



Agudas Achim Congregation

401 E. Oakdale Blvd., Coralville, IA 52241

Phone: 319-337-3813

www.AgudasAchimIC.org

June 2023 / Sivan-Tammuz 5783



Above: The Biblical Garden (thanks to Pat Levin!)

Below: Our roses and coral bells blooming (thanks to Myra and Michael Clark!)



FROM THE RABBI

Esther Hugenholtz

If you come visit the synagogue these days, you will be greeted by a rainbow of beautiful flowers bursting from our planters. Lovingly planted by Myra, they add cheerfulness and hope to our cherished communal home.

I know you must tire of my gardening metaphors by now, but synagogue life is blooming! If any of you would have told me last year what exciting engagement and programming we would have in the post-pandemic world, I wouldn't have believed you. We should be very proud of our successes as a synagogue and I encourage you to flip to the back of this Bulletin where you can read about our 'synagogue successes' over the past month.

No single success is attributable to a single person: Jewish community life is a village and it takes a village, and as we are cycling from one Board to the next, I would like to thank the entire Board, as well as their committees (and committee members) for their hard work and leadership. Synagogue life wouldn't happen without dedicated and visionary volunteers and we owe them all a great debt; a debt that can be doubled given they started their term during some of the worst of the ongoing pandemic. Likewise, I want to single out a particular individual and lift up her leadership: Board President Janice Weiner. Janice took on this post as the delta variant was rising and had to toggle between an online reality and the reopening of the synagogue with fits and starts (remember the omicron wave?). She led us through finding ourselves again, navigating tension and change, improving our synagogue structures and regathering our community. Janice led us with grit, grace, wisdom and candor—and above all, an unwavering commitment to a values-driven Judaism that seeks to create a spiritual home in the world and more justice for the world. Janice, thank you so very much for being my partner-in-leadership and for leading us so deftly. Likewise, it will be my honor to partner with President-Elect David Lubaroff and his incoming Board to build on

the successes we have attained. I am fortunate to enjoy close relationships with the incoming Board and am looking forward to partner with David at his second round (!) of synagogue Presidency. I know the congregation will be rooting for their success.

So yes, synagogue life is blooming and our community is buzzing! (I have to include the pollinators in the metaphor too). Our Inaugural Shavu'ot Retreat was a triumph (please see more details under 'synagogue successes'), enjoying a peak attendance of forty adults and a gaggle of kids. Over the last year, we have had a wonderfully vibrant Rosh haShanah reception, a first-time Hanukkah Bazaar and Fundraiser, a Hanukkah party with live music (so much fun!), a deliciously catered Pesach Seder and much more. We have recovered attendance at services, ranging from the traditional to the innovative. Alternative services were well-attended and enjoyed by many. We have had learning opportunities, social events and other ways to say: we are back. Currently, we are enjoying the rich successes of the Senior Brunches, Oaknoll lunches as well as other activity and affinity groups: Yoga, Mussar, Dungeons and Dragons, Warm Up America, Yiddish Group, Book Group, Taste of Judaism/Intro to Judaism classes and much more. If there ever was evidence that we are 'the little community that could', this is it.

And not only that: we are continuing to raise our Jewish voice for the cause of justice: whether it is abortion rights, LGBTQ rights or supporting the Food Pantry—we know it is important to lead with our values; it is the beating heart of our Judaism.

Please join us on Saturday the 17th of June for our special Pride Service. We, as a synagogue, have marched with the Iowa City Pride Parade in previous years and will be doing so again this year (hence the 11:30 am end of the service—to accommodate the travel time to the Parade). With legislative attacks on our LGBTQ family escalating

(Continued on page 3)

FROM THE RABBI

Esther Hugenholtz (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

both state- and nation-wide, showing up in solidarity and in alignment with the principles of our faith, is a more important mitzvah than ever.

If you want to (re)discover Jewish learning and deepen your connection to Judaism, then you are cordially invited to the two remaining (out of three) sessions of our 'Taste of Judaism' program where we look at the broad principles of the Jewish tradition in bite-sized but meaningful ways. We have already covered 'God' and are still to do 'Torah' and 'the Jewish People' on Sunday June 4th and Monday June 12th, respectively. My year-long Introduction to Judaism class will be launching on August 7th (Mondays) at 7 pm. All are welcome to come learn with us!

I will be away for part of June for conferences and my annual leave in July so please do not hesitate to

be in touch through email, Calendly or the synagogue office. Drop-in Monday's are back (check the synagogue schedule), and I am also doing 'Coffee Date slots' at Bread Garden on Wednesdays from 10 am till 1 pm (also check the synagogue schedule). Meanwhile, our affinity groups are gearing up and our Young-Ish, Jew-Ish group is going strawberry picking at Wilson's Orchard on Sunday the 4th of June (2 pm).

All in all, we are enjoying a season of rebirth, of color, joy and creativity. This amazing community is ours—to cherish, to build, to enjoy. A life of meaning, connection and heartfelt relationships lie at the powerful core of Jewish living. Shavu'ot has ended and in three months, the High Holidays will be upon us where we will deepen those connections and relationships further. Meanwhile, have a wonderful summer of renewal and delight: Agudas Achim is here for you.

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.

SYNAGOGUE VENMO

We Have Venmo! Our 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.](#)

[We also have Paypal here.](#)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Janice Weiner

This my final column as president of the board of Agudas Achim. As with any lay leader who takes on governance responsibility, I had hoped to help build community and resiliency, and to improve governance so we had platform better suited to the 21st century. Not enough of that happened, largely because of COVID, but I believe we did make some progress.

We've worked through creating a mission/vision/values statement and have been crafting a code of ethics that I hope the next board will take up. We have strategic planning to do and policies to write.

Governance is important, but without the people, we are nothing. If I allow myself to dream about what I want in a congregation, in a larger Jewish family, I'll start with what I haven't had. As I bounced around in the Foreign Service, first alone, then with my girls, we encountered and participated in Jewish communities in Turkey, Mexico, Poland, Canada and Germany. One girl was bat mitzvahed in Duesseldorf Germany and the other was "made Jewish" in a mikvah in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, where I also did an adult bat mitzvah. We hummed Sephardic tunes in Turkey and participated in a gated, Jewish world in Mexico City. The girls attended day school in Toronto and a Jew-ish summer camp in Canada that became their home away from home for almost a decade. What we didn't have was continuity and community – we were always starting new, always the outsiders coming in. Three years in Toronto was the closest we got to continuity in community and Jewish education.

What I want for us all here at Agudas Achim is a community that looks to the future while honoring the past. I want a community that will offer my granddaughter (and all the congregation's youth) a Jewish identity and stability; a school teaches her the tunes (which I already hear from her as we drive places), holidays, traditions, prayers, and values. My wish for her and all the other children here is that they grow up not just having those traditions at home but expanding them and being part of a kehillah with others who share values but expand their horizons. I first brought her to synagogue shortly after I drove her here from the East Coast – Yom Kippur 2018. She had her baby naming in summer 2019 and the synagogue has become her second home.

Our children are the future. I strive to live the values that I do my best to instill in her. If something goes wrong, we talk about it. If she's unhappy, if she's been wronged or she has wronged, we say sorry – and we discuss how to do better next time. Emotions are strong – and they are all valid. We learn and love and move on. Because this is a family – Agudas Achim, too, is a family – and, at the risk of oversimplification, that's what families do. This is a big, complex, diverse, heterogeneous family consisting of long timers, newcomers, young, old, gay, straight, queer, seekers, converts – and in that we should rejoice, always generous with praise and forgiveness, always mindful that we are, indeed, a family.

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 June 28 at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom.

[Contact the office](#) for information.

APRICOT TREE

***** NEWS FLASH *****

WONDER OF WONDERS!

**AGUDAS ACHIM APRICOT
TREE BEARS FRUIT!**

Our last summer at the old Agudas Achim on Washington Street, the enormous apricot tree in our Biblical Garden finally bore fruit. It was an unbelievable yield! When we moved to the synagogue's present location, we brought with us many things we could not leave behind—our Torahs, the Ark, the library, and two tiny apricot plants, descendants of that great tree. (Our son, Adam, and a friend had saved and potted pits for planting in our new garden.)

This morning, when Alan and I arrived for Agudas Achim's monthly Senior Brunch, we came upon Myra Clark planting flowers at the front doors. With great excitement she told us one of the apricot trees had fruit, and promptly took us around to the east side garden.

What an amazing sight! And we only had to wait ten years!

Thank you Myra and Michael for your wonderful work maintaining our garden. It looks beautiful, and those apricots will make great oneg pies!

Nina Weinstein

May 18, 2023



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND NEW BOARD SLATE

David Lubaroff

Dear Fellow Congregants:

The last few years have been stressful, and I am working hard to develop a slate of members for the next board of directors that will work with me to ease us out to be a more congenial and respectful congregation, and have the best interest of the synagogue at heart. I believe that the members on the election slate, made up of a representation of the Agudas Achim membership, are extremely capable carrying out that mission. They are men and women, young and old, recent and longtime members, conservative and reform, gay and straight; in essence a cross section of our congregation. This list will be presented for your consideration at the June Congregational Meeting.

This year's meeting will be held on **Thursday, June 15 at 7:00 p.m.** in the synagogue. A Zoom option will also be available and a link will be sent close to the date of the meeting. I look forward to seeing you there.

The formal process, as stipulated in the synagogue by-laws, calls for me to work with a nominating committee to develop a list of members in good standing to present to you for your approval. The committee is: President - Janice Weiner, President-elect - David Lubaroff, Rabbi - Esther Hugenholtz, Administrator - Karen Brady, and Trustee - Mindy Russell.

I hope that you will vote to approve my slate.

Synagogue Board 2023-2025 Board Positions

Position	Name
President	David Lubaroff
President-Elect	Jeanne Cadoret
Vice President	Jayne Sandler
Secretary	Chuck Friedman
Treasurer	Mindy Russell
Membership	Karen Lipman
Past President	Janice Weiner (2023 – 2024)
Ritual Committee	Andrea Chase
Social Committee	Ariel Levin & Lori McMann
Adult Education / Religious School	Lisa Heineman
Tikkun Olam Committee	Mallory Hellman
At Large	Sue Weinberg
At Large	Lori McMann
At Large	Naomi Greyser

LISTENING TO YOU

Janice Weiner

We wanted to give you some feedback on your feedback. The executive committee of the board held two well-attended listening posts in May. Both times, the Becker Room was full, and we listened to a wealth of thoughts, concerns, compliments and ideas.

Issues raised fell into several broad categories: ritual, rabbinical duties, executive functions, education, and inclusivity. A sincere thanks to all who came. We are taking stock and reviewing the feedback received. Where practical and appropriate, we are working on implementing improvements in synagogue life. I'm confident that while these were our first listening posts in some time, they won't be the last.

Some excerpts include:

- Ritual: the flow and length of services; inspirational content of worship, rediscovery of Jewish spirituality, alternative services, balancing worship with social justice.
- Rabbinical duties: creating clarity on pastoral emergency procedures, exploring interfaith marriage, access of office and rabbi.
- Executive function: facilitating appointments, administration and communication, ensure optimal systems for website, re-evaluate office in a post-pandemic reality, consider implementation of digital feedback options.
- Education: communication about children's education at the synagogue, offer clarification of B-Mitzvah process, improve membership options for teachers, communicate available synagogue resources.
- Inclusivity: extend intergenerational welcome, synagogue relationship management, managing membership grievances and tensions, outreach to unaffiliated Jews, cultivate affinity groups.
- Miscellaneous: maintain continuity of presidential leadership, cultivate positive and values-driven vision of the future.

MAY ONEG HOSTS

Thank you to May's oneg hosts!!!

David & Martha Lubaroff; Naomi Greyser

If you'd like to sponsor an oneg, contact the office!

SENIORS GROUP

Join the Agudas Achim Synagogue Seniors Chavurah that meets **every third Thursday of the month** from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the social hall. It's a social gathering that offers good conversation, an occasional program, hot coffee, and always a delicious nosh. Visit with old friends and meet new ones. There is no fee and however you define "seniors" is up to you.

ALDA HARAVON UNVEILING

Please join us for Alda Haravon's unveiling with a short service led by Lea Haravon Collins

Friday, June 2, 4:30 p.m.

Agudas Achim Cemetery,
875 Linder Road NE, Iowa City

SCHOOL NEWS

Sonja Spear

On the last day of Sunday School, ***Kitah Gimel*** challenged the rest of the school to learn all about Jews in India through a quiz-style game show. The hosts of the game show stood on a chair and fired questions at the contestants. But the game show hosts were careful to make all the wrong answers ridiculous, so a good time was had by all. After the contest, we sampled a little Indian rice pudding, made with coconut milk so that everyone could try it. It was, I must admit, an unappetizing shade of brown because I added the raisins too soon. But those brave enough to try it seemed to enjoy it.

After that, the whole school ate astonishing amounts of ice cream with sprinkles. Once they were sugared up, they visited the animals at the petting zoo. The goats nuzzled up to them, but the dog refused to leave the shade.

It was a sweet end to a wonderful year. I am so proud of all the things the kids and the teachers accomplished, from learning prayers to figuring out how to resolve conflict (using Jewish ethics) to helping the synagogue become more resilient by selecting and raising money for a rain barrel. I think

that the kids are beginning to see that Judaism has a lot to teach about how to live a good life, even outside the synagogue.

Now that the school is on summer break, I have time to plan next year. Making a calendar is always my first step. I looked up each Jewish holiday in the fall, from Rosh Hashanah to Simchat Torah. Every single one falls on a Sunday! If I just do the kind of educational programming I've always done, the school won't meet until the middle of October. Crazy! I've decided that when life hands you a difficult calendar, it is time to make opportunities. So, even though school proper may not start until late in the semester, we can have fun with *Tishre Club*, named for the month with all those inconvenient Jewish holidays. We will have a mix of programming, from Hebrew intensive days to Rosh Hashanah in a park, with learning and a service. We will conclude with a big celebration on Simchat Torah.

I'll publish the calendar with more details soon. Meanwhile, enjoy the summer!





PRIDE!

Pride Events at Agudas Achim



June 3 - North Liberty

'Let Love Fly' Pride Event

North Liberty Centennial Park

Rabbi at Interfaith Booth: 2:00-3:00 p.m.

June 17 - Iowa City

Pride-themed Shabbat Service

(at synagogue): 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Pride Parade: 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Rabbi at Pride Interfaith Booth:

1:00-3:00 p.m.



**LOVE WHO
YOU ARE**



COVID COMMENTS

Bob Wallace & Jane Zukin

Cases of COVID-19 infection continue to be in apparent decline in the Johnson County area. As noted last month, the amount of surveillance for new cases has been increasingly limited. CDC's designation of the Johnson County area is low (the lowest category), and as of May 24, University Hospitals reported two hospitalized patients with the infection. This probable decline in the current community infection rate is good news, but the virus is still with us and where it is going is unclear. As noted in our past columns, most infectious disease experts believe that the virus will continue to be with us indefinitely in some form and fashion. It is still important for persons 65 years and older,

or with special immune conditions, to receive the current "bivalent" vaccine. Please see your doctor or pharmacist for further information. The vaccine is free.

For your information, the synagogue still maintains precautions such as improved building air quality, social spacing, and food handling as indicated. We do not monitor the vaccine status of building visitors. We still ask that people who are sick with any type of respiratory illness avoid the synagogue, and we support the CDC's recommendations for COVID-19 vaccinations.

Thank you.

TAMMUZ YOGA

Announcing Tammuz Yoga: Balance and Endurance

In this four session drop-in class, we will join Yogic practices and Jewish wisdom to explore Tammuz' themes of challenge and inner strength. 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: Sundays June 25- July 16 at 2:00 p.m.

Location: Agudas Achim Congregation,
401 E Oakdale Blvd.

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

To register: rsvp@agudasachimic.org

For more information: leslea-collins@outlook.com



JUNE SHABBAT SERVICES

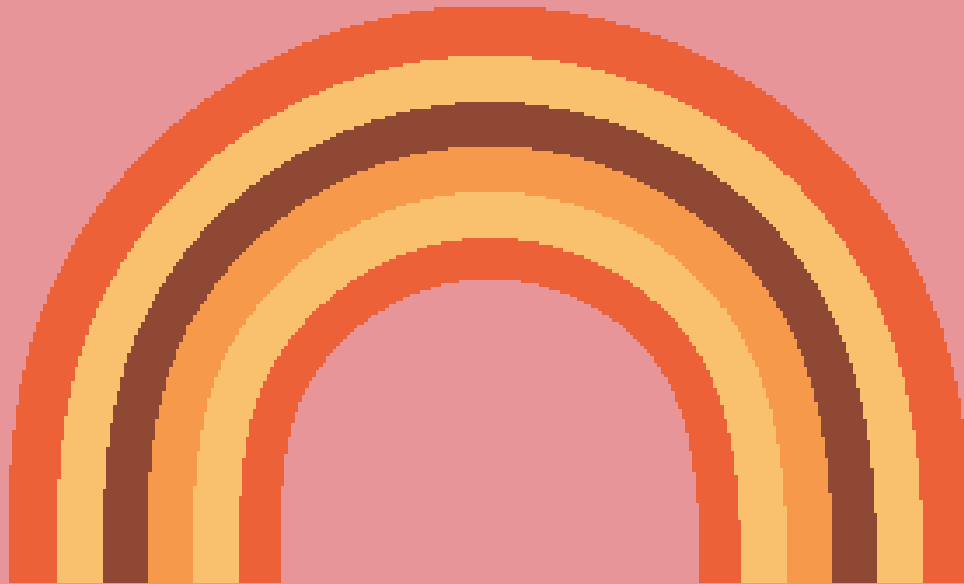
[Streaming link for Zoom services](#)

Naso <i>(Numbers 4:21-7:89)</i>	Friday, June 2	7:00 p.m.	Lev Shalem (Conservative)
	Saturday, June 3	9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah (Reform)
Behalotecha <i>(Numbers 8:1-12:16)</i>	Friday, June 9	7:00 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
	Saturday, June 10	9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem
Shelach <i>(Numbers 13:1-15:41)</i>	Friday, June 16	7:00 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
	Saturday, June 17	9:30 a.m.	Pride-Themed Service
Korach <i>(Numbers 16:1-18:32)</i>	Friday, June 23	7:00 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
	Saturday, June 24	9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem
Chukkat-Balak <i>(Numbers 19:1-25:9)</i>	Friday, June 30	7:00 p.m.	Lev Shalem
	Saturday, July 1	9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah

JUNE Yahrzeits

Estelle Altschul	Moshe Green	Albert Abraham Pruchno
Norman Altschul	Hilda Kessler Gilbert	Becky Robin
Samuel Bar	Esther Klausner	Richard Stephen Rochman
Joseph Bernstein	Jacob Kosubucki	Howard Sabin
Dorothy Buddelof	Dan Kubby	Bill Sackter
Carl Caplan	Esther Kunik	Rose Dovitz Sanders
Jennifer Clinton	Joseph Levin	Samuel Shetzer
Bernard R. Cooper	Aaron Levine	Bill H Shields
Gitel Dicker	Evelyn Levitz	Benjamin Sideman
Zachary Feinstein	Bessie Marcus	Alexander Simon
Bruce Fishbane	Russell Smith McGinnis	Jessica Thurston
Florence Helen Gessner	Fannie Middleman	Frances Wieseneck
Milton Sidney Gessner	Dee Norton	Beatrice Willner
Sarah D. Glaser	Marian Prager	Sylvia Zukin

JULIA FITZPATRICK BAT MITZVAH



***We proudly invite you to join us
as our daughter **Julia Quinn** is called
to the Torah as a Bat mitzvah.***

***June 10, 2023 - 9:30 am
Kiddish Luncheon to follow.***

***Agudas Achim Congregation
401 E. Oakdale Blvd, Coralville, Iowa***

-Leslie & Kyle Fitzpatrick



YOUNG-ISH JEW-ISH GROUP

Text: Please join the Young-ish Jew-ish group (ages 25-45ish) for strawberry picking followed by cider at Wilson's Orchard on June 11 at 2:00 p.m. The address is 4823 Dingleberry Rd, and the orchard is located just a few miles north of Iowa City. Please RSVP to Corvin Greene (corvingreene@gmail.com) or Josh Hare (joshnhare@gmail.com). Partners and children are welcome.



WARM UP AMERICA

Warm Up America will meet twice in June, 10:30 a.m. - noon, in the social hall, on Sundays June 4 and 25. Join us and find out how you can be part of providing afghans for those in need of a little warmth. We'll provide the yarn, thanks to tikun olam donations. We'll help you (re)learn knitting or crocheting, if you're interested. You'll help us create an afghan for a bulletin photo. All you need to provide is the time. Contact the office for more information.

Help us fill this space with new afghan pictures!

DONATIONS

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Sue & Ken Blackwell: In memory of Justin Denman and Rose Baskin Tear

Ray & Lindy Buch: In memory of Sally Broad

Judy & Gary Galluzzo: In memory of Harry Herbert Dreyfuss

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

BRAVERMAN TALMUD TORAH FUND

Jeff & Sara Braverman: In memory of David Braverman

CEMETERY FUND

Richard Haendel: In memory of Sarah Haendel

Sam & Marj Kuperman: In memory of Steven Frankel

Michael & Joanne Margolin: In memory of Grace Bernstein and Bernice Rosenbaum Hertz

GENERAL FUND

Jody & Janie Braverman: In memory of Nachoma Devorah Braverman

Mark Graber & Hetty Hall: In memory of Sarah Hall

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

Judy Liskin-Gasparro

PORTMAN PROGRAM FUND

Richard & Judy Hurtig: In memory of Irving Warren

Richard Levine: In memory of Bernice & Morty Levine

Eric & Jennifer Michaels: In memory of David Michaels

Alan & Nina Weinstein: In memory of Mauricio Lasansky

SAFETY FUND

Richard Levine: In memory of Bernice & Morty Levine

Sanctuary Community Church

SIM & SARAH STRAUSS MEMORIAL FUND

Stephen Strauss: In memory of Samuel Osdoba

TIKUN OLAM FUND

Richard & Phyllis Braverman: In memory of Frances Green and Lee Green

Doug & Beverly Jones: In memory of Louis Solganick
Susan Lutgendorf

Carrie Norton: In memory of Dee Norton

Anne Scott

Steven & Debbie Singer: In memory of Simon, Marian and Joe Pava

TASTE OF JUDAISM / INTRO TO JUDAISM CLASS

Taste Of Judaism

Come taste the big ideas of Judaism: God, Torah and the Jewish people. In this Union of Reform Judaism's 'Taste of Judaism' course (two remaining sessions), Rabbi Hugenholtz will open up Jewish wisdom for all who wish to be inspired by it. Excellent opportunity as a beginner's or refresher's course, or if you are considering joining the longer 'Introduction to Judaism' program in August 2023.

Remaining sessions: Sunday, June 4 & Monday, June 12 at 7:00 p.m. at Agudas Achim.

If you are interested, please message rsvp@agudasachimic.org. There will be a second Taste of Judaism session in the fall after the High Holidays.

Intro to Judaism

This class will begin Monday, August 7 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The course will run for 36 sessions at the synagogue

[A full schedule can be found on the website.](#)

SENIORS GROUP

The Synagogue Seniors Chavurah is going strong. At the May 18 meeting, 29 people met for a lovely potluck lunch and heard a wonderful presentation by our own Frank Salomon, a retired anthropology professor who introduced us to indigenous family friends in Ecuador he has known for fifty years, ever since he was a "baby anthropologist." Synagogue Seniors meet the third Thursday of the month in the Social Hall. Some months we have a program, other months, we will just have fun social time. Join us for coffee, conversation, and a nosh. Watch for a flyer in your email about the June 15 event.



SYNAGOGUE SUCCESSES



Rabbi Hugenholtz, along with representatives from Hillel, accepted the Iowa City Council's 'Jewish American Heritage Month' proclamation from Mayor Bruce Teague.

The Rabbi had the honor of attending the annual Religious Studies Luncheon, presided over by the incoming interim DEO (and Agudas Achim member) David Cuning. Agudas Achim member Sara Mozena was honored with the Barbara W. and Rex Montgomery Award for academic merit. Mazal tov to both David and Sara for their achievements!



The Sunday School season came to a festive close with our Shavu'ot Kids Festival. We had ice cream and Indian rice pudding and a petting zoo (because the Israelites at the foot of Mt. Sinai definitely had

baby goats!). Kids and adults alike enjoyed petting and befriending the goats. We sang, played Jewpardy, learned Torah and decorated the bimah for the season. With immense gratitude to Principal Sonja and our fantastic team of Sunday School educators for a great year of learning and play!

The month of May, Big Grove's beer and fire pits and Lag b'Omer make a great combination! In our second annual 'Lag b'Grove' synagogue get together, we schmoozed, noshed and had babysitters entertain the littles while the grown-ups got some grown-up time. A lovely time was had by all!



SYNAGOGUE SUCCESSES *(cont.)*



The Rabbi had the honor to visit the Oaknollians and enjoy a wonderful lunch with wide-ranging topics for discussion, learning and friendship. Thank you, Miriam Gilbert, for this lovely collaboration.



With thanks to Michael and Myra Clark, our synagogue is blooming! Come enjoy our beautiful planters filled with colorful flowers at the entrance of the synagogue.

SYNAGOGUE SUCCESSES (cont.)

Our Inaugural Shavu'ot Retreat at Brown Street Inn was AMAZING!!

We spent over 12 hours learning, schmoozing, davening and noshing together to receive Torah again at Mount Sinai. We kicked off the night with a potluck dinner at 6 pm and had about 40 adults (and a gaggle of kids) at our peak attendance. We had a Shavu'ot Kabbalat Shabbat outdoors as the sun was setting and then went into our sessions. All were stellar and very rich and varied.



- Jewish/Yiddish song and dance led by Karen Charney and Linda Wertz
- Meditation by Naomi Bloom
- Jewish crafting with laser cut Stars of David by Ashley Sowerby
- Shavu'ot origami by Linda Wertz
- Zohar with David Roston
- Creative/Spiritual Writing by Naomi Greyser
- On Conversion, the Book of Ruth and Chesed by Ezra Hendelkin
- The Jewish History or Chess by Andrea Chase
- The Book of Ruth and the Redeeming Kinsman by Sonja Spear
- Spinning wool by Lisa Heineman
- Medinat America, 'the Jew Who Has It All' and 'American Maidel' by Jessica Zehavi



- Introduction to Talmud by Doug Jonas
 - Introduction to Nusakh by Alicia Maxwell
 - Introduction to Torah Trope by Peter Rubenstein
 - Conversion: the Good, Bad and Ugly by Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz
- And much more!

A little over a dozen of us stayed up all night, learning and bonding, and greeting the dawn with a beautiful Shacharit service at 6 am. As we heard the birds sing and saw the rising sun peep over the rooftops, our hearts were full.

We pulled an amazing feat as a small community: we had a Shavu'ot Retreat, right here in the beautiful Midwest. We 'rescued' Shavu'ot!

A big THANK YOU to Christine and Doug from Brown Street Inn for their open-hearted hospitality, incoming Adult Education Chair Lisa Heineman, all the presenters, shleppers, learners and daveners. On behalf of Agudas Achim, we are grateful that all of you came and felt touched by Judaism on this very special night.

Let's do it again next year! (And if you want to get involved planning or presenting, be in touch!)

JUNE 2023

Thur	1	Ritual Committee	7:30 PM	Thur	15	Seniors Group	11:00 AM
Fri	2	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM			Congregational Annual Meeting	7:00 PM
		Alda Haravon Unveiling	4:30 PM	Fri	16	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
		Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM			Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM
		Shabbat Evening Services	7:00 PM			Shabbat Evening Services	7:00 PM
Sat	3	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM	Sat	17	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
		Pride Interfaith booth North Liberty	1:00 PM			Iowa City Pride March	12:00 PM
						Pride Interfaith booth Iowa City	1:00 PM
Sun	4	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM	Sun	18	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM
		Warm-Up America	10:30 AM			Dungeons & Dragons Group	3:30 PM
		Dungeons & Dragons Group	3:30 PM	Mon	19	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
		Taste of Judaism	7:00 PM	Wed	21	Ritual Committee	7:30 PM
Mon	5	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM	Fri	23	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
Wed	7	Executive Committee	5:30 PM			Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM
Fri	9	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM			Shabbat Evening Services	7:00 PM
		Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM	Sat	24	Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM
		Shabbat Evening Services	7:00 PM	Sun	25	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM
Sat	10	Julia Fitzpatrick Bat Mitzvah followed by luncheon	9:30 AM			Warm-Up America	10:30 AM
						Tammuz Yoga	2:00 PM
						Dungeons & Dragons Group	3:30 PM
		Shabbat Morning Services	9:30 AM	Mon	26	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
Sun	11	Talmud Study Group	9:00 AM	Wed	28	Free Lunch	11:30 AM
		Young-ish Jew-ish Group at Wilson's Orchard	2:00 PM			Book Group	1:00 PM
		Dungeons & Dragons Group	3:30 PM	Fri	30	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM
Mon	12	Yiddish Study Group	10:30 AM			Shabbat Schmooze	6:30 PM
		Monday Drop-Ins	10:00 AM			Shabbat Evening Services	7:00 PM
		Taste of Judaism	7:00 PM	SAVE THE DATES			
				Tammuz Yoga, Sundays July 2, 9 & 16			
				RAGBRAI Shabbat: July 28			
Wed	14	Summer Coffee Meet-Up	10:00 AM				

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