

Agudas Achim Congregation

401 E. Oakdale Blvd., Coralville, IA 52241 Phone: 319-337-3813 www.AgudasAchimIC.org

December 2022 / Kislev-Tevet 5783

FROM THE RABBI Esther Hugenholtz

The Power of Small Miracles

Compared to the Hollywood Big Buster special effects and pyrotechnics of much of the Hebrew Bible, the Book of Maccabees is... perhaps more like a cheap B movie that's become a cult classic. In Tanakh (the Hebrew Bible), we get cities destroyed by fire and brimstone, split seas, pillars of fire, earthquakes, the sun standing still in the sky and people surviving being swallowed by whales or revived from death. In the Book of Maccabees? Well, not much really. And even the Talmudic attempt to emphasize the miracle of the menorah oil lasting eight days seems paltry by comparison. This is not exactly earth-shattering Divine intervention!

Yet, this is the miracle we proclaim to the world ('pirsumei nisa'). What is it about the Hanukkah miracle that is so compelling and enduring? Why is it so important for Jewish Law to codify that we place menorahs in our windows (or even outside our doors, as per the Shulchan Aruch, a medieval Code of Law)? Was the 'miracle' of the oil all that noteworthy?

Perhaps the answer lies in the world the Maccabees inherited and the one that was built in its wake. I'm not going to sugarcoat it: the Hasmonean dynasty wasn't as heroic as historiography makes them out to be. In true 'Game of Thrones'-style, the alleged liberators became corrupt themselves in only a few generations. And we should always be willing to confront hard truths, including in our Jewish tradition and history.

At the same time, though, that period between the occupation by the Seleucid (Syrian) Greeks and the Romans (talking about going from the frying pan into

the fire!) was a dynamic one for the Jewish People. New governments were formed, coins were minted. New ways of understanding Jewish learning and religion were developed (this period was the 'seeding' of the Rabbinic Revolution that gave us first the Mishnah and later the Talmud, including its cultures of dissent and debate). We can call to mind an image of the Maccabees cleaning up the defiled Temple. I'm sure they didn't have trash bags and Windex to polish everything to a sheen, but there's something ennobling about this image of Judaism being redeemed not through great miracles from on high, but through the miracles of dedication (which is what 'Hanukkah' literally means), community, volunteerism, connection, friendship and a common vision. Who swept aside the rubble? Who chased out the pigs? Who pulled down the statue of Zeus? Who polished the Menorah? Who scrubbed the altar? And who pressed the oil? All these are exactly the small miracles Hanukkah asks us to not only commemorate but also proclaim; the small miracles of an enduring, resilient, independent-minded, proud people, who wholeheartedly dared believe in the future despite the knee-buckling upheavals of their own time.

Sounds familiar, right?

Hanukkah's story is the story of every age and generation. Now we are that resilient and proud people, facing off against a world that seems to become more and more threatening. Our President addressed antisemitism head on in her poignant Bulletin article (for my thoughts on the matter, I invite you to read the sermon published in the November Bulletin) and in her words lie both concern and hope.

(Continued on page 2)

FROM THE RABBI Esther Hugenholtz (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

That first Hanukkah rose out of the ashes of oppression, war and conflict, to generate a great light and a new hope. Concern and hope are not mutually exclusive categories; I'd wager to say they are both sides of the same (Hanukkah) coin. Concern allows us to see the world for what it is; hope gives us the strength to build the world as it should be. Talking about antisemitism, bigotry, racism, polarization, extremism is crucial; building both internal and external relationships is the way we can overcome it. That is why I think the menorah is placed in the window or door; this is a place that's liminal—it opens up to new spaces, to new possibilities. It lets out our light and lets in the fresh air. The menorah lights that boundary between ourselves and others, seeking to integrate both. That is its great model.

And that's exactly what we are doing this Hanukkah. We have a number of exciting events lined up to not only bring us good cheer but also help us build community: both internally for our own synagogue, and externally with the wider lowa City/Coralville community and our interfaith partners.

First off, we will have our Fundraiser Hanukkah Crafts & Gifts Bazaar on Sunday the 11th of December from noon till 2 pm. This Bazaar is part of a continued fundraising effort to benefit our beloved and essential synagogue—through the age-old American tradition of 'retail therapy' (there will be a second "silent auction" at the Hanukkah party also). There will be something for everyone, at every price point! If you wish to donate homemade, new or gently-used/good condition items, please be in touch with the office. So far, we have art, crafts, Hanukkah items, jewelry, winter wear, gift cards from supportive local businesses, candy and so much more!

Not only that, but we are welcoming our friends from our nearby churches to join in the fun so that we can all get to know each other better and make new friends! I also heard a rumor about free pizza... so come hang out at the synagogue and bring a friend.

Secondly, put on your snow pants and a warm hat and mittens and come to our booth at the **'One Bright**

Future' Coralville intercultural lights display at Morrison Park. This will also be on Sunday the 11th of December from 5 pm till 8 pm. The City of Coralville will provide the hot chocolate; we will provide the gelt and dreidles... and the world's most garish inflatable 8-foot Menorah! (Your friends and neighbors are totally welcome at this event too!)

Thirdly, for all you early years veterans: I will be doing Hanukkah Story Time at the Iowa City Public Library again. New year, same Ugly Hanukkah Sweater, guitar and songs. Bring your littles and come sing along on Thursday December 15th at 10:30 am.

Last but certainly not least: our annual Hanukkah Party! We are back, better and bigger! On Sunday the 18th of December, from 5 till 7 pm, we will have a latke dinner, apple cider, candle lighting (bring your menorah) and... LIVE MUSIC! We will also have our 'fun-raiser' silent auction to benefit the synagogue, so bring a little spending money or bidding courage with you as well.

As for Zoom offerings: our annual 'Hanukkah Lights Across Iowa' will return too, on the 21st of December, at 6:30 pm. Cozy up in the comfort of your home and sing with fellow Jews from all over the Hawkeye State!

Also note that **Friday the 23rd of December** will have **a special meditative 'healing service'** (theme: Shining our Light) **at the synagogue; 7 pm**. All welcome.

On a final note (I promise), a team of wonderful Christian pastors have reached out to us to stand in solidarity with the Jewish community during this time of increasing antisemitism. An Interfaith Solidarity Service for our Jewish community will be organized on Sunday the 5th of February 2023, details to follow.

Never underestimate the power of many small sparks to create a great light and to ignite hope and resilience. Our courage, connection and solidarity will come to us when we need it most. That's a miracle I definitely can believe in.

Shiring our light

JEWISH WINTER JOY, DEC 2022

Sun 11 Dec - 12 - 2 p.m.: Hanukkah Fundraising Crafts Bazaar @ Synagogue

Sun 11 Dec - 5 p.m.: Hanukkah display at Coralville 'One Bright Future' at S.T. Morrison Park

Thur 15 Dec - 10:30 a.m.: Hanukkah Story Time with Rabbi Esther @ the Iowa City Public Library

Sun 18 Dec - 5 - 7 p.m.: Hanukkah Party with Candlighting, Latkes & Live Music @ Synagogue

Wed 21 Dec- 6:30 p.m.: Hanukkah Lighting Across Iowa via Zoom (Register: tinyurl.com/2yhstknv)

Fri 23 Dec - 7 p.m.: Hanukkah Healing Service 'Shining Our Light' @ Synagogue

All welcome! Bring a friend!

For more info or to sign up: rsvp@agudasachimic.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT Janice Weiner

This is the season of celebrations of light – those holidays that lift us up at the darkest time of the year: the lights and traditions of Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa. We kindle lights that brighten the December nights and which remind us of our ancestors who fought back against oppression and against the longest of odds. We are so fortunate to have larger communities here that celebrate and honor those traditions in solidarity with us – communities that value diversity and diverse traditions and seek to expand knowledge and awareness.

The light of knowledge and learning, which forms the backbone of our religion, is also crucial to pushing back against the other darkness that has descended. And push back we must. We all heard and saw the warning signs - Charlottesville, Pittsburgh, January 6th. As I wrote in an opinion piece for the Gazette after Pittsburgh, we are the canaries in the coal mine. Based on our history and - for too many of us - our stunted family trees, we see what is happening. We just never thought we would see it here. And I so wish I didn't have to feel like a broken record by writing about it yet again. Antisemitism forms the basis of so many other "isms", together with its tropes and the myriad conspiracy theories based on it. White supremacists make use of it all the time. And now that it's here, we need to name it.

It is metastasizing. Acceptance of antisemitism is growing and the willingness by some to call it out has diminished. Let's be clear: There is nothing partisan about stating that Nazism is unacceptable.

It is not partisan to call out Holocaust denial. It is not partisan to condemn antisemitic remarks or those who sit down with white supremacists and antisemites, nor is it partisan to condemn a political platform based on antisemitism.

As we have seen with recent mass shootings, words can have deadly consequences as people soak up conspiracy theories, internalize them and decide to act. Club Q in Colorado Springs and the supermarket shooting in Buffalo NY are just two recent examples.

Here at home, we need each other now, more than ever. We need our own community of people who whom we can turn, with whom we can talk openly about these concerns, people who will offer us unconditional mutual support. We need the greater communities of faith to come together, educate their co-religionists, condemn all these manifold forms of hatred and state clearly that hate has no place. We need to do this over and over again with different communities, both secular and religious.

I commend to you a recent article that, from its title, appears innocuous enough - Two new movies, 'Till' and 'U.S. and the Holocaust,' help us connect the dots between Jim Crow and fascism (andscape.com) - but digs down to the many common roots of Jim Crow and antisemitism.

Please read up, support one another and come together. And by doing so, let's create a light that burns so brightly that it both enlightens and lights up this night. Hag Hanukkah Sameach.

HIGH HOLIDAYS FOOD DRIVE

Our High Holidays Food Drive brought in 511 lbs. of food and supplies, as well as \$1169, for CommUnity. Thank you to everyone who contributed!

COVID COMMENTS

Bob Wallace, Member of the Synagogue Board

COVID-19 is still active in the Johnson County community, and all usual precautions are needed. As of today we are averaging about 19 cases per day, per the NYTimes, with a small uptick recently.

CDC is still recommending the booster doses ("bivalent") that have been available for about two months. Please see your physician about vaccine recommendations and schedules. Some new Omicron viral strains are circulating in the community, but it's not clear if they are more or less harmful than the previous ones.

Synagogue precautions have not changed since last month's column. Masks are optional but still recommended; vaccination status need not be registered. Those at greater risk of contracting COVID-19 or are acutely ill should, as in the past, be

particularly cautious about being in public places. Those at greater risk should get more advice from their physicians and observe recommended cautions.

As you may have read, there are several other respiratory viruses circulating in our community that are widespread and causing serious health problems, including, importantly, influenza and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus). All authorities are recommending flu shots as soon as possible if you haven't had one this year. There is currently no RSV vaccine, but at least one is being tested, including here at University Hospitals.

Thanks, In health, Bob

LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

Congratulations to Maurine Neiman and Bennett Brown on the birth of their daughter, Avi Josefa Neiman-Brown!

The congregation extends its condolences to the families of Helen Goldstein and Ira Sherman.

LEVI GREINER BAR MITZVAH

Please join us for the bar mitzvah of

Levi Greiner

Friday, December 30 at 7:00 p.m. &

Saturday, December 31 at 9:30 a.m.

Hybrid format (in person and at our normal Shabbat Zoom link).

TEVET YOGA

Announcing January Yoga Class: Transformative Tevet

The constellation for Tevet is the goat. The goat works its way slowly, laboriously up the mountain of winter. Though the path is treacherous, the goat never slips or falls. Sure-footed, firmly centered in the earth, the creature eventually reaches the summit. As winter deepens, and darkness arrives early, we remember that we too can reach summits of joy—even in darkness (from https://ritualwell.org/ritual/essence-tevet/)

In this five-week drop-in class, we will join Yogic practices, Jewish wisdom and the fresh start of the secular new year to both steady ourselves and spark transformation in these deep and dark winter weeks. We will come away from each gathering with a simple movement practice that we can add to our daily routine. Everyone is welcome. No previous Yoga experience necessary! Join us for as many sessions as you like.

Dates: Consecutive Sundays January 1-29, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Location: Agudas Achim Congregation

Bring: Yoga mat, large towel, or blanket (optional, but nice to have)

To register: rsvp@agudasachimic.org

For more information: leslea-collins@outlook.com

DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Streaming link for Zoom Shabbat services

Vayetze	Friday, December 2	7:00 p.m.	Lev Shalem (Conservative)
(Genesis 28:10-32:3)	Saturday, December 3	9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah (Reform)
Vayishlach	Friday, December 9	7:00 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
(Genesis 32:4-36:43)	Saturday, December 10	9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem
Vayeshev	Friday, December 16	7:00 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
(Genesis 37:1-40:23)	Saturday, December 17	9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem
Miketz	Friday, December 23	7:00 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
(Genesis 41:1-44:17; Numbers 28:9-15; Numbers 7:42-47)	Saturday, December 24	9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem
Vayigash	Friday, December 30	7:00 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
(Genesis 44:18-47:27)	Saturday, December 31	9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21 6:30 PM / VIA ZOOM

tinyurl.com/2yhstknv

Meeting ID: 833 8170 3427 / Passcode: 162714

Register at this link.



DO YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING & SUPPORT THE SYNAGOGUE!
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PROCEEDS HELP US BUILD OUR LOCAL JEWISH FUTURE. PAYMENT WITH CASH, CHECK, OR VENMO ONLY.







DEC 11, 2022, NOON - 2 PM ALL WELCOME, BRING A FRIEND!

IF YOU WISH TO DONATE, PLEASE EMAIL RSVP@AGUDASACHIMIC.ORG LOCATION: SYNAGOGUE, 401 E. OAKDALE BLVD, CORALVILLE 52241

NEW MICHELLE EDWARDS BOOK



Michelle Edwards has published a new children's book called *Me and the Boss*. You can find more information on Michelle's website <u>here</u>.

She'll be having a reading on Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 p.m. at Prairie Lights Bookstore, 15 S Dubuque St., Iowa City.

Preorder your copy at 319.337.2681.

FIRST AID KITS & BLEED STATION

Agudas Achim Congregation purchased two professional first aid kits and a bleeding control station from North American Rescue. This is part of an initiative to build a resilient congregation by the Safety Committee. The equipment will be installed at central locations in the building.



WARM UP AMERICA

Warm Up America members have completed 30 afghans this calendar year. That's nearly 1,500 individual 7" x 9" rectangles made by knitters, crocheters, and crohookers in Iowa and Minnesota. We donate them to Iowa City area organizations which help those who might benefit from some added warmth.

We appreciate donations of all-synthetic yarn and of funds for yarn c/o the Tikun Olam fund, earmarked for Warm Up America.

We will meet, masked per preference, on Dec. 11th, 10:30-noon, then take a break until Jan. 8, 2023.

We'll also be laying out an afghan during the Hanukkah Crafts Bazaar on Dec. 11th. Stop by our table and help us choose which "patches" to use in our next afghan.



SCHOOL NEWS Sonja Spear

On the last Sunday before Thanksgiving break, our wonderful teacher Hersh Rephun needed to find minyan to say Kaddish for his mother. He asked parents to stay and join their kids for a short service. I never had the pleasure of meeting Hersh's mother, but he told us a little about her. He said that the money she earned went to support his Jewish education. She worked at his school, sharing her joy in Judaism with her family and beyond her family. I like to think that she would have taken real pride and pleasure in seeing the kids at the service.

Some of the parents joined the teachers and other folks who happened to be in the building. We made a minyan.

It was a traditional weekday service, more traditional in style than the short service that the kids attend as part of Sunday School. I was a little worried about how all of our exuberant, wiggly students would behave.

"This service is all about supporting Hersh," I told them. "It's going to be all chanting in Hebrew without a lot of singing. No one is going to talk to you. You will have to show Hersh some *kavod* by sitting quietly. So, tell me now, can you do that?"

They looked at me as if I had asked the most stupid question in the world. As if they had never in their entire lives wiggled, bounced, or interrupted.

"Yeeees!" they chorused.

And they did.

I brought them into the sanctuary part way through the service. (I had faith in the kids, but I did not want to push my luck.) They sat down on the floor, since the chairs had been put away to make room for yoga later in the day. And they sat. And they sat. Without saying a word. They looked up when Hersh said Kaddish. They really listened afterwards, when he shared some memories of his mother. It was beautiful.

Hersh very generously sponsored a bagel brunch for the kids afterwards. I threw in some doughnuts. Some parents and other members of the community stayed to chat. It was a very good beginning to the day.

I have been thinking a lot about that service. I was very invested in the Kaddish minyan as a teaching moment. I thought I was teaching the kids about Jewish mourning rituals and Jewish solidarity. I hoped that they would look at the adults around them and understand that Jews remember the dead with love and gratitude, that they assemble as a community to support those who mourn, that sometimes prayer is energetic singing, but sometimes it is quiet chanting. That it is OK just to sit.

But, as so often happens, the kids taught me as much as I taught them.

"Can you handle it?" I asked them. What I really meant was, "Can you sit through a service that isn't centered on you and your interests and your musical choices." That was a silly question. Of course they could, for a friend. Hersh has been a consistent, kind, and gentle presence in their lives for two years. They gave him back the *kavod* and the love that he had shown them.

As I watched the kids sitting on the floor, their backs so straight and their hands so still, I thought back to Yom Kippur just a few months earlier. On Yom Kippur the whole community assembles for a very, very, very long service. At some point, most of us find that some part of that service speaks to us, and some other part just doesn't. I know that sometimes I struggle to sit for the parts that I find a little . . . not guite my favorite. In a community like ours, which includes both Reform and Conservative Jews (and points in between), we are going hear something from the bimah isn't quite what we want, or what we remember from childhood. Some people like new tunes; some people want the tunes to be exactly what they remember from "back in the day." The folks on the bimah try to give

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SCHOOL NEWS Sonja Spear (cont.)

everyone a little bit of what they want. But none of us can have everything we want.

I guess I might try to tell you that the little children show us the way. After all, they behaved so well at a service that was not by any stretch a children's service. But they did it for a beloved teacher, for someone they knew, for someone who had already showed them that he cared.

The hard thing about being an adult is that we have to extend the same *kavod* and the same caring to strangers, or at least to people that we don't know

well. As we are inspired by a new tune or soothed by the solemn repetition of a prayer we have already said over and over in the last hour alone, it is hard to remember that the person sitting next to us may be having the opposite experience.

It is a struggle to hold that generosity in your heart from someone else. But my resolution for next Yom Kippur is to try to stay in that space of caring and to stop fidgeting (I have a lot in common with the kids!) or judging. When I do that, I'm going to imagine all those wiggly little kids looking so sober and sitting so still. And I'll smile.





HANUKKAH PARTY

'Fun-raiser' to benefit the synagogue

LATKES, LIGHT & LIVE MUSIC!



ENJOY CANDLE LIGHTING, LATKES, KLEZMER MUSIC, DREIDEL GAMES & A 'FUN-RAISER' AUCTION (PAYMENT WITH CASH, CHECK, OR VENMO). BRING YOUR MENORAH & YOUR FRIENDS!

PRICING:\$20 / MEMBER, \$25 / NON MEMBER, \$10 / 13 - 18 YEAR OLD, \$5 / 5 - 12 YEAR OLD, FREE / 0 - 4 YEAR OLD, \$50 FAMILY PLAN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE CONTACT THE OFFICE TO SPONSOR SOMEONE'S PLACE

> DEC 18 | 5 - 7 P.M. AGUDAS ACHIM SYNAGOGUE

RSVP AT: RSVP@AGUDASACHIMIC.ORG
LET US KNOW OF ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

DONATIONS

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Arthur Bonfield: In memory of Doris Bonfield
Dorothy Paul: In memory of David M. Paul
Bob & Donna Rodnitzky: In memory of Leo Pliner

GENERAL GIFTS

David & Constance Berman: In memory of Robert

Hoffman

Jody & Janie Braverman: In memory of Rebekah

Richman

Joshua Hare

Kathleen Jacobs

Jeanne Jaggard: In memory of Harold Jaffe

Linda Kerber: In memory of Harry Kaufman and Mel

Marcus

Edward Krachmer

Richard Levine: In memory of Bernice & Morty

Levine

Stanley Group: In memory of Fredric Krupnick

BRAVERMAN TALMUD TORAH FUND

Barbara Levin: In memory of Adolph Glaser

CEMETERY FUND

Jack L. Snider: In memory of Herman Snider

FAMILY ASSISTANCE FUND

Helen Goldstein: In memory of Jonathan Goldstein

and Louis Tunik

HIGH HOLIDAY/CANTOR FUND

Ruth Carol Judy Galat

Lawrence & Kathryn Horwitz David & Martha Lubaroff

Anna Nett: In appreciation of Agudas Achim

community

David Roston & Rita Marcus Peter & Linda Rubenstein

Alan & Nina Weinstein: In memory of Maurice &

Bess Weinstein and Emilia Lasansky

LIBRARY FUND

Richard & Nancy Rossman: In honor of Mira

Cunning's Bat Mitzvah

PRAYERBOOK FUND

Charlotte Dvoretzky: In memory of Edward

Dvoretzky

SAFETY FUND

Sanctuary Community Church

TIKUN OLAM FUND

Linda Kerber

Mel & Diane Sunshine: In memory of Mildred Siegel

TZEDAKAH COLLECTIVE

Anne Aguirre Benjamin Cooper

GIFT SHOP NEWS

Joanne Margolin

In addition to being at the Gift Shop during Sunday School on the 4th and 18th, from 11-1, and during the Hanukkah Party on the 18th, I'll hope to see you there during the Crafts Bazaar on the 11th! I'll be there from 11-2 on that day. Come and see all the wonderful things we have, many at bargain prices, as well as things that community members have brought to sell. At other times, as long as someone

is in the synagogue office, the Gift Shop will be available to you, so don't hesitate to take advantage of that option, too.

I look forward to seeing everyone!

Joanne Margolin

319-351-2181 or irmargolin@gmail.com

DECEMBER 2022

Shabbat Schmooze Shabbat Evening Services Shab									
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			Warm-Up America	10:30 AM			Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM	
Dungages Croup 2/20 DM			Hanukkah Bazaar	12:00 PM	Wed 2	28	Free Lunch	11:30 AM	
Book Group 1:00 PM			Dungeons & Dragons Group	3:30 PM			Book Group	1:00 PM	
"One Bright Future" event 4:00 PM Fri 30 Yiddish Study Group 10:30 AM			"One Bright Future" event	4:00 PM	Fri	30	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM	
Mon 12 Yiddish Study Group 10:30 AM Shabbat Schmooze 6:30 PM	Mon	12	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM			Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM	
Tea Time Check-In 2:30 PM Levi Greiner Bar Mitzvah 7:00 PM			Tea Time Check-In	2:30 PM			Levi Greiner Bar Mitzvah	7:00 PM	
Intro to Judaism 7:30 PM Shabbat Evening Services 7:00 PM	-		Intro to Judaism	7:30 PM			Shabbat Evening Services	7:00 PM	
Wed 14 Ritual Committee 7:30 PM Sat 31 Levi Greiner Bar Mitzvah 9:30 AM	Wed	14	Ritual Committee	7:30 PM	Sat	31	Levi Greiner Bar Mitzvah	9:30 AM	
Thur 15 Hanukkah Storytime @ ICPL 10:30 AM Shabbat Morning Services 9:30 AM	Thur	15	Hanukkah Storytime @ ICPL	10:30 AM			Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM	

SYNAGOGUE VENMO

We Have Venmo! Donating to Agudas Achim has just become easier! We now have a Venmo account: @AgudasIC. (There are other Agudas Achims out there, so be sure to choose the one with IC at the end.) Since we are a business account, we do have a 2-3% charge on each donation in case you'd like to add a bit more. You can donate via Venmo at this link.

YIDDISH STUDY GROUP

The Yiddish Study Group meets Mondays and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Contact the office for more information.

WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP

The Wednesday book group will meet on December 28 at 1:00 on Zoom. Contact the office for information.

WANT TO PITCH IN?

This Hanukkah Season we're putting on quite the show at the synagogue!

A big THANK YOU to all of our lay leaders and volunteers who make this possible.

Do you want to pitch in and help? You can help with:

- Donating unique items to our Bazaar
- Staff a booth/be a welcomer at the Bazaar
- Staff our synagogue booth at the Coralville 'Our Bright Future' event (possible for a limited amount of time)
- Helping set up/break down and decorate the synagogue space for the Bazaar and the Party

- Make latkes or help with set up/clean up at the Party.
- Sponsor a latke dinner at the Party for someone who needs financial assistance
- Bring a friend and have fun!

Sign up for any of these tasks or others by contacting the synagogue office.

Thank you for building community with and making friends at Agudas Achim.

We so appreciate your support.

DECEMBER YAHRZEITS

M. David Allweiss
Mildred Bar
Myron Baum
Deanna Boyers
Aaron Braverman
Rosalie Braverman

Jean Weinstein Breggin William Brenner

Victor Cohen Ethel Corwin

William M. David Jr.

Lena C. Dicker

Melvin "Buddy" Eisen

Arthur Estin

Chester Jacoby Flaum Lawrence Gelfand Mendel Goldberg

Jonathan Goldstein

Molly Goodman

Barbara Goodsell

Janet Gussin

Goldene Haendel Aristide Haravon

Ilene Holbrook

Ben E. Kubby

Alice Thorn Laquer

Ellen Leer

Judi Lerner Aizenberg

Bernice Levine Esther Levy Robert C. Levy Henry Magaziner

Morris M. Marcus Lillian Margolin

Zisi Leib Mazur

David Gray McClean

Meyer Middleman

Benjamin Ross Mutnick

Michael Nadler Marjorie Osdoba

Gladys Ehrenreich Pruchno

Michael Allen Sabin

Toby Schuman Ida Simon

Irene Simon

Pauline Skorton Richard Smith Louis Snider

Belle Strauss Sim Strauss

Esther Tsai Sugg Morris Weinberg

MEETING WITH RABBI HUGENHOLTZ

<u>We've set up a Calendly link here</u> 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.

MUSSAR

Series of Unfortunate Events, or Spiritual Curriculum? The Human Journey Through a Mussar Lens

Join Lea Haravon Collins, Ph.D., yoga instructor, cantorial soloist, and Mussar facilitator -in-training for an informational Schmooze to learn about the Jewish spiritual practice of Mussar (translated as "discipline" or "ethics").

In January 2023 (dates to be determined), Lea will facilitate an experiential course in Mussar called *Pathway to the Inner Life* though The Mussar Institute (https://mussarinstitute.org/pathway-to-the-inner-life).

During this 45-minute Schmooze, we will discuss:

What Mussar is

- How Mussar can help you grow in awareness and wisdom, transforming your sense of your own inner nature and of your relationships with those closest to you
- Next steps if you are interested in learning more

For a fun, informal introduction to Mussar, please see this link: https://www.twincitiesmussar.org/ resources .

Schmooze Dates:

- Sunday December 4th 11:30am-12:15pm online at this link 11:30am-12:15pm
- Sunday December 11th 11:30am-12:15pm at the synagogue
- Both sessions will have identical content, no RSVP necessary!

STAFF				
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Administrator	Karen Brady	Custodian	Amos Kiche	
Principal	Sonja Spear			
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