



# Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Ithaca Reform Temple  
Spirit • Community • Justice

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Newsletter Issue 194

July-August 2016

סיון - תמוז - אב 5776 Sivan - Tammuz - Av 5776

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## ***Co-Presidents' Words***

דברי הנשיא

Greetings TvO members and friends. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with you these next two years, in helping our community continue to thrive. We thought it important for you to know a bit more about us, as we look forward to learning more about each of you.



My name is Shawn Murphy and I will be serving our vibrant congregation as one of our co-presidents for the next two years. I live in the Town of Lansing, out towards King Ferry with my wife of 11 years, Leanne (a lifelong Lansing resident), our two homeschooled boys Avram (10) and Logan (7) along with several non-human companions. I was born and raised in a semi-Conservative Jewish household in the City of Buffalo and spent my college years at Ranger School in Wanakena, N.Y. (in the Adirondacks) and SUNY ESF in Syracuse. After a hiatus from congregational life, I found Tikkun v'Or a few years ago while attending a Shabbat service led by Annie Wexler and Tony Gaenslen. The warm and welcoming atmosphere, along with the genuine acceptance of my interfaith family and the amazing Jewish community helped me make the easy decision to become

a member. In my professional life, I have spent the past eight plus years as a natural resource conservationist with the Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District (feel free to ask me about it sometime). I enjoy spending free time with my family, in the great outdoors, fishing, taking in some fresh forest air or working in my vegetable garden.

I'm Miranda Phillips, and I'm looking forward to serving with you all, too. I was raised Reform, in San Diego, and have had meaningful connections with Reform and Reconstructionist synagogues since. Most formatively, my parents made it clear why Judaism was important to them, but didn't push it – just hoped I would find my own value in it; and so I did. I found Tikkun v'Or twenty years ago: I was involved here meaningfully as a Cornell college student – teaching first grade, leading High Holiday services, and organizing an adult b'nei mitzvah class. My husband Bobby and I then left for Boston-area grad schools,



returning in 2006, when he became a Cornell professor.

Since then, I've loved my latest TvO involvements: leading High Holiday services again; coordinating the "Each for All" program; joining the board with Shawn; and helping to usher in the new financial structure and "Nediv Lev." I'm now a 7-year resident of Ithaca's Fall Creek neighborhood, with Bobby and our two kids, Julia (6) and Will (3). Together, we love reading, puns, picnics, music (especially rounds, and songs that get us up and dancing, in our kitchen and at shul), and family movie night ("E.T." has been a recent favorite). In my professional life, I was for many years a Jewish educator; took a break when I had kids, and now focus on climate advocacy (for national carbon pricing).

We look forward to these next two years: helping you deepen relationships with each other and with us; reflecting together on our shared goals; and continuing to strengthen the programs and services by which we learn and find meaning and support each other at critical times – of loss, difficulty, and joy. We look forward to hearing from you, about the ways you'd like to connect, contribute, and find support in our wonderful Jewish community.

— *Miranda and Shawn*

**Welcome to our new board members/new positions:**

Presidents: Shawn Murphy and Miranda Phillips

Vice President: Lauren Korfine

Past Presidents: Nina Cummings and Dorothy Debbie

Treasurers: Peter Burford and Nancy Saltzman

At-Large Board Member: Laurie Willick

## ***Shabbat and Holidays***

שבת וחגים

### **KABBALAT SHABBAT / WELCOMING SHABBAT** *Fridays 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted*

July 15 Led by Joan and Noah Friedman

July 29 Led by Anne Bussard

August 5 Led by Ann Brous

August 19 Shabbat in the Park, 5:30 p.m.

September 2 Kabbalat Shabbat led by Rabbi Brian Walt

Saturday, September 3 Bat Mitzvah: Isabella Gold, daughter of Ariel Gold and Sebastian DeCombray

Sunday, September 4 B'nai Mitzvah: Silas and Jemma Anderson, children of Allison and Tim Anderson

Join the Tikkun v'Or Community for  
our annual  
**Shabbat in the Park Picnic**

**Friday, August 19 at 5:30 pm**  
in the Stewart Park, Large Pavilion  
*(Rain or Shine)*

**Short Shabbat Service at 6 pm**



**Dish-To-Pass Dinner—**  
**Bring a Vegetarian Dish to share**



**Folk Dancing & Music**  
by the Tv'O band "Azameyra"

*Bring your Family & Friends: Open to all*

## Religious School

## בית ספר תיקון ואור

**Gan and Kitah Alef** א כיתה (K/grade 1) collected and counted all the tzedakah from their class and in TVO tzedakah boxes, and chose to donate \$72 to the Friendship Center.

**Kitah Vav** ו כיתה (grade 6) and **Kitah Zayin** ז כיתה (grade 7): **Please note that the midweek class will continue to be held on Wednesdays!** Please plan other activities accordingly. Classes will be taught by Cantor Abbe Lyons and as assistant on Wednesdays from 4:15 - 5:45 p.m. Rabbi Brian Walt will also work with the class for several sessions.

Students in all grades should be practicing Hebrew this summer. Summer Hebrew reading practice is essential at all levels so that this year's learning is not forgotten. Aim to practice for 10 minutes once or twice each week.

*Rising to Kitah Gimel (3rd grade):* Continue in your Hebrew books. If you are using a Hebrew primer or Ramah 2, try to complete that book. Some of you have started Ramah 4. Finish your Ramah and you will be super stars. Practice all the letters and vowels and putting them together. You'll be ready to read Hebrew more fluently in the fall!

*Rising to Kitah Daled and Hey (4th and 5th grade):* Many in the class are working through Ramah 4, 5, or 6. Some need to finish Ramah 2 or 3. All students should be very familiar with all the letters and vowels now, and are working on fluency. Finish these booklets and don't forget all the hard work you've done in reading Hebrew this year, and you will be reading tefillot (prayers) in the fall!

*Rising to Kitah Vav and Zayin (6th and 7th grade):* Whether you are working on Ramah 7 or 9, or something slightly earlier or later, all students know many prayers and can generally read Hebrew, but you still need to make sure you

can read letter and vowel combinations smoothly.

All students should practice with these:

\*Cantor Abbe Lyons chanting and singing all the Shabbat prayers we learn at Religious School:  
<http://tikkunvor.org/learning/religious-school/audio-links>

\*Hear and read along for Ramah (Level) 4 - 18 (Easy links to these also found on our website)  
<<http://urj.org/learning/teacheducate/hebrew/mitkadem/ramot/audio/>>

\*Behrman House Publishing / Hebrew learning games and reading practice:  
<<http://www.behrmanhouse.com/learn/hebrew>>

Try these apps:

Augmented Reality, Hebrew Karaoke, Unlimited Alef Bet, and more

<http://www.behrmanhouse.com/iphone>

Alef Bet Schoohouse:

<<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/alef-bet-schoolhouse/id410920081?mt=8>>

Study Buddy

<<http://appcrawlr.com/ios/hebrew-alphabet-study-buddy>>

Or these on-line Letter and Word Games:

<[www.my-jewish-games.com](http://www.my-jewish-games.com)>

<<http://www.zigzagworld.com/hebrewforme/>>

<<http://www.torahtots.com/alefbet/alefbet.htm>>

<<http://www.jlandonline.com/>>

**Teachers needed:** We're looking for experienced, energetic, knowledgeable, and reliable Religious School teachers for Judaic studies and Hebrew. Contact 607-256-1471 or [info@tikkunvor.org](mailto:info@tikkunvor.org) [www.tikkunvor.org](http://www.tikkunvor.org)

**Register now** for the 2016-2017 school year at [www.tikkunvor.org/](http://www.tikkunvor.org/)

## Teens v'Or

Did you miss the Teens v'Or chocolate seder? Do you want to be part of the first event in the fall? Contact [teensvor@gmail.com](mailto:teensvor@gmail.com) to find out what kind of fun you can have!

## ***Annual Meeting Update***

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On Sunday, June 5, approximately 35 temple members came together during our 2016 annual meeting to share a light lunch (thanks Anne and Ira Brous for providing it), vote on the budget and new board slate, and a change to the bylaws elevating the bereavement group to committee status, and to celebrate our joyous community.

The votes all passed unanimously. Temple members spent time reflecting on past congregational events or moments that had been especially meaningful. The list of meaningful engagements was long and varied. Many reported enjoying holiday celebrations together, temple programs including music, movies, and discussions, and Friday night lay-led services. People were grateful for our shared acknowledgement of life events and many noted the work of the bereavement group as a special gift to our community. Several expressed how happy they are having stable rabbinic leadership and for our growing role in the community.

Suggestions for how to strengthen connections to the temple and to each other in the future included further establishing our caring committee, learning more about events that occur through the temple (e.g. how many people participated in a program), re-starting movie night and other social events (and adding a movie night for kids), setting up networking for families with babies and young children, and offering more adult education opportunities including a class about Shabbat services and how to appreciate the service.

A more complete list of appreciations and suggestions from the congregation will be posted on the Tikkun v'Or website. The annual meeting was another reminder of how we all benefit from our thriving community and the importance of our connections to each other.

## ***Tikkun v'Or Tribute Cards***

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Tribute cards have been sent:

To: Nomi Talmi and Tali Fridman, in memory of their mother and grandmother, Tova Talmi  
From: The Phillips/Kleinberg family and from Ann Hoffman and Brian Heltsley

To: Suzanne Aigen, in memory of her brother, Rabbi Ron Aigen  
From: The Phillips/Kleinberg family, Ann Hoffman and Brian Heltsley, Gerry Friedman and Sally Dutko

To: Samuel Debbie and family, in honor of Samuel's bar mitzvah  
From: Max Rubenstein-Miller, Sarah Rubenstein-Gillis and Ezri Rubenstein-Miller

To: Ariel, Isabella and Elijah Gold, in memory of their grandmother and great-grandmother, Anne Guttman  
From: Miranda Phillips, Annie Wexler and Tony Gaenslen, Ann Hoffman and Brian Heltsley

To: Marne O'Shae, in memory of her mother, Ruth Moleski  
From: The Phillips/Kleinberg family, Annie Wexler & Tony Gaenslen, Sherry & Peter Burford, Ann Hoffman & Brian Heltsley

To Maya Blanchard and her family, in honor of Maya becoming a bat mitzvah  
From the Debbie family

To Maryn Horvath and her family in honor of Maryn becoming a bat mitzvah.  
From: The Debbie Family

*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.*

**Donors**

צדקה

**Thank you to our recent donors:***Bryna & Harvey Fireside Rabbi Fund*

Joel Tabb

Bridget Meeds

*Yeldaim Religious School Fund*

Michael Dorf &amp; Sherry Colb

*Nediv Lev Campaign:*

Corinne Stern

Howard &amp; Harriet London

Ira Kamp &amp; Marne O'Shae

Leslie Adelson &amp; Larry Bieri

Ann Wexler &amp; Tony Gaenslen

Gerry Friedman &amp; Sally Dutko

Roberta Wallitt

Barbara Rosenberg

Mihal Ronen

Shawn Murphy

Barbara Harrison

Peter Silberman

Sherry Altman

Will Fudeman

Samuel &amp; Carol Shama

Ethan &amp; Rachel Ash

Philip McMichael &amp; Karen Schachere

Hallie Mitnick

Abby &amp; Bryan Thomas

Joshua &amp; Joan Friedman

Carol Chernikoff

Patti Jacobson

Laurie Willick &amp; Alexi Zentner

Gregar Brous &amp; Mimi Mehaffey

Ira &amp; Anne Brous

Ramsey Brous &amp; Melissa Burress

Kelly &amp; Michael Sturman

Bruce Fabens &amp; Diana Levy

Suzanne Aigen

Abbe Lyons

*General Fund:*

Anonymous

Howard &amp; Harriet London, in honor of Samuel

Debbie's bat mitzvah

Bob Laurentz

Leah Horwitz

*Donations to help others attend the seder:*

Sally &amp; Gregory Ezra

Sharon Ziegler

Kramer, David &amp; Susan

Seth Cohen &amp; Alison Romano-Cohen

Vilasini Mills

Judith Saul &amp; Regi Teasley

Ross &amp; Tobi Feldman

Alan Blankstein

Grace Horowitz

Joseph Yavitt &amp; Sue Merkel

Patricia &amp; Robert Libby

Tamar &amp; Marya Finlay

*Donations at the seder to the Kitchen Cupboard*

Sally &amp; Gregory Ezra

Robyn Bem

Sharon Ziegler

David &amp; Susan Kramer

Janie Carasik

Ross &amp; Tobi Feldman

Grace Horowitz

Joseph Yavitt &amp; Sue Merkel

Tamar &amp; Marya Finlay

*Special thanks to the Ithaca Area United Jewish Community (IAUJC) for a grant to support our Religious School and congregation through tuition assistance.***Mazel Tov**

מזל טוב

Mazel tov to Maryn Horvath and Maya Blanchard on becoming b'not mitzvah!

## Condolences

## תנחומים

Tikkun v'Or sends our condolences to Moriah Tebor Shaw on the loss of her uncle, Dan Levin, a treasured second father, honorary grandfather to Moriah's children, and great grandfather to her grandchildren.

Tikkun v'Or sends our condolences on the death on May 3 of Tova Talmi, mother of Nomi Talmi, mother-in-law of Veronica Eskridge and grandmother of Tali Fuson and Daniel Fuson.

Tikkun v'Or sends our condolences to Suzanne Aigen on the death of her brother, Ronald Aigen. Ron was the Rabbi of Congregation Dorshei Emet in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, son, brother and friend. He is survived by his wife, Carmela; children, Razielle, Nadav and Jennifer, and Gila; grandson, Liam Joseph; mother, Marilyn; siblings, Michael, Linda and Suzanne. He was predeceased by his father, Joseph. Ron was loved and revered by friends throughout the world. He was caring, generous and thoughtful, and touched so many lives and lived a beautiful and intentional life.

Tikkun v'Or sends our condolences to Ariel Gold, Elijah and Isabella, on the loss of Ariel's 95 (almost 96) year old grandmother, Anne, on May 22.

Tikkun v'Or sends our condolences to Marne O'Shae and family. Ruth Gabriel O'Shaughnessy Moleski passed gently on Friday, June 3, at 90 years old, surrounded by her loving children. She came to Ithaca to live at Longview in March of 2014. For the last six months of her life she shared the home of Drs. Ira Kamp and her daughter Marne O'Shae. Ruth had ten children, including Hilda Moleski, who also resides in Ithaca. Ruth was an avid bridge player, tennis player, beekeeper, Master Gardener and Floral Judge. Above all, she was a most beloved wife and mother.

May their memories be a blessing.

May the Source of all life comfort all who mourn.

### ***Bereavement Support Committee***

When a loved one dies, we want to assist you as quickly as possible. Please use the following procedure:

- Email the Bereavement Support Group at: <BereavementSupport@tikkunvor.org>
- Call Naomi Wilensky on her cell phone: (607) 280-6781 or email <naomi.wilensky@tikkunvor.org>
- If Naomi is unavailable or not able to return your call/email, call Rabbi Brian Walt on his cell phone: (508) 560-0589

## ***Feeding the Hungry: Machil Re'avim***

## מאכיל רעבים

Thanks to Sue Merkel & Joe Yavitt, Nina Cummings & Doug Stayman, Harriet & Howard London, Monica, Mark, Badyn & Eva Milstein-Touesnard, and Paul, Dorothy & Samuel Debbie for making lunches for the Rescue Mission Friendship Center in April and to Sherry Burford, Rosella Baker, Jennifer Savran Kelly & Elijah Kelly, Daniel Sverdlik, and Dorothy & Samuel Debbie for making lunches for the Rescue Mission Friendship Center in May.

Our temple is signed up to make 60 lunches for the Rescue Mission Friendship Center to be delivered on July 28 and 60 to be delivered on August 25. The Wilensky family has volunteered to make and deliver lunches in August. If you are interested in making lunches as a group at the temple the evening before lunches are due in July (i.e. on July 27), or want to make some lunches of your own (any number is appreciated), or want to contribute financially and have someone else make the lunches, contact Dorothy Debbie at dorothynotwork@gmail.com or 272-3893.

## ***Energy Task Force***

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If you haven't been in the mechanical rooms in the attic lately, you likely haven't noticed all the building improvements. The Energy Task Force is happy to announce that Phase 1 of our efforts to reduce the carbon footprint of the synagogue is nearly complete! After months of planning, and with the generous support of an anonymous donor, we have had:

- insulation and air-sealing put in over the lights,
- cellulose insulation blown into the attic,
- foam insulation installed in the mechanical rooms,
- spray foam applied to the ductwork, and
- the cupola sealed with insulated glass.

All this work should reduce our energy demands for heating by about 30% and cooling by about 20%!!

The rest of phase 1 (putting weather stripping put on all doors and installing new lights outdoors), should be completed within a few weeks. Our goals were to reduce our energy consumption and carbon footprint, as well as to reduce light pollution by following the DarkSky guidelines (<http://darksky.org/>). The new lights will have LED bulbs with motions sensors to turn on when cars pull into the drive, and when people approach the building. A light containing a light sensor will come on outside the front door to the building at night to keep that area lit.

We estimate that the above improvements will reduce the building's carbon footprint by 50%, compared to 2015 energy use!! And we aren't done yet! Stayed tuned for Phases 2 (heat pumps) and 3 (solar energy).

## ***Many Thanks***

רב תודה

Thanks to:

- All those who led services recently: Noah Friedman, the students of daled/hey (4th/5th grade) and Ilana Goldstein, Patti Jacobson, Faith Rogow, Beth Cohen, and Mihal Ronen;
- All those who hosted onegs recently: Fran Markover, the families of daled/hey (4th/5th grade), Peter Silberman, Suzanne Aigen, Annie Wexler, Carol and Sam Shama. and Lesli Adelson;
- Coordinators and hosts for Shabbat with Rabbi Brian: Wendy and Raia Gutman, Mike Dorf & Sherry Colb, Joan Friedman, Denise Wittlin-Horvath, Christine Evans, Dorothy Debbie, Lauren Korfine, Sandra Thananart and Tim Bael, Allison Andersen and Tim Andersen, Sherry and Peter Burford, Shawn Murphy, Grace Horowitz, Carole Resnick, Sarah Rubinstein-Gillis, Lois Levitan;
- Musicians Lauren Korfine, Marne O'Shae Kamp, and Tamar Kushnir, with sound help from Ira Kamp;
- Thanks to Harriet London and Ruby Turner for making the beautiful flower arrangements in front of the synagogue;
- Thanks to Casey Carr for fixing the Torah cover;
- Many thanks go to Sue Merkel and Joel Tabb for leading the seder service, to Joan Friedman for organizing, and to Sally Ezra, Corinne Stern, Joe Yavitt, Shawn Murphy, Sharon Ziegler, Judy Saul, Sherry Burford, Aron Gutman, Kenny Berkowitz, Karl Smolenski, and Nancy Young.

## In the Community



# Ithaca Area United Jewish Community

*Honoring Our Past, Shaping Our Future*

June 2016

### BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

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[www.iaujc.org](http://www.iaujc.org)  
Look for us on Facebook

The IAUJC is delighted to announce our first ever Financial Awards to families in the Ithaca area who will send their children to Jewish camps this summer. Four children, ages 10 to 16, will be off to camp shortly. They will learn new skills, make friends and have an opportunity to become deeply identified with the Jewish people. A total of \$5,470 was made available to four families in the amounts of \$500, \$1000, \$1000 and \$2970 using a 'need-based' process. Only the relevant camp administrators know each family's financial information and they determine the level of need.

The awards program was formed in response to the community's leadership indicating that this should be our Jewish Community's high priority. The goal is that every child in the Ithaca area who would like to attend a Jewish Summer Camp or Teen Experience is able to do so. The **Camp/Teen Experience Initiative** focuses on several aspects, including raising awareness of the programs available, encouraging youth to attend and their families to consider sending their children, *and* providing financial awards when needed to help make that possible. This year's grant cycle ended May 31.

Without financial support, this initiative would not be possible. We are indebted to the funds made available through the Robert and Marcia Ascher Endowment of the IAUJC and to Linda and Stephen Pope.

Thanks go to our Camp/Teen Initiative members: Vally Kovary and Naomi Wilensky, co-chairs; Rabbi Suzanne Brody, Howard Erlich, Marjorie Hoffman, Lauren Korfine, Jim Rothenberg and Chana Silberstein. The Camp Initiative needs and welcomes new members—please contact Naomi Wilensky and/or Rabbi Brody if you or someone you know would like to participate in any way. We also need additional financial support in order to continue this program and expand it as the years progress. To learn about the initiative in detail go to [www.iaujc.org](http://www.iaujc.org) and click on **Child/Teen Summer Fun**. There you will find the current policies and application forms.

### SAVE THE DATE:

Sunday afternoon July 31, 2016, from 4 to 6 PM - Professor Miriam Elman will be teaching us about "Hate Speech and the New Anti-Semitism: Why Anti-Zionist Extremism is on the Rise and What We Can Do to Stop It"

The Space @ GreenStar, 700 W. Buffalo St.



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**Congregational Leadership**

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Action Against Hunger Committee	Harriet London	257-1502	londonharriet@gmail.com
Welcoming & Membership Committee	Ann Wexler	273-2191	annwex1@gmail.com
	Sharon Ziegler	272-0680	ziegler.sharon@gmail.com
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Area Congregations Together (ACT)	Open		
Teens V'Or			teensvor@gmail.com
Newsletter Distribution	Meg Morris	272-3904	

*The Tikkun v'Or Newsletter offers free business-card sized ads to all members, as space allows in each issue. For non-members or those who would like guaranteed ad space, the fees are \$30/issue or \$150 for 6 issues/one year. For more information, please contact info@tikkunvor.org or call 607-256-1471.*

For updated calendar information,  
call 607-256-1471  
or check <[www.tikkunvor.org](http://www.tikkunvor.org)>

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## Contents תוכן

From the Presidents.....	1-2
Shabbat and Holidays.....	2
Shabbat in the Park.....	3
Religious School / Teens.....	4
Annual Meeting Update.....	5
Tribute Cards.....	5
Donors.....	6
Mazel Tov.....	6
Condolences.....	7
Feeding the Hungry.....	7
Energy Task Force.....	8
Thanks.....	8
IAUJC.....	9
Community Ads.....	10
Congregational Leadership .....	11

**Tikkun v'Or Welcomes  
Interfaith Families!**



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