



Agudas Achim Congregation

401 E. Oakdale Blvd., Coralville, IA 52241

Phone: 319-337-3813

www.AgudasAchimIC.org

June 2020 / Sivan – Tammuz 5780

FROM THE RABBI

Esther Hugenholtz

Fire and light are such prevalent metaphors in our tradition; even small babies respond to the glow of the Shabbat candles. We light lights for Shabbatot and Festivals, usher in the week through braided wicks and light our proud lamps for the eight days of Chanukkah. Isaiah declares us a 'light unto the nations' while the Book of Exodus describes Mount Sinai like a fiery kiln during the giving of the Torah. We celebrate life through fire and honor the memories of loved ones with the flickering flame of a Yahrzeit candle. We set the rhythms of our soul through the light – actual or reflected – of the sun and the moon. New moons, equinoxes and solstices remind us of the waxing and waning of the light and give us hope when darkness seems to overpower us.

Now that June is upon us and we have just celebrated Shavu'ot, the image of fire and light is on my mind. We might hate to admit it, but just as Chanukah surreptitiously honors the winter solstice, so too does Shavu'ot celebrate the summer solstice. During these short nights of early summer, Jews traditionally gather for nightly learning and prayers at dawn. If Mount Sinai is ablaze, we are expected to carry its sparks with us throughout the generations. 'Yisrael v'Oraita Chad Hu', a Talmudic song goes, 'the Jewish People and the Torah are one'. 'Torah ora, Torah ora, Halleluyah' – 'the Torah is light, Hallelujah'.

We will need fire and light to guide us for this time to come. The summer, so full of promise and

beauty, allows us to warm our bones. Things may not be as they were, exactly, but we are invited outside, to sit in the sun, to enjoy the blessings of earth, water and sky. We can breathe deeply (and safely!) on beautiful nature walks or savor the peace of our gardens and parks. Like Miriam's well travelling through the wilderness, the reprieve of this time of year can offer us sustenance and succor. I intend on sampling the richness of this season as intently as I can. Our garden is generous and supplementing our family table with leafy greens, radishes, turnips, peas, beets, carrots – and a little later in the season, hopefully tomatoes, cucumbers and squashes. To see the snowy-white blossoms, almost like lilies, on the pea plants, is a delight. Drink in the light with your eyes.

And likewise, we are called to emit what we have absorbed. The Torah was given on a humble mountain in unclaimed wilderness, the Rabbis teach us, so that no-one in particular would claim her—the Torah is for all to be inspired by; Torah will meet us where we are at. So how can we shine our light and let our fire burn bright? The world feels a little darker, a little more enveloped in shadow, but we are still here, shining our light. It is strange to see our beautiful synagogue building empty, but we are the synagogue, the 'house of gathering'. We gather on Zoom, on Facebook, in phone calls and in each other's hearts. I have been impressed and encouraged by the high rate of communal

(Continued on page 2)

FROM THE RABBI *Esther Hugenholtz (cont.)*

(Continued from page 1)

participation at our events and at the steadfast courage and discipline of our community to choose life and safety and participate wisely in this mission of defeating COVID-19. The Yiddish Group is thriving, my Introduction to Judaism course is buzzing as always and we even manage to have the same raucous discussions at services on Zoom as we do in-person. And to my joy, we have access to a Torah and Torah readers on Shabbat, even if done by remote, through the gift of an iPhone lens and a WiFi connection. In fact, it could be argued that our current predicament also holds within it seeds of innovation. This Shavu'ot, we collaborated in a Small Communities Learning Event, allowing the congregation to learn and sample experiences virtually through other congregations and likewise, I was honored to teach others remotely – if they

could stay awake for my midnight slot! Likewise, I've had the privilege of officiating at a Baby Blessing through Zoom and the Principal and Education Committee have been brainstorming creative and healthy ways to keep our youngest congregants connected and engaged.

Dear ones, we will get through this. We will soak up the sun and draw in the light. We will keep each other safe (I can wholeheartedly recommend Sue Weinberg's bulk order of face shields – they are comfortable and comforting to wear!) and we will keep each other loved. And when the light dims and the days darken, we will still find ways to bring Jewish joy to our lives. It is what we have always done; we are the keepers of the flame.

Wishing us all a sweet, healthy, socially-distanced, sun-kissed and regenerative summer.

LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

Barcey and Steve Levy joyfully announce the birth of **Joshua Thurston Welter** to Lauren and Dan Welter on February 15, 2020. He lives in Hopkinton, IA with his parents and siblings, Isaac and Clara. His Hebrew name is Joshua Baruch and he is named for his great grandparents. Below find a couple of photos following his bris. He is wearing a gown tatted by his great great grandmother.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sue Weinberg

Dear all,

Synagogue life continues, albeit differently from the past. We have formed an advisory committee (the pandemic response team) consisting of the president, president elect, rabbi, safety chair, ritual committee chair, and caring committee chair. Their advice to the board, which was approved, was to remain with zoom services for the time being. You will be hearing from the ritual committee and the school committee with what that will look like this summer and fall.

Summer is usually a fairly quiet time, but we have a lot of virtual activities planned and ongoing. Services continue to be held Friday night, Saturday morning (with Torah service!), Thursday evening Maariv, and holidays. The rabbi's tea time check-ins are Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday afternoons. Sisterhood is planning a virtual Mitzvah Fund brunch, and the Adult Ed and Social committees are looking into additional programming, keep an eye on the weekly emails for details.

I also hope that many of you attend our Annual Congregational Meeting. It will be held via zoom on June 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. A zoom link will be sent out prior to the meeting. There are not any items for the congregation to vote on, but various officers and committees will provide updates, including the

treasurer, safety, ritual, and education committees, among others.

For me, the hardest part of the pandemic is not being able to visit or hug my friends. I have been maintaining my distance from people, doing all my shopping online or curbside pickup. The only buildings I have been in since mid-March are the radiology department (just screening, I'm fine), and my vet for a kidney check on one cat and an eye infection on another. I was masked, wore a face shield, and maintained my distance as much as possible. The most recent safety recommendations include wearing a face shield. Inexpensive [face shields](#) are being made and offered for sale by the university. They are \$7 each and the minimum quantity to order is 10. The synagogue is planning to place a bulk order that will be available for pickup at the synagogue. Please contact the [office](#) by June 10 if you wish to order any face shields. Should you want a face shield but are unable to afford it, several have been donated by members. Please contact either the rabbi or the office if you would like one of these.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the zoom congregational meeting!

Stay safe, stay healthy!

L'shalom, Sue

JUNE YAHRZEITS

Estelle Altschul	David Jacob Hugenholtz	David Michaels	Rose Dovitz Sanders
Norman Altschul	Arthur Kay	Fannie Middleman	Samuel Shetzer
Samuel Bar	Hilda Kessler Gilbert	Dee Norton	Bill H Shields
Joseph Bernstein	Esther Klausner	Simon Pava	Benjamin Sideman
Dorothy Buddelof	Jacob Kosubucki	Marian Prager	Alexander Simon
Carl Caplan	Dan Kubby	Albert Abraham Pruchno	Epstein Stephen
Jennifer Clinton	Esther Kunik	Becky Robin	Jessica Thurston
Gitel Dicker	Evelyn Levitz	Richard Stephen	Frances Wieseneck
Bruce Fishbane	Belle Lupeson	Rochman	Beatrice Willner
Sarah D. Glaser	Bessie Marcus	Howard Sabin	Sylvia Zukin
Moshe Green	Russell Smith McGinnis	Bill Sackter	Walter Zukin

SISTERHOOD NEWS

Beverly Jones

Mitzvah Fund Brunch

Our annual Mitzvah Fund Brunch, scheduled for 11:00 a.m, Sunday, June 14 at Vesta, has been cancelled.

The good news is that our Mitzvah Fund Program is still on. Our speaker, Elizabeth Miller, will offer exciting and fun anecdotes about her experiences as a spelunker; the thrilling and unexpected adventures of exploring caves across the country.

We'll be meeting via Zoom at the originally scheduled time; Sunday, June 14, 11:00 a.m. Information about Zoom sign-in will be sent out by email. RSVPs and questions: Contact sisterhood@agudasachimic.org. There is no charge for this event, and it is open to all. And feel free to partake in your own "brunch" during the presentation.

Women's League National Convention

We were excited that the 2020 Women's League for Conservative Judaism National Convention was to be held so close to us, in Schaumburg, Illinois. We were looking forward to sending a delegation.

The Convention has been cancelled, but fortunately, there will be a Zoom Convention. We will have the virtual opportunity to pray, talk, eat, and laugh with hundreds of Jewish women from across North America and Israel, and to enjoy informative sessions led by nationally known Jewish religious and lay leaders. The Convention will be reduced to one day, Sunday, July 12. The Convention will be free of charge, and you can tune in for all or part of the events. For information about speakers and programs, go to <https://convention.wlcj.org>.

Sisterhood Board Vacancies/Hiatus

We still have Sisterhood Board vacancies. We are continuing to hope that more women will nominate themselves to serve on the Sisterhood Board. As of this writing, our incoming Board, which will take over on July 1, will be short-handed with just four members. If nothing changes, Sisterhood will go on hiatus on July 1. This means that we can not provide financial and volunteer support services to the synagogue, and that we will not put on social activities for our members. We sincerely hope that this will be a temporary measure. Dues will not be collected, but we foresee that the Gift Shop will still be operational.

We will continue to encourage women to join our Board. There are some misconceptions about the Sisterhood Board: Of course everyone is busy, but this is not a full-time job, and it's not just for women of a certain age. If you can spare a couple of hours a month, this may be a meaningful activity for you. We currently meet most months, with a minimum of six meetings a year. Each Board determines the date, time, and location of its meetings. Each Board determines the direction it wants to take in helping the Synagogue and the Jewish community; whether it's Jewish education and observance, social action, or just social. We work with other Synagogue committees, and yes, we are involved in providing food for Synagogue events. We welcome women of all ages, and levels of religious observance. And there are lots of opportunities for ad hoc participation in planning specific activities. Help us re-define a new concept of Sisterhood. If you are interested, please contact sisterhood@agudasachimic.org.

We sincerely thank Karen Lipman and Beverly Jones for their many years of service to Sisterhood as they step down from the Board.

The Yiddish Study Group meets on Mondays and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Contact the office for information.

TIKUN OLAM NEWS

Landon Elkind

Blood donors needed (flyer on last page)

The University of Iowa's DeGowin Blood Center needs donors! They have set up a physically-distancing compliant space in the Carver Hawkeye Arena to accept donations, which are still sorely needed. Appointments are required: make them by calling 319-356-2058 or online here: <https://www.uidewinbloodcenter.org/index.cfm?group=op&hlc=01029>

Eastern Iowa Community Bond Project

The [Eastern Iowa Community Bond Project](#) is a local non-profit that aims to raise bonds for eligible

immigrants with financial need facing deportation proceedings. This allows immigrants in our Iowa community to continue working, to be with their families, and to stay outside of detention centers [that are hotbeds for Covid transmission](#). To donate, navigate here: <https://communitybondproject.org/donate/>

Tikun Olam committee needs volunteers

The tikun olam committee needs members (and a chair) for next year! If you are interested in getting involved, e-mail tikunolam@agudasachimic.org.

SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE (ALL SERVICES VIA ZOOM)

Streaming links for Shabbat services on Zoom: [Friday Night \(7:30 p.m.\)](#); [Saturday Morning \(9:30 a.m.\)](#)

Naso <i>(Numbers 4:21–7:89)</i>	Friday, June 5 Saturday, June 6	7:30 p.m. 9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem (Conservative) Mishkan T'filah (Reform)
Behalotecha <i>(Numbers 8:1–12:16)</i>	Friday, June 12 Saturday, June 13	7:30 p.m. 9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah Lev Shalem
Shelach <i>(Numbers 13:1–15:41)</i>	Friday, June 19 Saturday, June 20	7:30 p.m. 9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah Lev Shalem
Korach <i>(Numbers 16:1–18:32)</i>	Friday, June 26 Saturday, June 27	7:30 p.m. 9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah Lev Shalem

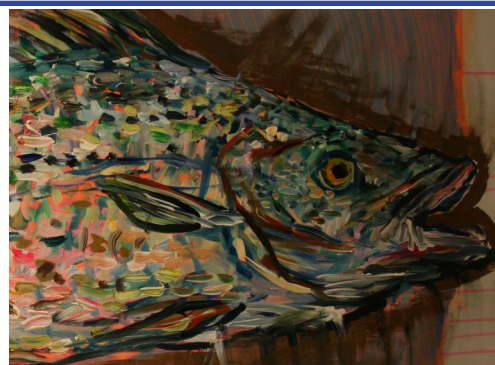
ADAM WEINSTEIN ART

[Works by Adam Weinstein](#)

Hope this note finds everyone staying healthy and safe! We thought you might like to see Adam's most recent work. The 13 paintings are acrylic on canvas and the drawings are colored pencil on paper.

He has them uploaded to his Flickr site, along with a few words under YOU in the black band at the top. He wants to give 25% of sales to Agudas Achim.

Thanks for your interest and support. Enjoy! <https://www.flickr.com/photos/181666277@N07/>



DONATIONS

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Sue & Ken Blackwell: In memory of
Rose Baskin Tear

Chuck & Karen Friedman and Eliana: In memory of
Bernice Hertz

Judy & Gary Galluzzo: In memory of
Harry Herbert Dreyfuss

Richard & Judy Hurtig: In memory of Irving Warren

Steven & Barcey Levy: In memory of Bernard Levy
and Ana Cotler and in honor of
Rabbi Hugenholtz for Intro class teachings

Bob & Donna Rodnitzky: In memory of
Bernice Hertz

CEMETERY FUND

Robert & Vida Brenner: In memory of
Louise Allweiss

Barb Chapman: In memory of
Ansel & Corinne Chapman

Richard & Goldene Haendel: In memory of
Sarah Haendel

Sam & Marj Kuperman: In memory of
Steven Frankel

Michael & Joanne Margolin: In memory of
Grace Bernstein

COMMUNITY RELIEF FUND

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

Helen Goldstein: In memory of Etta S. Tunik

Doug & Beverly Jones: In memory of Louis Solganick

GENERAL FUND

Kathleen Jacobs

Mark & Jayne Sandler: In memory of Bernice Hertz

PORTMAN PROGRAM FUND

Barry & Marjorie Ginsberg: In memory of
Samuel Kanef

SISTERHOOD MITZVAH AND MEMORIAL FUND

Steven & Barcey Levy: In memory of
Jessica Thurston

TIKUN OLAM FUND

David & Martha Lubaroff: In memory of
Bessie Josselson and Katie Middleman

WARM UP AMERICA

Connie Berman

Warm Up America had its first Zoom meeting facilitated by Nancy Goldsmith; it was a great success for discussing where we are and where we are going. We decided to continue zoom meetings every other Sunday from ten to noon -- with the possibility of coming in and out as needed. We concluded that the gesture of love that our afghans convey can continue to make sense even now, and that with a few precautions we can continue to produce them, giving them door-side with directions to wash and dry before use. Meetings in June will be 14 and 28..

As of now, there are a few afghans that are totally done, a number that just need edges, and a few that just need our little white labels. I collect and launder squares, edges are being made, and then someone takes them away to lay out and sew. I plan to gather completed afghans on my dining room table on the 14th, so that we can sort them into colors and sizes and decide where donations should be made and who can transport them and whether some still need to be photographed. Keep well. Thanks to you all and look forward to seeing you on zoom.

Hugs, Connie and Fred George.

JUNE 2020

ALL SERVICES, MEETINGS, AND EVENTS WILL BE VIA ZOOM. EMAIL THE OFFICE IF YOU NEED DETAILS.

Mon	1	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
		Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM
		Sisterhood Board Meeting	7:00 PM
Wed	3	Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM
Thurs	4	Social Committee Meeting	4:30 PM
		Soulful Virtual Ma'ariv	8:30 PM
Fri	5	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
		Shabbat Evening Services	7:30 PM
Sat	6	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
Sun	7	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM
		Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM
Mon	8	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
		Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM
		Intro to Judaism	7:30 PM
Wed	10	Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM
		Social Committee Meeting	6:00 PM
Thurs	11	Executive Committee Meeting	5:30 PM
		Soulful Virtual Ma'ariv	8:30 PM
Fri	12	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
		Shabbat Evening Services	7:30 PM
Sat	13	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
Sun	14	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM
		Warm-Up America	10:00 AM
		Sisterhood Mitzvah Fund Program: Spelunking with Elizabeth Miller (via Zoom)	11:00 AM
		Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM
Mon	15	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
		Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM
		Intro to Judaism	7:30 PM

Wed	17	Bereavement Group	12:30 PM
		Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM
		Education Committee	6:00 PM
		Ritual Committee	7:30 PM
Thurs	18	Annual Congregational Meeting (via Zoom)	7:00 PM
		Soulful Virtual Ma'ariv	8:30 PM
Fri	19	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
		Shabbat Evening Services	7:30 PM
Sat	20	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
Sun	21	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM
		Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM
Mon	22	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
		Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM
		Intro to Judaism	7:30 PM
Wed	24	Free Lunch	11:30 AM
		Book Group	1:00 PM
		Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM
Thurs	25	Soulful Virtual Ma'ariv	8:30 PM
Fri	26	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
		Shabbat Evening Services	7:30 PM
Sat	27	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
Sun	28	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM
		Warm-Up America	10:00 AM
		Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM
Mon	29	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
		Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM
		Intro to Judaism	7:30 PM

TALMUD STUDY GROUP

The Talmud study group meets, via Zoom, on Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

[Click here](#) to join at the appropriate time.

BLOOD DRIVE LOCATION

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the DeGowin Blood Center has worked with the University of Iowa Athletic Department to make the Feller Club Room in Carver Hawkeye Arena our new home for blood drives. If you haven't donated here yet, it is a beautiful space with free parking and plenty of room for social distancing. Donors are encouraged to wear a face mask and should enter Carver Hawkeye Arena using the North Entrance. In order to avoid overcrowding, donors need to schedule an appointment. [Appointments, including day of appointments, can be scheduled online or by calling 319-356-2058.](#)



Please note, the Donor Center is also still open for whole blood and platelet donations.

The DeGowin Blood Center is a hospital based blood center. All blood collected by DeGowin is used to help patients at University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics and University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital.

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	Daphne Lison; Bennett Brown
President Elect	Janice Weiner	Sisterhood Liaison	Nancy Sprince
Vice President	David Lubaroff	Social	Meadow Amster
Past President	Kathy Jacobs	Tikun Olam	Landon Elkind
Treasurer	Mindy Russell	Ways & Means	Mindy Russell
Board Secretary	Janelle Jaskolka	Youth	Shellie Smith
Membership	Jane Zukin	At Large 1	Elliott Abrons
Ritual	Peter Rubenstein; Alan Weinstein	At Large 2	Curtis Braverman
Religious School	Chuck Friedman	At Large 3	Mark Ginsberg