



# Agudas Achim Congregation

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[www.AgudasAchimIC.org](http://www.AgudasAchimIC.org)

## October 2020 / Tishrei–Cheshvan 5781

### FROM THE RABBI

*Esther Hugenholtz*

My lulav and etrog are still in my fridge waiting to be assembled for Sukkot and my house is a little worse for wear coming out of this High Holiday season, but my heart is so full. This High Holiday season was definitely very different and a huge amount of work for so many of us, in both hidden and visible ways, and I am so proud of all of us for navigating this season with grace, creativity, skill, tenacity and dedication.

I didn't know how I would feel about leading High Holiday services online. Would the experience fall flat? Would we suffer technological catastrophies along the lines 'who by power outage' and 'who by Internet malfunction?'

Still, apart from a few glitches here and there, everything went really well. Even though we were in a mostly empty sanctuary, I felt all of your presence on Zoom – especially during Ne'ilah where people took the prompt to light a candle in their Zoom screen. Being in our beautiful, atmospheric, darkened sanctuary as day faded into night and seeing your faces lit up by the light of your candles moved me to tears. It reminded us of the undeniable truth that we are still a community; even online – especially online. Each of us should remember that our digital reality is not a concession to the pandemic but an active embracing of the mitzvah of pikuach nefesh. Each of us are saving lives and preventing suffering this way. We are inscribing each other in the Book of Life.

On the topic of inscribing, please allow me on the behalf of the congregation to thank everyone who was involved in this mammoth effort.

First of all, I would like to thank all of our volunteers and service leaders. Lots of people pulled together, making the technology work, assembling and distributing the High Holiday care packages, labeling and stickering the Machzorim, baking delicious little honey cakes, helping amend the Service Script (the Google Doc from Hell), setting up the technology, operating Zoom, answering emails, erecting the synagogue Sukkah (available for one-on-one, socially-distanced congregational use), leading prayers, conducting readings and so much more. I would also like to thank our magnificent service leaders for lending their voices to God and Zoom (in that order!), adding to the beauty and spirituality of the service. I would also like to thank our amazing office team for carrying so much of this load in the background, for troubleshooting, helping with logistics and keeping the operation running. Last but not least, I'd like to thank my leadership partner, President Sue Weinberg for her astute, hands-on, calm, competent and compassionate leadership. We pulled it off!

We would love to have congregational feedback on digital services. God willing, the pandemic will end ('bemeirah beyameinu', speedily and in our days) but a crisis is also an opportunity for our community to innovate, broaden our reach and

*(Continued on page 2)*

## FROM THE RABBI *Esther Hugenholtz (cont.)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

become more inclusive. Even when we gather in-person again, it is likely that we will want to offer livestreaming as an additional service of the service (pun intended), so we welcome your input. It was our intention to balance community-building, congregational participation and musicality to our worship experience and we look forward on building on that.

I am looking forward to Sukkot and to hanging out with my family in my Sukkah. It is very 2020 that

the weather is turning cold just before Sukkot but I'm not going to let that stop me. As the days turn dark and cold, we can carry the knowledge in our hearts that our community is creative, caring and resilient. We won't let a little bit of rain or wind ruin our fun. The best asset we have is each other; the best ethos to get us through what is yet to come is abundant, abiding and unrelenting love.

In gratitude, love and solidarity,  
Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz

## YIDDISH STUDY GROUP

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

## SHABBAT AND FESTIVAL SERVICE SCHEDULE (ALL SERVICES VIA ZOOM)

Streaming links for Shabbat and festival services on Zoom: [Friday Night \(7:30 p.m.\)](#);  
[Saturday Morning \(9:30 a.m.\)](#) Evening services have a schmooze prior to the service at 6:30 p.m.

<b>Sukkot</b>	Friday, October 2	7:00 p.m.	
	Saturday, October 3	9:30 a.m.	
<b>Shemini Atzeret</b>	Friday, October 9	7:00 p.m.	
	Saturday, October 10	9:30 a.m.	
<b>Bereshit</b> <i>(Genesis 1:1-6:8)</i>	Friday, October 16	7:00 p.m.	Lev Shalem (Conservative)
	Saturday, October 17	9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah (Reform)
<b>Noach</b> <i>(Genesis 6:9-11:32)</i>	Friday, October 23	7:00 p.m.	<a href="#">Bar Mitzvah of David Zingman</a>
	Saturday, October 24	9:30 a.m.	<a href="#">Bar Mitzvah of David Zingman</a>
<b>Lech Lecha</b> <i>(Genesis 12:1-17:27)</i>	Friday, October 30	7:00 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
	Saturday, October 31	9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem

## DONATIONS

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

**Sue & Ken Blackwell:** In memory of Jerome Baskin

**Gloria Gelman:** In memory of Irving Gelman

**Mark Greiner & Melissa Roberts**

**Ellen Lewin & Lizabeth Goodman:** In memory of  
Fannie Lewin and Joseph Lewin

**David & Martha Lubaroff:** In honor of Rabbi  
Hugenholtz, President Sue Weinberg, the Ritual  
Committee, and the Tikkun Olam Committee for  
their outstanding work in preparing for, and  
performance of, the High Holy Days services

**Bob & Donna Rodnitzky:** In memory of Leo Pliner

### BRAVERMAN TALMUD TORAH FUND

**Barbara Levin:** In memory of Adolph Glaser

**Eloise McCuskey:** In memory of Vince McFadden

### CEMETERY FUND

**Miriam Canter:** In memory of Harry Canter

**Jack L. Snider:** In memory of Herman Snider

**Rhoda Vernon:** In memory of Ida Vernon

### COMMUNITY RELIEF FUND

**Helen Goldstein:** In memory of Louis J. Tunik

**Lea Haravon Collins & Steve Collins**

**Linda Kerber**

**Nancy Sprince:** In memory of Craig Zwerling and  
Lillian Zwerling

### FAMILY ASSISTANCE FUND

**Members of the Yiddish Study Group:** In honor of  
Linda Wertz and Judy Liskin-Gasparro

### FINE ARTS FUND

**Kara & John Herbst:** In memory of Marilyn  
Krachmer

### GENERAL FUND

**Jody & Janie Braverman**

**Miriam Canter:** In memory of Gertrude M.  
Rosenbaum

**Elizabeth Heineman & Glenn Ehrstine**

**Kathleen Jacobs**

**Judy Liskin-Gasparro**

**Emily Schoerning & Michael Gilboa**

### HIGH HOLIDAY/CANTOR FUND

**Agudas Achim Sisterhood:** for High Holiday flowers

### LOUIS GINSBERG YOUTH FUND

**Mark & Vickie Ginsberg:** In memory of Marvin  
Pomerantz & Louis Ginsberg

### PORTMAN PROGRAM FUND

**Connie Brothers:** In memory of B.M. Marcus

### PRAYERBOOK FUND

**Charlotte Dvoretzky:** In memory of Miriam  
Silversteen

### SAFETY FUND

**David & Constance Berman**

**Jeff & Sara Braverman**

**Jody & Janie Braverman**

**Robert & Vida Brenner**

**Ray & Lindy Buch**

**Michael & Myra Clark**

**Joel Dressler**

**Steven Fishman & Renda Greene-Fishman**

**Gloria Gelman**

**Tom & Becky Gelman**

**Fayga Greiner**

**Jeanne Jaggard**

**Pamela & Bill Kutschke:** In memory of Donald  
Herbach

**Richard Levine**

**Gary & Randi Levitz**

**David & Martha Lubaroff**

**Lucille Luxenburg**

**Jerry Naylor**

**Carrie Z. Norton**

**Peter & Linda Rubenstein**

**Jonathan & Pamela Sabin**

**Mark & Jayne Sandler**

**David Sheff & Waltraud Maierhofer**

**Richard Strauss & Ellen Herman**

**Rhoda Vernon**

**Sue Weinberg & Robert Armstrong**

*(Continued on page 4)*

## DONATIONS (cont.)

### SISTERHOOD MITZVAH & MEMORIAL FUND

**Richard & Nancee Blum:** In memory of Selma Rose

**Gary & Cathy Cohn:** In memory of Charlotte Cohn

### TIKKUN OLAM FUND

**Robert & Vida Brenner:** for food pantry

### TIKKUN OLAM FUND (CONT.)

**Joel Dressler:** for food pantry

**Lea Haravon Collins & Steve Collins:** for food pantry

**Peter & Linda Rubenstein:** for food pantry

**Members of the Yiddish Study Group:** In honor of  
Linda Wertz and Judy Liskin-Gasparro

Donations are still being accepted for the safety fund.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Sue Weinberg*

Shana tova and welcome to the new year 5781, may it be a better year for all!

As I write this, we have successfully navigated Rosh Hashanah and are approaching Yom Kippur. I need to apologize to all who were not able to join us at the Erev Rosh Hashanah service. We DID upgrade our zoom account to accommodate 500 viewers, but Zoom neglected to inform us that this upgrade was not applied automatically, there were steps that needed to be taken to grant access to everyone. I am hopeful that this has been corrected for Yom Kippur.

Although the services looked very different from past years, many people collaborated and worked very hard to present a meaningful service. I want to thank all the people who baked honey cakes, filled gift bags, labeled and delivered books, compiled recipes, and greeted people while handing out the books and gift bags. Special shout outs to our ritual chair Pete Rubenstein, all of the service leaders, the rabbi for the very difficult job of scripting and shortening the service, and a very special THANK YOU to our virtual gabbai John Wertz, and our tech wizards Curt Braverman and Dave Middleton. Dave had the equipment and set up worked out at home, but when he tested it at the synagogue the wifi

bandwidth was not sufficient to support our services. Curt came to the rescue with his knowledge of the synagogue internet capabilities, his expertise in setting up our zoom studio, and the very generous loan of his professional computer, microphone (the Blue Yeti!) and other necessary equipment. The High Holidays were truly a collaborative effort.

Synagogue life in the upcoming months will also look very different from past years. There will be no synagogue sponsored sukkah crawl or unrolling of the full length of the Torah this year. There will not be a Hanukah party, nor Sunday school gatherings in the building. But as we move past the fall holidays into fall and winter, and as we remain separated and isolated physically, we can still be bound together and find fellowship virtually in our zoom services (and schmoozes!), book clubs, Yiddish classes, adult education programs...We need to cling to this bit of normalcy to give us contact with our synagogue family. We are in it for the long haul and will come out the other side of this dark period stronger than ever.

Shana Tova to all, stay healthy, stay safe!  
Sue

## SCHOOL NEWS

*Sonja Spear*

My husband is holding office hours online in our home office (once mine). My daughter is probably in math class, but she is also wandering from room to room with her computer, shushing us. She would like lunch. I am writing this at the kitchen table, but I will have to go to the basement soon for a zoom meeting. All three of us on zoom will almost certainly overload our wonky internet connection. The only question is, will all of our screens freeze, or will one of us manage to remain in a virtual meeting until its end?

The only member of the household enjoying working from home is the dog.

Perhaps you are in a similar situation? Maybe you have more kids and more chaos? Or, maybe, you are looking for something for your kids to do that does not involve a screen?

We have two opportunities for you.

### **Help decorate the synagogue's Sukkah!**

We bought some kits to make Sukkot decorations. The kits are appropriate for children ages five and older.

Make an appointment to have lunch or dinner in the synagogue Sukkah. Hang your decoration while you're there!

Contact the office ([Secretary@AgudasAchimIC.org](mailto:Secretary@AgudasAchimIC.org)) to pick up a kit or to have it sent to you. We have a limited number of kits, so they will be distributed on a first-come-first-served basis.

But children do not need kits. Paper chains, foil pie tins, and gourds all make wonderful decorations.

Sukkot begins at sundown on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Register for Sunday School!**

#### **Sunday School begins October 18<sup>th</sup>.**

We have hands-on activities for Sunday School kids. The zoom meetings will be short check-ins, not long classes. You can register on the synagogue's website.

I hope that these activities will help your child remain connected to the Jewish community, even though so many of us are living very isolated lives. I refuse to call this isolation the new normal. We will come out of this period and into a brighter future. Until we can meet in person, let's try to stay in touch.

May you all be inscribed for a good and sweet year!

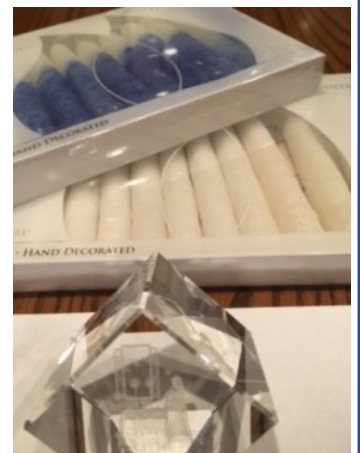
## GIFT SHOP NEWS

*Joanne Margolin*

I will have candles, cookie cutters, gelt, and all of the usual things for Chanukah, but in the meantime, here are some different finds that you may be interested in. We've had the lovely white Shabbat candles before, but now we also have them in two-tone (blue and white) and, blow me down -- the price has gone down!! They're now \$8 for a box of 12 instead of \$10 -- such a deal! The cube/paperweight in the photo is of a woman blessing the Shabbat candles. It's very lovely and is

\$12. Please don't hesitate to let me know if there's anything you'd like me to help you with!

Joanne Margolin  
351-2181  
or [jrmargolin@gmail.com](mailto:jrmargolin@gmail.com)



## WARM UP AMERICA

*Connie Berman*

Warm Up America will meet by zoom at 11:00 am on Sundays October 4 and October 18. We gave away ten afghans/blankets to Cedar Rapids derecho victims in September, but now have four more to sew together and at least six getting borders, so can make more gifts soon.

Happy October, Connie and Fred George.

## BEREAVEMENT GROUP

The bereavement group will meet Wednesday, October 21 via Zoom.

For more information, [contact Martha Lubaroff](#).

## THANK YOU

Contributions from the Yiddish Class to honor their esteemed teachers, Linda Wertz and Judy Liskin-Gasparro, were made to the Synagogue Assistance Fund and the Tikun Olam Fund. The Yiddish class has become a "virtual shtetl" with mostly synagogue members but there are some out-of-towners from Arizona, California, New Jersey and New York who join in on Zoom. The class sent a card with their contribution to thank Linda and Judy:

*A sheynem dank fun ayere Yiddishe talmidim un haverim.*

## OCTOBER Yahrzeits

Abraham Asch	Robert F. Hoffman	Sylvia Lipman	Polly Schlesinger
Remi Cadoret	Harold Jaffe	Mary Lubaroff	William Schueller
Harry Canter	Harry Hagman Kaufman	Melvin L. Marcus	Anna Shulman
Nate Chapman	Samuel Kaufman	Steve Marsden	Mildred Siegel
Leonard Cohn	Richard Kerber	Ike Milavetz	Steven Steigman
Arnold L. Davidson	Fanny Kimmel	Jacqueline Fooshe	Herman Sterman
Anna Dubin	Joseph Kimmel	Ormond	Dov Tsachor
Ruth Prager Engleman	Yochanan Kohen	David Paul	Bernice Warren
Bernard Gerr	Gary Korsmo	Leo Pliner	Ethel Weinberg
Isadore Ginsberg	Gordon Korsmo	Jacob Portman	Eugene Victor Weiner
Doris Graff	Albert Leer	Bernhardt "Bernie"	Jeanne Louise Weiner
Irene Gross	Andrea Levey	Rosenberg	Joseph Willner
Henry M. Haendel	Rosalie Levy	Ruth Rubenstein	Elsie Wingo

## OCTOBER 2020

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

Thurs	1	Soulful Virtual Ma'ariv	8:30 PM	Sun	18	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM
Fri	2	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM			<b>1st Day Virtual Sunday School</b>	10:00 AM
		Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM			<b>Stacy Hollander Talk</b>	10:00 AM
		<b>Erev Sukkot Service</b>	7:00 PM			Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM
Sat	3	<b>Sukkot Morning Service</b>	9:30 AM	Mon	19	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
Sun	4	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM			Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM
		Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM			Intro to Judaism	7:30 PM
Mon	5	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM	Wed	21	Bereavement Group	12:30 PM
		Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM			Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM
Wed	7	Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM			Ritual Committee	7:30 PM
Thurs	8	Executive Committee Meeting	5:30 PM	Thurs	22	Soulful Virtual Ma'ariv	8:30 PM
		Soulful Virtual Ma'ariv	8:30 PM	Fri	23	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
Fri	9	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM			Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM
		Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM			Shabbat Evening Services	7:00 PM
		<b>Erev Shemini Atzeret Service</b>	7:00 PM	Sat	24	<b>David Zingman Bar Mitzvah</b>	
Sat	10	<b>Shemini Atzeret Service</b>	9:30 AM			Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
Sun	11	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM	Sun	25	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM
		Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM			Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM
Mon	12	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM	Mon	26	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
		Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM			Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM
Wed	14	Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM			Intro to Judaism	7:30 PM
		Education Committee	6:00 PM	Wed	28	Free Lunch	11:30 AM
Thurs	15	Board Meeting	7:00 PM			Book Group	12:15 PM
		Soulful Virtual Ma'ariv	8:30 PM			Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM
Fri	16	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM	Thurs	29	Soulful Virtual Ma'ariv	8:30 PM
		Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM	Fri	30	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
		Shabbat Evening Services	7:00 PM			Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM
Sat	17	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM			Shabbat Evening Services	7:00 PM
				Sat	31	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM

### DAVID ZINGMAN BAR MITZVAH

Please join us for the bar mitzvah of  
**David Zingman**  
 which will be held via Zoom [at this link](#) on  
 Saturday, October 24 at 9:30 a.m.



## STACY HOLLANDER TALK



On October 18 at 10:00 a.m., Stacy C. Hollander, Independent Curator and Folk Art Specialist, will give a talk via Zoom entitled:

### Harry Lieberman: A Journey of Remembrance

Harry Lieberman's brilliant paintings instruct and delight while expressing the humanistic concerns shaped by his training as a rabbinical student and fueled by the atrocities of the Holocaust.

Lieberman was born in 1880 in the shtetl of Gniewoszczów, Poland. In 1906 he immigrated to America where he found work first as a clothing cutter and then as the successful owner of a wholesale candy business. He soon shed his Old World religious identity, assimilating to American life. Harry Lieberman's unexpected new career as an artist began in the spring of his 76th birthday, six years after retirement, and continued until his death in 1983 at the remarkable age of 103.

Relating tales and ethics from Jewish folklore, religion, tradition, and literature, the paintings are windows into a lost world through vignettes in paint that embody the written word and read right to left top to bottom. One of the wonders of Harry Lieberman's paintings is that the painful evocation of this lost community and way of life can be recalled with such love and joy and celebration, allowing all audiences to share in the act of remembering.

## WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP

The Wednesday book group will meet on Wednesday, October 28 at 12:15 p.m.

### 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
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Ritual	Peter Rubenstein; Alan Weinstein	At Large 2	Curtis Braverman
Religious School	Chuck Friedman	At Large 3	Bob Wallace