



# Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Ithaca Reform Temple  
Spirit • Community • Justice

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Newsletter Issue 190

November-December 2015

Cheshvan-Kislev-Tevet 5776

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## From Rabbi Brian Walt

Dear Friends,

Cheshvan is the name of the second month of the Jewish calendar, one of the only months in the Jewish calendar without any special holy days. It follows Tishrei, the first month that is so full of holidays: Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah. Cheshvan is also called Marcheshvan. The word “mar” in Hebrew means bitter and one interpretation is that it is called “the bitter month” because it has no holidays. (It is also possible that Marcheshvan is just the full name of the month.)

I think that there is an important teaching here for all of us. Cheshvan is the month of the ordinary. After Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah, we return to our ordinary lives and it is time for us to bring what we have learned and experienced during the holidays into our ordinary lives.

Jack Kornfield, the Buddhist teacher, has a wonderful book, *After the Ecstasy, the Laundry*, in which he explores how we can access the spiritual insights we have at special times in our ordinary lives – when we need to do the laundry. Cheshvan is the Jewish month in which we work on just that task, seeing the extraordinary in the ordinary. It is the month when we integrate what we have learned and experienced on the holidays into our lives. Sometimes when we move from the holidays to ordinary days it may feel bitter, but the challenge of life is to live mindfully, joyfully, consciously not only on holidays but on ordinary days - to find the holy and the special in the ordinary.

At the beginning of our Rosh Hashanah services, I invited us all to see the good in each of us, in everyone else and around us. I also invited us all to act in our lives for the good of all, to make sure that our actions bring love, justice and blessing not only to us but to everyone, to all. I hope this month brings you many blessings and that we all can bring the love, compassion and insight of the holidays in our everyday lives.

Shalom,  
Rabbi Brian



## Shabbat and Holidays

שבת וחגיגות

**KABBALAT SHABBAT / WELCOMING SHABBAT** Fridays 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted  
 Friday November 6 Leader TBA

Friday November 13, 6-8 p.m. Shabbat with Rabbi Brian (*more info below*)

Saturday, November 14 Shabbat morning with Rabbi Brian

Friday November 20 Leader TBA

Friday November 27 No services scheduled

Friday December 4 Shabbat in the Community (no services)

Friday December 11 Shabbat / Chanukah with Rabbi Brian (*more info*)

Saturday December 12 Shabbat morning with Rabbi Brian

Friday December 18 Leader TBA

Friday December 25 No services scheduled

Friday January 1 No services scheduled



### **SHABBAT WITH RABBI BRIAN**

**Friday November 13, 6-8 p.m.**

**Shabbat service and dish-to-pass dinner**

Rabbi Brian Walt and Azameyra, the TVO singers, directed by Marnie Kamp, will lead the service.

Join us for a short family-friendly Shabbat service followed by a dish-to-pass Shabbat dinner. The evening includes: a short Kabbalat Shabbat service with Shabbat table rituals, personal reflection and sharing appropriate for children and adults. Following the meal there will be communal folk dancing and singing with our own band.

We haven't had one of these for a while and this is a great opportunity for young and old to come together to share a joyous and inspiring Shabbat. Come 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) - 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 p.m. although young children can be taken home earlier and dancing often continues into the night!

### **Saturday, November 14**

### **Shabbat Morning Service**

9:15 -9:50 Chanting and Silent Meditation with Rabbi Brian

This is a special opportunity for some quiet reflection and contemplation to begin Shabbat morning. If you haven't ever tried it, we invite you to check it out. You don't need to have any prior experience with meditation or chanting.

10:00 am -12:00 noon Morning Service and Torah Reading Discussion

9:00-9:40 Shabbat Morning Service

9:40 – 11:10 Torah Reading

11:10-11:50 Torah Study and Discussion

The Torah portion is about Jacob and Esau. We will look at the text and study the interpretation of the Jacob/Esaу story in traditional texts and explore its meaning for us.

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

**Friday, December 11, 5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. (Note early start time: 5:30 p.m.)**

### **SHABBAT HANNUKAH CANDLELIGHTING & CELEBRATION / HUMAN RIGHTS**

### **SHABBAT**

We will mark Shabbat and the sixth night of Hannukah with a special communal candle-lighting

ceremony and celebration led by Rabbi Brian Walt. Bring your own chanukiyah (Chanukah menorah) and candles and help us fill our sanctuary with light. Azameyra, the TVO band and singers, will lead us in song. We will also mark Human Rights Shabbat by celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a special focus on the rights of children. The 45-minute candle lighting service will be followed by dreidel playing and a dish-to-pass Shabbat dinner featuring lots of latkes for everyone. There will be lots of singing and, if we have space, dancing too. The celebration will be appropriate for all ages. Join us for a magical night of Shabbat and Hanukah light and joy.

### **Saturday, December 12**

### **Shabbat Morning Service**

#### **Human Rights Shabbat: Special Discussion on Racial Justice and Equality in U.S.**

9:15 -9:50 Chanting and Silent Meditation with Rabbi Brian

This is a special opportunity for some quiet reflection and contemplation to begin Shabbat morning. If you haven't ever tried it, we invite you to try it out. You don't need to have any prior experience with meditation or chanting.

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

11:00-12:00 Torah Study and Discussion on Racial Justice and Equality in honor of Human Rights Shabbat: Envisioning Racial Justice and Equality in the U.S.

To mark Human Rights Shabbat we will have a special discussion on racial inequality and injustice in our country. As the text for our discussion we will be using Ta Nehisi Coates' extraordinary article, "The Case for Reparations" that appeared in the Atlantic Monthly. We encourage you to read the article, but you don't need to in order to participate in the discussion.

You can find a copy of the article here:

<<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>> and we will have some copies available in the TVO office.

How do we understand the causes of continuing racial injustice and inequality in the United States? How can we best support racial justice and equality in our country?

We may also read some excerpts from Ta Nehisi Coates' latest book, ***Between the World and Me***. This book is also really important reading.



## **Financial Sustainability Taskforce      Sunday, November 15, 1 p.m.**

This fall, the Financial Sustainability Taskforce held three review meetings to recap the research we conducted and discuss the new proposed financial model. We received very helpful feedback and will present a finalized financial model to be voted on at a special congregational meeting to be held at the temple at on Sunday, November 15 at 1 p.m.. We hope to see you there!

-- Nina Cummings, Dorothy Debbie, Rabbi Brian Walt, Sherry Burford, Robert Libby, Monica Touesnard, Peter Burford

## **Membership & Welcoming Committee**

## **יעד החברות**

We are pleased to introduce the newest members of Tikkun v'Or:  
 Wendy Kenigsberg and Dan Kraak and son Joshua;  
 Jennifer Savran-Kelly and Chris Kelly and son Elijah;  
 Melissa and Peter Emms and children Sonia and Louis;  
 Rebecca Morgenstern-Brenner and Jake Brenner, and children Morgan, Zach, and Sally;  
 Tamar Kushnir and daughters Maya and Ariel;  
 Hallie Mitnick.

And welcome to our newest families at Religious School:  
 Melanie Lefkowitz and Anthony Elia and daughter Alexandra;  
 Lesli and David Sagan and daughter Avital;  
 Annette and Robert Levine and daughters Sofia and Sasha.

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.

### *A Note from Jonathan Plotkin re: TvO Dinner and a Movie Sabbatical*

It seems like just yesterday that we were passing around a bottle of Schnapps for the wedding scene in Fiddler on the Roof! Since then, we've shared a lot of films, from the ridiculous "Rabbi Jacobs" to the sublime "Secrets." We've also shared a lot of food, all of it sublime, thanks to Arthur's very special culinary touch and his unflagging dedication. And it's by no means coming to an end, but due to family obligations, as we approach our seventh season, it is time for a sabbatical.

Best wishes and blessings to the hundreds of sweet souls who have braved snow, bitter cold and the darkest nights of winter to make TvO's Dinner and a Movie such a wonderful tradition. Huge thanks also to Barbara Brenner for her invaluable assistance with just about everything, as well as the cheerful and reliable help from Barbara Harrison and Nomi Fridman. We're planning to return next year. In the meantime, please continue to send your suggestions for films of Jewish interest to Jonathan Plotkin at jjplotkin@gmail.com. See you next year!

## Religious School

## בית ספר תיכון ואור

Tikkun v'Or Religious School is happy to be bursting at the seams this year! The students are busy learning together, celebrating holidays, and reading Hebrew. Students made wonderful sukkot decorations and posters about creation for our joyous Simchat Torah celebration. We welcomed many new students, and now are enjoying *chugim* (electives) including Jewish superheroes, singing & dancing, book club, and Jewish puzzles.

**Gan and Kitah Alef** (כיתה א) (K/grade 1) loved decorating gourds for Sukkot and coloring flags for Simchat Torah, and building Noah's ark with their teachers Julia Machlin and Tova Wilensky. **Kitah Bet/Gimel** (כיתה ב/ג) (grades 2/3) have jumped right in to learning the alef-bet and mitzvot with Becca Helbraun and Noah Machlin. In **Kitah Daled/Hey** (כיתה ד/ה) (grades 4/5),

students are exploring the concepts of Am Yisrael (the people Israel) and brit (covenant), as well as learning how to find their way in a siddur and *chumash* (Torah), with Paul Machlin and Ilana Diament.

**Kitah Vav** (כיתה ו) (grade 6) and **Kitah Zayin** (כיתה ז) (grade 7) have been studying proverbs, Torah *parashot* (portions) and what it means to become a bar or bat mitzvah, with Kenny Berkowitz and Ilana Goldstein. Ilana is also leading us in morning tefillah (prayers) and will prepare students for their class services this winter.

Classes are assisted by our wonderful madrichim (assistants): Zoe Zentner, Kai Feldman, William Yeater, Noa Shapiro-Tamir, Ari Kirshner, Elijah Gold, Linus Berggren, Annika Berggren, Isaac Lyons and Lianna White.

## Teens v'Or

Teens v'Or is open for all Tikkun v'Or teens (age 13 and up)!

Contact <[teenvor@gmail.com](mailto:teenvor@gmail.com)> to find out what kind of fun you can have!

### **It's not too early to think about Jewish summer camp!**

Students in Religious School learned about some Jewish summer camps, and more information is available <[info@tikkunvor.org](mailto:info@tikkunvor.org)>

Are you thinking it is too expensive?

Camperships are available through <[jewishcamp.org](http://jewishcamp.org)> and now also from the **IAUJC Jewish Summer Camp and Teen Experience Initiative**, thanks to the Marcia and Robert Ascher Endowment <[www.iaujc.org](http://www.iaujc.org)>

Think summer!

### **Come learn about Eden Village Camp**

*Organic food, farm-to-table living, herbalism, animal care, vibrant Judaism, plus arts, swimming, horseback riding, music, sport, theater! <[EdenVillageCamp.org](http://EdenVillageCamp.org)>*

**Sunday, November 22, 1-3 pm**

hosted by Wendy Gutman at Tikkun v'Or

RSVP 607-342-4522 or [wgutman18@gmail.com](mailto:wgutman18@gmail.com)

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

## **מobil רעבים**

Thanks to those who made lunches for the Friendship Center in September: Beth McKinney, Mary Biggs, Nina Cummings & Doug Stayman, Harriet London, the Touesnard/Milstein family, the Wilensky family, and the Debbie family.

Thanks to everyone who brought snack foods for GIAC to the Hangar Theatre during our high holy day services.

On **Sunday, November 15**, bring cans of soup to Tikkun v'Or to donate to the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard.

We'll be making 60 lunches together as a group at the synagogue on **November 18 and December 16 at 5:45 p.m.**

If you're interested in taking part in lunchmaking for either day, please contact Dorothy Debbie at <[dorothynotwork@gmail.com](mailto:dorothynotwork@gmail.com)> or 272-3893.

## **Condolences**

## **תנחומים**

Tikkun v'Or sends condolences to Alexi Zentner, Laurie Willick, Zoey and Sabine, on the loss of family member Marlene Rhéaume.

May the Source of all Life comfort them among all who mourn.

May their memories be a blessing.

## **Caring Committee**

## **ועד מצוחה**

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.

### **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](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, call Rabbi Brian Walt on his cell phone: (508) 560-0589

**From Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger.**

*Hanan is the American-born rabbi who became a religious settler in the West Bank and now is also an activist promoting an Israeli-Palestinian 'joint vision for the future of our Peoples.' He spoke with Palestinian activist Ali Abu Awwad at the Roots program in June.*



**Brotherhood of Erstwhile Enemies**

We were two Christian Palestinians, four Muslim Palestinians, and six Jewish Israelis. The Christians were from Bethlehem, both veterans of nonviolent resistance to the Israeli occupation. One had been deported from Israel over 25 years ago because of the danger he was deemed to pose to the State of Israel. Two of the Muslims were former members of the Palestinian Liberation Organization who had spent many years in Israeli jails for acts of violence resistance. The Israelis were religious settlers, longtime residents of Gush Etzion in Judea, fervent believers in the right of the Jewish People to the Land of Israel. Two of the Israeli were rabbis, myself among them.

It was the eve of the eve of Rosh haShana. At least for the Jews, presumably not the most auspicious time for such a get-together. Many of us had pressing preparations for the approaching holiday to see to. But I had just returned to Israel the afternoon before from a speaking and fundraising tour in Switzerland, and two of the Palestinians were about to leave the country for the USA and Jordan respectively; it was the only time that we could find to sit down together.

We were there to discuss our joint vision for the future of our Peoples in this war-torn sliver of land that we both call home. For about a year we have been in the process of creating something absolutely unique, Roots/Shorashim/Judur, the Palestinian Israeli grassroots initiative for understanding, nonviolence and transformation. It was time to see if we could begin to formulate a vision statement for this fledgling movement.

We expected it to be difficult, even stormy. It wasn't. Over the course of the last sixteen or so months, we have learned to listen to each other and to absorb what we hear. We have come to understand each other; we feel for the other and his nation. We know what they need and we fervently desire for them to have it. It used to be that we each carried on our shoulder the burden of our nation. Today all of us also carry on our second shoulder the burden of the other nation. While each of us identifies first and foremost with our own People - its struggles and its triumphs, we have developed a new language, perhaps even a shared identity.

After a long and fruitful give and take, we came up with something that we all felt we could all agree upon. It was far from what I had expected, but I was satisfied, although still challenged. Until a year and a half ago, I would never have imagined myself participating in such a forum, let alone feeling comfortable with such a statement. I have come a long way. We have all come a long way – together.

Again and again we read it over, tentatively, wondering to ourselves how we had come so far, and if we were ready:

*We envision a new social and political reality that is founded on dignity, trust, and a mutual recognition of and respect for each People's historic belonging to the entire land.*

And then it dawned on me with utter clarity: This discussion was not an interlude taking us away from our preparations for Rosh haShana. This was of the essence of Rosh haShana itself, as we repeat again and again in the Amida for the holiday:

*May all human beings create one brotherhood to do Your will with an undivided heart.*

For two thousand years we have prayed that we may make one brotherhood with those who have been our enemies to do good and to make peace together, but have been unable to take practical steps towards the fruition of this dream. Now we can ... and we must ... and we are.

Thanks to:

- All those who led services recently: Faith Rogow, Ann Hoffman, Judy Saul, Anne Brous;
- Thanks to Patti Jacobson and Diana Levy for leading our Selichot service;
- All those who hosted onegs recently: Karey Solomon, Alicia Hirschorn, Abby Thomas;
- “Team Sukkah” who built the TVO sukkah in just over an hour! Shawn Murphy did an excellent job supervising (refuah shlemah -- speedy recovery on your back injury!) with builders Peter Silberman, Jen Kagan, Tali Fridman, Daniel Shedd, Peter Schwartz, Noah Machlin, Linus Berggren, Logan and Avi Murphy.

**High Holidays at Tikkun v’Or require the help of many people. We are grateful for everyone’s help. We hope we have not left anyone off this list. If so, we apologize in advance – please know that your work did not go unnoticed!**

- First, we thank Rabbi Brian Walt for leading our beautiful services;
- And thanks to Miranda Phillips for her wonderful leadership;
- Special thanks to Josh and Joan Friedman, Adam Zonder, and the Hangar Theatre, for providing us with such a perfect space and making sure that everything ran smoothly;
- Special thanks to Marne O’Shae for her amazing leadership of Azameyra, the TVO singers. She devoted so many hours coordinating, training, and leading a magnificent group of singers who inspired all of us;
- Many many thanks to each of our exceptionally talented and devoted singers: Jeff Berkowitz, Richard Rosenfeld, Mihal Ronen, Lauren Korfine, Tobi Feldman, Karye Solomon, Lise Rosenfeld, Poppy Singer, Tamar Kushnir, and Will Fudeman.

Many thanks to:

- Elly Frankel for overall coordination;
- Dorothy Debbie and Nina Cummings, Shawn Murphy and Miranda Philips for their leadership;
- Lise Rosenfield for organizing readers;
- Diana Levy for coordinating the coordinators;
- Naomi Wilensky for behind-the-scenes logistics;

Thanks also to the following people for:

- Coordinating services: Carol Chernikoff , Diana Levy, Ann Hoffman, Judy Saul;
- Coordinating Yizkor names: Nomi Fridman;
- Preparing supplements and handouts and al-chet cards: Diana Levy;
- Greeting at the door: Lois Levitan, Sue Merkel, Fran Markover, Sharon Ziegler, Miranda Phillips, Joan Friedman, Dorothy Debbie, Shira Reisman, Sherry Burford, Peter Burford, Abby Thomas, Denice Cassaro, Shawn Murphy, Sue Merkel;
- Providing beautiful flowers: Diana Levy and Bruce Fabens and Karen Schachare;
- Setting the stage: Diana Levy and Bruce Fabens;
- Baking challah and apple cake: Aron Gutman (coordinator) Ariel Gold, Karin Suskin, and many other bakers;
- Oneg set up: Monica Tousenard, Badyn Milstein-Tousenard, Alita Howard, Lois Levitan;
- Oneg clean up: Ted Schiele, Stacy Yeater, Beth Cohen, Robin Dubovi;
- Apples and honey set up: Robyn Bem, Tova Wilensky, Ilana Wilensky, Orry Segol, Goldie Segol;
- Book re-piling: Rachel Shapiro, Elan Shapiro, Roberta Wallit, Joan Friedman, Sue Merkel, Joseph Yavitt;

- Reading Torah: Stacy Snyder, Peter Silberman, Richard Rosenfeld, Lise Rosenfeld, Tamar Shapiro-Tamir;
- Reading Haftorah: Faith Rogow;
- Gabbai: Patti Jacobson and Judy Saul;
- Bnai mitzvah students / Torah procession: Goldali Danberg-Biggs, Zoey Zentner, Kai Feldman;
- Blowing shofar: Jeff Bercuvitz, Max Rubinstein-Miller, Peter Silberman;
- Kol Nidre musicians: Linus Berggren and Chris White, and Jeff Bercuvitz;
- Sharing original poetry: Susan Eschbach, Tamar Shapiro-Tamir, Fran Markover;
- Sharing a Yiddish song: Lauren Korfine;
- Isaiah Challenge speaker: Dara Silverman; and Diana Levy and Patti Jacobson for making the arrangements;
- Sound: Dan Sternglass and Ira Kamp;
- Meditation: Ira Kamp;
- Yoga Walk: Patti Jacobson;
- Leading children's services: Julia Machlin and Kenny Berkowitz;
- Organizing break-the-fast: Arthur Birnbaum and Aron Gutman (coordinators), Janie Carasik, Barbara Harrison, Beth Cohen, Emily Reiss, Daniel Apfel;
- Organizing GIAC snack donations: Will Fudeman, Harriet London, and Tony Gaenslen;
- Moving to Hangar Theatre: Steve Hoffman, Claudia Brenner, Debbie Miller, Aaron Miller, Julia Miller, Aron Gutman, Lise Rosenfeld, Sue Merkel, Joe Yavitt, Anne and Ira Brous and Ithaca Bakery;
- Set up: Diana Levy, Claudia Brenner, Marne O'shae, Joan Friedman;
- And moving back to TVO: Anne Brous, Ira Brous, Richard Rosenfield, Ted Schiele, Bev Rhein-Fizpatrick, Nancy Schuler, Aron Gutman, Mary Biggs, Dan Kraak, Haym Hirsh, Bill George, and Tony Gaenslen;
- All the many readers, candle lighters, those who came up for Torah honors, break-the fast cooks, and all those who helped and participated in so many ways.

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

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Tribute cards have been sent:

From Annie Wexler and Tony Gaenslen:

to Elly Frankel in honor of her outstanding job organizing high holidays;  
and to Joan and Josh Friedman in honor of Noah's bar mitzvah;  
and to Robin and Ed Dubovi in honor of their daughter's wedding.

From Sherry and Peter Burford:

to Joan and Josh Friedman in honor of Noah's Bar Mitzvah;  
and to Robin and Ed Dubovi in honor of Abigail's wedding.

*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](mailto:sherry@tikkunvor.org) or at (607) 319-4982.*

**Donors****צדקה****Thank you to our recent donors:*****General Fund***

Carol Towarnicky, *in gratitude to Diana Levy & Bruce Fabens for their kind hospitality*

***Program Fund***

Terry Nicholetti, *donation of 10% of proceeds following her show*

***Bryna & Harvey Fireside Rabbi Fund***

Jonathan Plotkin & Barbara Brenner  
Joel Tabb

***Yeladim Religious School Fund***

Henry & Honey Pine  
Margo Hittleman

***Social Action Fund***

Margo Hittleman  
Yvonne Fisher

***High Holy Day Donations:***

Anonymous (3)  
Sarah Affel & Michael Hodess  
Mara Alpert  
Sherry Altman, *Yizkor donation in memory of Helen Altman and Leah Silver*  
Gail Apfel  
William & Ellen Apfel  
Alyssa Apsel  
Mark & Judith Bercuvitz  
Mary Biggs  
Leslie & Shirley Bloomfield  
Peter & Sherry Burford, *Yizkor donation*  
Stephanie Clare & Laura Marhoefer  
Ross & Tobi Feldman, *Yizkor donation*

Kathryn Fiorella

Pamela Frank

Jeffrey Furman & Sara Hess

Ilene Gaffin

Martin & Heather Gerson

Johanna Gettinger, *with appreciation for attending services*

Gerald & Barbara Gladstein

Melvin Goldman

Eric Goodman

Shawn & Jennifer Goodman

Alicia & Martin Hirschhorn, *Yizkor donation.*

Burton & Libby Hoffman, *in honor of their daughter, Ann Hoffman*

Lloyd Katz

Ruth Katz

Irene Komor

Vally Kovary

Andy Mager

Drew Margolin

Beth McKinney

Herbert & Nancy Milstein

Steven Mirman

Davide Sayada

Elizabeth Shaw

Timothy Shenk

Poppy Singer

Carol Towarnicky

Ann Wexler & Tony Gaenslen

Christopher Xenakis & Susan Fast

Alan Zucker & Andrea Herman

*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 to Noah Friedman, son of Joan and Josh Friedman, on becoming a bar mitzvah in October.



## ITHACA AREA UNITED JEWISH COMMUNITY

*Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future*

October 2015

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Look for us on Facebook

It is very hard to write this bulletin when violence has escalated so dramatically in Israel. My first version of this letter was very emotional and charged. My second version avoided this subject altogether. Then I decided I must address the current events. Our organization supports Jews worldwide and the state of Israel, and does not take any political stands, not regarding the democratically elected US government, nor the democratically elected Israeli government. Just as we, as individuals, do not support every act of the US government, neither do we, as individuals, support every act of the Israeli government.

Israel has made numerous attempts to forge a peace process, but none were acceptable to the Palestinians. I will simply refer you to *The Missing Peace*, by Dennis Ross, who was involved in the peace talks, to read on your own what was offered. In the absence of full peace, the Arabs in the West Bank do live under Israeli military rule, and this does present hardships. What are we to do when we see Palestinian Arabs attacking those it perceives as Jews with knives, daggers, screw drivers, cement blocks and Molotov cocktails? Imams have been videotaped giving sermons holding daggers and advocating these attacks. I am worried about the safety of all who live in Israel, and the climate and conditions which have led to this state of affairs.

What to do? Pray for peace and well-being for all. Contact friends and family to let them know they are in your thoughts and prayers. Educate yourselves by reading from a variety of news sites including those on the ground in Israel. Support programs that encourage dialogue between our peoples, Jews and Arabs, of whatever religious affiliation or lack thereof. There is no simple answer, unfortunately. It is easy to give up on peace and just worry about our own people. Someday we will have to sit down and make peace. We cannot succumb to hate. These are very challenging times.

On a different note, I want to encourage everyone to take advantage of the many wonderful speakers being brought to our community. These talks are free and open to the public. I urge you all to refer to the websites of Hillel at Cornell and Ithaca College, Jewish Studies departments at Cornell and Ithaca College, Chabad of Ithaca, and the Ithaca Coalition for Unity and Cooperation in the Middle East. Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks will be speaking at Cornell on Wednesday April 20, 2016. **Come hear how Israeli Arabs and Jews are providing emergency relief around the world including to Syrian refugees in Europe, Sunday afternoon Nov 15<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM, Temple Beth El– the work of IsraAid!**  
"The day is short, the labor vast, the toilers idle, the reward great, and the Master of the house is insistent." Pirkei Avot chapter 2: verse 20.

Sincerely, Marcia Zax, chair



c

# November 2015 - Tikkun v'Or

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  Daylight Saving Time ends Religious School New Member Open House 3-5 pm	2  Election Day (voting 5 am- 10 pm)	3  vav/zayin class 4:15-5:45 p.m. Financial Sustainability Discussion 7-9 pm	4	5  Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm	6  Parashat Chayei Sarah	7
8  Religious School	9	10  Veterans Day No classes	11	12  Kabbalat Shabbat Rabbi Brian Services & dinner 6-8 pm 9:15 meditation 10-12 service 12 dish to pass lunch	13  Parashat Toledot Shabbat morning Rabbi Brian 9:15 meditation 10-12 service	14
15  Religious School 9:15 Farbrengen 10:15 bnei mitzvah mtg Food drive: soup Members Mtg on Financial Sustainability 1 pm	16  Wise Aging class 7-8:30 TVO board mtg 7-9 pm	17  vav/zayin class 4:15-5:45 p.m. Friendship Center lunches 5:45 pm	18	19  Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm oneg: Peter Silberman	20  Parashat Vayetzei	21
22  Religious School Camp Eden Village 1-3 pm	23	24  No classes	25  Thanksgiving Day	26  No services	27  Parashat Vayishlach	28
29  No Religious School	30	1  vav/zayin class 4:15-5:45 p.m.	2	3  Shabbat in the Community	4  Parashat Vayeshev	5

## December 2015 - Tikkun v'Or

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
No Religious School <b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	vav/zayin class 4:15-5:45 p.m.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Shabbat in the Community	<b>4</b> Parashat Vayeshev <b>5</b>
Hanukkah (5776) (Chanukah) begins at sundown Religious School <b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>First day of Chanukah</b> Hanukkah (5776)	<b>8</b>	Vav/zayin class 4:15-5:45 p.m.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Kabbalat Shabbat & Chanukah Rabbi Brian 5:30-8 pm 9:15 Meditation 10-12 Service 12 dish to pass, lunch	<b>11</b> <b>12</b> Parashat Miketz Shabbat morning Rabbi Brian Human Rights Shabbat
Religious School 9:15 Farbrengen 10:15 bratal mitzvah mtg <b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Wise Aging class 7-8:30	<b>15</b>	vav/zayin class 4:15-5:45 p.m. Friendship Center lunches 5:45 pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Kabbalat Shabbat 7:30 pm oneg: <b>19</b> Parashat Vayigash
Religious School <b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Winter Solstice</b>	<b>22</b>	No classes	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Parashat Vayeichi <b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	No classes	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>New Year's Eve</b> <b>New Year's Day</b> No services	<b>1</b> Parashat Shemot <b>2</b>

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