



Agudas Achim Congregation

401 E. Oakdale Blvd., Coralville, IA 52241

Phone: 319-337-3813

www.AgudasAchimIC.org

December 2024 / Cheshvan-Kislev 5785 & Volunteer Guide

Hanukkah candles are lit December 25-January 1.

The office will be closed during the time period above.

We will reopen January 2.



FROM THE RABBI

Rabbi Hugenholtz

If you are looking for Thanksgiving dinner etiquette in the Torah, do not look to this week's Torah portion, Parashat Toldot. This is the story of Jacob, Esau and a fateful bowl of lentil soup. The competing twins get off on the wrong foot when Esau comes back hungry from a hunting trip and Jacob cheats him out of his birthright for a bowl of 'the red stuff'. Who knew that the fate of the Jewish people was hinged on a man being 'hangry'? The Sages of the Talmud would say, 'ein kemach, ein Torah'—if there is no 'kemach' (flour, sustenance), then there is no Torah wisdom. Or to put it in more Yiddish terms: 'they tried to kill us, we survived, now we eat.'

One of the reasons I suspect food is so central in our tradition is because it has helped hold our people together during dark and difficult moments of our history, just as it helped us integrate new cultural influences creatively during our moments of historical thriving and sharing. The Pesach Seder, after all, is based on the Greco-Roman Symposium, and the beloved lox we serve on our bagels after Saturday morning services is indigenous to the Baltic cultures Eastern European Jews lived among. Not to mention the many diverse culinary influences from across the Diaspora and Israel.

Food in our tradition, of course, is much more than just food. Food is love. Food is community. Food is friendship. Food is sharing. Food is inclusion. Food is bounty. Food is gratitude.

Perhaps Esau's error was not merely his gluttony but his lack of gratitude: his inability to pause, be in the moment and give thanks for the bounty in his bowl. Perhaps Esau instrumentalized his food, saw it merely as fuel to a famished body instead of an invitation into holiness and thanksgiving. He didn't dignify the dish by its proper name but called it disparagingly 'ha'adom', 'the red stuff'. Any home cook knows that's now how you talk to the cook! Not only that, but the Torah tells us 'he ate and drank and rose': he did not linger at the table with pleasantries or good conversation, he did not take

the opportunity to appreciate his satiety. He rushed off without even giving thanks. Presumably, there was no 'Birkat haMazon' (grace after meals) said by Esau.

If anything, Thanksgiving creates the opposite conditions: we cook our beloved traditional foods, invite our loved ones to feast at the table and linger—until the 'turkey coma' hits. Thanksgiving as an 'American Sabbath' does not center around gifting or ostentation or commercialism (although the latter is encroaching) but around what's simple and true. We settle ourselves in and give thanks and then we rest and unwind, realigning ourselves in our true purpose as human beings rather than human doings. At least for this small period during the fourth Thursday of the November month, American life spins at a lower pace.

Likewise, it is appropriate for me to give thanks also. I already enjoyed the first month of my three-month Sabbatical over the summer and now I get to enjoy my remaining two months throughout December and January. I look forward to a winter of maximum 'cozy vibes' and spending time with my family, writing, taking care of myself and having a blow-out Hanukkah. I am grateful that my seven years of service to the community have made this possible and am deeply appreciative of the many congregants and lay leaders working behind the scenes to make this possible.

Of course, I will be back early February with new energy and new plans! As part of 'City Jews', our 'Public Space Judaism' initiative, I will be creating 'Beit Midrash'-style text learning opportunities downtown called 'Torah for our Times' over the spring. Big Ideas Book Club will continue to meet until this eight week initiative, then go on temporary hiatus, and restart in the summer. So stay tuned for this!

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FROM THE RABBI

Rabbi Hugenholtz (cont.)

(Continued from page 2)

We will also stay busy at the synagogue: in February, I am relaunching my 'Introduction to Judaism' program, the year-long learning course that takes you through the sweep of Jewish history, philosophy, theology, culture and practice (no small feat!) So if you're curious about finding out who Esau really was or how we interpret the stories of the Torah or how to make Shabbat or what Jewish ethics say about X, Y or Z – this is your chance. The course is free and open to anyone, whether they are Jewish or not.

The winter months will be a quiet, cozy time at the synagogue but that doesn't mean there's nothing happening! We have our usuals, like Warm Up

America, Sunday School and Kislev Yoga, and other things coming up like the December 'Zup in Shul', the December Big Ideas Book Club (we are reading 'Tablets Shattered – The End of An American Jewish Century and The Future of Jewish Life' by Joshua Leifer), the Sunday School children's Hanukkah Party and of course the communal Hanukkah Party on the 29th of December.

Wishing you all a very happy Thanksgiving, a Chag Urim Sameach ahead of Hanukkah and a warm, loving, peaceful winter filled with delectable food and comforting company. I look forward to coming back to you in February.

Shalom uv'rachah, with peace and blessings,
Rabbi Esther

RABBI'S SABBATICAL

Rabbi Hugenholtz is on sabbatical December 1 through January 31.

TOT SHABBAT SUCCESS

Here are some of the children at the Nov 15 Tot Shabbat getting ready to bless the Challah. Thank you Sonja Spear for leading Tot Shabbat. Stay tuned for upcoming Young Family events and projects- Hanukkah party, Young Family room, meet-ups and more!



THE GIFT SHOP

Joanne Margolin

The gelt will be arriving any day, and the menorahs, candles, cards, and decorations are all ready for you to come and get! All of the cards are 10 cents, along with all of the decorations, gift bags, ribbon, and much else. Jewelry is half-price and I'm good at playing "Let's Make A Deal" with other things, too! You can shop any time there's someone in the synagogue office to help you. If you have any questions or need help with anything, please let me know!

Joanne Margolin

319-351-2181 or jrmargolin@gmail.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT

David Lubaroff

Dear Congregants

Each month I search for a topic on which to write my bulletin article. Sometimes the subject comes easily, but many times I spend days trying to come up with something meaningful. Lately the Agudas Achim leadership, the Rabbi, Executive Committee and the full Board of Directors have been exposed to inappropriate behavior of others. Which made me think about the tenets of how we try to behave and bring the best to our congregants. Since the first board retreat in August 2023, we have operated under the theme of *respect* and *collaboration*. It works. As I have written in past articles, we have a wonderful group of people on the board that work well together as a *team* that allows us to do the work necessary for the success of our synagogue and benefits for all members and other Jews in the Iowa City/Coralville area. In addition to respect and collaboration, *trust* is the foundation of successful teams. What defines these behaviors?

Respect

Respect is a central value in Judaism, and it is expressed in many ways, including treating everyone with dignity. Judaism teaches that all people are created in the image of God and are equally valuable. This means that everyone should be treated with dignity and respect.

Judaism teaches that everyone is a unique creation and that each person has something to teach us. It says that everyone is vulnerable and that we should have compassion on ourselves and others, especially those who are suffering. Finally, Judaism teaches that one should not bear hatred in their heart for another Jew, even if they have a personal dispute.

There are many values and concepts in Judaism that emphasize the importance of respecting and learning from others. *Adam yehidi nivra*, for example, means, "every person is a unique creation." This means appreciating the wonderful things that make each person an individual and celebrating differences.

Collaboration

Collaboration is a core principle in Judaism and has been expressed in many ways throughout history. Rabbinic thought emphasizes the power of collaboration and inclusion, and the role of each individual in the Jewish community. The sensibility of collaborative power is deeply rooted in Judaism's evolution from biblical times through to the rabbinic period as well. There is a sense of collaborative power and of inclusion at the core of rabbinic thinking, which trickles down to the role that each individual plays in the great symphony of Jewish life. The need for collaboration and diversity

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

David Lubaroff (cont.)

(Continued from page 4)

of leadership - a leadership model comprised of individuals all anchored in a common narrative and shared goals - feels more critical every year.

Trust

Trust is the peace of mind that a person has due to the trust he/she has placed in another—that the latter will do what he/she has entrusted him/her to do. However, in order to have this peace of mind, a person must be completely certain that the one he/she trusts will be good to him/her.

The Hebrew word translated “trust” here is *batach* and contains the idea of finding security or confidence in someone or something. But aren’t we supposed to trust others? Shouldn’t little children learn to trust their parents? Picture a parent in a swimming pool coaxing their child to jump in: “Don’t worry Jonny! Mommy will catch you.” Through this simple, if not frightening, act of trust,

children learn that others, especially adults, can be trusted. And that’s what most of us learn to do. Could you imagine the alternative? Perhaps you have been seriously let down by others. It comes down to how in the course of a day, we normally trust people. But, at the same time, all humans are not ultimately dependable.

I try very hard to live my life according to these three principles – *respect, collaboration, and trust*, and taught my children and grandchildren their importance in having a good life. It is not always easy to practice when there are people with whom you interact with throughout your life that do not use these principles to guide themselves. I have been exposed to professional colleagues and acquaintances that fit that unfortunate category. It is difficult to collaborate with such colleagues and become friends with such acquaintances when they do not respect you, and therefore, you do not trust them to do the right thing.

TIKKUN OLAM

Mallory Hellman

RETURN OF THE MAC, PT. 2

The time has come once again for Agudas Achim's bi-monthly engagement at Free Lunch Iowa City! For those who've never helped out before, Free Lunch brings together a diverse team of volunteers to cook and serve at a community meal program benefitting low-income recipients.

Congregants can get involved in two ways: by cooking (at the synagogue), or by serving (at Free Lunch). Because this month's serving opportunity conflicts with holiday break, we're focused on getting as many cooks in the kitchen as possible. Ignore conventional wisdom - the more, the merrier!

Want to help us cook our signature dish and have fun with other culinarily-minded congregants as you do so? Read on!

On **Monday, December 9, from 5:30-7:30pm at the synagogue**, 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.

SCHOOL NEWS

Sonja Spear

Another semester has come to an end. The Fall semester always feels like a mad dash from Rosh Hashanah to Hanukkah. When we start, it's still hot outside. By the time we finish, I worry that the kids will freeze to the ground if they stand still for too long. From roasting temperatures to freezing, we covered a lot of ground.

Logan, our indefatigable Hebrew teacher, moved from class to class. He reviewed Hebrew letters in Avery and Hersh's classes by starting with the vowels. Our reasoning is that in some ways the vowels are the hardest part of sounding out Hebrew because they are so small. They are literally hard to see! The kids had fun with the vowels, reading them, matching vowels to sounds and acting out the vowels by contorting themselves into vowel shapes. (Always a favorite!) The younger kids started on the letters in an age-appropriate way. Hersh's class worked on differentiating "look alike" letters in different fonts. The older kids learned the Torah Service, prayer by prayer.

Most importantly, everyone worked on vocabulary. We treat the vocabulary like vegetables – we sneak it in everywhere! It's in the songs and in our daily speech. My favorite vehicle for vocabulary was the Breishit Chant. The students chanted the first lines of Genesis, alternating Hebrew and English. They performed for the whole congregation on Simchat Torah, when we read last lines of the Torah and immediately begin again with Breishit.

The best thing about the Breishit Chant is that it's a communal effort. All the classes chant it together. Then, they share it with the synagogue community. On the way, the kids pick up useful words like "yom" (day) and *ruach* (spirit). The words aren't isolated items on flashcards, they come wrapped in the Jewish story of creation. This story, in turn, has ethical implications. There was one creating of all of humanity, *b'tzelem 'elohim*, in the image of God. As I tell the students, that means that they, their best friend, and even the kids who was mean to them on the playground, are all created equal and equally

worthy of respect as human beings. This is why we paired the *Breishit Chant* with the song "*B'Tzelem 'Elohim.*"

We may not always manage to pack so much into one lesson, but we try. Other highlights of the year included the time the kids broke into a spontaneous hora while we practiced dancing for Simchat Torah. Or the time that Avery's class lead the *Sh'ma* for the whole school and then wrote their own prayers. Or the time that Hannah's learned about *hachasat orchim* (welcoming guests) by making cookies and invited each class to their "home" (classroom) to enjoy them. The little kids beamed with pride and the older kids were on their best behavior. A great deal of Judaism is about figuring out what our best behavior is in a given situation and then trying to do what is right. Not bad for a lesson where the props were nothing but cookies and drawings of flowers.

We look forward to fresh adventures, including a Purim spiel, in the spring.



2024 AGUDAS ACHIM VOLUNTEER GUIDE

During this holiday season, we ask you to consider gifting your time, skills, or tangible goods to Agudas Achim programs, projects & committees to benefit our congregation and local community.

Caring Committee

Chairs: Nancy Goldsmith, Susan Lutgendorf, Teresa Weiner

Contact: caring@agudasachimic.org

Looking for volunteers

The Caring Committee is available to provide assistance to members of Agudas Achim who need limited, non-professional support for temporary “crisis” moments or occasionally longer situations. This is especially important in a University community where many individuals and nuclear families are not near extended family members who may have traditionally provided support. To meet our goals, we need 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. We use MealTrain.com to organize meals for those dealing with stressful times such as childbirth or planned surgery. However, there can be situations that arise where help is needed, and we don’t have time to organize a Meal Train. Therefore, we would like to create a list of people who we can call upon at short notice to provide a meal when needed. Contact us at caring@agudasachimic.org

Safety Committee

Chairs: Jayne & Mark Sandler

Contact: Jaynesandler@gmail.com

Looking for grant assistance

We are specifically seeking a person(s) to gather information for and initiate a grant(s) application for Security grant(s) for this upcoming year. Implementation and reporting is already handled. This is a time sensitive action and needs to be completed by January 2nd. Volunteer(s) would need to contact various companies and seek bids for projects using prepared documents.



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VOLUNTEER GUIDE *(cont.)*

Tikkun Olam Committee

Chair: Mallory Hellman

Contact: Mallory-hellman@uiowa.edu

Looking for volunteers & other assistance

The Tikkun Olam committee seeks to build a congregational corps of volunteers who are willing to be contacted whenever community-facing opportunities arise. If you agree to be part of the corps, you'll receive a personal call every time the Tikkun Olam committee is looking for volunteers to help with an event, drive, or campaign. This does not oblige you to volunteer every time you're called! We're simply trying to focus our recruiting efforts on folks who have expressed interest in helping. If you are unable to volunteer for a given event, we'll simply ask you to spread the word to your friends. Being part of the volunteer corps does NOT entail attendance at Tikkun Olam meetings. If you're interested in being on our volunteer list, please email mallory-hellman@uiowa.edu with your name and the best way to reach you.

Warm Up America

Chair: Jeanne Abrons

Contact: office@agudasachimic.org

Looking for volunteers and all-synthetic yarn donations

Warm Up America provides afghans to local service agencies for distribution to those who might benefit from some added physical or emotional warmth.

Our members knit or crochet 7" x 9" patches using all-synthetic yarn. Others sew the patches into afghans, using the kits we provide, or border the afghans, all from home.

Some of us meet on alternate Sundays in the social hall, 10:30a.m. to noon, to plan and to finish the afghans. Each afghan receives a label saying that it was made by members and friends of Agudas Achim.

We also accept donations of all-synthetic yarn and of cash via the Tikun Olam fund.

If you, family, or friends would like to contribute or to join us, please contact the office.

Young Family Group

Chair: Karen Lipman

Contact: kklipman@aol.com

Looking for volunteers

We are looking for parents of young children to help plan activities. We are also looking for parents of young children to help host open times in our new Young Family Lounge at the synagogue

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VOLUNTEER GUIDE (cont.)

Youth Group

Chair: Hannah Sandler

Contact: office@agudasachimic.org

Looking for grant writing help

Youth Group is seeking help with both writing and applying for grants to help us get our fledgling group off the ground, and to allow us to host and sponsor exciting youth activities.



DECEMBER YAHRZEITS

Aaron Braverman
Alice Thorn Laquer
Aristide Haravon
Arthur Estin
Barbara Goodsell
Ben E. Kubby
Benjamin Ross Mutnick
Benjamin Shedle
Bernice Corn
Bernice Levine
Chester Jacoby Flaum
David Gray McClean
Doug Armstrong
Edith Schneider
Ellen Leer
Esther Tsai Sugg
Ethel Corwin
Gerald Shomberg
Gladys Ehrenreich Pruchno

Goldene Haendel
Henry Corn
Henry Magaziner
Ida Simon
Jacob Haravon Collins
Janet Gussin
Jean Weinstein Breggin
Joseph Sunshine
Judi Lerner Aizenberg
Lawrence Gelfand
Lena C. Dicker
Liba Goldberg
Lillian Margolin
Louis Snider
M. David Allweiss
Marjorie Osdoba
Mendel Goldberg
Mertie Ellen Evans
Meyer Middleman

Michael Allen Sabin
Michael Nadler
Miriam Saltzman Goichberg
Molly Goodman
Morris M. Marcus
Morris Weinberg
Myron Baum
Naomi Friedman
Pauline Skorton
Richard Smith
Rosalie Braverman
Rose Marie Caplan
Sherman Bloom
Victor Cohen
Victoria Haendel
William Brenner
William M. David Jr.

Sunday School Hanukkah Party



Sunday School will celebrate Hanukkah

December 8
9:15 am- 12:15 pm

with songs, traditional foods, festive
crafts, holiday prayers & more! All grade
levels will meet.

**AGUDAS ACHIM
YOUNG FAMILIES GROUP**

HANUKKAH PARTY

• SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH •



**11:30
AM**

**WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL
KIDS IN THE SOCIAL
HALL**

**12:15
PM**

**CRAFTS | TREATS
SNACKS**

The Big Ideas Book Club

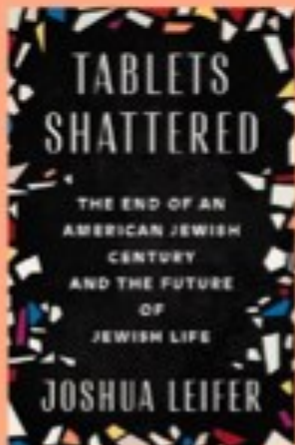


ICPL, Dec 11
6-7:30 pm

Come explore important Jewish ideas
at the Iowa City Public Library

Joshua Leifer

'Tablets Shattered - The End of An
American Jewish Century and The Future
of Jewish life'



More info? Contact
adulted@agudasachimic.org

KISLEV YOGA

THE ESSENCE OF KISLEV:

IN THIS DROP-IN CLASS, WE FOCUS ON LIGHT, HOPE AND STRENGTH AS THE DAYS GET SHORTER AND WE APPROACH OUR FESTIVAL OF REDEDICATION. WE WILL COME AWAY WITH A SIMPLE MOVEMENT PRACTICE THAT WE CAN ADD TO OUR DAILY ROUTINE. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

NO PREVIOUS YOGA EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!



DATE: DECEMBER 15 2PM-3PM
LOCATION: AGUDAS ACHIM

**OPTIONAL, BUT NICE TO HAVE:
YOGA MAT, LARGE TOWEL, OR
BLANKET**

**TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE
INFO: [LESLEA-
COLLINS@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:LESLEA-COLLINS@OUTLOOK.COM)**

Zup in Shul

The second installment of Zup in Shul will be

Wednesday, 12/18, 4 pm to 8 pm

A \$5 donation is suggested, but soup and art supplies are free.

Soup will be a vegetarian take on Tuscan White Bean Soup with Kale. Greens (kale or collards) will be on the side, along with red pepper flakes and warm, crusty bread.

Child centered activities including checking out fossils, collage making, and making the "Pin The Flame On The Menorah" game for the Latke Party. Some after school snacks are provided.

Soup served at 5:30p until it's gone, or no one wants anymore.

If you can't stay for soup, stop in with a container and I'll send some home with you.



noahmstein@gmail.com

All Welcome!

\$5

Sunday,
December
29th

Hanukkah Party

Please join us for our annual Chanukah party featuring Latkes galore (plus side dishes, sufganiyot, and cake!), dreidel-spinning, singing and dancing.

Doors will open at 5:00 p.m., the party program will begin at 5:30 p.m. with candle lighting (bring your menorah!), guitar-led singing, then food and music starting at 6:00 p.m.

The member cost for the Latke Dinner and Party is \$20 for adults, \$10 for youth ages 13-17, and free for kids 12 and under, and is payable in cash, check or Venmo at the door. (Non-member cost is \$25 and \$15 respectively.) Financial aid is available; no one will be turned away for lack of ability to pay. Additional donations are welcome to further cover costs!

Registration will be required for all attendees this year—we encourage you to register in advance before Tuesday December 24th to help us plan for food, but you can also register at the door. Skip the registration line the day-of and sign up now by clicking the link below and filling out our quick form, or by calling the office at (319) 337-3813.

RSVP [here](#). Your response is kindly requested by December 24.



January Yoga Class:

TRANSFORMATIVE TEVET

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

Date: Sunday January 12, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Location: Agudas Achim Congregation, ,Coralville IA

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

For more information: leslea-collins@outlook.com

ADULT EDUCATION

Lisa Heineman

What does 2025 have in store for us? State Senator Janice Weiner and Representative to the Iowa House Adam Zabner – both congressants – will brief us on state and national developments at Oneg following evening services on Friday, December 13.

Big Ideas in Jewish Books: Join us at the Iowa City Public Library on December 11, 6-7:30 p.m., for a discussion of Joshua Leifer's [*Tablets Shattered: The End of an American Jewish Century and the Future of Jewish Life*](#).

Do you want to get an early start on January's BIJB reading? We'll dig into [*The Place of All Possibility: Cultivating Creativity Through Ancient Jewish Wisdom*](#) by Adina Allen.

Adult Learners' Class: Would you like to improve your Hebrew (or begin learning)? Would you like to learn to read Torah (and perform a great mitzvah for the congregation)? We're planning our Adult Learners' Class, which will probably take the form of 10-12 weekly meetings between the New (Secular) Year and Pesach. If you're interested in learning more, please contact AdultEd@AgudasAchimIC.org.

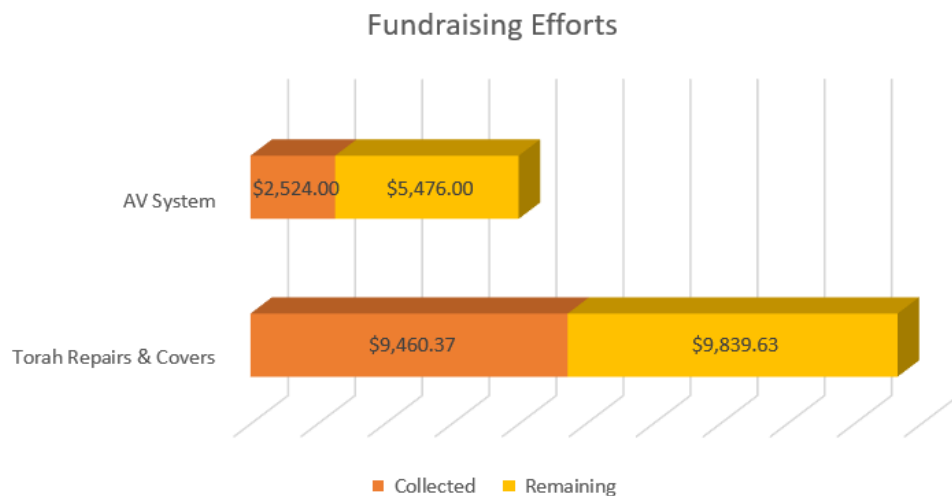
CONGREGATIONAL NEEDS FUNDRAISER

This space is dedicated to our congregation's smaller projects and for people that may have a special passion in these areas of need to help us.

As many of you are aware, our Torahs were repaired recently by a Sofer. When the Sofer reviewed them it appeared that one of the Torahs had a tear in the parchment that tore through the Hebrew writing. This is not acceptable, making the Torah not Kosher and therefore unusable, for the time being. It can be repaired by replacing that particular panel, which can be done. But further funds will be needed. We have updated our goal to our anticipated total costs.

Additionally, our AV System has been installed and we are still needing donations to complete this fundraising project. We now are able to successfully ZOOM our services regularly straight from the Bimah.

Check out our progress! Please consider donating to these important projects!



MAHJONGG

Join us for Mahjongg at 1:00 p.m. 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. Beginners and walk- ins are always welcome.



If you would like to order a 2025 card which comes out in March or April 2025, Jeanne Abrons has organized purchasing cards that gives Hadassah a donation, by ordering through the Minneapolis- St. Paul Hadassah chapter. The cost is the same as ordering directly from the National MahJongg League office.

The cost of the card is \$14 for the standard size or \$15 for the large size. Make your check out to Ronna Locketz with your name and address and summary of card order and send to the synagogue to arrive by Jan 5 the latest. Please mark "For MahJongg" on the outside of the envelope.

Upcoming Dates

December 8 RSVP to [Jayne](#)

December 15 RSVP to [Karen](#)

December 22 RSVP to [Corvin](#)

December 29 RSVP to [Jayne](#)

WARM UP AMERICA

Therese Guedon, Jeanne Cadoret, & Jeanne Abrons



Warm Up America will meet in the Social Hall on December 1 and 15, 10:30 a.m. - noon, to finish our afghans being donated this year. Please join us in helping members of the community who might appreciate some added emotional or physical warmth. Wishing everyone a warm and happy Chanukah.

INTRO TO JUDAISM CLASS

Do you want to know more about Judaism but never had the chance to ask? Do you want to deepen your connection to Jewish wisdom and life?

Whether you are already Jewish, considering Judaism as your spiritual path or just 'Jew-curious', you are most welcome to join our year-long, 36 session Introduction to Judaism program.

The course is taught by Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz and affiliated with the Miller Introduction to Judaism program.

During each session, the first part of the class focuses on teaching basic Hebrew literacy while the second part of the class follows a set curriculum, addressing different themes. The class is free, with a one-off cost for the workbook. Donations are welcome.

Class will begin in February of 2025, and take place Tuesday nights at Agudas Achim. Contact the [office](#) for more information.

SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR 2024

Please find the service schedule for the rest of 2024 [here](#).

BUDDY SYSTEM

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

OCTOBER ONEG HOSTS

Thank you to November's oneg hosts:

Lori McMann & James Blum, Karen & Rich Lipman, Sue Weinberg & Robert Armstrong, & Corvin Greene

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

YOUNG FAMILY LOUNGE

We now have a young family lounge behind the Becker Room at the synagogue. Join us if you want to hang out Sunday AM December 22 , 9 am -11 am with other young families. Questions? Or do you have some gently used baby/toddler toys and furniture for the lounge? Text Sam Brotman 206-240-9799.

SYNAGOGUE SENIORS

Synagogue Seniors will meet from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 19 in the Social Hall. Please join us for brunch and social time along with a fun activity. More information to follow soon. Remember, however you define "seniors" is up to you. Hope to see you there.

NOVEMBER DONATIONS

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Loretta Fingert: in memory of Gary Fingert

Nancy Sprince: in memory of Bernard
Zwerling

Mark Graber and Hetty Hall: in memory of
Chaim Graber

Arthur Bonfield: in memory of Doris
Bonfield

Tova Vitiello: in memory of Kathryn Messer

Alan Mutnick and Rachel Albrecht: in
memory of Barbara Anne Mutnick

Bob and Donna Rodnitzky: in memory of
Leo Pliner

BUILDING FUND

David Sheff and Waltraud Maierhofer

CEMETERY FUND

Michael and Joanne Margolin: in memory of
Lillian Margolin

Lorraine Dorfman: in memory of Bertha Tiss

Lorraine Dorfman: in memory of Beverly Tys
-Berson

Rhoda Vernon: in memory of David Vernon

GARDEN FUND

Mark Graber and Hetty Hall: in memory of
Sage Adams Hall

GENERAL FUND

David and Constance Berman: in memory of
Andrew Hoffman

Lea Haravon Collins and Steve Collins: in
memory of Alda Haravon, Aristide
Haravon, and Jacob Haravon-Collins

Mallory Hellman: in memory of Felicia
Fuksman

Richard and Karen Lipman: for soup event

GENERAL FUND [CONT.]

Jody and Janie Braverman: in memory of
June Braverman, Elsie Wingo & Rebecca
Richman

Linda Kerber: In memory of Richard Kerber
and Alan Widiss

Barney Sherman

Frank Salomon and Mercedes Nino-Murcia:
in memory of Mathilde Salomon

HIGH HOLIDAY FUND

Jeanne Cadoret: in memory of Remi J
Cadoret

Kathleen Jacobs

LIBRARY FUND

Rhoda Vernon: in memory of Herman
Serman

PRAYERBOOK FUND

Charlotte Dvoretzky: in memory of Edward
Dvoretzky

SAFETY FUND

Sanctuary Community Church

Mark Graber and Hetty Hall: in memory of
Selma Graber

TORAH FUND

David & Martha Lubaroff: in memory of
Mary Lubaroff

Mel and Diane Sunshine: in memory of
Mildred Siegel

Janice Weiner

Alex Anderson and Eleanor Price

Anonymous

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

Yiddish Study Group

Mondays and Fridays
at 10:30 a.m. via
Zoom.

Book group

Fourth Wednesday of
every month at 1:00
p.m.

Talmud Study Group

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
on Zoom.

Seniors Group

Third Thursday of
every month at 11:00
a.m.

DECEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday School Hanukkah Party	Synagogue	12/8	9:15 a.m.
Young Families Hanukkah Party	Synagogue	12/8	11:30 a.m.
Free Lunch Mac 'n Cheese	Synagogue	12/9	5:30 p.m.
Big Ideas Book Club	ICPL	12/11	6:00 p.m.
Kislev Yoga	Synagogue	12/15	2:00 p.m.
Free Lunch Program	Downtown	12/18	8 a.m.—1 p.m.
Zup in Shul	Synagogue	12/18	4:00 p.m.
Synagogue Hanukkah Party	Synagogue	12/29	5:00 p.m.

SHABBAT SERVICES

[Streaming link for Zoom Shabbat services](#)

Vayetze <i>(Genesis 28:10-32:3)</i>	Friday, December 6	7:00 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah (Reform)
	Saturday, December 7	9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem (Conservative)
Vayishlach <i>(Genesis 32:4-36:43)</i>	Friday, December 13	7:00 p.m.	Lev Shalem
	Saturday, December 14	9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah
Vayeshev <i>(Genesis 37:1-40:23)</i>	Friday, December 20	7:00 p.m.	Mishkan T'filah
	Saturday, December 21	9:30 a.m.	Lev Shalem
Miketz <i>(Genesis 41:1-44:17)</i>	Friday, December 27	7:00 p.m.	Lev Shalem
	Saturday, December 28	9:30 a.m.	Mishkan T'filah

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STAFF			
Rabbi	Esther Hugenholtz	Administrative Assistant	Hannah Sandler
Administrator	John Wertz	Custodian	Amos Kiche
Principal	Sonja Spear		
BOARD OF TRUSTEES			
President	David Lubaroff	Religious School	Lisa Heineman
President Elect	Lori McMann	Social	Lori McMann & Sue Weinberg
Vice President	Jayne Sandler	Tikun Olam	Mallory Hellman
Treasurer	Mindy Russell	Ways & Means	Mindy Russell
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Ritual	Bernie Miller & Corvin Greene	At Large 2	Marcus Nashelsky
Adult Ed	Lisa Heineman	At Large 3	Ruth Nathanson