

Agudas Achim Congregation

401 E. Oakdale Blvd., Coralville, IA 52241 Phone: 319-337-3813 www.AgudasAchimIC.org

September 2019 / Elul 5779 – Tishrei 5780

FROM THE VISITING RABBI Michael Gilboa

Hello to all my dear friends in Iowa! For those of you who don't know me, I am a rabbi trained at the Conservative movement's Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles (where I met the wonderful Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz.) Since my ordination I have worked as a Hillel rabbinic advisor in Des Moines, a congregational rabbi in Wichita, Kansas and Fresno, California, and most recently as the head of a community conversion program in the Chicago suburbs. But many of you know me better as the husband of your former congregant Dr. Emily Schoerning, and father of Anax, Fia, and (now) Hannah. I am thrilled to be serving as your rabbi for this year's High Holidays. It is wonderful to have the chance to return to my home state and to the synagogue where I met my family.

The High Holiday period, known in Hebrew as the Aseret Yemei Teshuvah (the Ten Days of Repentance,) is often considered the holiest time in the Jewish year. People who don't otherwise connect much to the rituals and practices of Jewish communal life often show up for these two days. But why? What is it about this 10-day time period that is so special? Why are these the *chagim* (holidays) that even the wider non-Jewish world marks on its calendar? And why are the other holidays of this month, beginning only five days later, not included in this period?

As we delve into some attempt at an answer, it gets very complicated, very quickly. After all, this period begins with a holiday we call Rosh Hashanah (the beginning of the year) that falls on the first day of the *seventh* month. Yes, the month of Tishrei is not the first month of the year. That honor falls to Nisan, the month when we celebrate Passover. You

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Sunday School starts Sunday, September 15.

Hebrew School starts Monday, September 16.

The **congregational picnic** will be Sunday, September 22.

FROM THE VISITING RABBI Michael Gilboa (cont.)

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might think the New Year should start on the first month, but we wouldn't want to make things too easy. But at least Rosh Hashanah is on the first day of the month. That makes sense. In fact, almost

every Jewish holiday falls on the first day of the lunar month (the new moon) or on the 15th day (the full moon.) But what about Yom Kippur? Why is it on the 10th of Tishrei? What does the date come to tell us?

As we always do, when facing a Torah question we search for a Torah answer, and we find one back in the book of Exodus, at the very beginning of the Passover story:

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of the months; it shall be the first of the months of the year for you. Speak to the whole community of Israel and say that on the tenth of this month each of them shall take a lamb to a family, a lamb to a household.... You shall keep watch over it until the fourteenth day of this month; and all the assembled congregation of the Israelites shall slaughter it at twilight. (Exodus 12:1-3, 6)

There is an intriguing parallel here between the months of Nisan and Tishrei. In Nisan, we mark the beginning of the year on the first of the month, then set aside our paschal lamb on the 10th, slaughter and prepare it on the 14th and then

celebrate the Passover on the 15th. (Later in the story of the wilderness generation the 10th of Nisan would also become the day of Miriam's death, when her miraculous well ceased to offer the Israelites water.) In Tishrei we mark the beginning of the year (Rosh Hashanah) on the first of the

month, then set our worldly selves aside on the 10th (Yom Kippur), prepare for the holiday by building a sukkah, and then celebrate Sukkot on the 15th.

So we now have a biblical parallel, but we still don't have an explanation. Why the 10th? Rabbeinu Bahya says that this comes to teach that we should spend at least 4 days looking over our offerings to ensure that they are fit to be

sacrificed. For what it's worth, this halakhah becomes the reasoning behind the strange calculation of the Ashkenazi Selichot prayers, which begin on the Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah when there are at least 4 days before Rosh Hashanah. Tosafot, on the other hand, say that it is not the sacrifices but the sacrificers who needed 4 days, since that is the amount of time it takes to heal from circumcision, and the Israelites in Egypt (who had not been practicing circumcision) needed to get that done before they could offer their

This parallelism is the more striking for its apparent differences. In Nisan we are setting aside a sacrificial animal. In Tishrei we are, in a sense, sacrificing ourselves. The afflictions of Yom Kippur

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paschal lambs.

FROM THE VISITING RABBI Michael Gilboa (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

are often thought of as an end unto themselves. We might speak about Rosh Hashanah as the beginning of a penitential period, but we tend not to speak of Yom Kippur as anything other than a culmination of that period. And yet, the biblical parallel suggests that the spiritual purification of Yom Kippur is in fact a preparation for something greater.

Just as the 10th through the 15th of Nisan is a period of preparation for the sacrifice (and in today's terms the frenzied search for chametz and organizing seders,) so too the 10th through the 15th of Tishrei ought to be a time when we spiritually prepare for the great culmination of this season: Sukkot! The time of our rejoicing (*zman simchateinu*.) The holiday known to our Sages as "The Holiday" (*Hechag*), when we celebrate the culmination of creation (and the apex of our

purification) by worshipping God in joy and love. The holiday when we celebrate the bounty of our good lands, whether Israel or lowa, and, as the kabbalists teach, when we truly seal up this year's Book of Life not by afflicting ourselves but by enjoying and celebrating the life that God has given us.

So perhaps I am undercutting myself a bit as your High Holiday rabbi by saying this, but please, if you only come to one Jewish holiday this year, make it Sukkot. And if you come for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (which I hope you do) please remember that this penitential season is not the final chapter. It is not the last word of a God who wants you to feel guilty and beat yourself up. It is a chance to renew ourselves. It is the first chapter of a season of overflowing joy. Joy in our lives, joy in our world, and joy in our God. I can't wait to see all of you soon. Shanah Tovah and Chag Sukkot Sameach!

SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE

Torah Portion	Date	Service Time	Service
Shoftim	Friday, September 6	7:30 p.m.	Sim Shalom (Conservative)
(Deuteronomy 16:18 – 21:9)	Saturday, September 7	9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah (Reform)
Ki Tetze	Friday, September 13	7:30 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
(Deuteronomy 21:10 – 25:19)	Saturday, September 14	9:30 a.m.	Sim Shalom
Ki Tavo	Friday, September 20	7:30 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
(Deuteronomy 26:1 – 29:8)	Saturday, September 21	9:30 a.m.	Sim Shalom
Nitzavim	Friday, September 27	7:30 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
(Deuteronomy 29:9 – 30:20)	Saturday, September 28	9:30 a.m.	Sim Shalom

SEPTEMBER YAHRZEITS

LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

John Abrons Hannah Aizenberg **Charles Anolik** Serena Armstrong Jack Balch Rina Bar-Lev Janusz Bardach

Jerome Baskin Rose Brady Eli Braverman Victor Brecher Leonard Brodsky **Ida Canter**

Brenna Davidson Katharine Anne DeVore Abraham Dicker Rosa Dicker Rebecca Engman Eleanor Frank Frank Phillip Friedland Maurice Weinstein

Dorothy Haber Kaufman

Louis Ginsberg

Donald Herbach

Pat Kean

Milton Klausner Marilyn Krachmer **Robert Kubby** Jacob Louis Levin Joseph B. Levin Mortimer Levine Benjamin M. Marcus

David Milavetz Etta Dubin Portman Frances Raskin Selma G. Rose Sylvia Roston

Walter Roston Irene T. Sideman Miriam Silversteen **Robert Thurston** Louis J. Tunik Ida Vernon **Murray Weiner**

Julie Whitebook

Lillian Zwerling

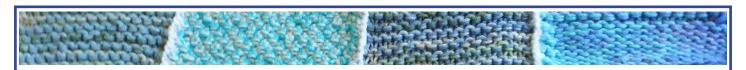
Congratulations to:

- **Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz and Dave** Middleton on the birth of their daughter, Shifra Emunah Middleton-Hugenholtz.
- **George and Teresa Weiner** on the birth of their grandson, Fenton George Murray.
- Liam Bender on his Bar Mitzvah.

The congregation extends condolences to:

- Wendy Levy on the death of her nephew, Jared Levy.
- Joseph and Kineret Zabner and family on the death of Joseph's mother, Liza Zabner Lublin.
- **Ellen, David and Joni Caplan** and family on the death of Dick Caplan.
- Mitch Levin and family on the death of Deborah Levin.

WARM UP AMERICA Connie Berman

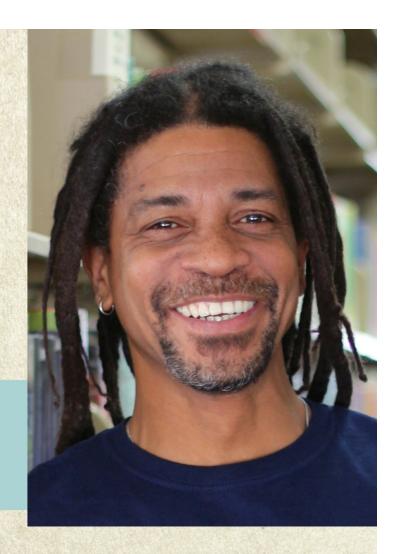


We will meet on September 15 and September 22, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Some of us will attend the sisterhood fall welcome or congregational picnic on those Sundays, and also to talk about our project to possible new contributors. Some of them may only be able to produce some seven by nine inch blocks out of the leftovers from other projects (acrylic yarn. any color, knit, crochet, any pattern); others may want to join us for laying out, sewing, edging, etc. We look forward to seeing you then.



Darryl Heller: Black and Jewish Relations in Historical Perspective

Sunday, September 8 11:00 a.m. Agudas Achim



This talk will explore the complex history of Black and Jewish relations in the US.

It will contextualize Black/Jewish relations through issues such as: Jewish involvement in the slave trade, Jewish participation in the Civil Rights Movement, affirmative action, the Israel/Palestine conflict, and contemporary issues in the age of Trump.

Darryl M. Heller, PhD is a visiting assistant professor in the Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies at the University of Iowa where he is part of a team developing curriculum for its new social justice major.

FROM THE PRESIDENT Sue Weinberg

August has been a busy month, with ups and downs. As a congregation we were thrilled to welcome Shifra Emunah Middleton-Hugenholtz into the world. Mazel Tov to Rabbi Hugenholtz, Dave Middleton, and big brother and sister Jonathan and Noa. We were also saddened at the passing of Dick Caplan, Liza Zabner Lublin, and Deborah Levin. Our sympathy goes out to the Caplan, Zabner, and Levin families. It is always amazing to me how caring our congregation is, from the baby shower and meals that are being prepared for the rabbi's family, to attendance at Shiva minyans and the meals of condolence that are provided to newly bereaved families. I have been told that larger synagogues just don't do that! We are truly a warm and caring community.

The board has been busy putting together committees and planning for future events. There will be an Adult Ed program on September 8 featuring Darryl Heller discussing Black and Jewish Relations. The Sisterhood fall welcome event is tentatively scheduled for September 15. The Congregational Picnic, jointly sponsored by the school and the Social committee, will be held on September 22. High Holiday planning is ongoing. Tikun Olam is sponsoring a blood drive at the synagogue on October 6 and will need LOTS of donors! Watch your emails for details on these and other programs and events such as Mah Jongg, Warm Up America, and Talmud study. I encourage your attendance at any event that piques your interest, and if you have suggestions for other events or programs please don't hesitate to contact the appropriate committee or the office.

We are in the process of setting up synagogue email addresses for board officers and committee chairs. What this means is that contact information will remain the same even when the people filling the position change. This will hopefully provide ease of access, continuity when committee chairs change, and access to historical information for new chairs.

The following emails have been confirmed as active; others will be added.

Sue Weinberg: president@agudasachimic.org

Janice Weiner: presidentelect@agudasachimic.org

David Lubaroff: vicepresident@agudasachimic.org

Mindy Russell: treasurer@agudasachimic.org

Jane Zukin: membership@agudasachimic.org

Janelle Jaskolka: boardsecretary@agudasachimic.org

Chuck Friedman: educationrep@agudasachimic.org

Meadow Amster: social@agudasachimic.org

Landon Elkind: tikunolam@agudasachimic.org

Lastly, I want to call your attention to two events of interest coming up in December. Both the URJ (Reform) and USCJ (Conservative) will be hosting Biennials this year, and all are welcome to attend. I personally have not yet attended one, but Kathy and Rabbi Hugenholtz attended both biennials two years ago and said they were marvelous experiences. The URJ biennial is especially convenient for us this year as it is being held in Chicago. Unfortunately I cannot attend both, but am very much looking forward to going to Chicago, along with the rabbi, Kathy, and possibly several others. If we have a large enough delegation we get some perks such as special seating at some of the sessions and a gift card for each attendee to be used in the very large vendor area. I've been told that if you are looking for Judaica, this is the place to go! I've also been told that there is nothing quite like attending a musical Shabbat service with 5000 Jews! Please consider joining us.

USCJ Biennial December 6-10, 2019

Boston, MA https://www.2020judaism.org/

URJ Biennial December 11-15, 2019
Chicago, IL https://urj.org/urj-biennial

I hope to see many of you at the High Holidays and other synagogue events.

SCHOOL NEWS

The summer went by in a flash! The first day of Sunday School is right around the corner. Sunday School will start on September 15 at 10:00 a.m. Hebrew School begins the next day, September 16 from 4:15-6:15 p.m.

The complete <u>school calendar</u> for 2019-2020 is available on the synagogue website.

We have been working over the summer to renew the curriculum to create a positive Jewish experience for all of our students. We have a lot of fun plans in the works: We have purchased new books, are implementing new approaches to Hebrew, and plan extensive teacher training – to name a just few.

New This Year! Optional Extended Hour for Hebrew on Sundays, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

We are now offering a session for Hebrew on Sundays for students ages 9 and older. Students will be introduced to some prayers and Hebrew vocabulary. This is not intended to replace Hebrew School, but to give students who have not attended weekday Hebrew School some introduction and appreciation of Hebrew.

We can provide childcare for younger siblings of students who intend to stay until 1:00 so parents do not need to make two trips to the synagogue.

Short Service on Sundays

The rabbi will bring her guitar and lead a lively service on Sunday mornings, when she returns from leave. Until then, we will experiment with songs and story telling as well as prayers.

Of course, we will continue to end Hebrew School with a short service from 6:00-6:15. The services are open to the entire community. Sometimes people make a special point of coming to the service in order to say *Kaddish*. A few canny parents already come to watch their kids participate in the service and lead prayers. It is wonderful to watch a kid light up when he sees a parent there in the congregation, saying "amen" to his prayers. (Even kids who are too cool to admit wanting to see their mom or dad can't keep the shine out of their eyes.) It would be wonderful to see more parents there, forming a visible community of support for the students as they learn Hebrew prayers.

Congregational Picnic

One of the wonderful traditions at Agudas Achim is a congregational picnic at the beginning of the year. This year's picnic will be potluck and dairy, from 12:00-1:00 on September 22, the second week of Sunday School. Please come! It's always a fun time to meet the new teachers and to catch up with other parents after the summer.



MAHJONG

The MahJong group will meet **Sundays September 1, 8, and 22** from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Beginners and experienced players welcome. Please join us!

EARLY KEYBOARD SOCIETY CONCERT

The Iowa City Early Keyboard Society Presents

Kenneth Drake, fortepiano

Sunday, September 15, 3:00 p.m.

Kenneth Drake was an early exponent of playing music of the classic period on pianos of that era. He held teaching positions in Evansville College, Drake University and the University of Illinois from which he retired as professor emeritus. He is the author of The Beethoven Sonatas as He Played and Taught Them and The Beethoven Sonatas and the

Creative Experience.



He will play works by Mozart and Beethoven.

EARLY KEYBOARD SOCIETY CONCERT



Save the Date **Blood Drive**

Sunday October 6 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Save lives. Give Blood.

Organized by Tikun Olam with The UI DeGowin Blood Center Agudas Achim Social Hall Bring a Friend!

LULAV / ETROG SETS

Agudas Achim will be ordering Lulav/etrog sets from Rosenblum's World of Judaica, which will arrive prior to Sukkot. Please let the office know by **Tuesday, October 1** if you'd like us to order you a set. Options are as follows:

Standard set: \$50.00 **Premium set:** \$60.00 **Deluxe set:** \$70.00



DONATIONS

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Mace & Kay Braverman: In memory of Bob Braverman

Doug & Beverly Jones: In celebration of birth of grandson, Gideon Ganek Jones

Joni Jones: Thank you to Rabbi Hugenholtz Richard Levine: In memory of Mortimer Levine Michael & Joanne Margolin: In honor of Rabbi **Portman**

Mark & Jayne Sandler: In memory of Liza Zabner

Nathan Eugene Savin & Susan Enzle: In memory of Muriel Savin

GENERAL FUND

Lea Haravon Collins & Steve Collins: In memory of Liza Zabner Lublin

Kathleen Jacobs: In memory of Ruth Jacobs and Phyllis Jadreyev

Kathleen Jacobs: general donation

Ellen Lewin & Lizabeth Goodman: In memory of Richard M. Caplan

Susan Nelson and Cathy Cohan: In memory of Gitel & Abraham Dicker; and In honor of David Schapira

Leah Saag: In memory of Liza Zabner Lublin Jay Shuldiner: In memory of Richard Caplan

Jonathan & Susan Simon: In honor of Rita Marcus & SISTERHOOD MITZVAH & MEMORIAL FUND David Roston, David & Martha Lubaroff, and Bob Nancy Sprince: In memory of Craig Zwerling & Maureen Wallace

CEMETERY FUND

Lorraine Dorfman: In memory of Morris Tiss Richard & Goldene Haendel: In memory of Anitra Haendel

Alan Saltzman: In memory of Sam Saltzman

LOUIS GINSBERG YOUTH FUND

Mark & Vickie Ginsberg: In memory of Marvin Pomerantz

HIGH HOLIDAY/CANTOR FUND

M. F. Belilos: In memory of Richard Caplan Mel & Diane Sunshine: In memory of Liza Zabner Lublin and Dick Caplan

LIBRARY FUND

Lea Haravon Collins & Steve Collins: In memory of Dick Caplan

Rhoda Vernon: In memory of Lillian Sterman Sue Weinberg & Robert Armstrong: In memory of Dick Caplan

PORTMAN PROGRAM FUND

Sue Weinberg & Robert Armstrong: In memory of **Amie Collins**

SISTERHOOD NEWS Beverly Jones

Happy New Year

We wish our Sisterhood members, their families, and the entire Iowa City Jewish Community a very Happy, Healthy, Peaceful, and Safe New Year in 5780. L'Shanah Tovah to all.

The Year in Review

This has been a busy year for Sisterhood. We sponsored the Erev Rosh HaShanah Oneg and provided childcare and floral arrangements for all the High Holy Day Services. We held our Fall Welcome Event in September at the home of Jayne Sandler, where we had a rousing discussion of our favorite books, both fiction and nonfiction. Our Winter Tea was in March at Agudas Achim. Jeanne Cadoret and Thérèse Guédon presented a multimedia travelogue on their trip to Vietnam, with samples of food to make it a multi-sensory program. In May, we hosted the first ever Women of Reform Judaism Midwest District Iowa Area Day, which brought women from Davenport, Des Moines and Chicago to Agudas Achim for a day of study. Our Mitzvah Fund Brunch in June was at Vesta. Sammie Spells gave an insightful talk on transgender issues. We ended the year by hosting a baby shower for Rabbi Hugenholtz in July.

News for the New Year

Our Mah-Jongg group has been successfully attracting participants, and will continue with its weekly get-togethers.

We're planning to have a new, regularly-scheduled Book Discussion Group, and we have a volunteer facilitator for it.

Women's League for Conservative Judaism will be holding its National Convention in Schaumburg, Illinois in July 2020. Sisterhood hopes to send a delegation and we're looking into partly subsidizing registration fees to encourage our members to attend.

Fall Welcome Event

At this writing, we're still looking for a venue for our Fall Welcome Event. We may have to postpone our originally scheduled date of September 15. Please contact sisterhood@agudasachimic.org if you are interested in hosting this event in your home or for more information.

Dues

Sisterhood supports Agudas Achim financially with an annual donation, as well as special synagogue programs as needed. We also support Women's League for Conservative Judaism, and Women of Reform Judaism. Sisterhood needs your financial help to be able to do all this. We encourage you to help us with your annual dues of \$36.00. Checks can be made out to Agudas Achim Sisterhood, and mailed to our Treasurer, Joni Caplan, 520 Brookland Park Drive, Iowa City, IA 52246. Please contact sisterhood@agudasachimic.org for other methods of payment.

Rosh HaShanah Oneg

It will soon be time for Sisterhood's fabulous "Not Only Honey Cake Oneg" following Erev Rosh HaShanah services on Sunday, September 29. Help us celebrate the New Year of 5780. We are asking for volunteers to provide traditional honey cakes, other desserts that use apples or honey, or desserts that use ingredients reminiscent of the season. In addition to baked goods, we can also use fruits, nuts, gluten-free items; and of course, anything chocolate. We'll need lots of volunteers to feed a large Rosh HaShanah crowd. If you can help, please contact sisterhood@agudasachimic.org.

SEPTEMBER 2019

Sun	1	MahJong Group	2:00 PM	Thurs	19 Calendar Meeting	6:30 PM
		Deborah Levin Shiva	7:00 PM		Board Meeting	7:00 PM
Mon 2		Office Closed - Labor Day		Fri	20 Family Chavurah	6:00 PM
		Deborah Levin Shiva	7:00 PM		Shabbat Evening Services	7:30 PM
Tues	3	Deborah Levin Shiva	7:00 PM	Sat	21 Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
Wed	4	Deborah Levin Shiva	7:00 PM		Selichot Study & Service	9:00 PM
Fri	6	Shabbat Evening Services	7:30 PM	Sun	22 Sunday School	10:00 AM
Sat	7	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM		Congregational Picnic	12:00 PM
Sun	8	Darryl Heller Talk	11:00 AM		MahJong Group	2:00 PM
		MahJong Group	2:00 PM	Mon	23 Hebrew School	4:15 PM
Mon	9	Sisterhood Board Meeting	7:00 PM		25 Free Lunch	11:30 AM
Tues	10	Membership Committee	7:00 PM	· · · · ·	Hebrew School	4:15 PM
Wed	11	Antisemitism Discussion Group	12:30 PM	 Fri	27 Shabbat Evening Services	7:30 PM
Thurs	12	Arthur Canter Unveling	1:00 PM	-		
		Executive Committee Meeting	6:30 PM	Sat	28 Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
Fri	13	Shabbat Evening Services	7:30 PM		29 Erev Rosh HaShanah Service	8:00 PM
Sat	14	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM	Mon	30 Office Closed	
Sun 15		Sunday School	10:00 AM		Rosh HaShanah 1st Day - Conservative Service	8:30 AM
		Sisterhood Fall Welcome	2:00 PM			10.00 444
		(tentative & location TBD)			Rosh HaShanah 1st Day - Reform Service	10:00 AM
		Early Keyboard Society Concert	3:00 PM			
Mon	16	Hebrew School	4:15 PM		Tashlich	3:00 PM
Wed 18		Hebrew School 4:15			Erev Rosh HaShanah 2nd	8:00 PM
		Ritual Committee	7:30 PM		Day Service	

SAVE THE DATES

October 1: Rosh HaShanah 2nd Day Services

October 6: Blood Drive, Nina Weinstein Talk, Kever Avot

October 8: Kol Nidre

October 9: Yom Kippur Services

"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:

Braverman Talmud Torah	The Rabbi Portman Program Fund
Building Fund	Prayer Book Fund
Cemetery Fund	Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Fine Arts Fund	School Fund
General Fund	Sim & Sara Strauss Memorial Fund
Garden & Landscaping Fund	Sisterhood Mitzvah & Memorial Fund
High Holiday/Cantor Fund	Synagogue Assistance Fund
Lauren Reece Flaum Terrace Fund	Tikun Olam Fund
Library Fund	Torah Enhancement Fund
Louis Ginsberg Youth Fund	Kadima Fund
Marcus Scholarship Fund	
Contribution in memory of	
Contribution in honor of	

STAFF			
Rabbi	Esther Hugenholtz	Office Secretary	John Wertz
Administrator	Karen Brady	Custodian	Amos Kiche
Principal	Sonja Spear		
BOARD OF TRUSTEES			
President	Sue Weinberg	Adult Education	Vacant
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