



Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Ithaca Reform Temple
Spirit • Community • Justice

Newsletter Issue 203 * January - February 2018 * Tevet - Shevat - Adar - אדר - שבט - טבת

Co-Presidents' Words

דברי הנשיא

Building Expansion Update:

In October, TvO's board explored the question: what high priority needs could we meet if we had more space? The board's initial ideas, along with some site plan considerations, were presented at two November listening sessions -- not for approval, but to start a conversation. Congregants were encouraged to attend and share their ideas, concerns and questions about our use of space. Many thanks to the 15-20 folks who attended each listening session, and many more who shared thoughts by phone and email.

What were the main takeaways? Participants asked that we gather more information on these fronts:

- The space needs of the religious school;
- High holiday space needs, including parking;
- Demographics: how have we grown historically, and how much do we expect to grow in the future? How has the composition of our congregation changed and what are the implications for building design and capacity to fundraise?;
- Leadership (spiritual and administrative): projected salary costs and space needs;
- Building expansion and maintenance -- projected costs; and
- Capacity to fundraise.

Great thanks to the planning group that formed to explore the above.

In December, they began by asking the board: if it were up to you, how should we explore the above topics? The board consensus was to begin with the needs of the religious school, asking Naomi and the Jewish Education Committee to vision: what high priority needs could you satisfy with more space? What could that space look like? The board further recommended that the planning group explore (concurrently with the religious school visioning, or after its conclusion): What are our High Holiday, leadership, and programming needs? How can these mesh with the vision for the religious school? What big picture does this suggest for our space needs? We can then look at projected costs for such a space, and capacity to fundraise.

We look forward to keeping you in the loop as this process unfolds. Thank you again for your key feedback so far. We'll continue to invite your input along the way.

Wishing you and all of us a great start to 2018,

Miranda and Shawn

Shabbat and Holidays

שבת וחגים

KABBALAT SHABBAT / WELCOMING SHABBAT on Friday evenings

December 29 No services scheduled

January 5 No services scheduled

January 12 (Shabbat in the Community) *Led by Anne Brous*

January 19 Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m., Oneg at 7-7:30 pm

Kabbalat Shabbat at 7:30 pm *Led by Beth Cohen*January 26 Kabbalat Shabbat at 7:30 pm *Led by Peter Silberman*February 2 (Shabbat in the Community) *Led by Miranda Phillips*, in celebration of Tu b'ShvatFebruary 9 *Led by Cantor Abbe Lyons and the vav/zayin (6th and 7th grade) students*

6:45 pm Dish to pass dinner, 7:30 pm service

February 16 Tot Shabbat at 5:30-7 pm, oneg at 7-7:30

Kabbalat Shabbat at 7:30 pm *Led by Samuel Debbie*February 23 Kabbalat Shabbat at 7:30 pm *Led by Faith Rogow*

March 2 Purim celebration

SHABBAT MORNING Saturdays January 6 and February 3, 9:30-10:45 am

Join us for casual and lively Shabbat morning services led by Miranda Phillips.

Tot Shabbat: January 19 and February 16, 5:30-7 pm

Families with young children, people who like to be around young children, and the young at heart are all welcome to this veggie/dairy potluck dinner followed by Shabbat singing and stories (with PJ Library books). We'll have a dessert oneg at 7 pm, shared with the participants in the 7:30 service. It's a nice chance to mix the two groups a bit!

Hebrew for Adults

עברית מבוגרים

One Sunday a month from 10:30-11:15 a.m. at Ithaca Bakery at Triphammer Marketplace.

Check the weekly e-news for upcoming dates.

Have you always wanted to learn Hebrew but never found the time? Did you once know how to read Hebrew, but the rings on the trees have accumulated since your bar/bat mitzvah and your skills are a bit shaky? Can you sort of follow along, but resort to the transliteration every time? Are your kids learning Hebrew and you wish you could help them? You are not alone!

Join us on a self-paced, independent study journey to learn to read Hebrew. Each participant will work through the curriculum independently at her or his own speed. The focus is on prayer-book Hebrew. We meet approximately once a month to support and encourage each other, share tricks, ask questions, and read aloud with each other.

Questions, contact Abby Thomas at abby.thomas@cortland.edu

Shabbat in the Community

Each month we are having a small Shabbat in the Community events with just two host families, to continue the tradition of sharing a Shabbat meal in each other's homes all year round. We hope that each TvO member could attend one of the smaller Shabbat in the Community dinners in addition to the large one. Online sign-ups for all Shabbat in the Community events will be announced via email.

We are looking for hosts! If you are interested in hosting (hosts are expected to have anywhere from 4-15 guests, and to coordinate a potluck dinner) please contact either Peter Silberman at <silbermanp@gmail.com> or Annie Wexler <annwex1@gmail.com>.

Small Shabbat in the Communities (two host families needed for each).

1/12/18 * 2/2/18 * 3/16/18

There will also be services at 7:30 p.m. on these nights.

Dinner and a Movie

Season 8 is well underway and it seems like a good time to pause for a moment of appreciation. Thanks as always to Arthur Birnbaum for continuing to surprise and delight with the dinner portion of the evening. A deep bow of gratitude to Barbara Brenner for assisting in every way imaginable. Thanks to Nomi and Mihal and Barb and all of you who have pitched in on any given evening. Last and most, thanks to all of you, the faithful and curious, who fill the room with life and warmth while winter jealously presses its nose against the window.

Broken Wings

Saturday, January 10, 6:30 p.m.

Raise your hand if you think families are simple. Anyone? No, families aren't simple because single moms work too hard and the oldest kid has to watch the little ones, which doesn't leave her anyplace to be truly herself, all while her brother gets to run around handing out nihilistic leaflets in a mouse costume. And that's before tragedy strikes yet again. When is s the last time you saw a film that gets to the heart of what it means to be a family, and is touching and poignant and peppered with humor? Anyone? (2002, 87 minutes, Hebrew with English subtitles)

A Matter of Size

Saturday, February 10, 6:30 p.m.

Otherness comes in all shapes and sizes and in this case our heroes are extra large. Adding insult to injury, they're not strangers in a strange land, they're actually strangers in their own land. Which isn't the most obvious set up for a comedy. Until you add Sumo wrestling. Join us for a delightful and moving tale of self-acceptance with a romantic twist. (2009, 90 minutes, Hebrew, English and Japanese with English subtitles)

Food is served at 6:30 p.m. and films begin promptly at 7:00. Be sure to arrive early to maximize your schmooze time! This is not a publicly advertised event but all human beings are most welcome so feel free to bring friends. There is no charge but a small voluntary donation is requested. All events take place at Tikkun v'Or, 2550 N Triphammer Rd. Feel free to contact Jonathan Plotkin with any questions at 607-227-3618 or jjplotkin@gmail.com.

While you're at it, pencil in March 18 and April 8 on your calendars as future Dinner & a Movie Nights!

Religious School

בית ספר תיקון ואור

On November 5 we welcomed Joannie Calem, a folk singer for all ages and all abilities, with Jewish learning about inclusion and standing up against bullying.

In November and December we had Farbrengen (gatherings) with Rabbi Brian.

On December 3, we welcomed representatives from URJ Camp Eisner, Crane Lake Camp, and 6 Points Sci-Tech to lead us in team building, crafts, and science explosions! It's time to start thinking about Jewish summer camp; Ask Naomi about camps and about camperships available locally and nationally.

Gan and Kitah Alef א כיתה (K/grade 1)

students love dressing up as Joseph, with an amazingly colorful coat. They also made lovely dreidels to spin for Chanukah.

Kitah Bet/Gimel ב ג כיתה (grades 2/3)

students keep track of their mitzvot each week, and read at least one story every Sunday morning. They are studying the book of Shmot/ Exodus this year. They've also been working on their Hebrew letters and reading skills, and led a wonderful class service with Cantor Abbe.

Kitah Daled/Hey ד ה כיתה (grades 4/5) know a lot about the twelve tribes of Israel, and studied the story of Joshua, Caleb, and the spies going into the land of Israel. They also made a human dreidel pyramid! They can read many Hebrew prayers now.

Kitah Vav/ Zayin ו ז כיתה (grade 6/7) practice the prayers that are part of the Torah service, including *V'zot HaTorah*, *Av HaRachamim* and *Birkat HaTorah*. They've been considering important questions as they relate to the Torah -- When is adversity between brothers and sisters a good thing? Is it better to forgive or to be the one who's forgiven?

Coming up in January and February:

After a two week break we start classes again on Sunday, January 7 (January 17 for the Wednesday classes).

Friday, February 9 6:45 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. Kitah Vav/Zayin will lead Shabbat services with Cantor Abbe Lyons.

No classes on Sundays February 18 and 25 or Wednesday February February 21.

WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE LEFTOVERS FROM THE ONEG? DINNERS OR PARTIES?

No Need to Eat Them All!

Clean food is welcome

at the Friendship Center (618 W. State St. across from Kinkos)

Monday - Friday 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM phone 273-6684

Outside of those hours, call the shelter at 273-9177 to arrange to deliver food.

Teens v'Or

Teens v'Or had a fun Chanukah party in December, and will be making lunches for the Friendship Center on Wednesday, January 24, at TvO at 6 p.m.

Plans for 2018 include a discussion about anti-Semitism, a night "shul-in" at the temple, a bake sale to raise money for some charities/non-profits, a movie night & discussion, and a chocolate seder.

Teens age 13 and up are invited to join anytime! Contact Samantha <sbutlien@ithaca.edu>.

Membership & Welcoming Committee

ועד החברות

Welcome to new TVO members Mara Sapon-Shevin, and to Jason Warshof and Diane Baker and their son Eli.

The best way to support Tikkun v'Or is by becoming a member. For more information contact Ann Wexler <annwex1@gmail.com>

Feeding the Hungry: Machil Re'avim

מאכיל רעבים

Did you know that in 2016 the Rescue Mission Friendship Center provided 30,804 meals to the needy in Ithaca? Our temple contributed to this total by making 60 lunches for the 4th Thursday of each month.

This year the Teens v'Or youth group is making lunches in January.

On February 22 we'll be getting together as a group to make lunches. Usually we meet in the evening the day before to make lunches, but since this date occurs during the February school break, we're hoping to get people to meet at the temple on the morning of the 22 to make lunches. If you are interested in joining us to make lunches on **February 22 at 10 am**, please contact Dorothy Debbie at dorothynotwork@gmail.com or 272-3893. Families welcome!

For those of you who would like to help out but can't come make the lunches, you can still contribute financially to the lunchmaking. TvO has a Feeding the Hungry Fund that you can contribute to and these contributions will be used to reimburse the person who buys the supplies.

Donors

צדקה

Thank you to our recent donors:

Social Action Fund:

Laurie Rubin, *With thanks for welcoming all to the Rosh Hashannah services*

General Fund

Anonymous (2)

Jeffrey Furman & Sara Hess

Randi Beckmann

Christopher Xenakis & Susan Fast

Tziona Szajman

Benay Rubenstein

Meredith Silberstein

Leslie & Shirley Bloomfield

Paul & Annette Hodess, *in honor of Michael,*

Sarah & Samuel Hodess

Religious School Fund

Anonymous

Susan Arotzky

Bryna & Harvey Fireside Rabbi Fund

Jonathan Plotkin & Barbara Brenner

Bridget Meeds

Anne & Ira Brous, for work on the solar lights at the temple


Thanks to the Ithaca Area United Jewish Community (IAUJC) for a grant to support our Religious School and congregation through tuition assistance.

Many Thanks


רב תודה




Thanks to:

- Recent service leaders: Peter Silberman, Carol and Sam Shama, Annie Wexler and Tony Gaenslen, Anne Brous, Cantor Abbe and the students of kitah bet and gimel (second and third grade)
- Oneg hosts: Jen Kagan, Patti Jacobson, Fran Markover, Anne Brous, Christine Evans and bet/gimel parents
- Shabbat in the Community hosts: Sharon Ziegler, Joel Tabb and Jill Hellerman, and Corinne Stern and Bob Meisner, Richard and Lise Rosenfield, Mihal Ronen, Sarah Rubenstein-Gillis, Lois Levitan and Martha Armstrong, Jason Warshof and Diana Baker;
- Peter Silberman for coordinating Shabbat in the Community;
- Miranda Phillips for leading Shabbat morning services;
- Naomi Wilensky for leading Tot Shabbat, and to Jeni and David Rhodes for hosting the oneg in between the two services;
- Rabbi Brian for leading services in November and December and to Marne Oshae and Lauren Korfine for leading us in song;
- Weekend oneg coordinators and helpers: Beth Cohen, Abby Thomas, Owen and Drew Thomas, Naomi Wilensky, Ariel Gold, Isabella and Elijah Gold, Marne Oshae and Aron Gutman;
- Thanks to Marne Oshae and the TVO musicians and Chanukah songleaders Lise and Richard Rosenfeld, Corinne Stern, and Jeff Bercuvitz, and Adina Wilensky and Ariel Blanchard;
- Thanks to all who helped with the Chanukah party, especially Laurie Willick and Alexi Zentner, Zoe and Sabine, Martin Berggren, Wendy Keningsburg and Dan Kraak, Shawn Murphy, Miranda Phillips, and Adina Wilensky;
- Human Rights Shabbat morning coordinators and volunteers Diana Levy, Carol Chernikoff, Sherri Altman, Roberta Wallitt, Wendy Gutman, and Corinne Stern;
- Annie Wexler and Sherry Burford for hosting the TVO Open House;
- Those who helped with highway cleanup: Ted Schiele, Peter Silberman, Jen Kagan, Joe Yavitt, Josh Friedman, Joan Friedman, and Shawn Murphy.
- Jonathan Plotkin and Arthur Birnbaum for dinner and a movie!
- All who participated in the Building Expansion Listening sessions;
- Zee Zahava for her writing workshop, and to Patti Jacobson for making the arrangements, and to Annie Wexler for providing snacks.



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Condolences

תנחומים

Tikkun v'Or sends our condolences to Jen Kagan and Peter Silberman on the death of Jen's sister-in law, Sharon Kagan.

Tikkun v'Or sends our condolences to Joel Tabb, Jill Hellerman, and Hannah, Daniel, and Eliana. Shirley Tabb (Sara Rivka), mother of Joel Tabb, passed away on Sunday morning, November 26.

May their memories be a blessing.

Tikkun v'Or Tribute Cards

TRIBUTE CARDS have been sent:

To Joel Tabb and Family, in memory of Shirley Tabb,
 from Ann Hoffman and Brian Heltsley
 from Peter and Sherry Burford
 from Janie Carasik

To Brian Cutler and Moriah Tebor Shaw in memory of Alice Cutler
 from Janie Carasik
 from Sherry and Peter Burford

To Robin and Ed Dubovi in honor of birth of grandson Oliver John. Mazel tov!
 from Sherry and Peter Burford
 from Annie Wexler and Tony Gaenslen

Tribute cards are an easy way to acknowledge lifecycle events
 (simchas, yahrzeits, memorials, expressions of appreciation and thanks),
 while reinforcing our community connections, and supporting our financial needs.

Each card sent is a donation to our synagogue.

For more information, contact Sherry Burford at <sherry@tikkunvor.org> or at (607) 319-4982.

In the Community: AN EVENING OF JEWISH STORIES, POETRY, AND MUSIC

Saturday, January 27, 7:30 p.m. at Temple Beth-El (Court and Tioga St)

Imagine living a century ago --

what would you have done for a cold winter night's relaxation?

Perhaps you'd get together with friends to share some entertainment.

Let's re-create that time of slower pleasures.

Suggested donations \$4 individual / \$8 family.

Refreshments will be served.

Adults and children are invited to sing, recite poetry, or share stories or skits (under 7 minutes).

To offer your talents, contact Marjorie Hoffman marjorie@twcny.rr.com

Sponsored by the Temple Beth-El Arts Committee.



Ithaca Area United Jewish Community

Honoring Our Past, Shaping Our Future

December 2017 – January 2018

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In 2015, a gift of \$500,000 was given to IAUJC from an anonymous family who wanted our help supporting worthy humanitarian organizations in Israel. This fund has been named the Humanitarian Aid to Israel Fund. We have been directed to research and choose projects that provide food, housing, vocational skills and support to disadvantaged people living predominantly in southern Israel. We work hard to follow the wishes of our donor and will be making the third set of annual grants to four Israeli projects before the end of 2017.

The **AMIT Elaine Silver Technological High School** in Beersheva is a unique educational institution. Its student body is comprised of 115 teens in grades 9 through 12, all of whom have been labeled "at risk". Students include Ethiopian immigrants, both boys and girls. AMIT gives these kids a chance to turn their lives around, choosing academic success and vocational training over the allure of the street and its many dangers. The IAUJC awarded \$15,000 to AMIT, funding a landscape architecture program. Students become certified landscapers at the culmination of their studies, enabling them to get good jobs. Considering that some of the students who choose this course come to the school with criminal files, this is no small accomplishment.

Another \$15,000 was awarded to a Jewish Agency flagship program that provides community-based mentoring for at-risk children in Israel. **Youth Futures** in Dimona, provides trained mentors who work as trusted guides helping students improve school performance, strengthen social integration, and inspire engagement with the community. The mentors also connect youth, families, and communities with services and local resources to help them overcome barriers to success. In 2016-17, Youth Futures Dimona worked with 128 children ages 6 to 14 in four elementary schools and one junior high school, paired with eight Mentors.

The third 2017 grant of \$15,000 was awarded to the **Ethiopian National Project, School Performance and Community Empowerment** (S.P.A.C.E.) program, which provides Ethiopian-Israeli youth in grades 7-12 with intensive after-school scholastic assistance. The ENP aims to ensure the full and successful integration of Ethiopian Jews into Israeli society. The program promotes academic growth and improvement by providing tutoring in small groups. Alongside its academic components, the program works to strengthen students' self-esteem and leadership skills by addressing obstacles to social integration and personal development. The IAUJC is helping the program in Beersheva, Israel.

The **Lunch and Learn Centers in Dimona** provide a supportive educational environment that enhances the formal school activities for 450 elementary school children in 12 different schools throughout Dimona. Children who participate in the program include those from secular, religious, and ultra-religious (Haredi) families as well as the Black Hebrew community, African Americans who believe that they are descended from the 10 lost tribes of Israel. Activities at the Center are both educational and social, combining enrichment activities, values education, and social skills development, as well as nutritional supplementation. This year's grant from the Humanitarian Aid to Israel fund is \$9866 with additional funding to come from Ithaca donors who have designated Lunch and Learn in their annual gift.



The Jewish Federations
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of Independent
Communities

January 2018 - Tikkun v'Or

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2	3 No classes	4	5 No services scheduled	6 Parashat Shemot Shabbat morning 9:30-10:45 am Miranda Phillips
7 Religious School 9:15-12	8	9 TVO Exec mtg	10 No classes	11	12 Shabbat in the Community Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm Anne Brous	13 Parashat Va'eira Dinner & a Movie 6:30 pm
14 Religious School 9:15-12	15 Martin Luther King Day	16	17 Midweek 4:30-6	18	19 Tot Shabbat 5:30-7 pm Oneg Shabbat 7-7:30 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm Beth Cohen	20 Parashat Bo
21 Religious School 9:15-12	22	23 TVO Board meeting 7-9	24 Midweek 4:30-6 Teens V'Or: Lunches for the Friendship Center 6-7 pm	25	26 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm Peter Silberman	27 Parashat Beshalach

February 2018 - Tikkun v'Or

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Religious School 9:15-12	29	30 Tu Bishvat (5778) begins at sundown	31 Tu Bishvat (5778) Midweek 4:30-6	1	2 Shabbat in the Community Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm Miranda Phillips	3 Parashat Yitro Shabbat morning 9:30-10:45 am Miranda Phillips
4 Religious School 9:15-12	5	6	7 Midweek 4:30-6	8	9 Kabbalat Shabbat 6:45 p.m. dinner 7:30 p.m. service Cantor Abbe & vav/zayin students	10 Parashat Mishpatim Dinner & a Movie 6:30 pm
11 Religious School 9:15-12	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13 TVO Exec mtg	14 Valentine's Day Midweek 4:30-6	15	16 Tot Shabbat 5:30 - 7 pm Oneg Shabbat 7-7:30 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm Samuel Debbie	17 Parashat Terumah
18 No Religious School	19 Presidents' Day	20	21 Lunches for Friendship Center 10 am	22 Washington's Birthday	23 Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm Faith Rogow	24 Parashat Tetzaveh
25 No Religious School	26	27 TVO Board meeting 7-9	28 Purim (5778) begins at sundown Midweek 4:30-6	1 Purim (5778)	2 Purim celebration Details TBA	3 Parashat Ki Tisa

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Congregational Leadership

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Area Congregations Together (ACT)	Open		
Teens V'Or	Samantha Butlein		

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For updated calendar information,
call 607-256-1471
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**Tikkun v'Or Welcomes
 Interfaith Families!**

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