



Agudas Achim Congregation

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www.AgudasAchimIC.org

July 2020 / Tammuz–Av 5780

FROM THE RABBI

Esther Hugenholtz

During these times, many of us are aching for good news. Like for so many of you, these last four months have been undeniably fraught and sad for my family as we witnessed the pandemic take root in our adopted home and across the globe. We are still trying to find the words to describe the paradigm shift we are experiencing and we are still processing our deep feelings of loss, mourning and worry as we face an uncertain future. As for so many young families, my children are craving other children to play with and are yearning for the simple joys of companionship and human interaction. Despite the challenges we face, we have so much to be grateful for. We are (still) healthy, all our material needs are being met, we share the strong bonds of people who love each other very much and I have the continued privilege of serving this congregation. And now, there is one more piece of happy news to add to this blessed list: as of now, my family and I are permanent residents and in the proud possession of a green card.

Many thoughts are tumbling through my head as I write this, but the first one I wish to put to paper is: WE DID IT! I remember how almost four-and-a-half years ago, this congregation hired me and immediately filed for my work visa, unbeknownst at the time what a 'megillah' (in the colloquial 'it's-a-saga' sense of the word) this would become. Despite immigration glitches and setbacks and momentous, seismic shifts within American society, my family relocated, adjusted and made a happy

home here in Iowa City, and now our future has happily been secured. When we received the news, I turned to my six-year-old and told him. His eyes widened as he said, a smile spreading across his face, 'Mama, does that mean we can stay in America forever?' It was such a sweet and touching moment, simple yet profound in its ability to capture the uncertainty and anxiety we had faced for so long.

The relief we feel is palpable, and only outmatched by our gratitude and excitement. 'It takes a village', as they say, and we are so indebted to the community and your many kindnesses. Synagogue Presidents Michael Flaum, Kathy Jacobs and Sue Weinberg have stood with us every step of the way, and President-Elect Janice Weiner was instrumental in navigating the arcane immigration process with her years of foreign diplomacy experience. I also feel particularly indebted to my office partners, Karen Brady and John Wertz, who quietly took care of the many administrative components of this immigration process, even driving up to the immigration lawyer's office in Cedar Rapids with a huge stack of papers. My immigration was an added complexity to their work duties that they shouldered with grace, good humor and unrelenting kindness. Thank you. And of course, there are countless others in the congregation who are so deserving of our deep thanks. And so, when I say 'we did it', the 'we' includes all of us, in the most expansive of ways. You welcomed us in as

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FROM THE RABBI

Esther Hugenholtz (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

only Americans can; made us feel at home, secure and loved. The adjusting of our status to that of permanent resident is as much your victory as it is ours.

Four-and-a-half years ago, I rekindled a dream of moving permanently to the United States, and this week, that dream was solidified and stabilized into reality. I would be remiss in my vocation as a Rabbi if I did not reflect on the spiritual and existential ramifications of our immigration journey. I've spent time thinking about 'belonging' and what it means to 'love critically' and to be part of this project of building this 'more perfect union'. What does it mean to cast our lot with the American people? To receive a letter from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services that opened with the words, 'welcome' while at the same time being cognizant of the painful complexities of this wondrous country? Only a few weeks ago, I joined peaceful rallies for Black lives and racial justice. Only a few months ago, we witnessed the novel Coronavirus wreak havoc on the health of the American people, and only a few years ago, did the tensions and polarization of this country become jarringly apparent to me. And still, despite it all (or perhaps because of it all), we want to be part of it, and there's no place we'd rather be but here.

In our current reading of the Torah, we are firmly in the wilderness of the Book of Numbers. We have

witnessed plague, illness, existential crisis, fear, disappointment and rebellion. Moses struck the rock in anger, Korach staged a coup, the spies scouting the land came back afraid and disheartened and the Israelites learned that they would need to wander for forty more years. And still, they held onto their dream of reaching the Promised Land, no matter how hard it would be. The Israelites too knew that they wanted to be part of it all; that a bright new chapter awaited them, while in the midst of their anguish.

We are strong, dear brothers and sisters, and we too, can cling to these dreams—and be invigorated and inspired by them. The High Holidays are only a few months away and they will be unlike anything we have experienced before. Yet, we will still be together in holy community, even if not in a physical space. We, will, in the words of this country's magnificent Constitution, continue to form 'a more perfect union'. If America is any one thing, it is hopeful, aspirational and resilient. There are many shadowed valleys to walk through, to be true, but better days will come, slowly, but surely. Thank you for believing in us and for giving us the heart to believe in this truth. We will always be grateful to you and will continue walking through this moment in history with you.

This year's Fourth of July will be very special to my family. The Middleton-Hugenholtz Family wishes the congregation a happy and above all, healthy, independence day!

LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

The congregation extends its condolences to Gail & Tom Brashers-Krug on the death of their child, **Jareth Brashers-Krug**.

The congregation extends its condolences to Nancy Goldsmith on the death of her father, **Aaron Solomon "Mike" Levine**.

The congregation extends its condolences to Andreyia Schneider on the death of her stepmother, **Bertie L. Schneider**.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sue Weinberg

We held our first zoom congregational meeting last month, and I think we broke a record! At one point, we had 45 screens logged in. I know some of the logins had more than one person so I'm guessing our attendance was probably around 50 people.

Aside from fulfilling the requirement to hold an annual meeting, it accomplished several things; it updated everyone on various synagogue activities, board member changes were announced, and it got me to comb my hair and put on something other than a t-shirt (but we won't talk about lounge pants; the advantage of zoom is you generally only see head and shoulders!)

I want to thank everyone who took the time to attend, listen, question, discuss, and participate; your participation is what keeps this congregation alive and vibrant. I want to thank the board for their work this past year and for their participation in providing information to you about their various activities. I am especially grateful to Kathy Jacobs as she steps off the board, she has been a friend and a mentor to me these past few years. Thank you to our outgoing board members Landon Elkind, Mark Ginsberg and Meadow Amster for your service on the board, and welcome to our new board members Bob Wallace and Jody Braverman.

I heard feedback from many people that they didn't realize all the activities that the synagogue sponsored or was involved with. It occurred to me that many of our activities happen behind the scenes, in committee meetings, and only the end results are publicized to the congregation. If you have ideas of programs that the synagogue could offer, or just want to get involved, please consider volunteering and joining a committee.

This fall will look much different from the past. As announced at the meeting, High Holiday services will be via zoom, as will Sunday school. There will not be a separate Hebrew school. Services and programming will continue to be held via zoom. I think that we all miss the face to face contact, but until we can safely meet again I hope to see you on zoom. Watch your email for more programs, activities, classes, and other opportunities to engage with others in the community.

For those who asked, I do plan to offer a zoom option for future meetings, even if we are able to meet in person.

Finally, should you need to contact the synagogue or the rabbi but are unable to reach them, please feel free to reach out to me, either via [email](#) or phone: 319-330-7796. I will do my best to help you, or put you in touch with the appropriate people.

WARM UP AMERICA

Connie Berman

Warm Up America will meet by zoom on July 12 and 26. Stay safe. Connie and Fred George.

YIDDISH STUDY GROUP

The Yiddish Study Group meets on Mondays and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom.
Contact the office for information.

SISTERHOOD NEWS

Beverly Jones

Sisterhood Hiatus

This may be the last monthly Sisterhood column for the foreseeable future.

The Sisterhood of Agudas Achim is now on hiatus. We have failed to increase our Board membership to a viable level. This means that we will not provide financial and volunteer support services to the synagogue, and that we will not put on social activities for our members. Dues will not be collected, but the Gift Shop will remain operational.

Programs that have had their beginnings in Sisterhood: Warm Up America, Mah-Jongg, and the Book Group will continue.

Perhaps a women's organization is no longer necessary at a time when we have a rabbi, a synagogue president, and others in leadership positions who are women; but we have always liked to think of ourselves as the welcoming face of the synagogue with an important role to play in the Jewish community. Perhaps, someday, a new generation will see a need to reinvent a sisterhood-

type organization with a new mission for itself and the synagogue.

If you have any questions, or if you want to be involved in a new Sisterhood, please contact sisterhood@agudasachimic.org. If we are able to recruit new Board members over this next fiscal year, we will reactivate Sisterhood. If we fail at that, we will dissolve Sisterhood.

We do want to thank our members, past and present, who have supported Sisterhood over the years.

Thank you

We want to thank Elizabeth Miller for her very enjoyable and informative Zoom presentation on her spelunking adventures at our "Mitzvah Fund Event" on June 14. If you missed it the first time, and would like to stream it, please contact the synagogue office at administrator@agudasachimic.org for information.

ARI BRAVERMAN TALK

Ari Braverman and Julia Zalenski will discuss the Eastern Iowa Community Bond Project on Sunday, July 26 at 10:00 a.m.



Ari recently volunteered with Eastern Iowa Community Bond Project to pass out flyers near BLM protests with her car decked out/painted with information on EICBP. She has helped write letters to newspaper editors for Iowa Freedom Riders.

Ari has an MFA in creative writing from Columbia (her first novel comes out next month) and an undergrad degree from Bard College. She taught at Columbia, and has coordinated volunteer teachers

from Columbia to teach at New York City public schools and nonprofits. She taught a newspaper class at a public school in the Bronx. She was a volunteer coordinator and case manager with the Annunciation Mission in New Orleans for two years after Hurricane Katrina. She lives in Iowa City and remotely recruits, trains, and coordinates private tutors for middle school and high school students in the New York City area.

This one-time program could become a continuing series on Jewish individual and community interaction with, and support of, people of color.

This presentation is jointly sponsored by Adult Education, Tikun Olam and the Jewish Federation of the Corridor.

DONATIONS

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Judy & Gary Galluzzo: In memory of Joseph Bernstein

Jonathan & Pamela Sabin: In memory of Howard Arthur Sabin

BRAVERMAN TALMUD TORAH FUND

Barbara Levin: In memory of Sarah Glaser

Betty Myers: In memory of Esther Kunik

CEMETERY FUND

Dorfman & Kaish Family Foundation: In memory of Donald Dorfman

Richard & Goldene Haendel: In memory of Bernice Hertz

COMMUNITY RELIEF FUND

Nancy Sprince: In memory of Dorothy Buddelof

GENERAL FUND

Robert Clinton: In memory of Jennifer Miriam Pavelich Clinton, loving daughter, wife and mother on her tenth yearzeit

GENERAL FUND, CONT.

Kathleen Jacobs

Sam & Marj Kuperman: In memory of Aaron Solomon "Mike" Levine (for Warm-Up America)

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

HIGH HOLIDAY/CANTOR FUND

Charles & Nicole Pruchno: In memory of Albert Pruchno

Mel & Diane Sunshine: In memory of Bernice Hertz and Aaron Levine

LOUIS GINSBERG YOUTH FUND

Agudas Achim Sisterhood

PRAYERBOOK FUND

Ellen Mae Kaye: In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Ina Carol Loewenberg's great-grandson

TIKUN OLAM FUND

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

TIKUN OLAM NEWS

Jody Braverman

Tikun Olam is sponsoring a blood drive, asking members to donate to UIHC's DeGowin Blood Center anytime during the month of July. See details elsewhere in the bulletin.

Tikun Olam needs a logo! We've asked the children in the religious school to design it.

Our previously planned Passover fund-raising event was to benefit the Eastern Iowa Community Bond Project. The Bond Project assists with posting bond for detained immigrants and recent protesters. Ari Braverman will talk about the Bond Project at an upcoming Sunday event co-sponsored with the Adult Education Committee and the Jewish Federation of the Corridor.

We are exploring how to support one or more of the seven local food pantries/food rescue organizations.

Tikun Olam will also spread a little joy to our own households with an upcoming jigsaw puzzle exchange.

We're also recruiting an Agudas Achim member to represent our community in the Johnson County Interfaith Coalition. Please let me know if you're interested.

The Tikun Olam Committee will meet Wednesday, July 8 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. Please contact me for details at 319-631-0416 or jtbraverman@yahoo.com if you're interested in joining us or for more information on any of our projects.



Agudas Achim Congregation



at: UI Old Museum of Art

Join
Tikkun Olam's
Blood Drive

**Blood Supplies
Are
Critically Low**

Tuesday, July 7 09:00 AM - 03:00 PM
Wednesday, July 8 08:00 AM - 02:00 PM
Thursday, July 9 12:00 PM - 06:00 PM
Monday, July 13 09:00 AM - 03:00 PM
Tuesday, July 14 12:00 PM - 06:00 PM
Wednesday, July 15 10:00 AM - 04:00 PM

Tuesday, July 21 11:00 AM - 05:00 PM
Thursday, July 23 09:30 AM - 03:30 PM
Tuesday, July 28 08:00 AM - 02:00 PM
Wednesday, July 29 12:00 PM - 06:00 PM
Thursday, July 30 10:00 AM - 04:00 PM

By Appointment ONLY:
uidegowinbloodcenter.org



UPCOMING AUGUST TALKS

Please save the dates for these upcoming talks in August (both via Zoom):



Glenn Ehrstine: Sunday, August 2, 10:00 a.m.

Glenn, an associate professor in the German department at the University of Iowa, will discuss either the Jewish response to plague or "The Reuchlin Controversy: A feel-good story from the 16th century: Jewish-Christian relations and preserving intellectual history".



Lisa Heineman: Sunday, August 16, 10:00 a.m.

Lisa, a professor in the History department at the University of Iowa, will give a primer on "Jewish Life in Europe Before the Holocaust".

JUNE 2020

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

Wed	1	Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM	Mon	13	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
Thurs	2	Social Committee Meeting	4:30 PM	Wed	15	Bereavement Group	12:30 PM
		Soulful Virtual Ma'ariv	8:30 PM			Education Committee	6:00 PM
Fri	3	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM			Ritual Committee	7:30 PM
		Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM	Fri	17	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
		Shabbat Evening Services	7:00 PM			Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM
Sat	4	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM			Shabbat Evening Services	7:30 PM
		Shiva: Jareth Brashers-Krug	7:30 PM	Sat	18	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
Sun	5	Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM	Sun	19	Mussar Study Group	1:00 PM
		Shiva: Jareth Brashers-Krug	7:30 PM	Mon	20	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
Mon	6	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM	Wed	22	Free Lunch	11:30 AM
		Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM			Book Group	1:00 PM
		Shiva: Jareth Brashers-Krug	7:30 PM			Adult Ed Committee	5:30 PM
Tues	7	Shiva: Jareth Brashers-Krug	7:30 PM	Fri	24	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
Wed	8	Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM			Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM
		Shiva: Jareth Brashers-Krug	7:30 PM			Shabbat Evening Services	7:30 PM
Thurs	9	Executive Committee Meeting	5:30 PM	Sat	25	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
		Shiva: Jareth Brashers-Krug	7:30 PM	Sun	26	Warm-Up America	10:00 AM
		Soulful Virtual Ma'ariv	8:30 PM			Ari Braverman Talk	10:00 AM
Fri	10	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM			Mussar Study Group	1:00 PM
		Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM	Mon	27	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
		Shabbat Evening Services	7:30 PM	Fri	31	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
Sat	11	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM			Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM
Sun	12	Warm-Up America	10:00 AM			Shabbat Evening Services	7:30 PM
		Mussar Study Group	1:00 PM				

SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE (ALL SERVICES VIA ZOOM)

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

Chukkat-Balak	Friday, July 3	7:30 p.m.	Lev Shalem (Conservative)
<i>(Numbers 19:1–25:9)</i>	Saturday, July 4	9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah (Reform)
Pinchas	Friday, July 10	7:30 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
<i>(Numbers 25:10–30:1)</i>	Saturday, July 11	9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem
Matot-Masei	Friday, July 17	7:30 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
<i>(Numbers 30:2–36:13)</i>	Saturday, July 18	9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem
Devarim	Friday, July 24	7:30 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
<i>(Deuteronomy 1:1–3:22)</i>	Saturday, July 25	9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem

JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE CORRIDOR

Plans are underway for a revitalized and renamed Jewish Federation of the Corridor, including Jews from Black Hawk County (Cedar Falls and Waterloo) to Jefferson County (Fairfield), from Washington, IA to Dubuque, IA. The mission of the Federation is to connect Jews in our communities, religious and secular, affiliated (synagogue or temple) or not. The Federation will create awareness and understanding of local and global Jewish communities, including Israel. We will strive to understand our own Jewish Diaspora, and to love

our neighbors as ourselves as “we were once strangers in a strange land.”

The Jewish Federation of the Corridor is co-sponsoring a discussion in late July about the Eastern Iowa Bond Project and recent protests. Co-sponsors are Agudas Achim’s Adult Education and Tikun Olam committees.

If you would like more information on the Jewish Federation of the Corridor, please email us at: fc Iowa@gmail.com

JULY YAHRZEITS

Jelena Laneeva Bardach	Richard Jacobs	Jack Madison	Nina Sawyer
David Owen Berg	Ruth Jacobs	Meir Markovitz	Mildred Schapira
Robert “Bob” Braverman	Phyllis Jadryev	Frances Milavetz	Katherine Schor
Morris L. Breggin	Daniel Joseph	David Nadler	Beulah Smith
Sam Brodsky	Morris Isadore Kaufman	Ida Paul	Jules Ben Standig
Elizabeth Potter Brown	Max Kerber	Annie Addison Picard	Kalman “Sunny” Sunshine
Charlotte Dobie	Jack Klein	Sebastien Isaac Picard	Arthur Wallace
Ethel Eisen	Irwin Kline	David Pitzele	Ted Willner
Gerald Engman	Miriam Kubby	Rose Portman	
Denise Guédon	Rose “Rae” Levin	Lauren Reece Flaum	

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	<i>Vacant</i>
Past President	Kathy Jacobs	Tikun Olam	Jody Braverman
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	Bob Wallace