



# Agudas Achim Congregation

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

## December 2021 / Kislev–Tevet 5782

### FROM THE RABBI

*Esther Hugenholtz*

We are at the halfway point of Hanukkah where the majority of our hanukkiyot will be lit. I always find comfort in that image; the tipping point where there is more light than darkness in our world. We still have to ‘fill’ the other ‘slots’ over the course of all eight nights but it is a far cry from that first, brave, lone candle at the start of the Festival.

Perhaps this is a good metaphor for where we find ourselves these days. Cold winds of fate may tug at our flames, threatening to blow them out—but still we light, and still the light grows, day by day. It demonstrates that hope is both cumulative and actionable.

As November rolls into December, we can look back on a wonderful Hanukkah party – our first social event in almost two years. We owe a big thank you to Kineret Zabner and her team for cooking up a storm of delicious latkes and for the other volunteers who helped set up, decorate and execute a really fun, and COVID-safe, Hanukkah party. People were seated in ‘bubbles’ at individual tables, (masked) children were running around playing and socializing with each other and singing and dancing to a Hanukkah repertoire with Janice on piano and myself on guitar. It really was a magical night; an evening graced by that cumulative hope; the ability to be in community, with our friends and loved ones. While pandemic mitigation still behooves us to cap events and put sensible, evidence-based protocols in place, this gathering warmed our hearts. We have been having in-person worship since June, and a steady stream of

attendees (will you come and check out our services some time?). As important as services are, we know that Hanukkah is one of our communal highlights and it was wonderful to be able to spend that time together again.

We are now, of course, glancing ahead to Purim... and thinking what fun we might come up for our membership, so stay tuned for that.

2022 will be with us before we know it, which also means a new cycle of my Miller Introduction to Judaism Program. If you (or a friend or loved one) would love to learn more about Jewish culture, tradition, thought, history and spirituality, and bond with likeminded learners, consider joining in early winter 2022. I am wrapping up our current cohort and look forward to releasing more specific information about next year’s cohort soon. The class is free to all, open to Jews and non-Jews alike and it is always a treat to have members of the congregation join it as a ‘refresher’.

While we are on the topic of in-person activities, learning and connecting: I am available to meet with congregants at the synagogue while observing our pandemic protocols. Do you want to chat? Learn? Connect? Talk? Just send me an email or a text message. I really look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing you all a beautiful, sparkly, cozy latter half of Hanukkah.

Chag Urim Sameach, a very Happy Festival of Lights!

## DONATIONS

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

**Ray & Lindy Buch:** In memory of Joyce Schiller

**Kyle & Leslie Fitzpatrick:** In gratitude of Rabbi's help with Skye's Bat Mitzvah preparation

**Linda Kerber**

**David & Martha Lubaroff:** In memory of Mary Lubaroff

**Alan Mutnick:** In memory of Benjamin Ross Mutnick

**Leonard Sandler & Lucy David:** In memory of William M. David Jr.

**David Skorton & Robin Davisson:** In memory of Pauline Skorton

**Mel & Diane Sunshine:** In memory of Joseph Sunshine

### 2ND CENTURY FUND

**Richard & Phyllis Braverman**

**Linda Kerber**

### BRAVERMAN TALMUD TORAH FUND

**Eloise McCuskey:** In memory of Rosalie Braverman

### CEMETERY FUND

**Elliot & Jeanne Abrons**

**Julia Gelfand & David Lang:** In memory of Lawrence Gelfand

**Howard & Shirlee Levin:** In memory of Lena C Dicker

**Michael & Joanne Margolin:** In memory of Lillian Margolin

### COMMUNITY RELIEF FUND

**Lea Haravon Collins & Steve Collins:** In memory of Alda & Aristide Haravon

**Hershel Rephun & Devon Terrill:** In memory of Josh & Claire Rephun

### GENERAL FUND

**Jody & Janie Braverman:** In memory of Jean Breggin and Rosalie Braverman

**Vanessa Haskins**

**Kathleen Jacobs**

**Linda Kerber:** In memory of Richard E Kerber

**Shelley Lipson:** In memory of Goldene Haendel

**Nancy Sprince:** In memory of Bernard Zwerling

### LIBRARY FUND

**Elliot & Jeanne Abrons**

**Sam & Marj Kuperman:** In memory of Liliane Aimee Assouline

### PORTMAN PROGRAM FUND

**Richard Levine:** In memory of Bernice Levine

**Alan & Nina Weinstein:** In memory of Maurice & Bess Weinstein and Emilia Lasansky

### SCHOOL FUND

**Kyle & Leslie Fitzpatrick:** In gratitude of Sonja's help with Skye's Bat Mitzvah preparation

### SIM & SARA STRAUSS MEMORIAL FUND

**David & Penny Strauss:** In memory of Sim & Sara Strauss

**Stephen Strauss:** In memory of Marjorie Osdoba

### TIKUN OLAM FUND

**Elliot & Jeanne Abrons:** for Warm Up America

**Richard & Phyllis Braverman:** In memory of Rosalie Braverman

**Victoria Solursh Estate**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Janice Weiner*

As we approach the winter solstice, we could all use a bit more light. In so many ways, it was fortuitous that Hanukkah began in November – with potentially dark news about another COVID variant, it is good for the soul to light the candles. With another school shooting in Michigan, the candles seem to me to offer a glimmer of hope. And with a difficult argument at the Supreme Court that could very well end up going against Jewish religious doctrine by severely curtailing women’s reproductive rights, we definitely need fire lighting the way.

We got that and more with the synagogue’s Hanukkah party on the first night of Hanukkah. With limited lumens, we didn’t threaten to burn down the synagogue, but we lit up faces and hearts and the Zabner family’s latkes were delicious! 60

people of all ages came, ate, drank and sang. The kids danced to the Rabbi’s rendition of Sevivon Sov Sov Sov – yes, we masked when we were not seated and eating, but it was wonderful to gather again.

Thank you to the social and ritual committees and their members, led by Kineret Zabner and David Lubaroff respectively, for organizing the party and making it reality. Thanks to the regathering committee for helping us with COVID safety protocols. Thank you to everyone who responded to my emails bugging you for pictures of your vaccine cards. Thanks to Joanne Margolin for opening the shop during the party.

And thank you to everyone who responded and showed up. We all need light to banish the darkness – or at least lift it a little.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

See if you can guess who this photo is! The name is on page 7.





Hanukkah Party Pictures



## SADIE BODZIN BAT MITZVAH

Please join us for the bat mitzvah of

### **Sadie Avital Young Bodzin**

Saturday, December 11

Sign up as normal or join at the usual Zoom link  
(see weekly email for details).

Sadie is also doing a bat mitzvah project that involves donating personal care items to the Coralville Food Pantry. See below for details.

[Donate online at this link.](#)



*Sadie Bodzin  
bat mitzvah project*

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS  
(SHAMPOO, SOAP  
TOOTHPASTE, DEODORANT  
FEMINE HYGIENE PRODUCTS)

*for the*

coralville community  
FOOD PANTRY

donate online  
<https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/sadies-bat-mitzvah-project>

The poster features a dark blue background with yellow and teal decorative elements. It includes a list of personal care items to be donated, the Coralville Community Food Pantry logo, and a link to donate online.

## SHABBAT AND FESTIVAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

[Streaming link for all Shabbat services on Zoom](#); [click here](#) to sign up for in person attendance

<b>Miketz</b>	Friday, December 3	7:00 p.m.	Lev Shalem (Conservative)
<i>(Genesis 41:1-44:17; Numbers 28:9-15; Numbers 7:42-47)</i>	Saturday, December 4	9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah (Reform)
<b>Vayigash</b>	Friday, December 10	7:00 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
<i>(Genesis 44:18-47:27)</i>	Saturday, December 11	9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem
<b>Vayechi</b>	Friday, December 17	7:00 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
<i>(Genesis 47:28-50:26)</i>	Saturday, December 18	9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem
<b>Shemot</b>	Friday, December 24	7:00 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
<i>(Exodus 1:1-6:1)</i>	Saturday, December 25	9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem

## SCHOOL NEWS

*Sonja Spear*

What do pumpkins and pirates have in common?  
No, not the letter P – New World trade and Jews.

In December, the school turns to the B'khol Lashon (In Every Language) curriculum, which introduces the students to the global diversity of Jewish communities. We will learn about the expulsion from Spain, the Sephardic diaspora, and the arrival of Jews in the Caribbean – including Jewish pirates. Yes, some Jews turned their talents to harassing the Spanish as often as they could. A man named Sinan Reis, known to the Spanish as “Sinan the Jew” was the second in command to the famous pirate Barbarosa.

We are using the tales of pirates to capture the students’ imagination. But, in the end, we will set up a complex story of expulsion, colonialism, and trade.

The B-Mitzvah class has been working hard on educational games for the rest of the school to play on the last day of the semester. They have written questions, created a game board on the classroom floors, and strung up lights even written clues in invisible ink. Behind all the fun, we are preparing to younger kids to absorb more information about the Spanish diaspora when they reach the same age as the B-Mitzvah. Meanwhile, the B-Mitzvah have the opportunity to be leaders in the school.

All of that brings me, in a round about way, to pumpkins. The B-Mitzvah wanted a slightly more cheerful slice of history for the “little kids.” They found that Jews were both early traders in pumpkins, a New World crop, and early adopters of the new food in Europe. It’s a complex story that goes from pirates to pumpkins, but I hope that the kids remember it every time they slice a pumpkin pie at Thanksgiving.

## WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP

The Book Group will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, December 22 at 1:00 p.m.  
Please contact the office for more information.

## 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, December 15 at 12:30 p.m. via  
Zoom. For more information,  
[contact Martha Lubaroff](#).

## DECEMBER YAHRZEITS

Kenneth Allweiss	Leah Halle	Nathan Rodnitzky
M. David Allweiss	Ilene Holbrook	Belle Rosenbaum
Mildred Bar	Louis Landweber	Gertrude M. Rosenbaum
Deanna Boyers	Ellen Leer	Judy Rosenstein
Jesse Boyers	Sam Levey	Joyce Schiller
Aaron Braverman	Esther Levy	Mel Schneider
Kent Braverman	Max Levy	Toby Schuman
William Brenner	Pinchas Levy	David Silversteen
Betty Brodsky	Robert C. Levy	Irene Simon
William Chazanoff	Henry Magaziner	William Simon
Jacob Haravon Collins	Betty Mangers	Richard Smith
Ethel Corwin	Lillian Margolin	Belle Strauss
Anna Lea Dvoretzky	Zisi Leib Mazur	Sim Strauss
Sari Goldstein	David Gray McClean	Susan Strauss
Barbara Goodsell	Waverly C. Ormond	Isadore Tepper
Lewis Goodsell	Rebecca Markovitz Posner	Larry Tepper
Janet Gussin	Gladys Ehrenreich Pruchno	Nathan David Zabner
George Elisha Hall	Ann Rodnitzky	Morris L. Ziskind

## BLAST FROM THE PAST NAME

The picture on page 3 is Bob Brenner.

## WARM UP AMERICA

Warm Up America will meet on Sunday, December 5. We'll be masked and vacc'd per synagogue policy, from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the board room. After Sunday, we'll take a winter break, then meet on January 9, January 23, February 6, and February 20, 2022.

As part of a new shall-wide initiative, we're welcoming seniors who would like to join us, just to sit and schmooze or maybe to refresh knitting/crocheting/crohooking skills. We'd also like to try helping with their transport. If you know someone who might enjoy joining us or aiding their travel, please share this info. If you're interested in the senior initiatives, contact Esther Retish. [eretish@gmail.com](mailto:eretish@gmail.com)

We thank a woman, in Lisbon, IA, who heard about Warm Up America and donated her synthetic yarn collection.

Happy Chanukah.

Therese Guedon, Jeanne Cadoret, Jeanne Abrons



## DECEMBER 2021

Fri	3	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM	Thur	16	Board Meeting	7:00 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	7:00 PM
Sun	5	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM	Sat	18	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
		Sunday School	9:15 AM	Sun	19	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM
		<b>Mahjong &amp; Pizza Party</b>	5:00 PM	Mon	20	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
Mon	6	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM			Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM
		Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM	Wed	22	Free Lunch	11:30 AM
Thur	9	Exec Meeting	5:30 PM			Book Group	1:00 PM
Fri	10	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM	Fri	24	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
		<b>Sadie Bodzin Bat Mitzvah</b>	7:00 PM			Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM
		Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM			Shabbat Evening Services	7:00 PM
		Shabbat Evening Services	7:00 PM	Sat	25	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
Sat	11	<b>Sadie Bodzin Bat Mitzvah</b>	9:30 AM	Sun	26	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM
		Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM	Mon	27	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
Sun	12	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM			Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM
		Sunday School	9:15 AM	Fri	31	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
Mon	13	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM			Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM
		Tea Time Check-In	4:00 PM			Shabbat Evening Services	7:00 PM
Wed	15	Bereavement Group	12:30 PM				
		Ritual Committee	7:30 PM				



**STAFF**

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

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