



# Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Ithaca Reform Temple  
Spirit • Community • Justice

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Newsletter Issue 186

March-April 2015

אייר - ניסן - אדר - Adar - Nisan - Iyar 5775

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## ***From Rabbi Brian Walt***

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Dear Friends,

Money is a challenging issue in any context. This is also true, maybe particularly true, in the context of religious institutions. We all have strong feelings about the role of money and the solicitation of money in religious communities.

For instance, I have strong feelings about requiring tickets for High Holiday services. Making attendance at a religious service contingent on the payment of money is offensive to me. A synagogue should be open to everyone. In the words of Isaiah that we love to sing, “My house is a house of prayer for all people!” Too many people have come to High Holiday services and been turned away because they didn’t have tickets. I have been fortunate never to lead a High Holiday service where tickets were required.

And, despite my intense opposition to tickets, I fully understand why some congregations insist on tickets. There are many costs to running a synagogue and to providing High Holiday services. Congregations are dependent on membership dues and voluntary contributions to meet the costs. Increasing numbers of Jews don’t have a sense of the responsibility that falls on all of us to maintain synagogues. Also many synagogues wouldn’t have enough space to accommodate their members if they opened their service to everyone.

The issue of High Holiday tickets is just one example of the challenges of raising money for a synagogue. How do we keep our doors open to everyone and also pay the bills? How do we manage to raise the funds necessary for a synagogue in a way that reflects our values? How do we equally honor those who are able to give larger sums of money and those who make gifts of smaller sums? How do we celebrate the many different ways, apart from monetary contributions, that people give of themselves to create and build community? How can the fundraising itself be a sacred exercise, one that embodies our deepest religious values?

These questions will be the focus of a conversation in our Temple over the coming year as we work together to develop a sustainable, values-based model for us to raise the funds necessary for our beloved community. Dorothy and Nina, our co-Presidents, wrote about this project in the last newsletter. We are blessed that several people, under the leadership of Sherry Burford, have volunteered to work on this project.

On my next visit to Ithaca, we will begin the communal conversation with a text study and discussion on “Money, Sacred Space and Sacred Community” at our Shabbat morning services on Saturday, March 21. Our study will be based on the Torah portion Terumah (“the offering”) which is about the construction of the Mishkan, the portable sanctuary we imagine the Israelites constructed in the desert (more likely it is based on the later construction of the Temple in Jerusalem). We will study passages from this Torah portion to identify Jewish values that may guide us. We will explore how these values relate to us and explore values that we have as contemporary Jews that should be reflected in the way we raise money.

This Torah study session will be the first in a series of opportunities for our community in different

*continued on next page*

contexts to explore these issues over the coming year. At the end of the process we will come up with a model of dues and fundraising that reflects our values.

We all have much to learn from an open discussion about money. Money and the use of resources is an important religious question. My friend Jeffrey Dekro coined the term the “Torah of Money” and explored these issues in his book, “Jews, Money and Social Responsibility: Developing a Torah of Money for Contemporary Life.” The Torah of Money breaks down the artificial separation we create between money and spirit. Rabbi Arthur Waskow, another dear friend, has also explored these issues in his book, “Down to Earth Judaism: Food, Money, Sex and the Rest of Life.”



The specific issue of congregational dues is very topical and just a week ago the Jewish Federation of New York held a daylong event devoted to the issue. There was also an interesting article in the New York Times recently about congregational dues and a follow up article in the Forward. Reform Judaism, the magazine that all members of our Temple receive, also had a cover story recently about the issue.

We will draw on these and other resources as we explore the issue. I look forward to seeing you in March and engaging in these conversations with you.

I hope you all enjoy the end of winter and the miracle of Spring. May it come soon!

Shalom,

Rabbi Brian

*P.S: Exciting Adult Ed Class in March and April*

*I want to encourage you to take advantage of a wonderful opportunity to explore our own relationship to the Exodus and the conquest of the land, with Lauren Monroe. What evidence is there that these two events actually happened? How do we understand these two central events in Judaism? See below for details.*

## **Adult Education: Exodus & the Conquest of the Land**

Exodus and the Conquest of the Land: History? Fiction? Does it Matter?

**Sunday, March 15 and April 12 from 2-3:30 p.m. at Congregation Tikkun v'Or**

Have you ever wondered whether the Exodus from Egypt and Israelite conquest of the land of Canaan ever happened? Do you want to generate some interesting conversations at the seder table? This two-part class examines traditions of Exodus and conquest, as these are preserved primarily in the books of Exodus, Joshua and Judges.

The first class will compare the story of the Israelites exodus from Egypt with some of what is known from archaeology and Egyptian texts about relations between Canaan and Egypt during the period in which the exodus traditions are set.

The second class will examine archaeological evidence relating to the appearance of Israelites in the land of Canaan, in relationship to biblical traditions of conquest and settlement. In both classes we will focus on the question of the relationship between history and tradition, and how collective memory functions in creating Jewish identity.

All are welcome to attend one or both classes. Free and open to the public.

Lauren Monroe is an Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible at Cornell University, and Chair of the Near Eastern Studies Department. Monroe's teaching interests include Hebrew Bible and Biblical Hebrew at all levels, Syro-Palestinian Archaeology, and Ancient Israelite Religious and Social History. She is currently working on a two volume study of tribes of Benjamin and Joseph, in textual, archaeological and historical perspective. She is also a life-long participant in the Reform movement, and new member of Tikkun v'Or.

## ***Shabbat and Holidays***

שבת וחגים

**KABBALAT SHABBAT / WELCOMING SHABBAT** Fridays 7:30 pm unless otherwise noted

Friday, March 6, 6:15 p.m. Family Purim Celebration (**see page 4**)

Friday, March 13 Led by Kitah Daled/Hey (4th/5th grade) with Dori Chandler

6:30 p.m. Dish to pass dinner, 7:30 p.m. Service

Friday, March 20 with Rabbi Brian

Friday, March 27 Led by Richard Rosenfield

No service Friday, April 3 (first night of Passover)

Friday, April 10 Leader TBA

Friday, April 17 with Rabbi Brian

Friday, April 24 Leader TBA

Friday, May 1 Shabbat in the Community (**see page 7**)

*If you are interested in leading services, contact Nomi Fridman <ema.nomi@gmail.com>.*

### WEEKENDS WITH RABBI BRIAN

#### **Friday, March 20, 6-8 p.m.**

Family-Friendly Shabbat service and veggie/dairy dish- to-pass dinner for people of all ages led by Rabbi Brian Walt and Azameyra, (the TVO singers) directed by Marnie Kamp.

Join us for a short family-friendly Shabbat service followed by a dish-to-pass Shabbat dinner. The evening includes: a short service including Shabbat family and table rituals, singing with our own band, Azameyra, personal reflection and sharing, a teaching/story about Pesach appropriate for children and adults, and communal dancing.

We haven't had one of these evenings for a while. It's a great opportunity for young and old to come together to share a joyous and inspiring Shabbat. Meet new people and strengthen connections with others in the community. If you know very little about Shabbat or if you do it every week, you will leave with a *neshama yetera* (the extra soul) that is the gift of Shabbat. You also may learn a new song, dance or Jewish teaching.

The service/dinner begins at 6 p.m. and ends at 8 although young children can be taken home earlier and dancing often continues into the night!

#### **Saturday, March 21**

#### **Shabbat Morning Service and Special Torah Study Session and Discussion on Money, Sacred Space and Sacred Community**

9:15 -10:00 a.m. Chanting and Silent Meditation with Rabbi Brian

10:00-11:00 a.m. Morning Service, Torah Reading

11:00-12:00 p.m. Study Session: Money, Sacred Space and Sacred Community

A study session of Parshat Terumah exploring the Jewish values relating to money and the building of a sacred space and sacred community. We will explore the values our ancestors used in the building of the Mishkan/Sanctuary and contemporary values that inform our moral vision about how we can use our resources in a sacred/moral way. There will be an opportunity for further communal discussion at the Kiddush and dish-to-pass lunch.

12:00-1:00 p.m. Kiddush and Shabbat dish-to-pass lunch.

#### **Friday, April 17, 6-8 p.m.**

Another great family-friendly service and dish-to-pass dinner, with singing and stories and teaching and dancing!

**Saturday, April 18**

Shabbat Morning Service led by Rabbi Walt and students of vav/zayin (6th/7th grade) with Dori Chandler

9:30-10:00 Morning Meditation with Rabbi Brian

10:00-11:00 Morning Service, Torah Reading

11:00-12:00 Torah Study / Discussion

Eco-Kashrut and Food Justice: What does this mean to me/us?

Shemini, this morning's Torah portion, contains all the laws of Kashrut. The students of vav/zayin will explore how the traditional rules of kashrut may be reimagined as a system of eco-Kashrut, a concept outlined by Rabbi Arthur Waskow in his book *Down to Earth Judaism: Food, Sex, Money and the Rest of Life*. Eco Kashrut is a spiritual discipline of eating based on eating healthy and sustainable food, that incorporates a concern for the environment and the rights of farmworkers and others engaged in the production of food. The students will share their thoughts and personal experience with incorporating their values into the way they eat followed by a community discussion with Rabbi Walt, Dori Chandler and everyone present. Please join us for this important conversation.

12:00-1:00 Kiddush and Shabbat dish -to-pass lunch

**Purim Comedy and Music Night**

*Friday, March 6, from 6:15 to 8:30(ish)*

Think cabaret atmosphere complete with bar serving grown-up and kid-friendly drinks, potluck dinner consisting entirely of triangular foods, candlelit tables, and for your entertainment: Jewish comedy, storytelling, skits, and sing along! The megillah will be featured in comedic or musical form.

The early part of the evening will be entirely family friendly, and the later part will be geared toward older teens and adults, (with a costume dance kick-line intermission separating the two).

We need help, including performers (do some Jewish stand-up, tell a funny story, perform a skit, share a song), a decorator (someone to imagine and manifest the comedy club atmosphere (with helpers, of course), a megillah improv troop, a bartender, and general helpers.

If you would like to perform or help, please send an email to Lauren <lkorfine@gmail.com>; or Dori <drchan54@gmail.com> with the following information: Name or names of performers; Email address; Phone Number; Type of performance (e.g., comedy, storytelling, music, etc); Brief description (is content family friendly?)

Join us for a first-ever sure-to-be-fabulous Purim evening of comedy and music at TVO!


  
**Celebrate Purim!**
  
*with other PJ Families*
  
**Thursday, March 5th 3:30 to 5:30**
  
**Borg Warner Room of the Tompkins County Public Library**
  
**Hear the Megillah! Purim Baskets! Face Painting!**
  
**Dress up! Music and more!**
  
**Admission: three non-perishable food items for ACT's Kitchen Cupboard**
  
(this donation will help you complete the four mitzvot for Purim)
  
**Adult help needed for activities and Purim skit!! Please contact Marjorie at**
  
**marjorie.twcny.rr.com if you can help**
  
**Please invite other Jewish families who might be interested!**

In this newsletter, Rabbi Brian introduces the challenge for religious congregations when they must grapple with financial demands and business decisions. His questions give TvO members many things to consider. The concepts of financial stability, fair dues structures, membership benefits, fundraising and donations create complicated conversations, particularly in a congregation like ours. We hold dear the value of “each for all” as well as “My house is a house of prayer for all people.” A founding principle of TvO was that financial concern should never be an obstacle to becoming a TvO member or to being fully engaged in the congregation.

Simultaneously, the leadership of Tikkun v'Or is acutely aware of the expenses associated with an active congregation and the financial pressures we constantly face. If you have been in the building this winter, you are aware of the struggle with our furnaces, water pipes, condensation and other practical needs that affect all of us who want to use our beautiful building for services, activities, meetings and the religious education of our families. Ongoing building repairs are but one small example of a financial demand that requires a commitment from all of us if we are to maintain a space to be shared and treasured.

We are grateful to those of you who have challenged us to reconsider the financial commitments we make, how our budget is organized and how we should plan for a sustainable financial future. In our last note to you, we told you of plans to explore a new financial scheme that will bring the long term financial stability we need as a growing congregation.

A financial model task force was created in December 2014 with leadership provided by Sherry Burford. Also involved are co-presidents Dorothy Debbie and Nina Cummings, co-treasurer Peter Burford, Bob Libby, Monica Tousevard, and Rabbi Brian. At this writing, the group has met several times to begin the task of identifying alternative financial strategies for membership and campaigns that will provide options for our diverse constituents and provide the steady stable income required to support the temple and our vibrant community.

Creating a new model that will responsibly match our income and fundraising to the steadily increasing expenses will take time. As the ideas develop, we want to be sure the congregation understands the needs and changes to our budget structure and the implications for each member family as we establish a stable economic future.

In the meantime, we want to remind you of the commitment made to sustaining Rabbi Brian's relationship with us for the next five years. We were inspired by so many of you who pledged to do as much you could to support the Rabbi's new contract. So we hope you will send in your pledges to support the contractual obligations to the Rabbi and support the current financial commitment to our spiritual leadership.

We are grateful that the Rabbi will provide valuable Torah study in the months to come to help us explore money matters as they relate to our commitment as Jews, to our obligations to each other and to our spiritual home. This way, no matter our financial means, together we can create a model that supports our growth and stability as a vibrant Jewish community and that matches our TvO values. In the future, there will be ample opportunity for community discussions so that everyone is involved in the important decisions that will lay the foundation for TvO's development. We will continue to keep you informed as we move ahead towards a stable financial future for our congregation.

-- Nina Cummings and Dorothy Debbie, Co-Presidents

## **Dinner and a Movie: Season 6 Continues**

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Our scheduled Dinner & a Movie for February almost survived, despite heroic efforts against formidable scheduling challenges, but ultimately succumbed to the icy grip of winter. March is a brand new month though, and we'll take the whole evening out of the freezer then and serve it up fresh and warm.

**The Date: Saturday, March 14, food served at 6:30 p.m. Film starts at 7:00 p.m.**

**The Film: "West Beirut"** 105 minutes. French and Arabic with English subtitles.

**The Food: TBD, but a request is in to Arthur for "Mese" – a Lebanese tapas-like collection of spreads and salads that we enjoyed last year.**

Apparently you've got to have a sense of humor to make films in Lebanon. Especially when people are killing each other. Last year, we enjoyed Nadine Labaki's funny and poignant film "Where Do We Go From Here?" Now for the overlooked 1998 gem from Ziad Doueiri, "West Beirut," which is a kind of "Ferris Bueller's Day Off in a War Zone." Set during the 1975 civil war between the Christian East and the Muslim West, this is a wise and irreverent look at the things that divide us from one another and the conflict that causes within each of us. Plus it's about goofy teenagers. Does anything really change?

**The Date: Saturday, April 25, food served at 6:30 p.m. Film starts at 7:00 p.m.**

**The Film: "Only Human"**

**The Food: "Dish to Pass, Snack to Share or Something to Drink" in thanks to Arthur!**

You know the old joke about any Jewish holiday – "they tried to kill us, we won, let's eat." Fortunately, no one is trying to kill us here in Ithaca, but every month we all win anyway because we get a chance to eat Arthur's cooking. For our final Dinner & a Movie of the season, as a thank you to Arthur, it's OUR chance to feed HIM! So please bring a veggie dish to pass, a snack to share or something to drink and we'll make sure that Arthur gets first crack at the food table.

"Only Human" will leave you with a big enough smile to hold you until next season. It's an Argentinian film set in Madrid about a young Jewish woman who brings her Palestinian fiancé home to meet the family. The frozen soup falls out the window, the belly-dancing sister kisses the boyfriend, the dad disappears. You get the idea.

All films are shown at the Temple. Entrance is free but we do appreciate voluntary donations towards the cost of food. Bring your friends, the more the merrier! Questions? Please contact Jonathan Plotkin at <jjplotkin@gmail.com> or 227-3618.

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## ***Program Committee***

Are you interested in Jewish-themed music, theater and other cultural programs?  
 We would like to revive the TvO Program Committee and WE NEED YOU.  
 Contact Patti Jacobson at <docgalya@gmail.com>, if you are interested or even curious.

### **COWSPIRACY: THE SUSTAINABILITY SECRET**

Sunday March 8, 7 p.m. at TVO

There was great interest in following up on the Tu B'shvat seder with more discussion of environmental actions. Join us for a special screening of the documentary, "Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret." Discussion will follow. What contributes more than anything else to climate change and pollution? And why are most mainstream environmental groups so silent about the impact of animal agriculture?

All are welcome.

<www.cowspiracy.com>

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## ***Shabbat in the Community: Friday, May 1, 6 p.m.***

Shabbat in the Community is a fun way for TvO members to get to know each other in an informal setting. Several congregation members will host Shabbat pot-luck dinners in their homes, and everyone will have the opportunity to sign up to attend one of those dinners. Dinners may include a short candle-lighting service and a discussion question, or just festive eating and conversation.

We currently are looking for volunteers to serve as hosts. We are particularly interested in host families with children, although everyone is invited to volunteer. Hosts should be able to accommodate 6–12 guests. Host responsibilities include contacting people who've signed up to be at your house and coordinating food.

If you are interested in hosting a Shabbat in the Community event, please contact Peter Silberman by March 15 at <silbermanp@gmail.com>. Please tell us where you live and how many people you can host (how many adults, how many children).

Thanks for making Shabbat in the Community a success!

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## ***Teens v'Or***

Teens v'Or has been keeping busy, supporting each other at local performances, playing laser tag with Temple Beth-El teens, making lunches for the Friendship Center, babysitting during Parents Night Out, and planning for Purim and Passover fun. If your teen has not yet been involved, but would like to be, contact <teensvor@gmail.com>.

*Teens v'Or: - Their Mission: Connecting the teens of Tikkun v'Or  
 by spreading light in the community, practicing mitzvot,  
 Jewish leadership, and having fun.*

## **Bereavement Support Committee**

Dying and mourning are topics that we often avoid until we have no choice. But being prepared can make an unexpected—or expected—death easier for all involved. TvO's Bereavement Support Committee is sponsoring its first program on **Sunday, March 22 at 2:30 p.m.** The committee will introduce the resources it has gathered and made available for the congregation, after which Rabbi Brian will talk about a Jewish perspective on death and mourning.

The program will also include a presentation from Joel Rabinowitz, Executive Director of Greensprings Natural Cemetery Preserve <<http://naturalburial.org>>. Since its founding in 2006, Greensprings has offered an ecologically sound burial option and a natural return to the earth, mirroring principles of simplicity and respect that have long guided Jewish burial practices. Greensprings is located in Newfield, N.Y., about a half hour south of Ithaca and is surrounded by forest preserves, meadows, and farm fields.

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](mailto:BereavementSupport@tikkunvor.org)>
- Call Naomi Wilensky on her cell phone: (607) 280-6781
- You may also email Naomi at: <[naomi.wilensky@tikkunvor.org](mailto:naomi.wilensky@tikkunvor.org)>
- If Naomi is unavailable and not able to return your call/email, you may call Rabbi Brian Walt on his cell phone: (508) 560-0589

## **Condolences**

תנחומים

Tikkun V'Or extends our condolences to Doug Stayman and family on the death of his father, Sidney Stayman, age 92, on February 7.

Tikkun v'Or extends our condolences to Daniel Sternglass and Casey Carr, and Russell and Andrew, on the death of Daniel's father, Ernest Sternglass, on February 12, at the age of 91.

May their memories be a blessing.

## **Caring Committee**

ועד מצוה

The TvO Caring Committee offers support during life-changing events, such as a birth/adoption, death, illness, or other life challenges. The committee reaches out to the TvO community for volunteers to provide meals, transportation to medical appointments or to TvO events, or help in meeting other short-term needs (running errands, visiting the sick). If you or someone you know could use a hand, please let us know! The best way to contact us is by making a request at <[info@tikkunvor.org](mailto:info@tikkunvor.org)>.

The work of the Caring Committee is held in confidence to the extent possible to enable volunteers to respond to stated needs.

## Religious School

## בית ספר תיקון ואור

It's winter at TVO Religious School, and we've been learning Hebrew words for body parts so that we can play Shimon Omer (Simon Says). *Shimon Omer: Yadayim al ha-rosh! Yadayim al ha-raglayim!*

Students in the art chug (elective) created miniature Jewish scenes with wooden figures and clay. We had elaborate scenes of celebration. They also made sparkling kiddush cups and Tu b'Shvat water globes. In the cooking chug, students learned about the laws of kashrut (keeping kosher), made baked apples (and read about Adam and Eve), tabouli salad (and read of Sarah's flair for welcoming guests with food), and Iraqi "madgooga" date nut balls for Tu b'Shvat. Students in the games chug played many rounds of Jewish Apples to Apples (their favorite game) and Jewish holiday Bingo.

**Gan and Kitah Alef** א כיתה (K/grade 1) made a fanciful Tu b'Shvat tree (look at behind the kitchen door) and havdalah spice boxes. We love Shabbat, but it smells like cloves when we say

goodbye!

**Kitah Bet/Gimel** ב/ג כיתה (grades 2/3) led a thoughtful Shabbat service, and discussed how and why peaceful protests are important and effective in making the world a better place for all people.

In **Kitah Daled/Hey** ד/ה כיתה (grades 4/5) are in the midst of preparing for the Shabbat services, concentrating on the different types of prayers we say (Help us! Thank you! Wow!)

**Kitah Vav** ו כיתה (grade 6) and **Kitah Zayin** ז כיתה (grade 7) considers some of life's big questions: Who are you? Who would like to be? Are you moving in the right direction?

Midyear progress notes were sent out by email to all Bet-Zayin families.

The next school food drives for the Food Donation Network will be on March 22 - bring SOUP and April 19 -- bring TUNA. We've collected these before, but they are always in great need.



### Tot Craft Program with Shira Reisman

**Sunday, March 1 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.**

Join for a fun pre-Purim crafting hour with your little one. Ages 18 months-4 years.

**Many Thanks**

רב תודה

Thanks to:

- All those who led services recently: Patti Jacobson, Joel Tabb, Peter Silberman, Anne Brous;
- All those who hosted onegs recently: Debbie family, Joel Tabb, Lise Rosenfeld, Fran Markover;
- Thanks to Dori Chandler and the students of kitah bet/gimel (2nd/3rd grade) for leading services and to their families for hosting the dinner and oneg;
- Thanks to Diana Levy and Nomi Fridman for creating leading the Tu b'Shvat seder; to Bruce Fabens for set up and technical support; to Beth Cohen for purchasing the fruit and nuts; to Miranda Phillips for preparing Tu b'Shvat resources; and thank you to Susan Eschbach, Sue Merkel and Beth Cohen for clean up;
- Thanks to Jonathan Plotkin and Barbara Brenner for organizing Dinner & A Movie, and to Arthur Birnbaum for the tasty dinners;
- Thanks to Shira Reisman for leading Tot Craft Programs;
- Thanks to Joan Friedman and Lauren Korfine for loaning space heaters for Religious School, and to Ian Shapiro for setting them up;
- Thanks to those who participated in the IAUJC Jewish Summer Camp Fair, especially Tikkun v'Or campers Anya Korfine, Adina Wilensky, and Tova Wilensky;
- Kol Hakavod to Judy Saul for her lovely reading at the Dr Martin Luther King Jr Breakfast. Read her address at <[www.tikkunvor.org](http://www.tikkunvor.org)>

**Donors**

צדקה

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

Jeffrey Furman & Sara Hess, *in appreciation of Rabbi Brian's outstanding leadership*

Greene-Milstein Family Foundation

*In continuation of the challenge grant*

Mark Milstein & Monica Touesnard

Paul & Elaine Hyams, *in honor of the continuing collaboration with Rabbi Brian*

Dorothy Halperin, *in memory of Rhoda Brenner, from her loving family*

Elaan Greenfield, *in memory of Rhoda Brenner, Claudia Brenner's mother*

Ted Schiele

Ken Birman

***General Fund***

Roy Luft & Nancy Emerson

Sara Pines

*Carol Ornstein & Richie Holtz*

*Noemi Kraut*

*Judith Rothenberg*

*Melvin Goldman*

*Sox Sperry & Lisa Tsetse*

***Building Fund***

*Anonymous, to help with the cost of repairs due to the frozen pipes and for energy efficiency improvements*

***Youth Group Fund***

*Anonymous*

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

TvO Israel-Palestine Social Justice Work Group  
to Host Internationally Acclaimed Israeli Composer to Discuss “Dare to Refuse”

In mid-April the Tikkun v’Or Israel-Palestine Social Justice Workgroup will be hosting Amit Gilutz, internationally acclaimed Israeli composer and Cornell Doctor of Musical Arts candidate, to discuss the Israeli movement to refuse military service. The date and time will be announced soon.

Amit has been featured in international media since December 28, 2014 when he joined over 60 alumni of the prestigious Israel Arts and Sciences Academy (IASA) to sign a letter calling on current high school students and alumni “to dare to refuse” service in the Israeli Defense Force.

The IASA is a high school and boarding school that accepts outstanding students with diverse religions and national identities from all over the country. The refusers claim that the experience of living in a multicultural community has contributed to their critique of the Israeli military as an institution that enforces segregation between Palestinians and Jewish Israelis.

During 2014, four initiatives in Israel calling for the refusal of military service were publicized. However, the IASA letter is the first refuser initiative developed and signed by both Israeli Jews and Palestinians who are Israeli citizens. In addition, its explicit call for refusal exposes the signers to the possible charge of “incitement.” At our event Amit will share why these Israelis have taken such a risk at this time.

The IASA alumni’s letter states, “Refusing to serve in the Israeli military is not an easy choice, but a moral stance against a collective mood manifested in racism and violence on every street these days. It is a choice to withstand the pressure coming from one’s home, friends, professional environment and the media, and to not take part in the crimes done in our name. The refusal to serve means also resisting the militaristic indoctrination process we all went through since our childhood in schools, youth movements, national ceremonies, in high school – and which continues in our adult lives.”

For more information about the event with Amit Gilutz or the Tikkun v’Or Israel-Palestine Social Justice Work Group, please contact Beth Harris <beth55harris@gmail.com>

Are you looking for a beautiful space for a workshop,  
retreat, meeting or family celebration?  
How about renting Tikkun v’Or?  
Gorgeous views, free parking, quiet location,  
peaceful surroundings & reasonable rental fees.  
Contact <info@tikkunvor.org> or call (607) 256-1471

## Annual Congregation Tikkun v'Or Community Seder Saturday, April 4, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

*At Tikkun v'Or, 2550 North Triphammer Rd. in Lansing*

The Tikkun v'Or Community Passover Seder will be held on April 4, the second night of Pesach. The meal will be partially catered and partially dish-to-pass. Our caterer will provide a vegetarian or chicken entree, vegetarian matzo ball soup, beverages, and some ceremonial foods. To supplement this, we ask that each family bring a vegetarian dish to share that will comfortably feed 8–12 people. This can be a side dish, a large salad, or a dessert. All dishes must be Pesachdikhe (kosher for Passover), so remember: no bread, pasta, or other grains, though the Sephardic tradition allows rice and beans.

The fee is the same as last year and will cover the costs incurred for the Seder, including catering, table and chair rentals, and other incidentals. *We do not want anyone to miss the Seder because of financial circumstances, so if cost is an issue, please send what is affordable to you.*

This event is brought to you by volunteers. We will need help with some ceremonial foods, setup, and other preparation. Please contact Joan Friedman at [friedman.ioan@gmail.com](mailto:friedman.ioan@gmail.com) if you can help.

Please complete and mail the form below with your check. Because the caterer needs an accurate headcount, registrations must be received no later than March 31. **Absolutely no registrations will be accepted after Thursday, April 2 or once we have reached our capacity (120).**

Mail registration with check to:

Tikkun v'Or c/o Joan Friedman, 4030 Jacksonville Road, Trumansburg, NY 14886

**Please make checks payable to Tikkun v'Or**

(Registrations will be considered incomplete without enclosed check)

*Passover is a time when many Jews make contributions to tzadakah. As part of TvO's effort to help end hunger in our community, we are collecting monetary donations for the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard. A space for monetary donations is included on the form below.*

<b>SEDER RESERVATION FORM – Must be returned by March 31, 2015</b>		
No. adult temple members attending	_____ @ \$16 per person	\$ _____
No. temple members age 6–12 attending	_____ @ \$8 per person	\$ _____
No. adult non-members attending	_____ @ \$26 per person	\$ _____
No. non-members age 6–12 attending	_____ @ \$13 per person	\$ _____
<i>Note: children 5 and under are free</i>		
Special Family Rates		
Member family of four	_____ @ \$45 + \$5/add. child	\$ _____
Non-member family of four	_____ @ \$70 + \$8/add. child	\$ _____
Donation to the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard		\$ _____
Donation to help others attend the 2015 Seder		\$ _____
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>
# of vegetarian entrees we would like _____ # of meat entrees we would like _____		
Names of adults: _____		
Names & ages of children _____		
E-mail: _____		Contact us to help with the Seder: Y / N
We will bring: _____ Dessert _____ Salad _____ Kugel/Side dish		
We can also bring: An empty Seder plate _____ A full Seder plate _____		

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

מאכיל רעבים

### **LUNCHEES FOR THE FRIENDSHIP CENTER**

Thanks to Teens v'Or for making lunches in January - Joshua Machlin, Tova Wilensky, Isaac Lyons, Ari Kirshner, Tali Benzer-Shuman, and Elijah Gold.

If you can help make lunches on **Wednesdays 5:45-6:15 p.m. March 25 and April 27**, please contact Dorothy Debbie <dorothynotwork@gmail.com> or 272-3893.

Bring food items for local pantries during the following weekends:

March 20-22 SOUP

April 17-19 TUNA

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 to the shelter.



*Potential summer camp participants and their families explored Jewish summer camp options at the IAUJC Camp and Teen Experience Fair in January.*

*Do you have questions about Jewish summer camp?*

*Ask <info@tikkunvor.org>.*


**BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

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[www.iaujc.org](http://www.iaujc.org)

Look for us on Facebook

## ITHACA AREA UNITED JEWISH COMMUNITY

### New Board Members

The IAUJC is delighted to welcome Alan Blankstein, Marcus Brody, Sharon Glass, and David Rhodes to its board. These four remarkable individuals come from diverse backgrounds and bring a range of interests and skills to our organization. In the short time they have been with us, David, Sharon, Marcus, and Alan have already thrown themselves into the IAUJC, so we expect many years of fruitful service from them.

### Jewish Summer Camp Fair

The IAUJC extends congratulations to the Jewish Summer Camp and Teen Experiences Fair Committee on their successful first annual Camper Fair. Area families from as far away as Elmira and Binghamton braved the inclement weather to learn about over twelve area camps. The camps highlighted the diversity of Jewish life right here in central NY and represented the Reform and Conservative Movements, Zionism, Eco Judaism, sports, science, and more! We know of at least one child who will be experiencing Jewish camp this year because of the fair. Special thanks go out to Vally Kovary, Sharon Glass, Naomi Wilensky, Lauren Korfine, Chana Silberstein, Marjorie Hoffman and Rabbi Suzanne Brody, the camp fair committee. Also, special mention needs to be made about the amazing campfire craft activity center created by IAUJC board member and Tvo Education Director, Naomi Wilensky.

Jewish camp and teen summer experiences create lifelong Jewish friendships, extraordinary Jewish memories and most importantly a lasting commitment to the Jewish community. In the coming years, IAUJC will be helping community families with “camper-ships” to ease the financial burden of Jewish camp. The size and scope of the camperships is still under discussion, and some of the answers will depend on the funds that can be raised to support the project. If you are interested in instilling Jewish Identity in our youth by supporting our Camper-ship initiative email the IAUJC at [info@IAUJC.org](mailto:info@IAUJC.org) with the subject line “camper-ship”.

### Upcoming events

#### Celebrate Purim with PJ Library.

- **Time:** Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 to 5:30 in the Borg Warner Room of the Tomkins County Public Library.
- **Admission Price:** three non-perishable food items for ACT's Kitchen Cupboard.

Once again PJ Library is throwing a great Purim party with a lot of fun activities for the whole family. In addition to favorites like face painting, dress up, and costume making, this year you can hear a family friendly Megillah reading, make and give Mishloach Manot (traditional Purim baskets), and laugh out loud during our Purim spiel (skit). So come and join us and tell all your Jewish friends to come and share in the joy of Purim.

PJ Library is a Jewish family engagement program that mails free, high-quality Jewish children's literature and music to families across North America on a monthly basis. PJ Library is made possible through partnerships with philanthropists and local Jewish organizations like the IAUJC and through continued financial support from community members like you. If you are interested in learning more and supporting the PJ Library, please contact the IAUJC at [info@IAUJC.org](mailto:info@IAUJC.org) with the subject line “PJ Library”. If your family would like a free subscription to PJ Library go to [www.pjlibrary.org](http://www.pjlibrary.org).

The Holocaust Education Committee of IAUJC presents:

**Marion Blumenthal-Lazan**

author of *Four Perfect Pebbles: A Holocaust Story*

Tuesday, April 21, 7 p.m.

at Temple Beth-El

*More information coming soon*



The Jewish Federations  
OF NORTH AMERICA | The Network  
of Independent  
Communities

The Ithaca Coalition for Unity and Cooperation in the Middle East invites you to hear

**Eugene Kontorovich**  
on

**International Law and the BDS Movement**  
**Sunday, March 8, 11 am**  
The Space at GreenStar  
Free and Open to the Public



*The global Boycott, Divestment and Sanction (BDS) movement emphasizes international law in its statements about Israel. But what does international law actually say about the legality of Israel's actions and its existence as a state?*



*Kontorovich is one of the world's experts on international law and the Israel-Arab conflict. He is regularly called on to advise legislators and cabinet members in the U.S., Israel, and Europe on questions pertaining to Israel and international law. His scholarship has been cited in leading international law cases in the U.S. and abroad. He is currently a professor at the Northwestern University School of Law and a Senior Fellow at the Kohelet Policy Forum in Jerusalem.*

*For more information email [IthacaCUCME@gmail.com](mailto:IthacaCUCME@gmail.com)  
Ithaca Coalition for Unity and Cooperation can be found on Facebook*

The mission of the newly formed **Ithaca Coalition for Unity and Cooperation in the Middle East (ICUC-ME)**, is “to promote better understanding of the Israel-Palestinian conflict. ICUC-ME is committed to respectful dialogue, mutual recognition, peaceful solutions, and ensuring safety for all.”

For more information about the group, see <<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ithaca-Coalition-for-Unity-and-Cooperation-in-the-Middle-East/796335893778355>>.

# March 2015 - Tikkun v'Or

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Religious School 9:15 am - 12 pm <b>Tot Crafts Program</b> 9:30-10:30 <b>New Jim Crow discussion</b> 3:30-5 pm <b>Klezmer Concert 3</b> pm@TBE	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Purim (5775) begins at sundown Vav/Zayin 4-5:30 pm	<b>4</b> Purim (5775) begins at sundown Vav/Zayin 4-5:30 pm	<b>5</b> Purim (5775) IALJJC Purim celebration 3:30-5:30 at TCPL	<b>6</b> <b>Family Purim Shabbat</b> <b>Comedy Night</b> 6:15 pm Dori & Lauren	<b>7</b> Parashat Ki Tisa
<b>8</b> <b>Daylight Saving Time</b> <b>begins</b> <b>Religious School</b> 9:15 am - 12 pm <b>"Sustainability"</b> 7 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> TVO Exec mtg	<b>11</b> Vav/Zayin 4-5:30 pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Kabbalat Shabbat 6:30 dinner / 7:30 p.m. service Dated/Hey with Dori Chandler	<b>14</b> Parashat Vayechele/Pikudei <b>Dinner &amp; a Movie</b> 6:30 pm dinner 7 pm film
<b>15</b> <b>Religious School</b> 9:15 am - 12 pm <b>Exodus &amp; Conquest</b> 2-3:30	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Vav/Zayin 4:30-5:30 with Rabbi Brian	<b>19</b> Rabbi Brian	<b>20</b> <b>Vernal Equinox</b> Shabbat Service & Dinner 6-8 p.m. Rabbi Brian	<b>21</b> Parashat Vayikra Shabbat morning w/ Rabbi Brian 9:15 Meditation 10 Service / 11 Study 12 Kiddush
<b>22</b> 9:15-12 <b>Religious School</b> 9:15-10 <i>farbrengen</i> 10:15-11:45 am <b>Embracing</b> <b>Judaism: Exodus</b> 12:10 Bnai mitzvan family meeting 2:30 <b>Bereavement Support</b> Committee presentation	<b>23</b> Spirit & Justice: AJ Heschel 7-8:30 pm	<b>24</b> TVO board mtg 7-9 pm with Rabbi Brian	<b>25</b> Vav/Zayin field trip to Hospicare Friendship Center lunches	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 p.m. Richard Rosenfeld	<b>28</b> Parashat Tzav
<b>29</b> No Religious School classes <b>The New Jim Crow</b> <b>discussion</b> 3:30-5 pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> <b>April Fool's Day</b> No midweek class	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Passover (5775)</b> <b>(Pesach)</b> begins at sundown 1st seder (no services)	<b>4</b> <b>Passover (5775)</b> TVO seder 6 pm

# April 2015 - Tikkun v'Or

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> No Religious School classes <b>The New Jim Crow discussion</b> 3:30-5 pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> <b>April Fool's Day</b> No midweek class	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Passover (5775) (Pesach)</b> begins at <b>sundown</b> 1st seder (no services)	<b>4</b> <b>Passover (5775)</b> TVO seder 6 pm
<b>5</b> No RS	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> No midweek class	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 p.m.	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Religious School</b> 9:15 am - 12 pm <b>Exodus &amp; Conquest</b> 2-3:30	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> TVO Exec mtg	<b>15</b> <b>Tax Returns due</b> <b>Yom HaShoah (5775)</b> (Holocaust Remembrance Day) begins at sundown Vav/Zayin 4-5:30 pm	<b>16</b> <b>Yom HaShoah (5775)</b> Spirit & Justice: AJ Heschel 7-8:30 pm	<b>17</b> Shabbat Service & Dinner 6-8 p.m. Rabbi Brian	<b>18</b> Rabbi Brian with Vav/Zayin students 9:30 meditation 10 service 11 Study 12 kiddush
<b>19</b> <b>Religious School</b> <i>farbrengen 9:15-10</i> <b>Embracing Judaism:</b> Exodus 10:15-11:45 am <b>Bnai mitzvah family meeting</b> 12:10 <b>New Member Nosh</b> 2-4 pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Yom HaZikaron (5775)</b> (Israel Memorial Day) begins at sundown Marion Blumenthal-Lazan Holocaust speaker 7 pm at Temple Beth-El	<b>22</b> <b>Earth Day</b> <b>Yom HaZikaron (5775)</b> <b>Yom HaAtzmaut (5775)</b> (Israel Independence Day) begins at sundown Vav/Zayin 4-5:30 pm <i>Friendship Center luncheon</i>	<b>23</b> <b>Yom HaAtzmaut (5775)</b>	<b>24</b> Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 p.m.	<b>25</b> <b>Potluck Dinner &amp; a Movie</b> 6:30 pm dinner 7 pm film
<b>26</b> Religious School 9:15 am - 12 pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> TVO board mtg 7-9	<b>29</b> Vav/Zayin 4-5:30 pm	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> Shabbat in the Community	<b>2</b>

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For updated calendar information,  
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*The TvO newsletter includes  
items as a service to the community.  
Inclusion of items  
in the newsletter does not represent  
endorsement of any one viewpoint.*

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**Tikkun v'Or Welcomes  
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**Join us for a Seder !  
Reservation Form on page 12**

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