



Agudas Achim Congregation

401 E. Oakdale Blvd., Coralville, IA 52241

Phone: 319-337-3813

www.AgudasAchimIC.org

March 2022 / Adar I-Adar II 5782

FROM THE RABBI

Esther Hugenholtz

I never thought I'd write these words, but I am currently praying for three of my Ukrainian rabbinic colleagues who are trying to stay alive. Two of them have managed to make it across the Ukraine border, including walking through freezing temperatures for hours at night. One of them is sheltering in a bomb shelter in Kyiv. All three are gifted, kind-hearted, liberal-minded Reform rabbis who I got to know through my time at Leo Baeck College (my rabbinical school in London). I have and continue to follow their ordeal on social media where they post text, photos and videos of all they are contending with.

War in Europe. As a European immigrant to the United States, I never thought that I would be here and there would be war on the continent of my birth; the very scourge my post-war generation has been raised up to prevent for decades. I saw the steady march of European integration. I was a child when the European Economic Community formed; a teenager when we adopted the blue banner with twelve gold stars as part of the European Union. I was a young woman when we exchanged our guilders for euros. I have, many times, experienced the joys of traveling across Schengen-territory; marveled at borders falling away. I resettled in England in 2010 without a care for my European status, not knowing that a mere decade later, that same country would leave the EU. All these events are of historical proportions and have shifted the political plate tectonics of our world. And then to

think that now, in the streets of Kyiv and other cities, there is war. It is unfathomable.

The universalist humanitarian angle intersects with a unique Jewish angle. In our American Jewish community, many Jews (though, significantly, not all—and that is important to remember too) can draw on Eastern European heritage. I, too, watched 'Everything is Illuminated' years ago. The lines binding the generations of many American Jews to Ukraine are surprisingly, shockingly short. This unprovoked war against a nation with a brave and resilient Jewish president, has affected many in our community deeply.

I refer you to our own President Janice Weiner's column for more context on Ukraine; she is far more knowledgeable in the geopolitical and historical context of that region than I am. She also offers concrete steps we can take as Jews and as a congregation to offer support to the people of Ukraine. I will also amplify her call to build our own community. In an unsettling world, the value of 'kehillah', community, is more important than ever. It anchors us; reminds us of our core values, soothes us through the bonds of friendship and solidarity and helps us share our common story and destiny. Kehillah, community, allows us to tap into the reserves of empathy and compassion that we need to navigate crisis and bring peace. It seems like such a little thing, here in quiet and peaceful Iowa City, at our small congregation. Never

(Continued on page 2)

FROM THE RABBI

Esther Hugenholtz (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

underestimate the impact of our ability to change lives and transform consciousness.

This last Sunday, as Ukraine was weighing heavily on our hearts, our Principal Sonja Spear and myself took the B-Mitzvah students and their parents to the new Anne Frank exhibition in the Old Capitol Museum. Due to my own Dutch background, I was able to provide a little extra depth to Anne's story as we looked at the beautifully-designed panels that describe her life and its tragic circumstances. It was incredibly moving and felt like a privilege to be able to convey her story - including her creativity, resilience and defiance - to a new generation of Jewish teenagers. As many of you know, there will be the Anne Frank Sapling planting on April 29th in Iowa City and an extensive roll-out of activities, discussions and forums that will take place in honor of this momentous event. Please check out the Bulletin for more information.

Community is there to provide an anchor for both the whimsical and wise. This Sunday we have our Purim Carnival coming up - our first major in-person event since Hanukkah. There will be games, treats, a hamantaschen bakesale (proceeds will go to support the people in Ukraine), a food bank donation point, a Sisterhood Giftshop sale, a Purim

spiel, a fancy dress occasion and last but not least: a petting zoo. Did I say 'petting zoo'? Yes I did. Bring cash, good spirits and a love for our furry friends.

Further down the line, we have other Purim celebrations and of course, Pesach. Parallel to these ritual events, we have a flourishing Adult Education program. We kicked off the season wonderfully in February and we will still be going strong in March, including programming from Lyz Lenz and our own Nina Weinstein (Barragan). The purpose of Adult Education is not just to provide information but also for us as a community to explore our values and moral orientation. Learning - *limmud* in Hebrew - is never disconnected from *mussar*, the honing of the human spirit. The Introduction to Judaism program is back on track and we are looking towards other community initiatives to break bread again with each other. The synagogue has reopened to hybrid worship and of course, there is a very special service with the Zabner Torah at Joseph and Kineret Zabner's house. (Slots are now fully occupied but there will also be a Zoom livestream).

All in all, this is shaping up (please God!) to be an engaging, action-packed spring with opportunities for in-person connection, community building, learning, worship and ritual. I am yearning to see your faces again. Our doors are open!

NACHAS

Congratulations to **Susan Lutgendorf**, professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, who was selected as a fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) for distinguished contributions to the field of behavioral science of cancer.

In December 2021, after more than ten years as Director of the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Occupational Medicine, **Joseph Zabner**, MD, stepped down from the role. Wishing Dr. Joseph Zabner mazal tov on attaining this milestone and wishing him every success in his future endeavors.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Janice Weiner

It is one thing to live in “interesting times”. It is quite another – exhausting, in fact - to live in unrelentingly “interesting times”.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine dredges up difficult memories for many, especially in the Jewish world. Babi Yar, a ravine outside of Kyiv – where over 33,000 Jews were murdered in 1941 – was one of the deadliest massacres of the Holocaust. Yet Russian president Putin has termed his unprovoked actions against Ukraine “de-Nazification.” And to have a Jewish president descended from a Holocaust survivor standing up to a dictator out to annihilate him and others is not the narrative anyone would have believed even a few years ago.

Maybe – just maybe – this can be turning point. The somnolent Eastern European countries – many of which have been sliding toward autocracy themselves – have been jolted awake and reminded what it was like to live under the then-Soviet yoke. They have recalled why they and their people were so anxious to not only be freed from the East Bloc but to join western institutions – the EU and NATO – just over 30 years ago. Whether the Berlin Wall, the Velvet Revolution, or the bloodshed in Romania, they literally risked their lives for the freedoms they enjoy today – freedoms which have been squelched in today’s Russia. Once colonized and used, they have snapped back to the realization that if it can happen to Ukraine, it can happen to them again. This threat to the right to self-determination has unified the west and many non-western allies alike. It has also done what often happens in times of upheaval – it has sped up history. Decisions that may affect this world for decades to come are being made with lightning speed.

It is not unalloyed. There is death and destruction in Ukraine, young Russian soldiers are dying -and

though Europe has opened its borders to a stream of refugees, we are seeing racism raise its head as the Africans who were in Ukraine are not receiving the same warm welcome. But it is an important start.

What does this have to do with us? Why should we care? I hope it has made us all cognizant of how fortunate we are to live at peace; to be able to put our children and grandchildren to bed without

I hope it has made us all cognizant of how fortunate we are to live at peace; to be able to put our children and grandchildren to bed without worrying about air raid sirens and bomb shelters.

worrying about air raid sirens and bomb shelters. We can elect our leaders, disagree with them, speak freely, and assemble freely. While we are security conscious, we have the freedom to worship and come together. We can and should gather in community and cherish our ability to do so. We have

many opportunities coming up – whether through Purim, Pesach, adult education or hybrid services, as well as other activities – to come together, support each other and build community. Remember this each day even as we watch a conflict that draws on generations of memories for many. One journalist posted on Twitter about the safest car route to Lviv – and I realized he had driven through the hometowns of three of my grandparents. Jewish geography is everywhere, including the new geography we create right here.

If you wish to donate, you can do so through the World Union for Progressive Judaism (<http://wupj.org>), the Joint Distribution Committee (www.jdc.org) or other Jewish Organizations which have set up special funds.

I think it is fair to say that we all hope and pray for President Zelinsky and his family that they can sit at a seder next month – next month in Kyiv – this one time, Jerusalem can wait. In the meantime, please hug your kids and your loved ones.

WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP

The Book Group will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, March 23 at 1:00 p.m. [Contact the office](#) for more information.

DONATIONS

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Ray & Lindy Buch: In memory of Elizabeth Buch
Miriam Gelfand: bequest from Miriam Gelfand estate

Leonard Sandler & Lucy David: In memory of Gertrude Sandler and Sam Sandler

David Skorton & Robin Davisson: In memory of Sam Skorton

CEMETERY FUND

Lorraine Dorfman: In memory of Sara Dorfman

Stanley & Jane Zukin: In memory of Lama Shetzer

GENERAL FUND

Richard & Phyllis Braverman: In memory of Goldene Haendel

Gary & Cathy Cohn: In memory of Donald Cohn

Miriam Gelfand: bequest from Miriam Gelfand estate

Kathleen Jacobs

GINSBERG YOUTH FUND

Mark & Vickie Ginsberg: In memory of Rose Lee Pomerantz

LIBRARY FUND

Nancy Hammerman & Peter Cowen: In memory of Miriam J. Gelfand

Jonathan & Susan Simon: In memory of Miriam Gelfand

SAFETY FUND

Sanctuary Community Church

YIDDISH STUDY GROUP

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

WARM UP AMERICA

Warm Up America knits, crochets, and assembles afghans for those who might appreciate added physical or emotional warmth. In April, we delivered 6 afghans to Shelter House.

We will be meeting on Sundays, March 6 & 20, April 3 & 17, 2022, 10:30 a.m. to noon, masked and vacc'd per shull policy, in the Braverman Room.

We have members from the community as well as the synagogue.

Please consider joining us, and bringing a friend. Schmoozers are welcome.



MEETING WITH RABBI HUGENHOLTZ

[We've set up a Calendly link here](#) for setting up meetings automatically with Rabbi Hugenholtz. We are reserving Wednesday and Thursday from 4-6 for B-Mitzvah meetings specifically, but feel free to schedule a meeting with her if you'd like.

Anne Frank Tree Planting Ceremony

April 29, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

University of Iowa Pentacrest lawn,
in front of Macbride Hall (Iowa City)

Registration is appreciated:



2021-22

The Anne Frank Tree: Taking Root in Iowa

Anne Frank Sapling Prize: A Writing Contest for Junior High & High School Students

The Iowa Youth Writing Project is hosting a world-wide writing contest for junior high and high school students inspired by Anne Frank and her legacy. Writers are asked to respond to the following prompt in essay or poem form: *Write about a time when you felt isolated or trapped. How did you work through that time, and what did you learn from the experience?*

Guidelines and submission information:
iypw.org/writing-contest



Contest winners and honorable mentions will be published in a professionally designed anthology. Some winners will be selected to read at the planting of the sapling on April 29, 2022.

Deadline: February 27, 2022, 11:59 p.m.

On April 29, 2022, a sapling will be planted on the University of Iowa's main campus. This isn't any tree—it's a horse chestnut propagated from the immense tree that grew behind the annex where Anne Frank hid during World War II. Frank made several mentions of the tree in her famous diary. **All Iowans are invited to join the celebration of this living memorial.** In an event featuring live music, spoken-word performance, blessings, and talks, we will honor Anne's spirit and humanitarian message.

View the schedule and learn about how Dr. Kirsten Kumpf Baele brought the tree to Iowa at uiannefranktree.com.

Co-sponsored by the Anne Frank Center USA, Iowa Youth Writing Project, Iowa Hillel, Agudas Achim Synagogue, Blank & McCune, Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature, MidwestOne Bank, Shive Hattery, Inc., and multiple UI offices

IOWA



Join us for
Shabbat.



Share Shabbat!

Shabbat dinner in members' homes

Friday, May 13, 2022

Shabbat is a time to pause, to celebrate, to light candles and to bless a few things with friends and family. In this spirit, we happily announce our third *Share Shabbat*. Participants will be matched up to celebrate Shabbat in each other's homes over a meal. Spend time with old friends and make new ones...in other words, *Share Shabbat*. Don't be shy. Remember Will Rogers' line "A stranger is a friend I haven't met yet."

How to Share Shabbat? It's easy!

1. Return the form below to the synagogue if you are fully vaccinated.
Email to: rsvp@agudasachimic.org
2. Hosts and guests will be matched according to interests and dietary restrictions.
3. Enjoy a relaxing delicious Shabbat dinner with friends, old & new!

I Would like to be: ___ Host ___ Guest ___ Either

Hosts:

Can host ___ (number of people) in
my/our home

Happy to host children (age range):

Observe the following dietary restrictions: _____

I Have these pets: _____

Guests:

___ (number of) family members will
participate

Number of children _____

Ages of children _____

Have the following dietary restrictions: _____

Allergic to these pets: _____

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

YOU MAY CONTACT THE SYNAGOGUE BY PHONE OR EMAIL TO CHECK IF REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN. WE WANT TO ACCOMMODATE AS MANY PARTICIPANTS AS POSSIBLE. HELP WILL BE AVAILABLE WHEN WE MATCH YOU.

Email to: rsvp@agudasachimic.org

Phone: 319-337-3813

ANNE FRANK SAPLING PROJECT EVENTS

This is the spring schedule of events for the Anne Frank Sapling project. This project carries enormous symbolic weight for the Iowa City/Coralville Jewish community.

For more information, including Zoom links, timings and descriptions of each event, see:

<https://uiannefranktree.com/spring-2022/>

***Let Me Be Myself* exhibit**

at the UI Old Capitol Museum and around the state

February 28–March 2, 2022

Provost's Global Forum: Teaching Anne Frank

March 1, 2022

Women's History Month Lecture by Jeannette Gabriel: "Welcoming the Immigrants: Refugee Resettlement in Jewish Iowa"

4:30–6:30 p.m.

Iowa City Public Library, Meeting Room A

Also March 1, 2022

***In Line for Anne Frank* Film Screening**

7:00 p.m.

FilmScene at the Chauncey

March 9, 2022

Exhibition Spotlight: Part 2

The Diary within the Context of Children's Literature

12:00–1:00 p.m. CST

Virtual event; [register for Zoom link](#)

April 29, 2022

Tree Planting Ceremony

5:00 p.m. CST

University of Iowa Pentacrest

GIFT SHOP NEWS

Joanne Margolin

WE'RE HAVING A GIFT SHOP INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE!

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 9:30-1:00

The internet has given synagogue gift shops throughout the country stiff competition, and many of them have closed completely, along with many of the large wholesale companies that I've done business with over the years. We intend to keep our gift shop open but in a 'slimmed down' form. To that end, we're going to have a sale so we can reduce our inventory and focus on the essentials, as well as always being happy to help you with special requests. The sale will coincide with the Purim Carnival and Bake Sale that will be held on Sunday, March 6th. Most items, with the exception of the tallisim, candles, some menorahs, the haggadot, and a few other things, will be priced close to 50% off. Jewelry is included in that, too. Cards will go for a song (I'd be happy to hear you sing one!), and we can also play "Let's Make A Deal" for some other things. Passover is right around the corner and we have several seder plates, matza covers, kiddush cups, and candlesticks available for you to check out. I'll look forward to seeing you there!

Joanne Margolin

irmargolin@gmail.com or 319-351-2181

UGANDA'S 'PEOPLE OF JUDAH,' THE ABAYUDAYA

Frank Salomon

Sundown on a Friday in Uganda: on a leafy hill near the Equator, hundreds of people conversing in Bantu languages converge on the synagogue of the 'People of Judah.' As afternoon declines, they stop for a shower and a snack at the shul's hospitality area.

Meanwhile Rabbi Gershom Sizomu kisses his tallis and greets the congregants and guests, including my wife Mercedes and me. A lithe young man embraces the tall *ngoma* drum between his knees, smiling from the front row. Women with snowy headscarves or bright-beaded hair extensions sit to one side of an imaginary *mehitza*, while men in fresh white shirts greet their friends on the other. The sun sinks. Battered *Sim Shalom* siddurim pass hand to hand, together with laminated prayer sheets in Luganda. Soon, with a deep breath, Rabbi Sizomu signals to let loose a drum-powered *Mi khamokha*. I imagine the Sabbath bride's heart



Rabbi Gershom Sizomu, Jan. 5, 2022, Mbale

speeding as she moves across east Africa. I know mine did.

How did there come to be several thousand Jews in Mbale district, so far from the capital city of Kampala and from the familiar poles of Jewish life? Uganda's Judaism and its flourishing shul grew from the region's own gradual coalescence around the Torah more than a century ago.

The Abayudaya story begins with the precolonial Empire of Buganda.

Perhaps 500 years ago, the Baganda people of the Kampala area formed an expansive kingdom. Their fleet of war canoes on Lake Victoria, like Viking long boats, overpowered neighboring lakeside populations. Their army conquered other Bantu peoples across the fertile midlands. By the time the British Empire got interested in Uganda, in the 1840's, the British had to make a deal with the powerful king Kabaka Mutesa I: Buganda would rule with imperial support, in exchange for fighting imperial wars.

When the young Semei Kakulungu (born 1869) reached manhood, there were plenty to fight. Although not of royal lineage, the young warrior led Baganda against Arab slave and ivory traders, and subdued rival northern states. He defended English-sponsored Protestant missions against Catholic Italian clergy expanding in the north. But the Kabaka denied Kakulungu the royal reward he expected, and the Protestant authorities annoyed him with un-African demands. Indignant, Kakulungu deserted to the Malakites, a dissident Afro-Christian church. In 1919 the Malakites frustrated him once more by prohibiting circumcision, which was and is a widespread African practice: "Circumcision is just for Jews," they told him.

"Then I am a Jew!" retorted Kakulungu. And he meant it. He got circumcised, and circumcised his sons. In the Mbale area to which Britain and the

(Continued on page 9)

UGANDA'S 'PEOPLE OF JUDAH,' THE ABAYUDAYA

Frank Salomon (Cont.)

(Continued from page 8)

Kabaka relegated him, he built a home-made version of a Jewish community. He was guided only by the "Old Testament," without his ever meeting a single Jew from the world beyond Uganda. In 1926 he happened to meet one "Joseph," a Jew (apparently from India). Kakulungu invited him to the budding town of Mbale, where Joseph taught Kakulungu's people prayers, kashrut, and slaughter. Kakulungu always sought out Jewish accidental visitors – a railroad foreman, a hydraulic builder – who continued to clarify Judaism. Unfortunately Kakulungu had acquired from the Malakites an anti-vax doctrine, and in 1928 it cost him his life.

Abayudaya struggled on under leadership confusion. But in 1962 an Israeli, Arye Oded, sympathized, and he helped greatly to connect Abayudaya with the wider Jewish world.

The dictator Idi Amin (1971-1979) outlawed Judaism. Abayudaya then suffered a time of clandestinity, worshiping in caves. After the Tanzanian army overthrew Amin, however Abayudaya began to prosper. Some Conservative Jews in the USA made important contributions, so much so that Abayudaya has been able to build its handsome modern Stern Synagogue and maintain a full K-12 school system. Rabbi Gershom Sizomu took the bimah, fusing his learning from the University of Judaism in Los Angeles with the

powerful traditions of musical devotion and African multilingualism. In 2003, under Sizomu's leadership, Abayudaya's long struggle to gain recognition in Israel began.

In December of 2021 my wife and I were departing for Mbale. It was a family trip: my son Abraham has lived there for eleven years, and he was about to marry a Ugandan woman, Agnes Lotukei in her hometown (which is far from Mbale). Just as we were boarding the plane, we read a Haaretz report that the Abayudaya had again been turned away. We went anyway.

The wedding was the simcha of our lives. Afterwards, back in Mbale, it was also a golden chance to connect with a whole new kind of Jewish life. Our Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz had learned about the electrifying force of African Judaism. In fact, she had met Rabbi Sizomu just as she was beginning her course of rabbinic studies, coinciding with the very day Sizomu was graduating. It was my honor to meet Rabbi Sizomu with a letter from Rabbi Hugenholtz and a gift from Agudas Achim in my hand. From the bimah he thanked us warmly.

Anyone who hears the Smithsonian's superb recordings titled "[Abayudaya: Music from the Jewish People of Uganda](#)" will also feel that charge of a powerful, vital Jewish life. We look forward to knowing the Abayudaya in admiration and fellowship.



Stern Synagogue, courtesy of BeChol Lashon



SUNDAY MARCH 6TH 2022
AT AGUDAS ACHIM SYNAGOGUE

.....

PURIM CARNIVAL

Everyone five and up must be vaccinated
(and masked) for the Purim carnival.



Petting Zoo! Purim Spiel!
Hamentashen! Fancy dress!

9:15-9:45 Sunday School (kids make costumes)

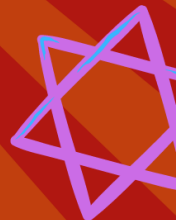
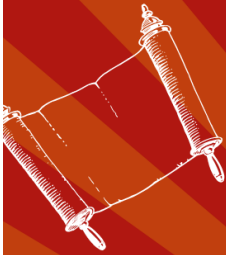
9:45-10:15 Spiel

10:15 - 12:15 Petting Zoo and games



Join the fun and bring a friend!

For info: principal@agudasachimic.org



OTHER PURIM EVENTS

Megillah Study Session

'What Would Esther Do?' - Purim study with Rabbi Hugenholtz

Wednesday, March 9, 7:00 p.m.

Megillah Reading

Wednesday, March 16, 7:00 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS

With the regathering of in-person activities at the synagogue, we are also opening the office more.
Walk-in hours will be:

Mondays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tuesdays 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

To make an office appointment for any other time between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday - Thursday, email secretary@agudasachimic.org or leave a message on the office phone for us to confirm a time to meet you.

MEMBER DIRECTORY

Members should have received a mailing for our annual updating of information for our member directory. We are implementing a new 'New Member' form and accompanying letter that we hope you all will take a few minutes to fill out and return to help bring our database up to speed.

We are working on a digital version of this form for our website, but it is not yet ready for rollout there.

In the meantime, you can send an email to directory@agudasachimic.org to confirm or change your contact information. This address will be available throughout the year for you to notify us of any contact information changes. We hope to have the directories ready to send to print by **March 10**, so please let us know.

AGUDAS ACHIM CONGREGATION

401 E. Oakdale Blvd. , Coralville, IA 52241

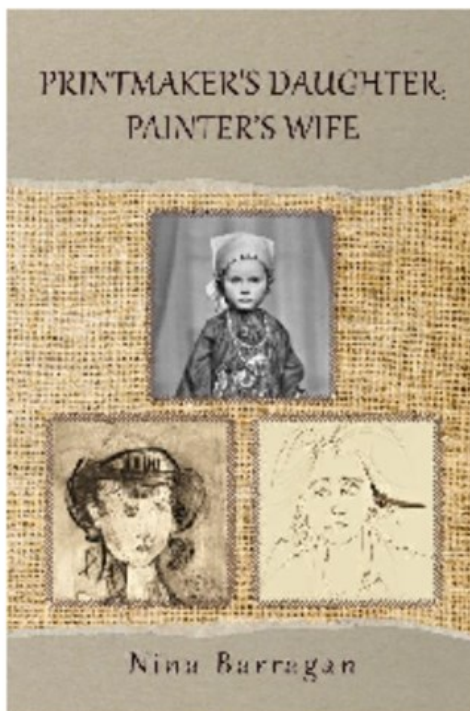
March 20, 2022

10:30 A.M.



Printmaker's Daughter, Painter's Wife

Nina Weinstein (pen name: Nina Barragan) will give a short reading from her forthcoming memoir, followed by discussion.



Advanced praise for *Printmaker's Daughter...*

Nina Barragan is not just a printmaker's daughter and a painter's wife, and her exquisite, intimate book is no mere memoir. Underneath the placidly ironic title, she explores the ways we sketch our illusions in life and fiction, as she takes her reader on a luminously insightful and captivating journey of a woman's self-scrutiny. Barragan is a quietly forceful writer, and her arresting tale teases strands of untamed memories into stories of displacement, erasure, duality, authenticity and the desire for transformation. This is the true art of writing: on the surface and deep underneath.

—Ksenija Bilbija, Professor,
Dept. of Spanish & Portuguese,
University of Wisconsin-Madison



Pre-order at Prairie Lights, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, etc.

SECOND PASSOVER SEDER

The synagogue will host the second Passover Seder on Saturday, April 16. More information and reservation information will be available as we approach the date.

TIKUN OLAM NEWS

Elliot Abrons

The Tikun Olam Committee will be conducting Agudas Achim's Purim Food drive in support of the CommUnity Crisis Services and Food Bank from March 1 through March 31, 2022.

Purim will be celebrated on the evening of March 16 (13th of Adar II) through March 17 (14th of Adar II). In the Megillah Mordechai enjoined the Jews to make the fourteenth day of the month of Adar a day of feasting and joy, sending portions one to another, and providing gifts to those in need.

CommUnity (<https://builtbycommunity.org>) provides immediate and non-judgmental support for individuals facing emotional, food, or financial crisis in Johnson County. Their top ten requests (in descending order as of 2/22/22) were:

Financial Donations, Hygiene Products, Toilet Paper, Canned Meat, Baby Diapers and Wipes, Baby Formula, Rice and Pasta, Hearty Soups and Stews,

Peanut Butter, and Laundry Detergent.

If you choose to make a financial donation, please send checks to Agudas Achim. Checks may be made out to CommUnity or to Agudas Achim with the memo noting that it is for the CommUnity Food Drive. At the end of the drive all donations will be sent to CommUnity.

If you choose to donate items like those listed above, they may be dropped at any of the in-person Purim celebrations. For other drop off times please e-mail secretary@agudasachimic.org or administrator@agudasachimic.org or call (319) 337-3813 to learn when there will be someone in the building to accept your donations.

Please note that masks must be worn at all times while in the synagogue when staff personnel are present.

We thank you in advance for supporting this drive.

LYZ LENZ TALK

Lyz Lenz on the Charlottesville Trial

Sunday, April 3, 10:30 a.m. at Agudas Achim

Lyz's writing has appeared in the Huffington Post, The Washington Post, the Columbia Journalism Review, The New York Times, Pacific Standard, and others. Her book [*God Land*](#) was published in 2019, through Indiana University Press. Her second book *Belabored*, was published in 2020 by Bold Type Books. Lyz's essay "All the Angry Women" was also included in the anthology [*Not that Bad*](#) edited by Roxane Gay. Her third book, *This American Ex Wife*, will be published by Crown.

Lyz received her MFA in creative writing from Lesley University. She lives in Iowa with her two kids and two dogs and one cat. She writes a regular newsletter, [*Men Yell At Me*](#), where she explores the intersection of politics and our bodies in red state America.



SCHOOL NEWS

Sonja Spear

We are about to spring into March, in person! Sunday School will begin on March 6th and follow its posted schedule through May. Let's hope that we can stay indoors and in person all that time.

Purim is all about turning the world upside down. So, in sense, the last two years have felt like one long Purim – only, not in a fun way. Sunday school over Zoom (Haman's idea, maybe?), Sunday school in a tent, Sunday school in the Social Hall. We've done it all in an effort to keep the Sunday School together. I moved my B-Mitzvah tutoring completely to zoom. Zoom provided certain advantages, of course. We could meet at the student's convenience, and you just can't beat the commute! But it is very difficult to learn to chant a prayer while the sound cuts in and out. I admire all of my students for sticking with it.

While the building was closed in February, we convened outside for short, fun play sessions in the snow. The kids drank cocoa and built friendships, which will be the foundation for learning when we are back in person. Keeping the social in "social distance" hasn't always been easy. But whenever I see "my" kids, over zoom, on the streets, or in the synagogue, I am so glad that we did everything we could to keep them safe.

Once we are back indoors and in person, we will find it easier to focus on Hebrew and the holidays. I am looking forward discussing Passover as a celebration of the journey from restriction to freedom. It will be fun to run the kids through special holiday vocabulary. We may even manage a charoset tasting! Once Passover is over, we will prepare the kids to help lead a family-friendly Shabbat service at the rabbi's house in May.

But before we turn to serious matters, we will enjoy a petting zoo, games, and treats at the Purim carnival. Also, we will smash a couple of COVID piñatas. Purim is meant to be cathartic, after all, and do we ever have frustrations! I hope to see you all there.

SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE

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

Pekudei <i>(Exodus 38:21-40:38)</i>	Friday, March 4	7:00 p.m.	Lev Shalem (Conservative)
	Saturday, March 5	9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah (Reform)
Vayikra <i>(Leviticus 1:1-5:26; Deuteronomy 25:17-19)</i>	Friday, March 11	7:00 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
	Saturday, March 12	9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem
Tzav <i>(Leviticus 6:1-8:36)</i>	Friday, March 18	7:00 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
	Saturday, March 19	9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem
Shemini <i>(Leviticus 9:1-11:47; Numbers 19:1-22)</i>	Friday, March 25	7:00 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
	Saturday, March 26	9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem

MARCH 2022

Fri	4	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM	Sat	19	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
		Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM	Sun	20	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM
		Shabbat Evening Services	7:00 PM			Nina Weinstein book presentation	10:30 AM
Sat	5	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM			Warm-Up America	10:30 AM
Sun	6	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM	Mon	21	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
		Sunday School	9:15 AM			Tea Time Check-In	2:30 PM
		GIFT SHOP SALE	9:30 AM			Intro to Judaism	7:30 PM
		PURIM! Carnival, Petting Zoo, Bake Sale, Pinatas, Costumes	10:00 AM	Wed	23	Free Lunch	11:30 AM
		Warm-Up America	10:30 AM			Book Group	1:00 PM
Mon	7	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM	Thur	24	Board Meeting	7:00 PM
		Tea Time Check-In	2:30 PM	Fri	25	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
		Intro to Judaism	7:30 PM			Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM
Wed	9	Megillah Study with Rabbi: What Would Esther Do?	7:00 PM			Shabbat Evening Services	7:00 PM
Thur	10	Exec Meeting	5:30 PM	Sat	26	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
Fri	11	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM	Sun	27	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM
		Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM			Sunday School	9:15 AM
		Shabbat Evening Services	7:00 PM			Early Keyboard Society Concert: Corina Marti	3:00 PM
Sat	12	Shabbat Service from Zabner Home	9:30 AM	Mon	28	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
Sun	13	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM			Tea Time Check-In	2:30 PM
Mon	14	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM			Intro to Judaism	7:30 PM
		Tea Time Check-In	2:30 PM	SAVE THE DATE!			
Tues	15	Ritual Committee	8:30 PM	Fri-Sat, April 1-2 Naomi Hemley Bat Mitzvah			
Wed	16	Megillah Reading	7:00 PM	Sun	4/3	Lyz Lenz Adult Ed Presentation	10:30 AM
Fri	18	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM	Sat	4/16	Second Seder Dinner	
		Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM				
		Shabbat Evening Services	7:00 PM				

EARLY KEYBOARD SOCIETY CONCERT

Iowa City Early Keyboard Society Presents:

CAPTURING THE CLAVISIMBALUM (MUSIC IN EUROPE FROM 1270 – 1500)

Corina Marti, clavisimbalum

Sunday, March 27, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

Agudas Achim Synagogue

This concert is free to the public.



SHELTER HOUSE BOOK SALE

The Shelter House Book Sale will be on March 26 and March 27 from 10:30-4 at the Old Antique Car Museum on 860 Quarry Road in Coralville. Admission is free, but if you donate \$10 you can get in 30 minutes early and preview the sale.

There are several ways you can help with the book sale. You can drop off books, CDs, records or puzzles at the Antique Car Museum from February 14- March 23. Donations are accepted on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10-2 and on Sundays from 2-4. Also you can volunteer to help at the book sale on both days at various times. Volunteers are greatly appreciated. They need volunteers in the weeks before the sale for help with organizing donations and setting up for the event. They need volunteers during the sale and after for tear down. If you have any questions you can contact T'Shailyn Harrington either on her phone (319) 338- 5416 or on her mobile number (319) 471-1997.

Come support a worthy organization that helps provide shelter for people who need a home. The Tikun Olam committee thanks you in advance for supporting this event.

MARCH YAHRZEITS

Max Berkowitz	Benjamin London	Mark Rothstein
Allen Buch	Anna Markovitz	Sam Sandler
Stanley Edwards	William Melton	Reuben Savin
Arthur Gross	Amanda Miller	Farel Schapira
Harriet Blakeslee Hall	Rabbi Elijah "Zeke" Palnick	Leo Schapira
William Herman	William Henry Picard	Sari Sprince
Benjamin B. Hertz	Lucile Potter	Sara Strauss
Dora Joseph	Joseph Prager	Eileen Wallace
Joseph Landweber	Ruth Rogers	Olive Wertz
Helen Leah Lison	Joseph Rose	Daniel Wolf

STAFF

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President	Janice Weiner	Adult Ed	Bennett Brown
President Elect	David Lubaroff	Social	Kineret Zabner
Vice President	Janelle Jaskolka	Tikun Olam	Elliot Abrons
Past President	Sue Weinberg	Ways & Means	Mindy Russell
Treasurer	Mindy Russell	Youth	Curtis Braverman
Board Secretary	Chuck Friedman	At Large 1	Esther Retish
Membership	Jane Zukin	At Large 2	Bob Wallace
Ritual	Rita Marcus	At Large 3	Samantha Goldish