



# Agudas Achim Congregation

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## June 2024 / Iyar-Sivan 5784



*Congregants witnessed a rainbow during services on Friday, May 10.*

*Courtesy of Marcus Nashelsky*

**Please note this bulletin contains some items for both May and June.**

See note from the administrator on page 8 for more information.

## FROM THE RABBI

*Esther Hugenholtz*

Early summer is the time of year where we can all breathe a little easier (unless you have seasonal allergies!) and see new beginnings unfold everywhere we turn; in the leaves, the blossoms, the quietude of the Omer Period, a sweet, calm time between Passover and Shavu'ot, the conquest of exams and finals, culminating of course, with the beckoning of summer vacation. As we find ourselves surrounded by sunshine, florals and birdsong, I hope that despite all the vicissitudes of the world, we can find moments of learning and healing together—and we certainly have such planned in our community.

Looking back at the last month, we were a hub of activity (and not just in dealing with building-related mishaps – kudos to our office team, Hannah and John, for doing yeoman's work on this!)

For starters, we closed out the Sunday School year with a special Sunday School Family-Friendly Shabbat and Luncheon on Shabbat May 11. Both Sunday School Families and the entire congregation supported our students as they co-led parts of our musical service and get to know our young families. We ended the service with a delightful and slightly rowdy blessing-of-the-children on the bimah under the rabbi's tallit.

We also celebrated and commemorated Yom ha'Atzma'ut (Israeli Independence Day) with a very special program led by Jayne Sandler who shared poignant, important photos and testimonies from her Israel mission trip earlier this year where she helped support the Israeli economy and honored the victims of October 7<sup>th</sup>. Jayne visiting the forests of the Nova Festival. Over Oasis falafel, we bore witness to Jayne's testimony and her remarkable photography as we drew close the bonds between ourselves and our fellow Jews in the Land of Israel.

In a testimony to the diversity of our congregation, there also was a separate session, we also learned about Palestinian historical narratives and experiences from 1948 onwards, where we

revisited some of our assumptions about the conflict and held the fullness of the humanity of Palestinians and Israelis in our heart. Due to building mishaps, this session was hosted by our gracious friends at Trinity Church and was well-attended.

Meanwhile, I was blessed to attend 'Hava Nashira / Sing Unto God' – a wonderful conference of contemporary Jewish liturgical music. I shlepped to Texas, sang my lungs out with 120 other lovers of Jewish music including song leaders, cantors and rabbis, absorbed exciting new tunes (some of which I hope to debut in our congregation over a longer period of time) and missed my connecting flight on the way back due to a storm in Texas! All was well, however, and I came back with music in my ears and a full heart. Do you want to share in the joy? Good news! Hava Nashira will be at Camp OSRUI in Wisconsin from **May 18 to 21 in 2025**. All you need is a love of music—let's try to get a contingent going from the synagogue!

Deeper in May, our Big Ideas Book Club continued strong too. So far, we've done Dara Horn's 'People Love Dead Jews', Shaul Magid's 'The Necessity of Exile' and Tizah Firestone's 'Wounds Into Wisdom – Healing Jewish Intergenerational Trauma.' As we seek to continue monthly, is there a Big (Jewish) Idea book you'd like us to consider? Please do get in touch with any suggestions.

We will close out the Spring/Early Summer Season with a twofer: our (returning!) Urban Shavu'ot Retreat and our annual Pride March. We will observe traditional Shavu'ot (hopefully with a Wine and Cheese Oneg and some light learning and music) on **Tuesday June 11**, and have morning services **June 12 and 13** (with Yizkor) on our 'campus' (at the synagogue). For our downtown event, the Urban Retreat, we have chosen the weekend of **June 14 and 15** of June where we will kick off with a vibrant, outdoors Kabbalat Shabbat service, followed by food and parallel learning

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## FROM THE RABBI *Esther Hugenholtz (cont.)*

*(Continued from page 2)*

sessions—all night long! We will greet the dawn with a dawn service and for the truly energetic among us, we will gather at noon at the Pride Parade to support our LGBTQ family as we do yearly. This year, we will also have an Agudas Achim booth so come talk to me if you're interested in representing our congregation at Pride or just stopping in to hang out!

As we head into the summer, we are preparing for our Board Retreat, Mutual Review process and our Annual Meeting. Our President, David Lubaroff, has written insightfully about the important work the lay leadership has been doing behind the scenes. It has been an absolute honor to serve with them this past year. Geopolitically, and for the Jewish people and for the whole human family, this has been (and continues to be) a difficult, gut-wrenching year—yet I couldn't imagine weathering these storms with a better group of my fellow Jews. Our Board is thoughtful, internally diverse, hardworking, consistent, compassionate and innovative. We owe our synagogue's success to their devotion. Hopefully, the months ahead will offer them reprieve and rest before we gear up again for the High Holiday season.

Speaking of rest... and this applies to me too. After seven years of serving Agudas Achim, I am given the chance to take a Sabbatical for which I am very excited. The Sabbatical will be chopped into two pieces: adding one month onto my usual July leave, I'll be gone July and August. Then I'll come back for a wonderful High Holiday season for September and October and take two more months in November and December. My family and I are excited and grateful for this period of rest and renewal and I hope to do some traveling, lots of reading, some writing and just nurturing my soul and come back to the community refreshed and with my characteristic enthusiasm fully engaged.

Meanwhile, we encourage YOUR enthusiastic engagement too! Our Adult Torah learners class is deepening their grasp on Hebrew and liturgy, our Introduction to Judaism class is in its final stretches and we said goodbye to this year's Sunday School cohorts who have given us so much necessary laughter and joy. If you want to teach/lead a session at the Urban Shavu'ot retreat, support us at Pride or help out with services before, after or during my Sabbatical, volunteer for the synagogue (even for a couple of hours on a time-bound project), we would love all of that very much. It is all of us who makes this community come together.

Meanwhile, I wish you the sweetest of summers with its simple delights and enduring beauty. I know we are all working hard to make this bright and beautiful time of year extra special. May the flowering of our own love of Judaism burst forth with color, pride and bold dreams.



*Hava Nashira 2024*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*David Lubaroff*

### JUNE

Agudas Achim Congregation is governed by the Board of Directors (Board) along with its Executive Committee. The President is the person that leads both groups as a facilitator, allowing its members to be innovative, ethical, and collaborative. The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) published *“The 4 Best Principles of Congregational Governance”* written by Amy Asin and Rabbi Esther L. Lederman. They are: (1) *Ground the activity of your congregation and the decision-making of your leadership in your foundational statements, reinforcing your communities sacred purpose;* (2) *establish clear, mission driven, and flexible organizational structure, processes, and culture to support your congregation in adapting to new challenges;* (3) *create a transparent, reflective, diverse, and positive leadership culture, emphasizing sacred partnership;* and (4) *engage in ongoing leadership development.* Similarly, the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ) describes Synagogue Board Leadership Responsibilities: (1) *Define Mission and Purpose;* (2) *Create an Effective Organizational Process;* (3) *Assess Performance;* (4) *Recruit and Train Board Members;* and (5) *Provide Proper Financial and Operational Oversight.*

Instead of writing about how the Agudas Achim Board address each of the principles and responsibilities, I will tell you, our congregants, how the current board has served you well and how their actions relate to the four URJ and five USCJ best practices. I have served on many boards in the 50 years as a member of this synagogue culminating in my second presidency and have experienced a wide variety of styles and performances. My first goal, as I approached the date on which I would become President, was to develop a board whose members were dedicated to working for the betterment of Agudas Achim, would work collaboratively, and be innovative in developing and applying plans for their committees. The result has been successful beyond my hopes. We had a two-day board retreat two months after taking office

where we discussed what strengths we want to continue working on, what weaknesses we need to strengthen, and mission/vision of the board and committees. Also discussed were religious practices/spirituality, social interactions, the Religious School, adult education, and outreach. The retreat was a tremendous success and made so by the dedication of the new board members, the office staff, the school principal, and our Rabbi. At the end of the retreat, we developed action plans based on our two-day discussions that have given us a roadmap for the present and future.

Our second retreat will take place on June 2 and, in addition to discussing the same areas as we did last year, we will spend half the time on a Mutual Review. The review, designed by the URJ, has as its goal, *“Building and nurturing a sacred partnership between rabbi and congregation.”* Agudas Achim formed a five-person liaison committee that will facilitate the review. We are confident that both the review and retreat will benefit our synagogue.

**Diversity** - The leadership is guided by principles that can be summarized by two words – respect and collaboration. Each of us respects the ideas, opinions, plans, and beliefs of all of us on the board and work collaboratively toward the overall goal of promoting the best religious, social, and educational activities of our synagogue. Our membership is diverse by many measures, each with likes and dislikes, preferences for religious practices, gender identification, sexual preferences, and many other measures, including opinions in support of Israel and the current conflict between the Jewish State and Hamas. The membership of the board reflects this diversity as well which makes us able to develop programs that would appeal to most, if not all our congregants. To that end we developed three important documents to guide the current leadership and those in years to come. They are a Mission/Vision statement, an Ethics Code, and a set of Core Values. All of these are available to any member on request by sending an

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*David Lubaroff (cont.)*

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email to me at [president@agudasachimic.org](mailto:president@agudasachimic.org) or our secretary Hannah Sandler at [secretary@agudasachimic.org](mailto:secretary@agudasachimic.org).

**Transparency** - Two years ago, the board, under the presidency of Janice Weiner, held two Listening Posts to discern the likes and dislikes of our membership. These occurred during a particularly difficult period at Agudas Achim, and it helped us understand the diverse views of the attendees. Many of those present wanted more transparency, knowledge of the governing processes, and information on decisions made by the board. We made many changes to increase transparency such that the monthly Bulletins and weekly This Week at Agudas Achim emails contain a large amount of information. For example, the minutes of the monthly Board meetings are available through a link, as are other documents developed by the board. Other information about the building, services, social events, adult education, religious school, changes to the lay leadership, and more have been, and will be included in our regular publications/emails. Particularly important, time sensitive, information is transmitted by email blasts to congregants. In addition, I am open to email requests for information as are the office staff, school principal, and board members.

**Leadership Development** - The recruitment of members willing to serve on the board has been difficult for me and past presidents. Two reasons contributed to the problem; lack of interest to serve on the board and lack of experience in governing a synagogue. We have many talented members of Agudas Achim that we would like to recruit, and I will propose to the current board that we initiate an educational and training series. Perhaps exposure to the participation in working for the synagogue will allow us to convince them to consider accepting an invitation to serve on future boards and committees.

**Financial Oversight** – During the many years I have served on Agudas Achim boards, I have been impressed with members that have served as Treasurer. Each of them has worked diligently to assure the function of the synagogue. I have the pleasure of working with our current treasurer, Mindy Russell. None of the treasurers operate the finances by himself/herself. Each year the board and the treasurer work together to review the current year's income and expenses and use that information to propose the budget for the following year. In addition, periodic financial reports are presented at board meetings. Our goals are to provide each committee with sufficient funds to operate efficiently, to be able to maintain operation of building systems, to avoid, as much as possible, deficits, and to keep dues and school tuition as reasonable as possible. Past and present boards have not raised those expenses for many years.

One of the most important aspects of synagogue governance is the relationship of the board with the rabbi. This sacred partnership is the foundation of providing congregants with the best services, be they religious, social, or educational. Our current board has an open and collaborative relationship with Rabbi Hugenholtz. The president, president-elect, and the rabbi meet biweekly to discuss topics related to good governance and planning. Our rabbi also participates in meetings of the executive committee, the board, and committees. These represent give and take discussions as well as checks and balances.

I hope that all of you reading this message will better understand how the Rabbi, Office Staff, the Principal, executive committee, and the board work conscientiously, and collaboratively to present to you, our members, a synagogue that meets your needs. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the board if you wish to discuss topics of concern, but also to tell us if you are pleased with how we are governing Agudas Achim.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*David Lubaroff (cont.)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

### MAY

I want to talk about Spring, my favorite time of the year. We all mourn the last leaves on trees and the last flowers on plants in Autumn, leaving a gray palette over our world. We endure the bitter cold of winter with its Alberta Clippers and Bomb Cyclones as well as the snow and ice. We are impatient for change in February but usually experience disappointment as sunny days are few and cold continues. Then, suddenly we see the first signs of change – daffodils and tulips poking through the cold earth soon to display their yellows, reds, pink, and other beautiful colors; trees become alive, some with early blooms of color and others the beautiful greens that surround us.

The world around us is reborn, returning to its bright clothing. It feels to me as a rebirth, new colors, new beauty, and optimism that we all need. For me being surrounded by the beauty and warmth of Spring allows me to better cope with the ever-present stresses that have been heaped upon me. I hope that all of you can also reap the benefits of this wonderful season.

In Jewish tradition, the physical is always merely the surface reflection of the spiritual. According to this approach, the true reason behind the natural physical rebirth and liberation of spring is spiritual. Spring brings us to some of the happiest holidays and celebrations in which we also celebrate a rebirth. These include Purim, Pesach, and Shavuot.

**Purim** - Whether your Purim greeting is “*Happy Purim,*” or in Yiddish, “*A freilichen Purim,*” or even Hebrew, “*Chag Purim Sameach,*” one thing is for sure - you will be heading into the happiest, busiest days on the Jewish calendar. But there’s a spiritual side to Purim other than color and noise. Behind the Purim songs and general boisterousness is a day of prayer and holiness. Giving is also a big theme on Purim, with a special emphasis on donations to

the poor. That’s because we want to be as happy as possible on Purim, and it’s giving to others that brings us true happiness. It’s a joy that lasts so much longer than indulging in physical pleasures. The first thing that comes to mind is Purim costumes. What will you be dressing up as this year? Some people love to think of original and creative Purim costume ideas. Funny costumes for Purim are perfectly appropriate while other people will dress up with a Purim theme, such as being characters from the Purim story. Queen Esther and Mordechai are favorite costumes. Then you can hit the stores in search of goodies for the Purim gift baskets, called *mishloach manos*. Your gift baskets can be fancy or cute or plain, as long as they fulfill their purpose: to make the people who get them happy! Many congregations, ours included, continue the happy Spring celebration by putting on a Purim Spiel or Play giving the audience chances to yell and drown the name Haman whenever it is mentioned. The fun continues with a Purim Fair where children of all ages have a wonderful time celebrating this happiest of Spring holidays.

**Pesach** - The social anthropologist regards Pesach as the Jewish spring festival. Most human cultures hold some sort of formal celebration to celebrate the end of winter and the arrival of new life in the spring. In the view of the anthropologist, Pesach is the Jewish version of this universal human custom, with, of course, the eccentric Jewish twist of eating unleavened bread for seven days. Passover celebrates the story of the Israelites’ journey from slavery to freedom. This beginning was not a simple journey to the Promised Land, the return to the land of our ancestors. Rather, it was a 40-year journey in which two generations of Israelites faced multiple hardships while living a nomadic, exposed life. This journey exposed this new nation to the harshness of living in a semi-arid, desert environment. The Torah describes the challenges they faced, from other tribes attacking them to the lack of food and drink. It was anything but glorious.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*David Lubaroff (cont.)*

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Yet, Passover is designated as one of three festive, joyous holidays in the Jewish calendar and is a celebration of the newly acquired freedom. The exodus from Egyptian enslavement and the journey to freedom is, again, a rebirth.

We gather with our families, our friends, congregants, and invite strangers to our Seder to retell the story of our People's freedom and rebirth. We celebrate this Spring holiday with storytelling, singing, food and fun. We welcome Elijah as a symbol of the coming of the messiah to bring peace to the world. There are many symbols in the Seder and the meal that refer to a rebirth. The roasted egg on the Seder plate and, in many homes including ours, we begin the meal with hardboiled egg and salt water. Eggs traditionally symbolize rebirth, a new beginning. Another symbol is the presence of greens, usually parsley or chives, new spring crops.

**Shavuot** - Literally translated as *the festival of weeks*, gets its name as it is celebrated exactly seven weeks after the second Passover meal, where the exodus from Egypt is recounted. It is believed that Moses received the Ten Commandments and the Torah seven weeks after the Jewish people left Egypt. It is for this reason that many also refer to Shavuot by the name *Z'man Matan Torateinu*, the season of the giving of the Torah. To celebrate the receiving of the Torah, it is customary to stay up all

night studying the Jewish texts to connect with the pivotal moment at Mount Sinai and to remember the responsibilities and challenges associated with becoming the Jewish people.

The evolution from the mindset of slavery to becoming a free people was a complicated process. The journey from slavery to freedom required an intense cultural change as well. A slave's mind and body are entirely under the domination of another. We were freed with what is now Passover, but it took the passage of time for us to reach Mt. Sinai - literally and figuratively. It took an epic journey -- with setbacks and mistakes along the way -- for our ancestors to change as individuals and as a people. Only after we began to incorporate our sense of self as a free people could we be given the Torah. A long, but successful rebirth during Spring.

There you have my celebration of a season replete with happiness, with color, with renewed vigor, being reborn for another foray into life and all that it brings to our doorsteps. May you all revel in the new season and appreciate your lives. Give love to your family, friends, and anyone who needs a rebirth.

Love to all,  
David

## WARM UP AMERICA

Warm Up America will meet twice in June, on the 2nd and 23rd, and in July on the 7th and 21st, from 10:30a.m. to noon, in the social hall. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us as we magically create complete afghans from skeins of yarn. If we are not waiting by the front door, please come around to the back and knock.

Here's one of our recent afghans, with knit, crochet, and crochoked patches; all made at home by people and brought to the synagogue for inclusion.



## FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

*John Wertz*

It's never a dull moment in the synagogue office! We as an office team have been dealing with building issues that have recently consumed a good portion of our time and energy. We've tended to sewer-related problems as they have come up for quite a while. However, in early May, we discovered that the primary cause of these issues was two different companies boring large holes in our sewer pipe when placing their own lines. We believe both cases happened years ago.

These breakages caused rocks and debris to enter our sewer line, causing occasional backups, and also causing sewage to leak out below ground. We would likely have discovered this sooner if not for the lighter traffic our building experienced during the early pandemic. This problem has now been dealt with, but it was a large, expensive, complicated operation, and it had to happen quickly. This is the reason we had to temporarily relocate some of our May events and why there was no May bulletin.

We have included certain elements from May in this bulletin to make up for that. I am very grateful to Hannah Sandler for dealing with a lot of these companies directly, making things happen, and keeping everyone informed. And sincere thanks to Tom Gelman and everyone who has sat in meetings with us and helped us figure out how to navigate a situation none of us could have anticipated.

Although the immediate problem is now dealt with, there are other lingering related issues that remain. I appreciate everyone's patience throughout this process.

As we've mentioned in previous publications, this is far from the only building problem we've had to contend with this year. While the leadership of the synagogue may work on a more formal fundraising campaign for our building in the future, I would like to invite you to consider donating to our building fund to help offset some of our repair costs so that we can keep our beautiful communal home in great condition.

## BUDDY SYSTEM

Interested in having a buddy or being a buddy? Information can be found [here](#).

## 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.

Rabbi Esther is also available through email and text message. You can always send the rabbi an email at any time! A gentle reminder, however, to only use text message for urgent matters (if it can wait, please put it in an email) and within reasonable working hours (10 a.m. till 6 p.m.). The rabbi's day off is Tuesday. Text messages or emails will not be dealt with on Tuesdays, Shabbat or Sunday afternoon. Thank you for keeping our lines of communication open and respectful!

## ADULT EDUCATION

*Lisa Heineman*

Our new Public Space Judaism initiative, **Big Ideas in Jewish Books** got off to a roaring start in April with Dara Horn's *People Love Dead Jews* and Shaul Magid's *The Necessity of Exile*. Thanks to the attendees for the lively discussion! By the time you read this bulletin, we'll have had our third session on Tizrah Firestone's *Wounds into Wisdom: Healing Jewish Intergenerational Trauma*. We'll discuss our next book, [Julia Watts Belser's \*Loving Our Own Bones\*](#), on June 26 at the ICPL.

Adult Education partnered in planning our **Peace Seder** at Trinity Church, lifting up voices of peace and coexistence in Israel/Palestine. Nearly 90 attendees shared ritual, poetry, conversation, song, and of course good food.

Thanks to Lea Haravon Collins, Karen Charney, and Judith Lipskin Gasparro for their beautiful contributions to our **Yom Ha'Shoah** event. Jayne Sandler gave a moving and informative presentation on her recent mission trip to Israel for **Yom Ha'Azmaut**. And we had a lively and thoughtful discussion of **Encountering Palestinian Histories of 1948**.

In addition to our regular programming, we'll continue our discussion of Israel/Palestine with three special events in June: A talk by [Brian Farrell](#) (UI College of Law and Center for Human Rights) on International Law, Israel, and Gaza; and two film screenings: [Golda](#) and [Tantura](#), each followed by facilitated discussion.

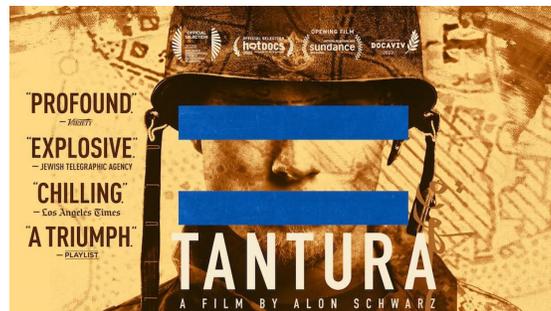
Here's the filmmaker's blurb for *Golda*:

*Golda is a ticking-clock thriller set during the tense 19 days of the Yom Kippur War in 1973. Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir (Helen Mirren), faced with the potential of Israel's complete destruction, must navigate overwhelming odds, a skeptical cabinet, and a complex relationship with US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (Liev Schreiber), with millions of lives in the balance. Her tough leadership and compassion would ultimately decide the fate of her nation and leave her with a controversial legacy around the world.*



And here's the filmmaker's blurb for *Tantura*:

*Hundreds of Palestinian villages were depopulated in 1948. To Israelis it was the War of Independence, to Palestinians it was 'Al Nakba,' the Catastrophe. Director Alon Schwarz revisits former Israeli soldiers as well as Palestinian residents in an effort to re-examine what happened in Tantura, the location of an alleged, Israeli-perpetrated massacre.*



## JUNE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Unless otherwise noted, events will be held at Agudas Achim Congregation.

**April 28, 3:15-4:** Mussar for the Omer Season, led by Lea Haravon Collins.

**June 3, 6-7 pm:** Adult Hebrew Learners

**June 4, 5:30-6:30 pm:** "International Law, Israel, and Gaza," talk by Brian Farrell (UI College of Law & Center for Human Rights).

**June 9, 3:15-4:** Mussar for the Omer Season, led by Lea Haravon Collins.

**June 14-15, 6 pm – 7 am, Brown Street Inn:** Shavuot Retreat. See details elsewhere in this bulletin.

**June 17, 6-7 pm:** Adult Hebrew Learners

**June 19, 5:30-8 pm, location TBA:** Screening of *Golda*. Dinner at 5:30, screening at 6 pm, followed

by facilitated discussion. *RSVP helpful so we can plan for dinner.*

**June 26, 6-7:30 pm, ICPL meeting room D:** Big Ideas in Jewish Books. Discussion of Julian Watts Belser, *Loving Our Own Bones: Disability Wisdom and the Spiritual Subversiveness of Knowing Ourselves Whole*

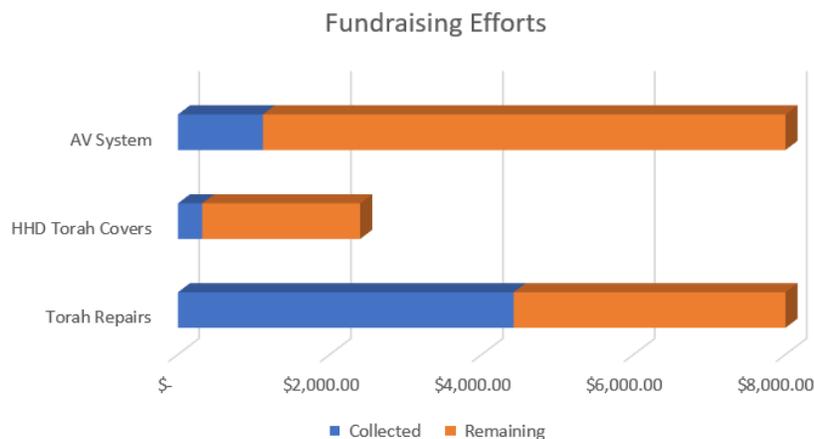
**June 27, 5:30-8 pm, location TBA:** Screening of *Tantura*. Dinner at 5:30, screening at 6 pm, followed by facilitated discussion. *RSVP helpful so we can plan for dinner.*

***As is our tradition, we'll put programming on hold for July. See you in August!***

***Big thanks to the members of the Adult Ed committee – Corvin Green, Doug Jones, and Rachael Carlson – for collaborating in such an amazing year of programming!***

## CONGREGATIONAL NEEDS FUNDRAISER

From time to time our congregation has needs that you may have a special passion for helping to provide to our space. In an effort to ensure our stability as a congregation, feel free to donate to these "smaller" important needs, as you are able. We will be noting our progress (transparently) each month to monitor where we are in reaching these goals! Note: \$2400 was previously in the Torah fund and is included here under Torah Repairs.



## FROM THE CARING COMMITTEE

*Nancy Goldsmith, Susan Lutgendorf, & Teresa Weiner*

To those of you who have responded to this request from the April Bulletin – thank you and you can stop reading now.

The Caring Committee has been successful in meeting requests for assistance, but we want to be able to do more if asked.

1. We would like to have a roster of volunteers who stand ready to support members of our congregation. Volunteers would offer comfort, connection, and assistance through, in-person and phone visits, providing rides, making deliveries, and other ways of reaching out to each other.
2. As you are hopefully aware, we use Meal Trains to provide meals to those dealing with stressful times such as childbirth, planned surgery. However, there can be situations that arise where help is needed, and we don't have time to organize a Meal Train. To that end, we would like to create a list of people who we can call upon at short notice to provide a meal when needed.

If you would be willing to help, please email us at: [caring@agudasachimic.org](mailto:caring@agudasachimic.org) with your contact information and what you would be willing to do.

And, most importantly, if you are in need of one of these services, please, please, do not hesitate to ask – just use the same email address and one of us will respond as quickly as we can.

Thank you.

## FREE LUNCH– RETURN OF THE MAC!

The time has come once again for Agudas Achim's bi-monthly engagement at Free Lunch! This time, we'll have **two opportunities** for congregants to get involved. Want to chow down on cheesy goodness while also helping your community? Read on!

On **Sunday, June 16, from 6-8pm**, the tikkun olam committee seeks congregants to help us cook a massive amount of macaroni and cheese! As those who have done this before can attest, it's a convivial, low-pressure way to hang out with fellow congregants (the recipe is *super* easy to follow), and everyone gets a portion of oven-fresh macaroni! **If you are interested in helping to cook, please email [mallory-hellman@uiowa.edu](mailto:mallory-hellman@uiowa.edu).**



On **Wednesday, June 19**, Agudas Achim will be helping to serve and clean at Free Lunch Iowa City. Sonja, Mal, and Kai had a blast there together in April, and we'd love some new friends to join this time around! The time commitment is flexible; ideally, folks would be able to commit 1-3 hours in the 11am-2pm time range. **If you'd like to join, email [Sonja Spear](mailto:Sonja Spear).**

## SCHOOL NEWS

*Sonja Spear*

### JUNE

The year ended with all the kids standing under a *tallit* while Rabbi Esther recited the priestly blessing. Well, they weren't exactly standing. They were jumping and making – well, I'll call it a joyful noise.

That's teaching our kids in a nutshell. They're exuberant sometimes, uncooperative occasionally, and learning (even if they think it's play). All the kids except for the very youngest helped lead the Torah service. They have been practicing for a semester, and it showed. We sang other great Sunday School songs, including Bim Bam (the youngest kids), *Adamah V-Shamayyim* (Earth and Sky), and *Etz Hayyim (Shalom)*. It was especially wonderful to be able to share these songs and prayers with parents, grandparents and many members of the congregation. It is so important for the kids to experience the Jewish community as loving, supportive, and present.

So often, the school is in its own silo, separated from the rest of community. We are isolated because we meet on Sundays while the community gathers for prayer on Friday nights and Saturday mornings, because our program engages children but not families, and because there is not a robust connection between what the kids do at Agudas Achim and what they do outside the synagogue. I don't raise these issues as a reproach to anyone. This is just the water we swim in. We all live in the same American culture, and in Iowa at that. Sunday is the day when children's programs don't meet, so that people can go to church. Our Jewish community is so small, that it is easiest for us to work with the time and space that Christian hegemony creates for us. Otherwise, we would deprive our children of opportunities enjoyed by their friends.

At the same time, we can't deny the consequences of organizing our children's Jewish education in this way. Jewish education should be organic, a

deepening understanding of a culture in which our children already live. Instead, it often feels to me that I am teaching the kids about Judaism instead of how to be Jewish. Where our learning should feel familiar (literally "family-like"), it can feel almost as distanced as learning math at school. I try to get us past this feeling in many ways – from promoting friendship among the kids to grounding so much of their learning in songs. In moments of doubt, I tell myself that I am giving the kids keys to a treasure chest that already belongs to them. Someday, I hope, they will want to open the chest and find that they still have the keys. Is this an entirely satisfying metaphor? I'm not sure.

I raised some of these issues in a round-about way at a meeting with parents on May 5<sup>th</sup>. We had an interesting conversation that ranged over many topics. In the end, most people seemed to want to keep the Sunday meeting but to hold more Shabbat events and to revive our *havurah* (prayer group/fellowship) for families. I think both ideas will go a long way to building a truly supportive community for kids and families. These programs require considerable work on my part and a rock-solid commitment from parents, or they will not last long. But I am happy to put my shoulder to the wheel because I think that, together, we can build a beautiful, supportive community for each other and envelop our children in its embrace.

What will we call this thing that is partly children learning on Sunday, partly a budding youth group for younger kids, and partly a *havurah*? "School" does not capture this experience; it carries that cold feeling of math class. In fact, many of my colleagues at other synagogues have dropped the word "school." One synagogue called its educational program JELY ("Jewish Engagement and Learning for Youth", I think). They promoted the new name by sending jars of strawberry jelly home. Maybe that's a bit cute. One of the parents used the word "club." Perhaps we really mean a "*chevrah*," which

*(Continued on page 13)*

## SCHOOL NEWS

### *Sonja Spear (cont.)*

*(Continued from page 12)*

translates roughly as a group of companions. Maybe our children can become companions in learning, in practice, in bringing their Judaism with them into world and into adulthood. I am still looking for the right word.

We ended our Shabbat service with “*B’Tzelem Elohim*” (In the Image of God), which became our theme song this semester. We are all created in the image of God, we taught the kids, that means you, your friend, and the person who hate most in the world, who just punched you in the nose. It’s a profound idea that, I’m sure, the kids heard but did not fully take in. You have to be much older and have a deeper experience of the world than that. But, as I said, keys to a treasure chest. I have been very happy to see the rabbi include this song in some of the regular Shabbat services. What the children learn enriches the whole community, just as the community shows the children how to be Jewish.

It was a wonderful year! Thank you to everyone who taught, who brought a snack, who dropped off children, and who came to our regular 15-minute service on Sundays and sang along. You all hold up half the sky.

### **MAY**

The plagues have hit the school! I’m not just talking about the eclipse (darkness) or the recent hail or even about whatever is happening to the drains in the bathrooms. The kids have thrown themselves into preparing for Passover. They hopped to the Frog Song, pretending to be the frogs that Pharaoh found on his noses and his toes. They also wrestled with the long, jaw breaking words in the Four Questions.

In the first Sundays before Passover, we mostly worked on rituals. We made matzah from a recipe

that cheated by adding some oil for flavor. But the kids understood the need to make matzah fast, before I can ferment and rise. The results we varied. Some bites were a bit raw, some were burnt, and some were just right. But – look out, Manishevitz! – it was still better than the factory-made stuff. At least to us. The youngest kids played a game to test what was *hametz* and what was *matzah* or at least kosher for Passover. They concluded by eating donuts. *Hametz*, but delicious. The kids made seder plates and discussed the meaning of the symbolic foods.

We spent two Sundays working on the story of Passover. We began by connecting the story to a piece of the Shabbat service that the kids already knew. They sang *Mi Kamokha* (Who is Like You) while acting out crossing the Red Sea, represented by a blue tallit that Robyn and Josie held up high. To be honest, the kids ran more than they sang. But probably the people fleeing Egypt did the same.

To really dig into the story, though, the kids had to divide into classes. The youngest kids were a little confused by the story of Moses in the basket. But they really grasped the plagues, putting them in order and everything. (I’m not sure what this says about human nature.) The oldest kids tried to figure out why God asked Moses to take off his shoes. (To count his toes?) But eventually they came around to the idea that we can stand before the Divine without artificial barriers.

By the end of the third day, it was time to put everything together. The older kids drew the story of the Exodus, scene by scene, on huge post-Its and lined the halls with the pictures. Then, the older kids sent an ambassador to the little kids, inviting them to a tour of the gallery. Step by step, panel by panel, they walked the littles through the story of Passover right up to the foot of Mt. Sinai.

Sometimes kids have trouble learning from each other. But the littles crowded around the pictures,

*(Continued on page 14)*

## SCHOOL NEWS

### *Sonja Spear (cont.)*

*(Continued from page 13)*

pointing to the strange figures and asking, “What’s that?”

I loved this moment. The youngest kids heard the story as told by the cool older kids. The older kids had to really think through the story, first to illustrate the story and then to get the incidents in

the right order. But that was just what was happening on the surface. I think there was a more subtle lesson that went like this: This story is too important to just listen to. This is a story that you have to *tell*. And as you tell it, you teach it to kids who are too young to tell it yet. Kids can be both students and teachers because, ultimately, Judaism and all its stories belong to them.

## FUNDRAISER FOR TORNADO RELIEF IN GREENFIELD

As many are aware, the tornadoes of May 21 left the town of Greenfield, Iowa decimated. The Agudas Achim tikkun olam committee has pledged \$400 to the Greater Greenfield Community Foundation to help with the town's disaster relief efforts. **We would love to be able to give more—can you help?**

If you would like to contribute to Agudas Achim's donation to the Greater Greenfield Community Foundation, please write a check to Agudas Achim Congregation, with "Tornado Relief" on the memo line, or send a donation through [PayPal](#) or [Venmo](#), and we will combine your contribution with ours. We will collect donations through June 14. Thank you in advance for your help in this vital effort.

Any questions about this fundraiser can be directed to [mallory-hellman@uiowa.edu](mailto:mallory-hellman@uiowa.edu).



## AGUDAS ACHIM PARENTS TEXT THREAD

Synagogue members who are parents of young kids have started a casual text thread for coordinating meet-ups around town (at playgrounds, children's museum, kid-focused events, etc.) If you're a parent of young kids and you'd like to opt in to this text thread, you can do so [here!](#) The thread has been fairly quiet over the winter months, but we hope to coordinate more meet-ups as the weather warms up.

## MAHJONGG

Join us for Mahjongg from **2:00-4:00 p.m.** (unless noted) in the synagogue on the dates below. Bring a Mahjongg card if you have one. It is helpful to know by the Friday before the Sunday game who is planning to play so please email the host if you plan to play.

There are also reminders in the synagogue weekly email and monthly bulletin. Beginners and walk-ins are always welcome.

June 9- [RSVP to Jayne](#)

June 16- [RSVP to Karen](#)

June 23- [RSVP to Corvin](#)

June 30- [RSVP to Corvin](#)



## APRIL & MAY BOARD MINUTES

Minutes from the April board meeting can be found [at this link.](#)

Minutes from the May board meeting can be found [at this link.](#)

## APRIL & MAY ONEG HOSTS

**Thank you to April's oneg hosts: Adult Education, Doug & Beverly Jones , Sue Weinberg & Robert Armstrong**

**Thank you to May's oneg hosts: Doug & Beverly Jones, Ari Levin, Meyer Lehman, Joan & Marcus Nashelsky**

**[Sign up to host an oneg at this link.](#)**

# Yoga with Lea

Rosh Chodesh Sivan & Rosh Chodesh Tammuz Yoga  
with Lea Haravon Collins

Join us for Rosh Chodesh classes to welcome the Jewish months of Sivan and Tammuz! 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: 2:00-3:00 p.m. Sunday June 9 and Sunday July 7

Location: Agudas Achim Congregation

Optional, but nice to have: Yoga mat, large towel, or blanket

For more information: [Leslea-collins@outlook.com](mailto:Leslea-collins@outlook.com)



## LIBRARY NEWS

*Teresa Weiner*

Summer! If not less busy, at least a welcome change of pace! Perhaps you'll set aside more time for reading? Peruse our library's books and check out your next great read. In our fiction section, you'll find stories from a Jewish perspective. And in our nonfiction books, take a deep dive into everything Jewish from cooking to history and beyond. The library is always open when the building is open. Not sure when that is? Just check the weekly email or monthly bulletin, or, call ahead to confirm (319-337-3813).

Our books for younger readers are organized this way:

- \*Holiday books (from board books to older readers)
- \*Books for first readers and to read aloud
- \*Books for other young readers and to read aloud
- \*Books for older readers
- \*Holocaust books (fiction and nonfiction)

Our adult books are organized this way:

- \*Fiction books are shelved by name of author
- \*Biographies are shelved by name of person profiled
- \*Other nonfiction books are shelved by

Dewey Decimal System:

- 000 General works
- 100 Philosophy & psychology
- 200 Religion
- 300 Social sciences
- 400 Language
- 500 Science
- 600 Technology
- 700 Arts
- 800 Literature
- 900 History & geography

*As much now as ever, we must keep reading...  
not only to remember, but also to discover what we do not even know to ask.*

## MUSSAR CLASSES

Join Lea Haravon Collins, certified Mussar Facilitator, to explore character-building traits through a Jewish lens between Passover and Shavuot. Come away from each meeting with a simple exercise to practice during the week.

Drop-in curriculum: come when you can!

Time and Dates: 3:15-4pm Sundays between Passover and Shavuot, April 28 – June 9\*

Location: Agudas Achim Congregation

\*On June 9, you are welcome to attend a 2pm Yoga class related to the middah (character trait) of the week.

For more information:  
[Leslea-collins@outlook.com](mailto:Leslea-collins@outlook.com)

Agudas Achim

LGBTQ+ GROUP

GET-TOGETHER



THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH,  
5PM

THE GREEN HOUSE  
505 E WASHINGTON ST  
IOWA CITY, IA 52240



***Agudas Achim Young Member Family Group***  
***Fun at City Park: Casual Meet UP***

**Sunday, June 9**

**11 am- 1pm**

**Shelter #13**

We'll provide the bagels and cream cheese- you can bring a beverage of your choice!  
Please RSVP to [membership@agudasachimic.org](mailto:membership@agudasachimic.org) by Wednesday, June 5 and let us know how many will attend and if anyone is gluten or dairy free.

Drive into lower City Park and take the road all the way to the end towards the baseball fields. There is a children's playground nearby up the hill from the shelter.

This group is for young adult members with or without kids, but especially for those with children under the age of 6.

Agudas Achim Presents:  
Overnight Learning & Spiritual Retreat  
**Shavuot Urban Retreat**

Friday, June 14

Join us at the Brown Street Inn for a night full of songs and conversations as we raise funds for the Johnson County Food Bank.

★  
Brown Street Inn  
430 Brown Street  
Iowa City, IA 52245

★  
6 pm- Dairy potluck dinner  
7 pm- Musical Shabbat service  
All night learning (drop in/drop out or stay all night)  
6 am- Dawn service

Bring comfy clothing, and feel free to bring blankets & pillows. Places will be available for napping/resting.

Interested in leading a session? Contact [adulted@agudasachimic.org](mailto:adulted@agudasachimic.org)  
Looking to donate? Contact [administrator@agudaachimic.org](mailto:administrator@agudaachimic.org)

[rsvp@agudasachimic.org](mailto:rsvp@agudasachimic.org)  
RSVPs welcome, but not required!

## TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

### **Fall in Love with Jewish Learning at our Tikkun Leil Shavuot!**

Shavuot, which occurs 49/50 days after Passover, commemorates the giving of Torah at Mount Sinai. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Kabbalists developed the practice of *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*: receiving Torah again in an all-night study session. The practice was also likened to the hours of preparation for a wedding.

Our overnight Shavuot will kick off with a potluck Shabbat meal on Friday, June 14 and close with a dawn service on Saturday, June 15. (And then, after a bit of recuperation, the truly hardy among us can join the Agudas Achim contingent in the Pride parade!) We'll also raise funds for CommUnity Crisis Services – a fitting way to honor Ruth's gleanings of the fields, a story we traditionally recall for Shavuot.

***Would you like to propose a session?*** Perhaps you'd like to bring us some Torah in the form of textual study. Or perhaps you'd like to lead a crafting session ... or meditation ... or song ... or journaling ... really, anything goes! If you'd like to facilitate a session but need some help generating ideas, I'm happy to help you out.

If you'd like to propose a session or brainstorm, please contact Lisa at [AdultEd@AgudasAchimIC.org](mailto:AdultEd@AgudasAchimIC.org).

## SHAVUOT FUNDRAISER FOR *CommUnity*!

This year's Tikkun Leil Shavuot, presented by the Adult Ed Committee, will be held on June 14 (see separate announcement). In conjunction with this event, tikkun olam will be offering a presentation on [CommUnity Iowa City](#) and how their work brings to bear in the contemporary context Jewish ideas of *tzedakah*.

As part of this event, the tikkun olam committee will be collecting financial contributions to donate to CommUnity. Regardless of whether you can make it to Tikkun Leil Shavuot, please consider contributing to Agudas Achim's gift. We will be accepting donations via check, [Venmo](#), or [PayPal](#) through June 16. Please make checks out to Agudas Achim and note CommUnity in the memo line.



AGUDAS ACHIM WILL BE AT

# IOWA CITY FESTIVAL PRIDE

15 JUNE 2024  
12PM-10PM

DOWNTOWN IOWA CITY

THE IOWA CITY  
PRIDE PARADE  
WILL BEGIN AT  
12PM, WITH THE  
FESTIVAL  
FOLLOWING AT 1PM

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?  
CONTACT [OUTREACH@AGUDASACHIMIC.ORG](mailto:OUTREACH@AGUDASACHIMIC.ORG)  
AND FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM  
[@IOWACITYJEWS](https://www.instagram.com/IOWACITYJEWS)

We would like to invite you to our  
**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

June 20, 2023 | Social Hall  
Starts 7.00 pm | Agudas Achim

We hope you can attend in person,  
but we welcome you on a Zoom connection.

Please use the following link:

Meeting ID: 948 3298 6649

Passcode: 951462

This year is not an election year for officers, but we will  
introduce new members of the board and reintroduce  
those continuing into year 2 of their tenure.

Other topics will include:

- |                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| *Summary of the past year | *Committee Reports |
| *Plans for the next year  | *Other (TBD)       |
| *Finances                 | *Open Discussion   |
| *Religious School         | *Adjournment       |

## ISRAEL OPPORTUNITIES

*Jayne Sandler*

Jayne Sandler spent 5 days volunteering in Israel to ease the loss of citizens in the military. She was asked to provide ways in which others so inclined, to helping both by a physical presence as well through contributions when travel is not an option. Here are her recommendations.

- 1) JNF-USA- <https://www.jnf.org/travel> Programs for adults, teens and families. Special stipends may be available, depending on the mission.
- 2) [Sword of Iron - Israel Volunteer Opportunities | Facebook](#)-This is a group that helps to coordinate volunteer opportunities and places to stay that individuals can connect with throughout Israel.
- 3) [Volunteers in Israel | Taglit Birthright Israel](#)

While traveling to Israel is a wonderful experience, there are other ways to support the country without physically being there. Remember that even small actions can make a difference! Your interest and your engagement matter!

Here are some ways you can help Israel:

- \***Advocate and Educate:** Learn about Israel's history, culture, and current affairs. Share accurate information with others to promote understanding and dispel misconceptions.
- \***Support Israeli Products:** Purchase Israeli goods, such as food, technology, or crafts. By doing so, you contribute to the Israeli economy and show solidarity. Get a group together to contribute and donate a support box.

<https://buyisraelgoods.org>

<https://shopisrael.com>

<https://shop.jnf.org>

<https://shop.jnf.org/collections/made-in-israel>

[JNF Trees | Shop Israeli Goods | Jewish National Fund - USA](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=698115327647185> Mitzvah Marketplace

- \***Donate to Charities:** Research and donate to reputable organizations that work in Israel. These could focus on humanitarian aid, education, or social causes.
- \***Attend Cultural Events:** Attend Israeli cultural events, concerts, or exhibitions in your local area. This helps promote Israeli art and fosters cross-cultural understanding.
- \***Volunteer:** Look for volunteer opportunities with organizations that have ties to Israel. You can contribute remotely by assisting with administrative tasks, fundraising, or advocacy efforts.

## JUNE SPECIAL EVENTS

Warm Up America	Synagogue	June 2	10:30 a.m.-Noon
Mussar	Synagogue	June 2	3:15-4 pm
Brian Farrell Talk	See Adult Ed	June 4	5:30-6:30 pm
LGBTQIA Group: Green House Drinks	Green House	June 6	5-7 pm
Young Families Meet Up	City Park	June 9	11 am-1 pm
Rosh Chodesh Yoga	Synagogue	June 9	2-4 pm
Mahjongg	Synagogue	June 9	2-4 pm
Mussar	Synagogue	June 9	3:15-4 pm
Brown Street Inn- Shavuot Retreat	Brown St Inn	June 14	6 pm-June 15
Iowa City Pride Festival	Downtown	June 15	Noon-3 pm
Mahjongg	Synagogue	June 16	2-4 pm
Free Lunch Program		June 19	8 am-1 pm
Dinner & <i>Golda</i> Screening	TBA	June 19	5:30 pm
Seniors Group	Synagogue	June 20	11 am-1 pm
Annual Congregational Meeting	Synagogue	June 20	7-8:30 pm
Warm Up America	Synagogue	June 23	10:30 am-Noon
Mahjongg	Synagogue	June 23	2-4 pm
Big Idea in Jewish Books: Julian Watts Belser	ICPL	June 26	6-7:30 pm
Dinner & <i>Tantura</i> Screening	TBA	June 27	5:30 pm
Mahjongg	Synagogue	June 30	2-4 pm

## RECURRING GROUPS WITH FIXED TIMES/DATES- [CALENDAR ON WEBSITE](#)

<b>Yiddish Study Group</b> Mondays and Fridays at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom.	<b>Book group</b> Fourth Wednesday of every month at 1:00.	<b>Intro to Judaism Class</b> Mondays at 7:30 p.m.	<b>Talmud Study Group</b> Sundays at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom.	<b>Adult Learners Group</b> Alternate Mondays 6:00-7:00 p.m. starting February 12.	<b>Seniors Group</b> Third Thursday of every month at 11:00 a.m.
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## DONATIONS

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

**Steve and Barcey Levy:** In memory of Bernard Levy

**Steve and Barcey Levy:** In memory of Warren Stroh

**Steve and Barcey Levy:** In Memory of Ana Cotler

**Ray and Lindy Buch:** In memory of Sally Broad

**Loretta Fingert:** In memory of Hyman Fingert

**Ken and Sue Blackwell:** In memory of Rose Baskin Tear, Ethel Rothstein, and Justin Denman

**Doug and Beverly Jones:** Sale of chametz

**Bernie & Sonja Miller:** Sale of chametz

**Kit and Linda Wertz:** In memory of Yetta Standig

**Ruth and Doug Nathanson:** Sale of chametz

**Lea Haravon Collins & Steve Collins:** In Memory of David Caplan

**Ray and Lindy Buch:** In memory of Allen Buch Barney Sherman

**James Blum & Lori McMann:** Sale of chametz

**Alan Mutnick & Rachel Albrecht:** In memory of Paul Mutnick

### CEMETERY FUND

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

**Kathy Chapman Keller and Dwight Keller:** in memory of Ansel Chapman

**Paul Robin:** In memory of Herman D Robin

**Lorraine Dorfman:** in memory of Donald Dorfman

**Bob and Vida Brenner:** In Memory of Mildred Brenner

**Jonathan Dorfman & Melissa Kaish:** In Memory of Donald Dorfman

### COMMUNITY RELIEF FUND

**Doug and Beverly Jones:** In memory of Louis Solganick

### GENERAL GIFTS

**Caplan Family Foundation:** In honor of Steve & Barcey Levy

**Kathy Jacobs:** In honor of Rabbi Hugenholtz

**Ruthann Medville**

**Mace and Kay Braverman:** In memory of David Braverman and Corky Miller

**Kathy Jacobs**

**Bernie Miller and Sonja Hauter:** In Memory of Esther Margaret

**Miriam Yang:** For dry-erasers and other supplies

**Lisa Hochman:** In Memory of David Caplan

**Judy Liskin-Gasparro**

**Karen Charney & Ben Coelho:** For Lea Haravon Collins' Mussar and Yoga Classes

**Stephen Scheer**

**Mark Graber & Hetty Hall:** In memory of Sarah Hall

### LIBRARY FUND

**Ruth and Doug Nathanson:** In memory of Irene Shomberg

### PORTMAN PROGRAM FUND

**Rich Levine:** In memory of Bernice & Morty Levine

**Alan and Nina Weinstein:** In memory of Mauricio Lasansky

### SIM & SARA STRAUSS MEMORIAL FUND

**Rich Strauss and Ellie Herman:** In memory of Leona Herman

**Steve Strauss:** In memory of Anna Markovitz

**Steve Strauss:** In memory of Samuel Osdoba

## DONATIONS (cont.)

### SAFETY FUND

**Rich Levine:** In memory of Bernice & Morty Levine

### TALMUD TORAH FUND

**Jeff and Sara Braverman:** In memory of David Braverman

**Will and Michelle Mueller:** Sale of chametz

**Eloise McCuskey:** In memory of Corrine Miller & David Braverman

**Dick and Phyllis Braverman:** In Memory Of David Braverman

### TIKUN OLAM FUND

**Stan & Jane Zukin:** In Memory of David Caplan

**Dick and Phyllis Braverman:** In Memory Of Corrine "Corky" Miller

**Carrie Norton:** In memory of Rebecca Ziskind

**Dick and Phyllis Braverman:** In memory of Frances Green

### TORAH FUND

**Mark and Jayne Sandler:** In memory of Freda Feinberg; for HHD Torah repair

**Mark and Jayne Sandler:** IMO Esther Sandler, Sol Crandell; HHD Torah repair

**Anonymous:** Torah Repair

## SHABBAT SERVICES

[Streaming link for Zoom Shabbat services](#)

Bechukotai <i>(Leviticus 26:3-27:34)</i>	Friday, May 31 Saturday, June 1	7:00 p.m. 9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem (Conservative) Mishkan T'filah (Reform)
Bamidbar <i>(Numbers 1:1-4:20)</i>	Friday, June 7 Saturday, June 8	7:00 p.m. 9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah Lev Shalem
<b>Shavuot Evening 1</b>	<b>Tuesday, June 11</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lev Shalem</b>
<b>Shavuot Day 1</b>	<b>Wednesday, June 12</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Lev Shalem</b>
<b>Shavuot Day 2</b>	<b>Thursday, June 13</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Lev Shalem <i>With Yizkor</i></b>
Emor <i>(Numbers 4:21-7:89)</i>	Friday, June 14 Saturday, June 15	7:00 p.m. 9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem Mishkan T'filah
Behalotecha <i>(Numbers 8:1-12:16)</i>	Friday, June 21 Saturday, June 22	7:00 p.m. 9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah Lev Shalem
Shelach <i>(Numbers 13:1-15:41)</i>	Friday, June 28 Saturday, June 29	7:00 p.m. 9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem Mishkan T'filah

## MAY YAHRZEITS

Ana Cotler  
Anna Brenner  
Anna Roston  
Ansel Chapman  
Bernard M. Levy  
Bernice Hertz  
Beverly Klein  
Carlton Roger Sherman  
Chaim Berman  
Charles Retish  
Emma Braverman  
Emmylou Wetlaufer  
Ethel Rothstein  
Florence Glick  
Frances Green  
Freda Feinberg  
George Richter  
Grace Bernstein  
Harry Herbert Dreyfuss

Henry Gilford Picard  
Irene Shomberg  
Irene Weinberg  
Jimmy Price Bryant  
Justin Denman  
Karen Nathanson  
Lena Landweber  
Leona Herman  
Louis Solganick  
Louise Allweiss  
Marilyn Kubby  
Maurice E. Lipman  
Micki Soldofsky  
Morris Friedman  
Morton Brenner  
Morton Fingert  
Paul Mutnick  
Paul Theodoor Hugenholtz  
Rachel Abrons

Raizel Levin  
Richard Simon  
Rose Baskin Tear  
Ruth Maxine Berg Waldman  
Sally Broad  
Samuel Kanef  
Samuel Osdoba  
Sarah Hall  
Sarah Rebeccah Milavetz  
Sarah Retish  
Sarah Stone Haendel  
Susan Schuler  
Susan Sorokin  
Yetta Standig

## JUNE YAHRZEITS

Aaron Levine  
Alexander Simon  
Arthur Kay  
Becky Robin  
Belle Lupeson  
Benjamin Sideman  
Bernard R. Cooper  
Bessie Josselson  
Bruce Fishbane  
Carl Caplan  
David Jacob Hugenholtz  
David Michaels  
David Nashelsky  
Dee Norton  
Edith Meyer

Epstein Stephen  
Esther Klausner  
Evelyn Levitz  
Fannie Middleman  
Freda Schumeister  
Gitel Dicker  
Helene Colen  
Howard Sabin  
Hy Dicker  
Irving Warren  
Israel Standig  
Jacob Kosubucki  
Jessica Thurston  
Joyce Flaum  
Katie Fishman

Lee Green  
Lev Gudkov  
Michael Smith  
Miriam Stone  
Reaves Holbrook  
Rose Dovitz Sanders  
Russell Smith McGinnis  
Samuel Shetzer  
Simon Pava  
Steven Frankel  
Sylvia Zukin  
Walter Zukin  
Zachary Feinstein

# Rabbi Esther is downtown for coffee on Wednesdays! ♥



**Every Wednesday, Rabbi Esther is downtown (at Bread Garden) to meet with you for coffee.**

**Do you want to connect in an informal, relaxed, Iowa City-based setting?**

**Come to the Bread Garden from 10:30 am till 2:30 pm.**

**If you want to book a slot, please book through the Rabbi's Calendly link.**



[Donate via Venmo](#); [Donate via Paypal](#)

## STAFF

Rabbi	Esther Hugenholtz	Office Secretary	Hannah Sandler
Administrator	John Wertz	Custodian	Amos Kiche
Principal	Sonja Spear		

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Board Secretary	Chuck Friedman	At Large 1	Sue Weinberg
Membership	Karen Lipman	At Large 2	Marcus Nashelsky
Ritual	Bernie Miller & Corvin Greene	At Large 3	Naomi Greyser
Adult Ed	Lisa Heineman		