



Agudas Achim Congregation

401 E. Oakdale Blvd., Coralville, IA 52241

Phone: 319-337-3813

www.AgudasAchimIC.org

August 2019 / Tammuz – Av 5779

MYRA AND MICHAEL CLARK RETIRING FROM TENDING GROUNDS

Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz



It is no coincidence that the Torah is full of gardening imagery, right from God's commandment to Adam and Eve; *'l'ovdah ul'shomrah'* - 'to work the garden and keep it' (Gen. 2:15).

A pair of dedicated members who have been our own 'tillers and keepers of the garden' are Myra and Michael Clark. When I arrived almost two years ago, I was so impressed how beautiful the synagogue grounds looked and in my conversations with Myra, I've learned about local flowers and her other passion, Pickleball. The community is very indebted to their service: not only did they keep the

grounds looking pristine and enhance welcoming atmosphere of our beautiful campus, but they also kept an eye on the building late at night.

Myra and Michael will be cycling off their volunteer gardening duties as they prepare our grounds for Fall. If you see them, please make sure to thank them. And if you have a green thumb and a few hours to spare – the synagogue is looking for a new gardener!

Thank you, Myra and Michael for all the beauty you have brought to our community.

FROM THE RABBI

Esther Hugenholtz

I'll tell you a little secret. When I'm leading the Conservative morning service and I'm chanting through Pesukei d'Zimra, the preliminary service that consists mainly of Psalms, I often stop and linger over a few verses in English. The beauty of the Psalms never fails to arrest me, not just because of their literary value but mainly because of their emotional weight. Psalms are meant to be emotional; they pull our heartstrings by design. Reading Psalms as the outpouring of the human soul can really shift their meaning, especially if you allow a verse to jump out at you and weave commentary on your own life.

Such a Psalm that has been doing that for me lately is Psalm 23 and the words '*kosi revayah*' – 'my cup overflows'. It's a complex image: is the overflow positive or negative? Do our lives feel full or overwhelming? What are the blessings of abundance and what are the challenges? I am contemplating these words as I reflect on the fullness of my own life. I have so much to be grateful for: serving the congregation, seeing my tomatoes ripen on the vine and my growing family. I am particularly grateful for the support and generosity so many of you have shown our family in the wake of the Sisterhood Baby Shower – despite my third pregnancy, my first ever Shower, yet another American milestone in my life! I am also very grateful for our new Synagogue President, Sue Weinberg, and our Board. We have experienced the fullness in meeting with different committee chairs, planning for the future and bouncing around ideas. Sue's strategic mind will be focusing on creating productive overlap between the different committees – this synergy will allow us to work closer together within our community. I am very excited about what is to come.

I am also very grateful to our Religion School Principal, Sonja Spear. Her intelligence and devotion to the wellbeing of our children make this a wonderful partnership. I am excited for some

curricular innovations that Sonja is introducing this coming Fall. Sonja will also be leading an Adult Education program on Jewish-Christian interfaith relations where she will present her own scholarship – it will be worth attending!

My cup overflows when it comes to the wider relationships in this community – after almost two years (!), my family has settled in happily and are looking forward to continuing to do so. Professor Darryl Heller, is one of those wonderful community contacts. His is a specialist on Black-Jewish relations and will also be presenting on this topic for Adult Education in the Fall. This will be a worthwhile lecture to attend.

There is lots more planned for during my leave. Rabbi Michael Gilboa, husband of former member Emily Schoerning, will be our Interim High Holiday Rabbi and he will introduce himself to the community in next month's Bulletin. Eliana Light, a Jewish Educator and musician, will be our Scholar-in-Residence for the days of Simchat Torah. She is really something special with an appeal to adults and children alike so stay tuned for some amazing, soulful, spiritual, musical programming to close the High Holiday season out with. And before you know it, it's November and you will see me walk the halls of the synagogue again, perhaps a little more bleary-eyed than usual (though that too shall pass).

A special mention of gratitude should also go to Myra Clark who for the last few years has so beautifully maintained our synagogue gardens and brought us delight to our eyes.

As for me, by the time you read this Bulletin, I might have already gone on maternity leave (August 5th is my last workday and I will be back twelve weeks later). I hope to be able to report happy news (God willing, and puh-puh-puh and all that!) in a few weeks. I promise I will let the

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FROM THE RABBI

Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

community know as soon as I can when our beautiful little girl is here.

Meanwhile, I invite you during the warm calm of these long summer days to reflect on how we fill and empty our cups as we draw closer to the High Holidays. What are the things that matter to us and that replenish us? What are the things that we should pour out and cast aside? What are the things that make us feel abundant and fulfilled? What are the triggers that overwhelm us?

I wish you a gentle, easy, relaxing summer with the wisdom of our tradition never far from our fingertips. Or at least, with abundant sunshine and moments of refreshment.

In gratitude and with an overflowing heart,
Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Jane Zukin

This term, Jane Zukin is chairing the Membership Committee. We are going to work on member welcoming, engagement, and retention. If you would like to be part of what I hope will be a productive and fun committee, please let me know by emailing membership@agudasachimic.org.

BLOOD DRIVE

Save the Date: Blood Drive on Sunday October 6

Where: Social Hall in Agudas Achim Synagogue

When: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sign-up sheet coming soon!

Questions? E-mail tikunolam@agudasachimic.org

AUGUST Yahrzeits

Morris Aizenberg

Adele Anolik

Robert "Bob"

Braverman

Regina Brecher

Samuel Brenner

Sam Brodsky

Harriet L. Clark

Charlotte Cohn

Helen B. Dunn

Gerald Engman

Burton Frank

Anitra Haendel

Ann Hecht

Ruth Jacobs

Phyllis Jadryev

Robert Kieso

Julius Kunik

Getzel Levin

Lillian Levine

Norman Madison

Frances Milavetz

David Nadler

Ida Paul

Annie Addison Picard

Marvin Pomerantz

Rose Portman

Charles Rotman

Sam Saltzman

Muriel Savin

Katherine Schor

Joseph Schwartz

Ned Siner

Robert Soldofsky

Lillian Sterman

Morris Tiss

Ted Willner

Craig Zwerling

WARM UP AMERICA

Connie Berman

Warm Up America will meet on August 25 from 10:00 a.m. – noon.



SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE

Torah Portion	Date	Service Time	Service
Matot-Masei (Numbers 30:2 – 36:13)	Friday, August 2	7:30 p.m.	Sim Shalom (Conservative)
	Saturday, August 3	9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah (Reform)
Devarim (Deuteronomy 1:1 – 3:22)	Friday, August 9	7:30 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
	Saturday, August 10	9:30 a.m.	Sim Shalom
Vaetchanan (Deuteronomy 3:23 – 7:11)	Friday, August 16	7:30 p.m.	Bar Mitzvah of Liam Bender
	Saturday, August 17	9:30 a.m.	Bar Mitzvah of Liam Bender
Ekev (Deuteronomy 7:12 – 11:25)	Friday, August 23	7:30 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
	Saturday, August 24	9:30 a.m.	Sim Shalom
Re'eh (Deuteronomy 11:26 – 16:17)	Friday, August 30	7:30 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
	Saturday, August 31	9:30 a.m.	Sim Shalom

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sue Weinberg

Summer is usually a quiet time both in Iowa City and at the synagogue. But the board has been busy! The rabbi and I have met with all new committee chairs to help them with setting up their committees and to discuss their vision for their committee. You can look forward to a vibrant and active year!

Unfortunately our Adult Ed chair has resigned for personal reasons, so for the time being Adult Ed programs will be supported by the office (thank you John!). Frank Salomon has graciously agreed to run the first two programs that were already scheduled. They are scheduled for Sunday, August 18 at 11:00 a.m. (Sonja Spear— *What a Friend He Had in Jesus: Rabbi Stephen Samuel Wise's Scandalous Christmas Sermon*) and Sunday September 8 at 11:00 a.m. (Darryl Heller—*on Jews and Blacks*). We are looking for volunteers to help set-up and run the Adult Ed programs on a case-by-case basis until a committee can be formed. Please contact the office (secretary@agudasachimic.org or 319-337-3813) if you are interested in volunteering. And please mark your calendar to attend these interesting presentations!

Other business that has already been completed is that the rabbi's contract has been extended for an additional three years! This will provide job security and stability while she is applying for her green card.

You may have noticed the beautiful plants that enrich our synagogue grounds. I would like to thank Myra and Michael Clark for all the work they have done to beautify our grounds. They are now stepping down from that role. If anyone would like to volunteer to assist with weeding it would be very much appreciated. Please contact the office if you are interested. I would also like to thank Sandra Denburg, Joanne Margolin, and new volunteer Martha Lubaroff for caring for our indoor plants.

I know that there are many of you who I do not know; hopefully I will get to meet you in the upcoming year. Please feel free to reach out to me (president@agudasachimic.org) should you have questions or concerns, or just to say hello.

FROM THE STACKS ELLEN CAPLAN

Great Jewish Books

The Yiddish Book Center, founded in 1980 by Aaron Lansky, offers a vast trove of programs and resources. Among them is The Great Jewish Books Book Club. Begun in 2017, the club issues four English-language books per year, books chosen from the many treasures of modern Jewish literature. So far, the club selections have found their way into the Agudas Achim Library. Find and enjoy these:

- **The Zelmenyaners**, by Moyshe Kulbak
- **Survivors**, by Chava Rosenfarb
- **A Grace Paley Reader**
- **Pioneers**, by S. Ansky
- **The Brothers Ashkenazi**, by Israel Joshua Singer
- **Oedipus in Brooklyn**, by Blume Lempel
- **American Yiddish Poetry**, edited by Benjamin and Barbara Harshav
- **My Life as a Radical Jewish Woman**, by Puah Rakovsky
- **Burning Lights**, by Bella Chagall
- **The Family Moskat**, by Isaac Bashevis Singer
- **Drunk from the Bitter Truth**, by Anna Margolin

For the next few weeks, these books will be displayed outside the synagogue library door and as the featured item on the New in the Library shelf. Later they will take their places in the library collection. Browse, borrow, read and enjoy!



SISTERHOOD NEWS

Beverly Jones

Save the Date

Our annual Fall Welcome Event is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 15. Location and program to be announced. We are currently looking for someone to host this event in her home. If you are interested, or need more information, please contact us at sisterhood@agudasachimic.org. We look forward to getting together with old friends, and welcoming new members of Agudas Achim.

Thank You

Our thanks to everyone who helped with the Baby Shower for Rabbi Hugenholtz. We appreciate all the help we had in set-up and clean-up. And our thanks to Nancy Goldsmith for her overall guidance, and for setting up the mealtrain.com sign-up to provide meals for the Hugenholtz-Middleton family.

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 Dues

As we enter into a new year in September, we will be asking for your financial support of Sisterhood. Please watch for more information. Annual dues are \$36.00, and we are currently accepting your dues for 2019-2020. You can mail a check, made out to Sisterhood, to our Treasurer: Joni Caplan, 520 Brookland Park Drive, Iowa City, IA 52246. There is also a Sisterhood check-off on the Agudas Achim Fair Share Membership Form.

LIAM BENDER BAR MITZVAH



Please join us on this special day as

LIAM JACOB BENDER

Is called to the Torah
as a Bar Mitzvah

Saturday, August 17, 2019

9:30 a.m.

Luncheon following the service.

AUGUST 2019

Fri	2	Shabbat Evening Services	7:30 PM
Sat	3	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
Sun	4	MahJong Group	2:00 PM
Mon	5	Sisterhood Board Meeting	7:00 PM
Thurs	8	Executive Committee Meeting	5:30 PM
Fri	9	Shabbat Evening Services	7:30 PM
Sat	10	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
		Tisha B'av Service	8:45 PM
Sun	11	MahJong Group	2:00 PM
Thurs	15	Calendar Meeting	6:00 PM
		Board Meeting	7:00 PM
Fri	16	Liam Bender Bar Mitzvah	
		Family Chavurah	6:00 PM
		Shabbat Evening Services	7:30 PM
Sat	17	Liam Bender Bar Mitzvah	
		Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
Sun	18	Sonja Spear Talk	11:00 AM
		MahJong Group	2:00 PM
Fri	23	Shabbat Evening Services	7:30 PM
Sat	24	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
Sun	25	Warm-Up America	10:00 AM
		MahJong Group	2:00 PM
Wed	28	Free Lunch	11:30 AM
Fri	30	Shabbat Evening Services	7:30 PM
Sat	31	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
SAVE THE DATE!			
Sun	9/8	Darryl Heller Talk	11:00 AM
Sun	9/15	Sunday School Picnic	12:00 PM
		Sisterhood Fall Welcome Event	2:00 PM

MAHJONG

The MahJong group will meet throughout August every Sunday from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Please join us!

DONATIONS

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

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

Michael & Joanne Margolin: In honor of Rabbi Hugenholtz

CEMETERY FUND

Beverly Tys-Berson Living Trust: Thank you Rabbi Hugenholtz for unveiling

GENERAL FUND

Jeff & Sara Braverman: In memory of Helen Dunn

Jody & Janie Braverman: In memory of Morris Breggin

Mel & Diane Sunshine: In memory of Sam Brodsky

HIGH HOLIDAY/CANTOR FUND

Mel & Diane Sunshine: In memory of Kalman Sunshine

LIBRARY FUND

Sam & Marj Kuperman: In memory of Burton Frank

PORTMAN PROGRAM FUND

Michelle Stalkfleet: In memory of Harriet Clark

PRAYERBOOK FUND

Chuck & Karen Friedman: Machzor Fund

Kathleen Jacobs: In memory of Richard Jacobs

SIM & SARA STRAUSS MEMORIAL FUND

Stephen & Susan Strauss: In memory of Meir Markovitz

SISTERHOOD MITZVAH & MEMORIAL FUND

Nancy Sprince: In memory of Dorothy Buddelof

TALMUD TORAH FUND

Robert Clinton: In memory of

Jennifer Miriam Pavelich Clinton

Eloise McCuskey: In memory of David Pitzele

Betty Myers: In memory of Esther Kunik

TIKUN OLAM FUND

Barbara Levin: In memory of Adolph Glaser

**“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	Sue Weinberg	Sisterhood Liaison	Nancy Sprince
President Elect	Janice Weiner	Social	Meadow Amster
Vice President	David Lubaroff	Tikun Olam	Landon Elkind
Treasurer	Mindy Russell	Ways & Means	Mindy Russell
Board Secretary	Janelle Jaskolka	Youth	Shellie Smith
Adult Education	Susan Assouline	At Large 1	Elliott Abrons
Membership	Jane Zukin	At Large 2	Curtis Braverman
Ritual	Peter Rubenstein; Alan Weinstein	At Large 3	Mark Ginsberg
Religious School	Chuck Friedman		