



# AGUDAS ACHIM CONGREGATION

קהילת אגודת אחים

401 E. Oakdale Blvd. Coralville, Iowa 52241

[www.agudasachimic.org](http://www.agudasachimic.org) Phone (319) 337-3813

June 2022

**Esther Hugenholtz**  
Rabbi

**Janice Weiner**  
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Administrator

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**Jeffrey R. Portman**  
Rabbi Emeritus

Dear Congregational Family,

The mailing of the FairShare form has become an annual moment for synagogue leadership to reach out and ask for your support.

The last few FairShare letters have been accompanied with observations about the uncertain times we live in. This has, predictably, not changed. What has become increasingly clear is how essential community is. As our democratic and civic values are undermined on state and national levels, it is all the more important to build local sanctuaries of human connection, mutual support and ancestral wisdom.

The synagogue is much more than just a building. It is the vessel into which we pour the intention of sacred community. Community is a place where we commit to our values, help lighten each other's burden, come together for learning and spiritual renewal and build our better world, one step at a time. Community is also us building an incubator of democracy at the most immediate level via Tikkun Olam and our actions to uplift and support the larger community – by supporting the food banks, marching in Pride, planting daffodils and helping plant the Anne Frank sapling. Community is singing together, praying together and eating together. Community is caring for our elderly and fostering the dreams of our young. Community is a bulwark against the cruelties of our current age. When a person enters our synagogue - or the many off-site programs we offer - they find a spirit of welcome and kindness. We are able to achieve things locally that seem beyond our grasp on a larger scale: civil discussion and disagreement, proactive social support and personal growth. Our community is both unique and essential.

During the years of the pandemic, we have incurred challenges and losses. We have made many investments, including in technology, that have kept our community safe, accessible and inclusive. We have installed important safety upgrades in the wake of rising antisemitism. And we have

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endeavored to buffer ourselves against the financial challenges of inflation and economic turbulence.

Despite all that, we are running a deficit. We have reserves and at the same time, we want to ensure that our deficit does not interfere with our communal dreams and our mission of being the Jewish congregational center for our values now and for many years to come.

We humbly ask that you fill out your FairShare forms and contribute as generously as you can. Not only financial contributions are welcome; please consider contributing through your time (volunteering), presence (attending services and programs) and connection with fellow community members.

We need each other. Together, we light the candles that banish the darkness.

Shalom uv'racha, peace and blessing,

Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz

Janice Weiner,  
Board President

Mindy Russell,  
Treasurer

Enclosed: Fair Share Form

Authorization Form for Direct Debit or Credit Card Payments