Steven & Debbie Singer: In memory of Simon Shalom Pava

SECURITY FUND

Kathleen Jacobs

Jonathan & Pamela Sabin: In memory of Howard A. Sabin

REECE FLAUM TERRACE

Steven & Barcey Levy: In memory of Jessica Thurston

“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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| <p><input type="checkbox"/> Braverman Talmud Torah</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery Fund</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fine Arts Fund</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> General Fund</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Garden & Landscaping Fund</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> High Holiday/Cantor Fund</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lauren Reece Flaum Terrace Fund</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Library Fund</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Louis Ginsberg Youth Fund</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Marcus Scholarship Fund</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> The Rabbi Portman Program Fund</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Book Fund</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> School Fund</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sim & Sara Strauss Memorial Fund</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sisterhood Mitzvah & Memorial Fund</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Synagogue Assistance Fund</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tikun Olam Fund</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Torah Enhancement Fund</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Kadima Fund</p> |
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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	Sue Weinberg	Religious School	Chuck Friedman
President Elect	Janice Weiner	Sisterhood Liaison	Nancy Sprince
Vice President	David Lubaroff	Social	Meadow Amster
Treasurer	Mindy Russell	Tikun Olam	Landon Elkind
Board Secretary	Janelle Jaskolka	Ways & Means	Mindy Russell
Adult Education	Susan Assouline	Youth	Shellie Smith
Membership	Jane Zukin	At Large 1	Elliott Abrons
Ritual	Peter Rubenstein; Alan Weinstein	At Large 2	Curtis Braverman