



Agudas Achim Congregation

401 E. Oakdale Blvd., Coralville, IA 52241

Phone: 319-337-3813

www.AgudasAchimIC.org

August 2022 / Av-Elul 5782

FROM THE RABBI

Esther Hugenholtz

It 'only' took me (almost) five years, but during my vacation, my family and I finally had the opportunity to spend some time in Pella, Iowa. We booked a hotel, got lost on backroads through the cornfields and enjoyed pizza with Gouda cheese al fresco. (Never mind that no Dutch person would ever put Gouda on pizza, but now I'm just being a *nudnik*).

We explored the Historical District and the Windmill. I bought a Delfts Blue tea caddy (how could I not?) and we visited the *Jaarsma* Bakery, piled high with Dutch or Dutch-like treats; be it pastry, bread, baked goods or imported items from the Netherlands. I bought several bags of 'double-salty' liquorice and other delicacies. We enjoyed eating Dutch treats like 'poffertjes' (mini-pancakes slathered in butter and powdered sugar) and raw (yes, raw!) herring. It was really fun showing my kids a little bit of our family's heritage out here in the Midwest and to be somewhat mournful that we have failed to transmit to them a love of salty liquorice.

The visit made me reflect on the question of heritage and cultural transmission.

The Pella community was founded 175 years ago by 'Dominee' (Pastor) Scholte who broke away from the established Dutch Reformed Church and came to the Midwest with 800 of his followers looking for religious freedom and economic opportunity. To this day, Pella is a devoutly Christian community but apart from their closely guarded recipes for baked

goods, Tulip Time and other flourishes of Dutch heritage, they have lost touch with anything that is meaningfully Dutch; they have become thoroughly Americanized and have no real connection to the living, breathing culture of the Netherlands.

Please note that I am not intending to be prescriptive; only observational. Pella – and other immigration stories - provides us with a model of successful assimilation into the American story. My own children – who no longer speak Dutch – are interwoven into that story too. But I also couldn't help but contrast Pella with the cultural transmission of Judaism over thousands of years across oceans and continents.

This week, we will honor the day of Tisha b'Av, the fast of the Ninth of Av. Superficially, Tisha b'Av is about the destruction of both the First and Second Temples and a number of other calamities that have befallen our people. More profoundly, it is a day that memorializes trauma and creates a sacred vessel for holding the brokenness and pain in our world. But it is also a day that remembers a really important and paradoxical shift in Jewish history: as the Temple was burnt down by the Romans in 70 C.E., Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai was smuggled out of a smouldering Jerusalem, proclaiming, 'give me Yavneh and its Sages!' Like a phoenix from the ashes, Rabbinic Judaism – our Judaism – was born. Two thousand years later we keep our Judaism alive. Sure, through foodways (who doesn't like a good matzah ball or a sweet hamentash or a crisp

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FROM THE RABBI

Esther Hugenholtz (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

latke or a succulent slice of brisket?) but more importantly and enduringly, through our stories, values, religious and cultural practices. We are able to transmit because we take ownership of it; and because we refuse to let our Jewishness be reified or stultified; it doesn't belong in a museum or a gift shop; it is part of who we are.

Here's another paradox; each successive wave of trauma or calamity brings new insight and transformation (without wanting to minimize the deep pain and loss that is experienced by those who have undergone historical trauma).

Perhaps we are at another juncture of Jewish history, or at least here in the United States. What have these last traumatic, transformative years brought us? On the one hand, it is undeniable that we experience real loss and fear. Every Jewish community I have connected with during the pandemic shares the same story of tribulations. These are frightening and uncertain times. And at the same time (as we say in Hebrew, *gam v'gam*), our capacity for learning, for reimagining, for growth and compassion have widened. Just like one cannot step into the same river twice, we are not the same community. We are birthing something new.

The Rabbis teach that the *Mashiach*, the Messiah (or the Messianic Era) will be born on Tisha b'Av. We are entering a gentle, contemplative season, for some of us the tail end of a quiet summer; for others orienting ourselves towards the High Holiday season. This is the season where we think about taking ownership of our Judaism; of reflecting how we transmit it and imbue it not just with nostalgia, but with meaning. For each Jew, this will look different; but we share in the common bond of this calling and the structures of sacred community to make it so. What is a Jewish (or non-Jewish) goal you would like to set for the New Year? What is a

little piece of pain or loss that you would like to reflect on, and perhaps, heal? What is it about being Jewish that makes you feel joyful pride? What are you determined to pass onto the next generation or to shine into the world?

When I was in Pella, I visited a gift shop filled with what we Jews would call 'tchotchkes'. I like tchotchkes (within reason) and found myself browsing. I struck up a conversation with the kindly ladies behind the counter and told them that we are originally from the Netherlands. They noted that they still knew a lot of people of Dutch extraction but few held onto their language or culture. Then she shifted gears, pointing at the gold Star-of-David at my clavicle.

'Are you Jewish?' she asked with some wonder.

'Yes; my family and I are Jewish' I responded with quite some pride.

'That is wonderful!' She looked at me with some surprise and it reminded me that she might not have met many Jewish people in her life. I shared the experience with my kids and they predictably rolled their eyes with some degree of brimming snarkiness. To them, Judaism is so obvious and normal; the air they breathe and the water they swim with. We will face the vicissitudes of life, not alone, but together; with Jews all around the world. Whatever we endure next, this gives my heart great hope. It's good to be back!

Announcements

Please note that we will have a Tisha b'Av service on Saturday evening. Also please note that during the month of August, we will experiment with a number of different services to cater to different pandemic needs. Please check out the schedule further in this Bulletin.



Thank you to Myra and Michael Clark who donated and planted rosebushes in the daffodil area at the synagogue for when the daffodils are not in bloom. Before / After.

p.s. Myra is offering Pickleball lessons to anyone in the synagogue who is interested. She can be reached at mjcmc1941@hotmail.com. Myra was recently featured in a Gazette article you can find [here](#).



SCHOOL NEWS

Sonja Spear

As the temperatures soar, it's hard to believe that fall will ever come. But the beginning of school is just around the corner. Sunday School will begin on September 11th, just in time for the kids to prepare for Rosh Hashanah.

My hope and prayer for the new year is that we will be able to meet in our classrooms and that the school will not be derailed by a fresh outbreak of COVID or anything else. The last two years have sometimes been frustrating, sometimes joyous, but always a challenge. I was forced to experiment, for better or worse. I learned many things along the way, but the most important was the importance of shaping the school, including the parents and the students, into a supportive community.

With that in mind, we are reviving the Havurah as part of the School curriculum. The word "havurah," comes from the same root as *haver*, "friend." A havurah is a group of friends who get together to pray and to strengthen their bonds. A good havurah nurtures innovation, connection, and responsibility as participants learn to deepen their experience and practice of Judaism.

Our Havurah will include both parents and children in the religious school. The School Havurah will hold two meetings a semester, one on a Friday night and one on a Saturday morning. In the Havurah, kids (and their willing parents) will lead certain prayers as their abilities and confidence grow. Of course, we will also share delicious food! This is a *Jewish* Havurah, after all!

My hope is that the Havurah will form a warm and supportive community around the students as they become B-Mitzvah. The Havurah will provide a safe place to practice and a congregation of familiar faces at the B-Mitzvah ceremony itself. Busy parents will have a chance to relax, chat, and make friends.

So, here is my real hope for the new year: This year we will lay the foundations for a warm, caring, and joyous Jewish community that includes parents, teachers, and students. We will pray and laugh and have great conversations. If we do that, even meeting in a tent again (if we must) won't be too bad.

DONATIONS

GENERAL FUND

Jody & Janie Braverman: In memory of Morris Breggin and Robert Braverman

Kathleen Jacobs

Linda Kerber: In memory of Max Kerber

Irwin & Patricia Levin: In memory of Rose "Rae" Levin and Katherine Schor

Michael & Joanne Margolin: to help reduce the deficit

CEMETERY FUND

Ewa Bardach & Hani Elkadi: In memory of Yelena Laneeva Bardach

Linda Levey: In memory of Jack, Evelyn & Norman Madison

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Ray & Lindy Buch: In memory of Maurice Broad

Rody Gessner & Michelle Edwards: In memory of Florence Helen Gessner

Richard & Karen Lipman: In appreciation of shiva for Roslyn Klein

Steven & Debbie Singer: In memory of Joe Pava

Mel & Diane Sunshine: In memory of Kalman Sunshine

PORTMAN PROGRAM FUND

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

BRAVERMAN TALMUD TORAH FUND

Eloise McCuskey: In memory of David Pitzele

Betty Myers

EMBODYING ELUL: PSALM 27 AS YOGA PRACTICE

Psalm 27 is traditionally read each day during Elul, the Jewish lunar month preceding the High Holy Days. Join Yoga teacher and cantorial soloist Lea Haravon Collins as we engage in this ancient tradition with a new twist (literally!). In this five-session immersive experience, we will meet weekly during the month of Elul to explore the Psalm's themes of strength, comfort, gratitude, petitioning and waiting through text study and Yoga postures.

We will come away from each gathering with a simple movement practice which can be coupled with a daily reading of Psalm 27 or used as you like

to help you to prepare for the approaching Days of Awe.

No previous Yoga or Psalm-reading experience necessary! Join us for as many sessions as you like. Everyone, including and especially curious skeptics with tight hamstrings, is welcome.

Dates: Consecutive Sundays August 21 - September 18, from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Location: Agudas Achim Congregation, 401 E Oakdale Blvd.

Coralville

Bring: Yoga mat, large towel or blanket. A notebook for journaling is recommended but not necessary.

To register: rsvp@agudasachimic.org

For more information: leslea-collins@outlook.com

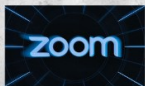
SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE

More information for this month on the following page. [Streaming link for Zoom Shabbat services](#)

Devarim <i>(Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22)</i>	Friday, August 5	7:00 p.m.	Zoom only: cozy Kabbalat Shabbat (Conservative)
	Saturday, August 6	9:30 a.m.	Mask-optional indoors at synagogue (Reform)
Vaetchanan <i>(Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11)</i>	Friday, August 12	7:00 p.m.	Outdoors on synagogue patio, tu b'av theme (Reform)
	Saturday, August 13	9:30 a.m.	Hybrid, masks required (Conservative)
Ekev <i>(Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25)</i>	Friday, August 19	7:00 p.m.	Hybrid, masks required (Reform)
	Saturday, August 20	9:30 a.m.	Zoom only: cozy Shacharit Shabbat (Conservative)
Re'eh <i>(Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17)</i>	Friday, August 26	7:00 p.m.	Outdoors at off-site location TBD (special service) (Reform)
	Saturday, August 27	9:30 a.m.	Hybrid, masks optional (Conservative)

Agudas Achim August Services

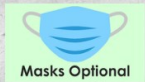
Recognizing our congregation's different needs and risk profiles during the pandemic, we are using the month of August as an experimental roll-out for different types of services. These different styles of worship and gathering will allow us to find a style that fits each of us best. We look forward to receiving your feedback.



Friday, August 5

Zoom only: cozy Kabbalat Shabbat
(at home or in your garden)

Conservative



Saturday, August 6

Mask-optional indoors at synagogue

Reform



Friday, August 12

Outdoors on synagogue patio,
connected to romantic Tu b'Av theme

Reform



Saturday, August 13

Hybrid, masks required

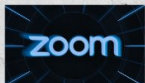
Conservative



Friday, August 19

Hybrid, masks required

Reform



Saturday, August 20

Zoom only: cozy Shacharit Shabbat (at
home or in your garden)

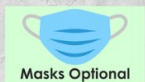
Conservative



Friday, August 26

Outdoors at off-site location TBD
(special service)

Reform



Saturday, August 27

Hybrid, masks optional

Conservative

WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP

The Book Group will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, August 24 at 1:00 p.m. [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.

MEMBER INFORMATION SURVEY

All services at Agudas Achim rely on members of the congregation to perform religious duties such as reading from the Torah or a Haftarah, performing the blessings before and after the Torah reading (Aliyah) as well as many other ways of participation. These duties rely on obtaining information about our members. Therefore, we wish to develop a database that will include this information. [Click here](#) to access a survey that will help the Rabbi, the Gabbai, and the ritual committee to organize smooth running services. Please help us by filling out the survey.

AUGUST Yahrzeits

Morris Aizenberg	Brenna Davidson	Julius Kunik	Sam Saltzman
Adele Anolik	Rosa Dicker	Deborah Levin	Muriel Savin
Jack Balch	Helen B. Dunn	Getzel Levin	Joseph Schwartz
David Bills	Rhona Fox	Lillian Levine	Ned Siner
Regina Brecher	Burton Frank	Liza Zabner Lublin	Francis Smith
Samuel Brenner	Frank Phillip Friedland	Norman Madison	Robert Soldofsky
Barbara Brodsky	Anitra Haendel	Frances Milavetz	Lillian Sterman
Sam Brodsky	Ann Hecht	Ida Paul	Morris Tiss
Richard Caplan	Ruth Jacobs	James Harry Persellin	Julie Whitebook
Harriet L. Clark	Phyllis Jadryev	Marvin Pomerantz	Ted Willner
Charlotte Cohn	Robert Kieso	Josh Rephun	Craig Zwerling

TISHA B'AV SERVICE

Tisha B'Av services, reading from the Book of Lamentations, will take place Saturday night, August 6 at 9:15 after the end of Shabbat. The service will be hybrid; attendees can choose to participate in person in the sanctuary or on Zoom [at this link](#). Come and join us in discussions of the text.

MIRIAM CANTER 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Miriam Canter is turning 100! She is holding an 'Open House' on Sunday, August 7 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Melrose Meadows, 'Common Grounds', 350 Dublin Drive, Iowa City. Happy birthday, Miriam!

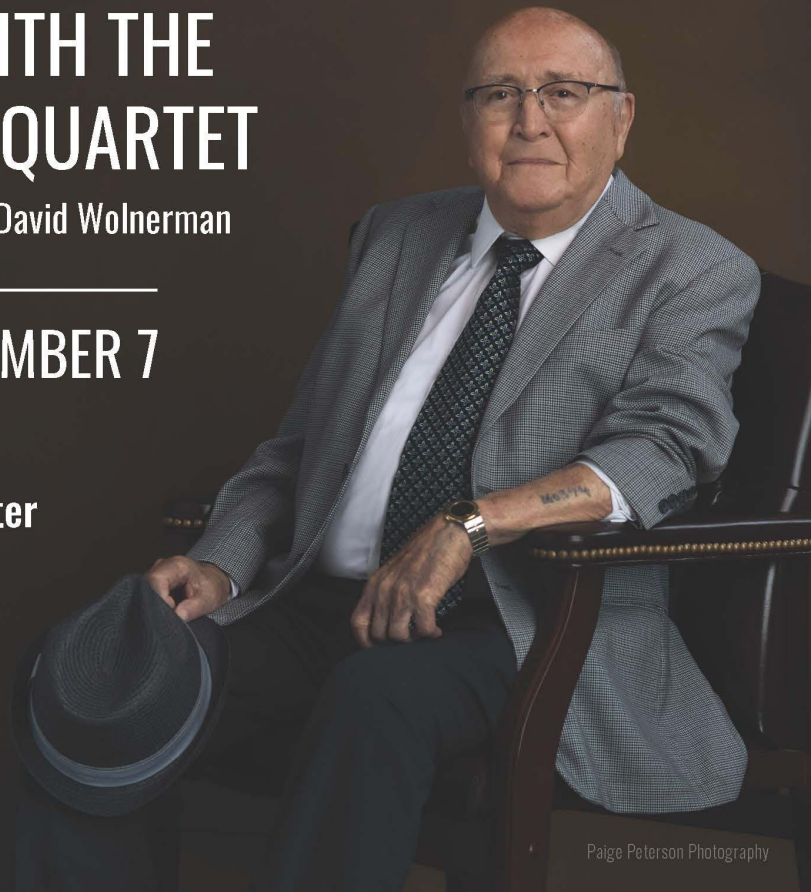
AN EVENING WITH THE INDIANAPOLIS QUARTET

in honor of Holocaust survivor David Wolnerman

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
7:30 PM

Hoyt Sherman Place Theater
1501 Woodland Avenue
Des Moines, IA

TICKETS \$25-\$40
hoytsherman.org



Paige Peterson Photography

THE INDIANAPOLIS QUARTET



Zachary DePue
violin



Joana Genova
violin



Michael Strauss
viola



Ilya Finkelshteyn
cello

PROGRAM

SCHULHOFF: Five Pieces for String Quartet

ULLMANN: String Quartet No. 3, Op. 46

MENDELSSOHN: String Quartet No. 6 in F Minor, Op. 80

This program celebrates the timeless music that lives on despite the attempted erasure of Jewish art and culture that impacted these artist-composers and their legacy. The Indianapolis Quartet performs to honor the triumph of human spirit exhibited in the life of David Wolnerman, Iowa's only living Holocaust survivor.

TICKETS \$25-\$40
hoytsherman.org

Use QR code below



Sponsored by Iowa Retina Consultants and The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines

AUGUST 2022

Mon 1	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM	Thur 18	Board Meeting	7:00 PM
	Tea Time Check-In	2:30 PM	Fri 19	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
	Intro to Judaism	7:30 PM		Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM
Fri 5	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM		Shabbat Evening Services (Reform) Hybrid, masks required	7:00 PM
	Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM	Sat 20	Shabbat Morning Services (Conservative) Zoom only	9:30 AM
	Shabbat Evening Services (Conservative) Zoom Only	7:00 PM	Sun 21	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM
Sat 6	Shabbat Morning Services (Reform) mask optional at synagogue	9:30 AM		Yoga Class	2:00 PM
	Tisha b'Av Service	9:15 PM		Dungeons & Dragons Group	3:30 PM
Sun 7	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM	Mon 22	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
	Dungeons & Dragons Group	3:30 PM		Tea Time Check-In	2:30 PM
Mon 8	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM		Intro to Judaism	7:30 PM
	Tea Time Check-In	2:30 PM	Wed 24	Free Lunch	11:30 AM
	Intro to Judaism	7:30 PM		Book Group	1:00 PM
Thur 11	Executive Committee Meeting	5:30 PM	Fri 26	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
Fri 12	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM		Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM
	Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM		Shabbat Evening Services (Reform) outdoors off-site TBD	7:00 PM
	Shabbat Evening Services (Reform) outdoors at synagogue	7:00 PM	Sat 27	Shabbat Morning Services (Conservative) hybrid, masks optional	9:30 AM
Sat 13	Shabbat Morning Services (Conservative) hybrid, masks required	9:30 AM	Sun 28	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM
Sun 14	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM		Warm-Up America	10:30 AM
	Warm-Up America	10:30 AM		Yoga Class	2:00 PM
	Dungeons & Dragons Group	3:30 PM		Dungeons & Dragons Group	3:30 PM
Mon 15	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM	Mon 29	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
	Tea Time Check-In	2:30 PM		Tea Time Check-In	2:30 PM
	Intro to Judaism	7:30 PM		Intro to Judaism	7:30 PM
Wed 17	Ritual Committee	7:30 PM			

WARM UP AMERICA

Warm Up America will have 3 more meetings before the Holidays. Our next dates are August 14 and 28, 10:30 a.m. - noon, in the social hall, at the back of the building.

We'll be masked and vacc'd, per synagogue policy.

We welcome schmoozers.

For more information, contact the office.



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. Meetings can be via Zoom, via telephone, or in person.

STAFF

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

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