



Agudas Achim Congregation

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www.AgudasAchimIC.org

July 2021 / Tammuz–Av 5781

FROM THE RABBI

Esther Hugenholtz

As my summer vacation beckons, I asked the (Jewish) collective hivemind on Facebook for reading suggestions. It is interesting and wondrous how rich our digital lives have become during the pandemic and Facebook has become a community in its own right, full of learning, music, song, debate and connection. One of the recommendations, which I will pass to you, is a book called *'Opening your Heart with Psalm 27: A*

Spiritual Practice for the Jewish New Year' by Rabbi Debra Robbins. I look forward to ordering it myself and slipping gently into Elul with this study guide and workbook. If all else fails, I'll grab my copy of Rabbi Alan Lew's *'This is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared'* – the seminal book on High Holiday spiritual preparation.

But you know what? I might not get to do all that much reading at all because I am planning to drink in every golden, sunkissed drop of summer while we can. There are a lot of adventures we want to take our kids on; a lot of things to do in order to make up for lost time. I imagine swimming pools and gardens, BBQ's and outdoor dinners and a little bit of traveling to add the spice of life. As far as I am concerned, I am hoping that this summer of rest and reprieve that all of us need so badly, lasts a lifetime.

Relish the quietude. All of us have been holding so much for so long. This is the time to lay our burdens down; to rest and find restoration in the long days and balmy nights of July.

We have had a great run-up to this time. A national-attention garnering Yiddish class. A month of June worship in our tent; including a stellar Bar Mitzvah. A successful Board transition, with Janice Weiner as our new President. She will bring her depth of experience, strategic vision and rootedness in the strong ethics of justice and kindness to her role. I look forward to being her partner in congregational

leadership as we prepare for the next phase of this pandemic (whatever that will be) and as we pursue 'regathering.' I am very excited for what the High Holidays will bring. Uncertainties abound but there is reason to dream of in-person High Holidays this year, at a more spacious, socially-distanced location. Apart from these big events, we will continue to push forth with everything that makes

our community worthwhile. A program that will be particularly special is the Parents' Circle: a Zoom meeting of an Israeli-Palestinian bereavement group which can speak very deeply to many of us. The Introduction to Judaism program – on hiatus for July – will also start up again in August. Things might be quiet, but there's always something going on at Agudas Achim.

Even so, relish the quietude. All of us have been holding so much for so long. This is the time to lay

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FROM THE RABBI *Esther Hugenholtz (cont.)*

(Continued from page 1)

our burdens down; to rest and find restoration in the long days and balmy nights of July. We have all earned it. We shall breathe deeply and rest up before we journey on.

Wishing you all a wonderful, blessed, healthy, sweet summer.

Book references:

https://www.ccarpress.org/shopping_product_detail.asp?pid=50465

<https://www.littlebrown.com/titles/alan-lew/this-is-real-and-you-are-completely-unprepared/9780316739085/>

DONATIONS

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Judy & Gary Galluzzo: In memory of Joseph Bernstein

Rody Gessner & Michelle Edwards: In memory of Beverly Klein, and Florence & Milton Gessner

Richard & Karen Lipman: In appreciation of Rabbi Hugenholtz

Richard & Karen Lipman: In memory of Jack Klein, and Maurice Lipman

Jonathan & Pamela Sabin: In memory of Howard A. Sabin

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SCHOOL FUND

Lea Haravon Collins & Steve Collins: In gratitude for Toe's Bar Mitzvah teachers: Alicia Maxwell, Rabbi Hugenholtz, and Sonja Spear

TIKUN OLAM FUND

Ray & Lindy Buch: In memory of Maurice Broad

Miriam Gilbert: In memory of Hilda Kessler Gilbert

Paul & Esther Retish: for Warm-Up America

Sue Weinberg & Robert Armstrong: In appreciation of my wonderful board

WARM UP AMERICA

We will meet on July 11 and 25, and on August 8 and 22, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, under Agudas Achim's front portico. We'll be masked and distanced, per policy. This summer, we have provided afghans for a family whose home has burned and for the Habitat for Humanity homes being readied.

We have been joined by members of the United Women's Group, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, who have offered to help our project. We are accepting synthetic yarn for creating afghan patches. We also appreciate donations through Agudas Achim's Tikun Olam Fund, earmarked for Warm Up America.

For further information, please contact Therese Guedon, 319-339-4455 or thereseguedon@gmail.com, or join us in July or August under the portico.



Photo showing how an afghan is set up, with knit, crochet, and crohook patches.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

See if you can guess who these photos are! The names are on page 5.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Janice Weiner

A new month, a new board. On behalf of the new board, we as a collective will do our very best to think forward, move forward and earn your trust.

I don't have to tell you that we live in challenging and changing times. I am incredibly grateful to science and scientists for the vaccines, indebted to all who have distributed them, and thankful that the current level of COVID-19 in the community in which we live is the lowest it has been since the first cases were detected in Johnson County in early 2020.

As a congregation, we have been careful and we will continue to keep a watchful eye on the virus. While Rabbi

Hugenholtz is on vacation in July, Rabbi Portman will be conducting services via Zoom. In August, we plan to resume in-person services. Our congregation is highly vaccinated, cases are currently very limited in this community, so this is our shot. We can't know now what variants and the return of students will mean – but for now, congregations all over the state are re-gathering, and it is time for us to do so as well. We will send out more details soon, but we can't wait to see you in person – and for those of you not yet ready, you will be able to participate fully via Zoom.

We have also launched into preparations for in-person High Holy Days at the Iowa Memorial Union. This will give us a larger space in which to spread out, thanks to our cooperative and collaborative relationship with Hillel, which we also hope will

involve more university students as well as our congregants, friends Jewish-adjacent family.

I believe it was Heschel who said, "Man plans and God laughs." We will continue to plan – humbly - with flexibility our watchword. While the pandemic seems linear - it came, we shut down, and now we reopen - it is not. There have been several waves; the Iowa legislature has mandated new legal structures; the delta variant is hitting the

unvaccinated - and we simply cannot know what the coming months will bring. Please be assured that we continually monitor the activity of the pandemic and will take appropriate action.

I believe it was Heschel who said,
"Man plans and God laughs." We will
continue to plan – humbly - with
flexibility our watchword.

But this is our time to take a deep breath, appreciate and value the now. In all that has changed and will continue to change, the one constant is people – those who care about us and about whom we care. I recently saw a graphic consisting of a large circle and a small dot. The circle represented a person and the dot was labeled, "What you know about that person." What we know of others - even those we know well - is likely a tiny portion of their reality. With that in mind, I for one will do my best to continue to suspend judgment and offer grace. We can consider it our own personal contribution to rebuilding the world.

Please always feel free to contact me with comments, questions, suggestions, critiques as we move forward.

WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP

The Wednesday Book Group will meet on Wednesday, July 28 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

BLAST FROM THE PAST NAMES

The Blast from the Past pictures are David Lubaroff and Saul Lubaroff.

TIKUN OLAM NEWS

Elliot Abrons

Tikun Olam, Repairing the World, is a primary mission of the Jewish People. It is a communal obligation. Over the years the Agudas Achim Tikun Olam committee has supported local, Jewish, and Israeli charities with financial donations and volunteerism, including responses to disasters and emergencies.

This year (July 2021 – June 2022), the Agudas Achim Tikun Olam committee is committed to support drives for our local food pantries and under Dave Caplan's leadership the Iowa City Free Lunch Program. We plan on working with the Agudas Achim Youth Committee chair Curtis Braverman to identify a public service project which can be undertaken by our youth. We are seeking suggestions for additional community involvement and persons who will help us implement our projects. If you have suggestions or wish to serve on the committee please contact Elliot Abrons at elliott.abrons@earthlink.net.

SHABBAT AND FESTIVAL SERVICE SCHEDULE (ALL SERVICES VIA ZOOM)

Streaming links for Shabbat services on Zoom: [Friday Night \(7:00 p.m.\)](#);
[Saturday Morning \(9:30 a.m.\)](#) Evening services have a schmooze prior to the service at 6:30 p.m.

Pinchas <i>(Numbers 25:10-30:1)</i>	Friday, July 2 Saturday, July 3	7:00 p.m. 9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem (Conservative) Mishkan T'filah (Reform)
Matot-Masei <i>(Numbers 30:2-36:13;28:9-15)</i>	Friday, July 9 Saturday, July 10	7:00 p.m. 9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah Lev Shalem
Devarim <i>(Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22)</i>	Friday, July 16 Saturday, July 17	7:00 p.m. 9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah Lev Shalem
Vaetchanan <i>(Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11)</i>	Friday, July 23 Saturday, July 24	7:00 p.m. 9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah Lev Shalem
Ekev <i>(Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25)</i>	Friday, July 30 Saturday, July 31	7:00 p.m. 9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah Lev Shalem

NACHAS

[Click here](#) for an article in the Des Moines Register about the Yiddish group run by Linda Wertz and Judy Liskin-Gasparro.

LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

Congratulations to parents Lizzie and Andy O'Neill and sister Mila, Grandparents Vickie and Mark Ginsberg, and great grandmother Harriet Ginsberg on the birth of Asher John O'Neill on June 17.

YIDDISH STUDY GROUP

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

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

The bereavement group will meet on Wednesday, July 21 at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom. For more information, [contact Martha Lubaroff](#).

JULY YAHRZEITS

Morris Aizenberg
Adele Anolik
Jelena Laneeva Bardach
David Owen Berg
Robert "Bob" Braverman
Regina Brecher
Sam Brodsky
Elizabeth Potter Brown
Richard Caplan
Harriet L. Clark
Charlotte Dobie
Helen B. Dunn
Gerald Engman
Burton Frank
Denise Guédon
Anitra Haendel

Richard Jacobs
Ruth Jacobs
Phyllis Jadryev
Daniel Joseph
Morris Isadore Kaufman
Max Kerber
Robert Kieso
Irwin Kline
Miriam Kubby
Julius Kunik
Getzel Levin
Rose "Rae" Levin
Lillian Levine
Liza Zabner Lublin
Jack Madison
Norman Madison

Frances Milavetz
David Nadler
Ida Paul
Annie Addison Picard
David Pitzele
Marvin Pomerantz
Rose Portman
Mildred Schapira
Katherine Schor
Joseph Schwartz
Ned Siner
Jules Ben Standig
Lillian Sterman
Arthur Wallace
Ted Willner
Craig Zwerling

JULY 2021

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

Fri	2	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM	Sat	17	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
		Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM	Mon	19	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
		Shabbat Evening Services	7:00 PM	Wed	21	Bereavement Group	12:30 PM
Sat	3	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM			Education Committee	6:00 PM
Mon	5	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM			Ritual Committee	7:30 PM
Thurs	8	Executive Committee Meeting	5:30 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
		Shabbat Evening Services	7:00 PM	Sat	24	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
Sat	10	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM	Sun	25	Warm-Up America	10:30 AM
Sun	11	Warm-Up America	10:30 AM	Mon	26	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
Mon	12	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM	Wed	27	Free Lunch	11:30 AM
Thur	15	Board Meeting	7:00 PM			Book Group	1:00 PM
Fri	16	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM	Fri	30	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
		Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM			Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM
		Shabbat Evening Services	7:00 PM			Shabbat Evening Services	7:00 PM
				Sat	31	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM

STAFF

Rabbi	Esther Hugenholtz	Office Secretary	John Wertz
Administrator	Karen Brady	Custodian	Amos Kiche
Principal	Sonja Spear		

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President	Janice Weiner	Adult Education	Bennett Brown
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Ritual	Rita Marcus	At Large 3	Samantha Goldish
Religious School	<i>Vacant</i>		