



# Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Ithaca Reform Temple  
Spirit • Community • Justice

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Issue 212

May-June 2019

נישן - אייר - סivan Nissan - Iyar - Sivan

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

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April 17, 2019 Nisan 12, 5779

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter just two days before Pesach; you will receive it during the seven weeks of Counting the Omer from Pesach to *Shevuos/Shavuot*. This year I will be in Ithaca for Shavuot on Sunday, June 9, and for the first time at TVO, I will lead a Shavuot service at which a young person (Maren Friedman) will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah. That weekend will be very special as the day before, on Shabbat, Samara Schwartz will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah - two bnot mitzvah in one weekend - one on Shabbat and the second on *yontef/a* Jewish holiday! I hope you will join us for both these special celebrations. (I will be in Ithaca for the third Shabbat in June as well, June 14-15, when we will celebrate the bat mitzvah of Ezri Rubenstein-Miller. I hope you join us for this service as well.)

The counting of the Omer from Pesach to Shavuot, ties two of the most important Jewish ideas together: liberation/freedom and revelation. Liberation is the core idea of Judaism. The God of our people is the God of freedom, as it says in the very first of the ten commandments, “I am your God who took you out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery (Exodus 20:1).” The Jewish God is the God of liberation.

But liberation (*Pesach*) by itself is insufficient. Liberation must be tied to revelation, to the vision that we are called as human beings to create justice and freedom for all beings and for mother earth. To do that work we need shared communal values, clear responsibilities (*mitzvot*) that are essential to living an ethical life as an individual and to building an ethical community, society and world.

Jews believe that the Torah was given to the Jewish People on Shavuot and it is the day on which we read the Ten Commandments. The rabbis offer a brilliant and compelling interpretation of the verse that the commandments were incised (*charut*) in the stone of the tablets that God gave to Moses. They suggest that the word *charut* (incised) should be read as (*cherut*) freedom, which only involves changing the vowels under the first letter of the word - and, in the Torah scroll there are no vowels anyway!

The Ten Commandments and all the other mitzvot of Judaism are responsibilities or ethical/spiritual obligations that one is required to fulfill. They seem to be the opposite of freedom. You are obligated to them. For the rabbis there is no freedom without



*continued on next page*

responsibilities, there is no freedom without shared communal ethical values, or to use the modern version of this truth, as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. taught, no one is free till everyone is free. There is no justice, till everyone enjoys justice. So as we count the Omer between Pesach and Shevuot we move from liberation to shared responsibility, to a shared vision.

Both holidays are profoundly relevant to us today. We live in a country which gave and still gives freedom to some but not to all. We live in a society with rapidly increasing levels of inequality. Our society holds individual freedom and autonomy as the highest value but that comes with a cost for others. We need both Pesach and Shavuot. They are integrally connected one to the other. We need shared limits and responsibilities, if we want justice and true freedom for all.

In our increasingly divided country, with growing economic inequality we need the shared vision of the Torah that suggests that we need a periodic redistribution of resources so that no one or no group becomes entrenched having more than others. We need public resources to be shared equally.

I am very aware as I write these words that I own and use a disproportionate share of the earth's resources. This is true for many, maybe even most of us. Many or most of us are privileged and the question for us is what are we prepared to do and to give up to ensure that all people are guaranteed equality, freedom and justice.

As we journey during the Counting of the Omer from our celebration of freedom to our celebration of shared responsibility, each day offers us the opportunity to reflect on what we are willing to do, maybe what we are willing to sacrifice, to create a more just and equitable country and world.

It is my hope that the incredible blessing of our heritage and sacred days will guide us and inspire us on our journey. I have been so moved by the investment of time and energy of so many in our congregation to help move our country in the direction of equity, justice and freedom for all.

I wish you all many blessings on the journey from "Egypt" (the quotation marks are intentional, Egypt is not meant to be understood as any specific country) to the "Promised Land" a world of justice, freedom, joy and blessing for all.

Looking forward to seeing you all in June,

Shalom,

Rabbi Brian

## **Shabbat and Holidays**

**שבת וחגים**

**Friday, May 3, 7:30 pm KABBALAT SHABBAT (Welcoming Shabbat)** Leader TBA

**Friday, May 10, 7:30 pm KABBALAT SHABBAT (Welcoming Shabbat)** Led by Marne Oshae

**Saturday, May 11, 10-11:30 am SHABBAT MORNING**

*Kedoshim: Love Your Neighbor As Yourself*

The Holiness Code will be brought to life in an original skit from our Vav-Zayin (6th-7th grade) class, along with dramatic Torah chanting in both Hebrew and English by Cantor Abbe Lyons. Enjoy our students' enthusiastic and easy to follow prayer leadership! Join us for this stimulating and fun Shabbat morning service.

**Friday, May 17, 7:30 pm KABBALAT SHABBAT (Welcoming Shabbat)** Leader TBA

**Friday, May 24 and Friday, May 31** No services scheduled

**Friday, June 7, 7:30-8:30 pm KABBALAT SHABBAT (Welcoming Shabbat)**

Led by Rabbi Brian, with music by Lauren and Tamar.

Samara Schwartz and Maren Friedman will lead parts of the service.

*This Shabbat occurs the day before the holiday of Shavuot that celebrates the revelation of the Torah on Mt. Sinai. Rabbi Brian will briefly talk about revelation. What is revelation? How do we access “Torat emet Torat Hayim” / The Torah of truth and the Torah of our lives?*

**Saturday June 8 SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE / Parashat (Torah Portion) B'Midbar**

**Bat Mitzvah of Samara Schwartz, daughter of Peter Schwartz & Kathy Lacson**

8:45-9:30 a.m. Chanting and Silent Meditation with Rabbi Walt. *Please note early start time.*

10:00 – 10:40 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

10:45-11:20 a.m. Torah Reading and Haftarah

11:20-12 p.m. Samara's Dvar, community discussion & blessings, concluding prayers & Kaddish

12:15 p.m. Kiddush/Lunch

*The Torah Portion this Shabbat is B'Midbar/In the Wilderness, the first few chapters of the fourth book of the Torah, the Book of Numbers. This year it is also the day before Shavuot on which we celebrate the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. The Torah portion lists the census of the adult male Israelites who left from Egypt. Yes, the census includes only the men over 20 years old, all of whom were part of the Israelite army!*

*According to Jewish legend, the entire Jewish people throughout time - those who had died, those who got out of Egypt, and all Jews since and those yet to born, stood at Sinai and committed to live their lives in accordance with the teachings of the God/the Source of All Being. Naaseh v'nishma: We will do and we will listen (obey), they all said. They all chose to be part of the Jewish community.*

*In her dvar Torah, Samara will reflect on her own process of grappling with the choice to be Jewish and discussion will follow her dvar. What are the reasons that some of us choose to be Jewish? Is it really a choice? What attracts us to Judaism and to being part of the Jewish People? What do we struggle with?*

**Sunday, June 9 SHAVUOT SERVICE**

**Bat Mitzvah of Maren Friedman, daughter of Josh and Joan Friedman**

With Music with Lauren and Tamar and Maren

10:00 – 10:40 a.m. Shavuot Morning Service, with special prayers and songs for the holiday

10:40-11:20 a.m. Torah Reading and Reading from the Book of Ruth

11:20-12:00 p.m. Maren's d'var Torah, community discussion, blessings,  
concluding prayers & Kaddish

**12:10 p.m. Kiddush/Lunch** All are invited to stay for blintzes and fruit after the service.

*Shavuot is a harvest festival, one of the three pilgrimage festivals when the ancient Israelites went to the Temple in Jerusalem. Maren will be focusing in her dvar on the Ten Commandments and protecting our endangered earth. Her tikkun olam project (see page 10) is related to this issue and she and her family will be inviting us all to reflect on how we can do more to protect the earth, as we share the blessings of our first harvest.*

**Friday, June 14, 6:30 pm FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICE, DISH TO PASS DINNER**

Join us for a short family-friendly Shabbat service (outdoors if weather permits!) and table rituals followed by a dish-to-pass Shabbat dinner. After dinner there will be time for singing and dancing.

6:30-7:10 p.m. Shabbat Family Service: Ezri Rubenstein-Miller will lead parts of the service

7:15-7:45 p.m. Shabbat meal (dairy/vegetarian dish-to pass)

7:45 -8:30 pm. Singing and folk dancing

Come meet new people and strengthen connections with others in the community!

**Saturday, June 15 SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE Parashat (Torah Portion) Naso**

**BAT MITZVAH OF EZRI RUBENSTEIN-MILLER,**

**daughter of Sarah Rubenstein-Gillis and Eric Miller**

Music led by Marne and Tamar

8:45-9:30 a.m. Chanting and Silent Meditation with Rabbi Walt

10:00 – 10:40 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

10:40-11:20 a.m. Torah Reading and Haftarah

11:20-12:10 p.m. Ezri's d'var Torah, community discussion, blessings, concluding prayers & Kaddish

12:15 p.m. Kiddush/Lunch

*The Torah portion includes several different topics. Ezri will focus on the tradition of the Nazirite who voluntarily makes a religious vow to go beyond what Jewish law requires. We all make vows. What is a vow? What is the dynamic that is created between people when someone makes a vow to go beyond what others do? Ezri will be our teacher and invite us into discussion. Please see page 10 for information and requests regarding Ezri's tikkun olam project.*

*Bnot Mitzvah services are communal events  
at which we welcome a young person into our community.  
We hope that many congregants will come to the services  
to welcome Samara, Maren, and Ezri  
into the community  
and to celebrate with them and their families.*

**Mazel tov!**

**מזל טוב**

Mazel tov to our recent bnai mitzvah:

Jay Hirsh, son of Lisa Ellin and Haym Hirsh;

Abe Sachs, son of Christine Evans and Aaron Sachs.

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

## **דברי הנשיות**

Spring is a time for new births, new beginnings, of breaking old cycles. As Jews, we celebrate these ideas around the Seder Table. Our synagogue is also embarking on a new adventure as we delve deeper into the search process for a new spiritual leader. Our search committee is meeting regularly to prepare for the search, which will officially begin when we post our job description around Labor Day. Thank you to everyone who participated in our three focus groups. The information you provided us is being synthesized by the search committee in order to create our job description, and for the members of the committee to familiarize themselves with the needs and wants of our community. We will stay in touch regularly as the search progresses.

In further news, we are excited to share that we are collaborating with our friends at the First Congregational Church in a variety of ways. Our teens have been reading Alan Gratz's book *Refugee* together. We are supporting them in their efforts to become a Sanctuary Space. And, finally, we are pleased to announce that after much research and deliberation, we have decided to accept their generous offer to host us in their beautiful space for the next High Holidays for one trial year. We understand that some may feel uncomfortable holding our most sacred services in a church. The church leadership also understands this and has very graciously offered to do what they can to make the space comfortable in a variety of ways, including allowing us to cover up religious iconography. We will have access to their small kitchen and serving area for Rosh Hashanah Oneg and

their large kitchen and social hall for Yom Kippur Break Fast. They have a beautiful child care area as well as a small sanctuary for children's services. In these trying political times when words and acts of hatred are on the rise, we are so blessed to have neighbors offering their hand in friendship to us, and we feel honored to accept their hospitality.

As always, we look forward to hearing from you. Happy spring! May you all experience the blessings of the brand new, in one way or another.

Warmly,  
Shira and Lauren



## **Bereavement Support Group**

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*The Bereavement Support Group of Congregation Tikkun v'Or formed in 2013 with the kavana or intention of assisting Congregation members and others when they are anticipating the death of a loved one or following a death. Our kavana is to honor the spirit and traditions of Judaism, but also suggest ways to adapt traditional practices for modern times and for our multicultural community. In each TvO newsletter we will write a column about some aspect of bereavement. This issue, we focus on the tradition of shiva.*

### **What is Shiva?**

*Shiva* (literally, seven) is traditionally the week-long period of mourning following burial, during which time mourners stayed at home, received visitors, and were cared for by the community. It remains an opportunity for visitors to bring meals and take on other day-to-day responsibilities of the bereaved (e.g., setting out and cleaning up after meals, walking the dog, driving children to activities), but it has become common to specify limited times during the week when the bereaved are prepared to receive visitors.

*Shiva* traditionally begins with a "meal of consolation" prepared by the extended family or the broader community to be ready for mourners on their return from the cemetery. On ensuing evenings, the bereaved may wish to hold a *shiva* service, although sometimes they simply wish for friends to visit, bring food, and provide support. If a funeral takes place out of town, some TvO members may still want to sit *shiva* upon returning to Ithaca even if more than a week has passed since burial.

### **What does a Shiva service at TvO entail?**

The Bereavement Support Group can work with the bereaved to create *shiva* services that reflect their wishes and beliefs, or can assist by arranging for religiously trained or lay leaders to lead the services. The traditional *shiva* service is a weekday prayer service for the morning, afternoon, or evening (i.e., there is no prayer service specific to *shiva*). The liturgy for these services is contained in the *Mishkan Tefillah* prayer book used at Tikkun v'Or. Other prayers, such as Psalm 49, are often added to the service. Traditionally, *shiva* services are not held on Shabbat.

As an alternative or complement to the traditional liturgy, the Bereavement Support Group has compiled a booklet - *Ma'ariv for a House of Shiva: Evening Service for the First Week of Remembrance* - containing a selection of traditional and contemporary prayers, poetry, and other readings. Because of copyright restrictions, the *Ma'ariv for a House of Shiva* is not posted to the Tikkun v'Or website. However, the Bereavement Support Group is happy to provide a copy upon request.

The *shiva* service is usually also a time for the mourners and those present to share loving memories of the deceased and to honor their lives. The mourners may reminisce about their times with their loved one, perhaps bringing out old photographs to share.

However, a mourner sitting *shiva* is not a host. The mourners do not need to engage in conversation if they prefer to be silent or alone, and they should not be expected to offer refreshments. In short, they are excused from the conventional demands of politeness and hospitality.

### **How do I make a Shiva call?**

Friends of the mourners and of the deceased, as well as other TvO members, are encouraged to visit during *shiva*. It is customary to enter the home without ringing a bell and to bring a substantial food offering that can either be served during the *shiva* gathering or saved for later use by the mourners. Visitors are encouraged to make themselves useful and - while maintaining a tone of respect - not be afraid to laugh and tell funny stories that involve the deceased.

What is most valuable is your presence. Focus on the mourner and be guided by their mood, inclination to talk or be silent, to weep or laugh. It is not the role of the visitor to distract the mourners from their grief process but rather to support them in it. Nor is it the role of the visitor to force the mourner to mourn if they are not so inclined.

### **Is there a traditional way to end Shiva?**

The end of the *shiva* period initiates a new phase in the life of the mourners. One custom is to walk around the block on the last day. Halfway round the block, the mourners may stop and say to the deceased, “Go in peace, go in peace.” Then they return home. This custom is called *bagleit in di neshome*, in Yiddish – accompanying the soul of the deceased.

More information about the Bereavement Support Group can be found on the Tikkun v’Or website under the “end of life” tab. Email us at: [BereavementSupport@tikkunvor.org](mailto:BereavementSupport@tikkunvor.org).

## **Racial Justice Committee**

Recently, the President of the United States called asylum seekers “animals.” His immigration policies, characterized by the dehumanization and incarceration of people fleeing from persecution and poverty, become crueler by the day. We are heartbroken by the images: families trapped under a bridge in Texas, babies and children taken from their parents and put in cages, parents in agony trying to locate their children. We are horrified by the rhetoric: caravans of families seeking a better life become an “invasion of stone cold criminals.” We are told that “they are bringing drugs, crime and rapists,” and that asylum seekers are not human, that they are “animals.”

As a step toward helping undocumented immigrants in our community, TvO has joined the Ithaca Sanctuary Alliance, a group of local congregations who are working toward establishing and supporting sanctuary spaces in Ithaca.

Our friends at First Congregational Church in Cayuga Heights have gone through the discernment process to become a sanctuary space to provide shelter and protection for undocumented immigrants in our area. They will be voting in early May, and are asking for us to support their efforts in very practical ways. Can you attend a press conference when they announce their intention? Can you help by grocery shopping, preparing a meal, making a financial contribution, provide some rides, do a load of laundry?

Other congregations in Ithaca have pledged their support. Let’s live up to our core values of Spirit, Community, and Justice.

To pledge your support, email [lauriewillick@gmail.com](mailto:lauriewillick@gmail.com).

## **Programming Committee**

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Two years ago I joined Patti Jacobsen on the Programming Committee. I am very grateful to Patti for all of her work and to JP and Arthur B. for their years of lovingly providing heymishe Saturday winter evenings together with Dinner and a Movie. I welcomed the opportunity to carry on the tradition in the season that just passed, and I would love to have partners who would help with curating movies and making food and marketing the event.

Programming at TVO has great potential to enhance our experience as a congregation and serve an important role in the wider community. With more input we can definitely do more towards both of these ends.

If you would like to be part of a group that meets regularly to plan events for the community, I invite you to join the committee. But if coming to monthly meetings isn't your idea of fun, there are other possibilities.

A few ideas that have come up are: Family crafting, adult education and skill shares, game night, book groups, creating and maintaining (raised bed) gardens around our building, holiday cooking meet-ups, pickle-making club, NYC/Toronto/Montreal Jewish food/music trip, Israel 'Spirit and Justice' trip, Jewish heritage travel Europe/N. Africa. etc.

I welcome you to add your own ideas, however broad or specific. If there is an idea that you are particularly interested in, please consider collaborating with me to make it happen. Together, we can do almost anything!

Please contact Aron Gutman at [gutmanik@gmail.com](mailto:gutmanik@gmail.com) or 607-227-0073.

*Sholom Aleichem,  
Aron*

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

**מַכְיֵל רָעִים**

Tikkun v'Or helps the Rescue Mission Friendship Center provide 30,804 meals a year, by making 60 lunches for the 4th Thursday of each month.

Thanks to those who made lunches recently:

February: Ken Birman, Anne Neirynck, Joe Yavitt, and Sue Merkel

March: Vav/Zayin students (6th and 7th graders) with Cantor Abbe

If you would like to help, please contact Dorothy Debbie at [dorothynotwork@gmail.com](mailto:dorothynotwork@gmail.com) or 272-3893. Families welcome!

For those of you who would like to help out but can't come make the lunches, you can still contribute financially by donating to the TvO Feeding the Hungry Fund to used to reimburse the person who buys the supplies.

*With great pride,  
We invite you to share our joy as our  
daughter*

**Samara Ava**  
*Is called to the Torah  
as a Bat Mitzvah*  
**Saturday, June 8, 2019**  
**10 am**

*- Kathy Lacson and Peter Schwartz*

*Josh and Joan Friedman invite you to  
join us  
as our daughter*

**Maren Naomi**  
*is called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah*  
**Sunday, June 9**  
*In observance of Shavuot*  
*Service at 10 a.m.*

*Sarah Rubenstein-Gillis and Eric Miller  
invite you to join us  
as our daughter*

**Ezri Rubenstein-Miller**  
*becomes a bat mitzvah*  
**Saturday, June 15, 2019**  
**10 a.m.**

Maren asks for your support in three ways:

1. As part of her tikkun olam project, she is collecting new or gently used (clean) reusable shopping bags for distribution to people in our community who need but may not be able to afford them. There will be a collection box for them in the vestibule at TvO through June 9th.

2. How do you reduce, reuse, and recycle in your household? What are your best tips that could help others in our congregation as they work to reduce their environmental impact? Please send your best ideas to [friedman.joan@gmail.com](mailto:friedman.joan@gmail.com).

Maren will share your collective wisdom during (and after) the service.

3. Maren has a goal to make her bat mitzvah as close to trash-free as possible. She asks that everyone attending please bring their own plate, utensils, cloth napkin, and cup for the treats after the service. (If you forget, you are welcome to use non-disposable items from the TvO kitchen.) Thank you!

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For my Tikkun Olam project I am doing a children's book drive for the Family Reading Partnership.

These books will be used for the Bright Red Book Shelf, a resource for free kids books in the Ithaca community. If you can, please bring donations to the temple (there will be a red crate for donations) or bring them to my Bat Mitzvah on June 15th.

Here is the link for more information:  
<http://www.familyreading.org/our-programs/bright-red-bookshelf/>

Thank you for your support!  
– Ezri

## Religious School

## בית ספר תיקון ואור

### **What happens at Tikkun v'Or Religious School on a typical morning?**

**Gan and Kitah Alef** (כיתה א) listens to the adventure of the Mitzvah Bear, make matzah covers, and find the afikomen as part of their preparations for Passover.

**Kitah Bet/Gimel** (כיתה ב/ג) sing Ma Nishtana, the four questions. The students ask many more questions about these questions, and then even more questions about those questions. They learn Hebrew while playing Jenga, throwing a ball, and doing jumping jacks.

**Kitah Daled/Hey** (כיתה ד/ה) (grades 4/5) work in small groups with a buzz of voices sounding out Hebrew words. They tell stories about Biblical prophets, contemporary prophets and make their own prophesies. They make their own matzvah, baking them for just four minutes. They sing Ma Nishtana outside, to practice in full voices.

**Kitah Vav/Zayin** (כיתה ו/ז) (grade 6/7) students share what they each have done this week to bring peace into the world. They read from the chumash (Torah) about the importance of bringing peace into the world. They listen as their classmates practice their Torah portions and dance them into the sanctuary in preparation for their bnai mitzvah. They sit in the coat closet in the dark one morning, talking about Anne Frank.

As a school, we learn about the Be the One campaign and pledge to each try to Be the One for someone else, and to acknowledge when someone is the one.

We prepared for Purim with Corinne Stern's Floof Collage Party, making masks and graggers and puppets.

We sang Pesach songs with Marne and Rabbi Brian, and discuss how we can help all people be free so we can be truly free.

### **What's next?**

For the next few weeks we will finish our Hebrew studies for this semester and learn from a few more special guests.

On May 19, our last day, we'll have a siyyum (concluding ceremony) to congratulate our graduates (and welcome them to Teens v'Or and as madrichim), and to demonstrate our new knowledge and thoughts with each other.

Registration for 2019-2020 will be available in May.

**THIS SUMMER:** Be on the lookout for information about summer plans! Michael Margolin is working on some fabulous and fun family adventures this summer: Havdalah at the lake, hikes and blessings in the gorges, and other special opportunities. We hope you'll join us!

## Teens v'Or

Teens v'Or are planning for a shul-in on Saturday, May 4. Potluck dinner, havdalah, chocolate seder, movies, games, and tones of fun! We'll also find some time to talk about plans for programming next year. Hope to see you there!

Contact Tali at <[aabraham@ithaca.edu](mailto:aabraham@ithaca.edu)>

*The Ithaca Area United Jewish Community invites you to the 2019*

# Holocaust Commemoration

with Gerd Korman - Holocaust Survivor

Wednesday, May 1st ~ 7 to 9 PM

Temple Beth El, 402 N Tioga St, Ithaca NY



Gerd Korman is a professor emeritus of American History at Cornell University's ILR School. His books include the prize-winning, "Industrialization, Immigrants, and Americanizers" and several works that established him as an early student of the Holocaust, including the anthology, "Hunter and Hunted." He is himself a survivor and author of a memoir, "Nightmare's Fairy Tale: A Young Refugee's Home Fronts, 1938–1948."



1939, Otwock, Poland, Kindertransport Group

Professor Korman's talk is entitled, "*The Diener: Exploring What Children Said about Their Parents in Holland's Westerbork Concentration Camp during the Holocaust.*"

We will honor our local survivors and include a candle lighting ceremony of first, second and third generation survivors.

Featuring a performance by the Ithaca Children and Youth Chorus

Ages 10 and older are encouraged to attend. School and scout troop groups are welcome.

A reception will follow the presentation

For further information go to [www.iaujc.org](http://www.iaujc.org) or [info@iaujc.org](mailto:info@iaujc.org)

*Made possible by the Jacob and Jeannette Geldwert Holocaust Memorial Lectures Fund*



Ithaca Area United  
Jewish Community  
Honoring Our Past, Shaping Our Future



THE WILLIAM HENRY  
MILLER INN



Congregation Tikkun v'Or  
*United in Spirit & Action*



TOMPKINS  
Trust Company  
Temple Beth-El

## Many Thanks

רב תודה

Thanks to:

- Recent service leaders: Cantor Abbe Lyons and the students of the vav/zayin (6th and 7th grade) and daled/hey (4th and 5th grade) and their teachers Kenny Bercuvitz, Mirit Hadar, Jeff Bercuvitz, and Lauren Monroe, and Marne Oshae;
- Recent oneg hosts: The families of vav/zayin (6th and 7th grade) and daled/hey (4th and 5th grade), Richard and Lise Rosenfield;
- Aron Gutman for organizing and cooking for Dinner and a Movie;
- Diana Levy, Patti Jacobson, Elly Frankel, Claudia Brenner, and Lois Levitan for organizing the meeting about Bereavement Support;
- All who helped with our Purim celebration: Joan Friedman for organizing the event, Beth Cohen for emceeing the event, Miranda Phillips for leading a Purim-inspired service, and all who performed, and all who helped, including Alita Howard, Lisa Ellin, Corinne Stern, and Kate Eisen. Very special thanks to Michael Margolin and the cast of the Purim Shpiel: Aron Gutman, Isaiah Gutman, Shelley Marino, and Tim Williamson, and their families and friends of the cast who didn't see them on Tuesday and some Thursday evenings during rehearsals. Also thanks to Sareanda Lordes, Julia Taylor, Sarah Chalmers, Isobel Charle, and Rebecca Cutter for their help in crafting the shpiel;
- Ann Wexler and Joel Tabb for leading the Community seder; Sue Merkel for coordinating readers; Naomi Wilensky and Jeff Bercuvitz for preparing the Haggadah; Joel Abrams for engaging the youngsters; Josh Friedman for running the sound system; Anne and Ira Brous for supporting the wonderful meal; Joan Friedman for amazing organizing; and everyone who lent a hand with setup, cleanup, and all things in between, including Alita Howard, Corinne Stern, Sally Ezra, Joe Yavitt, Amanda Garris, Channi Sacks, Gavin Sacks, Judy Lieblien, Amy Komar, Stacey Smith and her family, Ted Schiele, Maren Friedman, and Noah Friedman. Thank you to everyone who brought food donations for the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard when they came to Seder. Thank you to Sally Ezra for taking food to the pantry.

### Condolences

תנחומים

Tikkun v'Or sends our condolences to Nancy Goody, Founding President of Tikkun V'Or, whose mother Helen Goody recently passed away. Helen and Bob Goody (z'l) were early supporters and donors of the congregation.

Helen Goody, aged 97+, passed away on Friday night, April 5, after a lovely visit with her three daughters and her very long term care-giver.

The funeral was on April 8, at Guterman and Musicant at Hackensack, NJ. The burial was at Beth David Cemetery, in Elmont, NY.

May her memory be a blessing.

### Donors

נדק

**Many thanks to our recent donors:**  
 Robert & Patricia Libby  
 Peter & Sherry Burford  
 Christine Croxall

Thanks to the IAUJC (Ithaca Area United Jewish Community) for grants benefitting the Religious School, especially the scholarship fund.



**BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

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## Ithaca Area United Jewish Community

*Honoring Our Past, Shaping Our Future*

Spring 2019

Dear Community Member,

Serving as campaign chair and program chair of the IAUJC board since 2008 has been a great privilege for me. Most rewarding has been my exposure to representatives of the various Jewish communities in Ithaca. I have come to deeply respect and appreciate the work of individuals who focus on different aspects of Jewish life. I work with folks at the Hillels, Chabad, Tikkun v'Or, the Israeli community, the academic community and many unaffiliated Jews. We are all working together for the benefit of everyone. Let this continue to be so.

One of my most-loved IAUJC projects is the PJ Library Jewish Storybook Program. I remember introducing the idea to the IAUJC board back in 2008. I received very positive feedback from the board members and also from Rabbi Glass, who committed to financial support through his Temple Beth El Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. He kept his word and has helped finance our local program for the last 11 years. So have many others, including parents and grandparents of subscribers. The program has affected families deeply.

At the inception of PJ Library in Ithaca, we were unsure of how we would sustain it and how it would develop over time. I am delighted to report that on Purim, March 21, we held our annual PJ party at Tompkins County Public Library, and were inundated with participants of all ages and backgrounds. Easily, 120 people enjoyed the activities we had prepared. There is now a PJ Library community in Ithaca made up of many types of families, brought together on occasion to meet one another and strengthen their connection to the Jewish world. Thus, we are succeeding in engaging the next generation.

Other programs as well have developed during my tenure on the board. We are now helping to finance Jewish summer experiences for local children. We now have a Holocaust education program with a bureau of speakers who visit the local schools. We now have the joy of granting funds to worthy organizations in Southern Israel, through our Humanitarian Aid to Israel Fund, provided by an anonymous donor for the 10 year period of 2016-2025.

**In other words – the IAUJC is a dynamic, living, breathing, organization that responds to the interests and needs of its community.**

At our annual community dinner on March 31<sup>st</sup>, Rabbi Ari Weiss of Cornell Hillel, challenged us to come up with ideas that would help to extend the vibrancy of Judaism to the present and future generations. One idea that surfaced was the creation of a special festival that celebrates the culinary traditions of world Jewry. Another idea involved having a Jewish presence at other, established festivals in Ithaca. We would need dedicated people to bring these and other ideas to fruition.

Let us feel the pride that comes with our successes. Let us also commit to continuing these successes to the best of our ability by contributing energy, ideas and funding. I am here to thank you for all you have done as donors in the past, and to ask you to recommit for the future.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Hoffman

# Tikkun v'Or

## May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Religious School 9-12 <b>28</b>		<b>29</b> Yom HaShoah (5779) (Holocaust Remembrance Day) begins at sundown Vav/Zayin class 4:30-6	<b>30</b> Yom HaShoah (5779) (Holocaust Remembrance Day) begins at sundown Vav/Zayin class 4:30-6	<b>1</b> Yom HaAtzmaut (5779) Search committee mtg 5:30	<b>2</b> <b>Kabbalat Shabbat</b> 7:30 pm Carol and Sam Shama Oneg: Open for volunteers	<b>3</b> Acharei Mot Teens v'Or Shul-in
Religious School 9-12 <b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Yom HaZikaron (5779) (Israel Memorial Day) begins at sundown	<b>7</b> Yom Hazikaron (5779), Yom HaAtzmaut (5779) (Israel Independence Day) begins at sundown Vav/Zayin class 4:30-6	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Yom HaAtzmaut (5779)	<b>10</b> <b>Kabbalat Shabbat</b> 7:30 Marie Oshae Oneg: Ann Waxler & Tony Gaenslen	<b>11</b> <i>Kedoshim</i> <b>Shabbat morning</b> service Led by rav/zaviv (6th/7th grade) and Cantor Abbe Lyons 10 am
Mother's Day Religious School 9-12 <b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Exec mtg 7-9 Vav/Zayin class 4:30-6	<b>15</b> Building Rental 6:30-8:30 pm	<b>16</b> <b>Kabbalat Shabbat</b> 7:30 pm Leader & Oneg: Open for Volunteers	<b>17</b> <i>Emor</i>	<b>18</b>
Religious School 9-12 <b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Lag B'omer (5779) begins at sundown Lunches for the Friendship Center 6 pm	<b>22</b> Lag B'omer (5779)	<b>23</b> No services scheduled	<b>24</b> <i>Behar</i>	<b>25</b>
Memorial Day <b>26</b>	<b>27</b> TVO Board 7-9		<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> No services scheduled	<b>31</b> <i>Bechukotai</i> <b>1</b>

## Tikkun v'Or

June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	Memorial Day	27	TVO Board 7-9	28	29	30
					No services scheduled	31 <i>Bechukotai</i>
2	3	4		5 <i>Rabbi in residence</i> 5/6-16	6 <b>Kabbalat Shabbat</b> 7:30 pm Rabbi Brian w/ Samara & Maren	7 <b>Shavout (5779)</b> begins at sundown <b>Bamidbar</b> 8:45-9:30 Meditation 10 Shabbat service <b>Bat Mitzvah:</b> Samara Schwartz Rabbi Brian
9	10 <b>Shavout (5779)</b> 7-9 pm Adult Education with Rabbi Brian	11		12	13 <b>Kabbalat Shabbat</b> 6:30 pm Rabbi Brian w/Ezri <b>Shabbat dinner</b> 7:15 pm	14 <b>Naso</b> 8:45-9:30 Meditation 10 Shabbat service <b>Bat Mitzvah:</b> Ezri Rubinstein-Miller Rabbi Brian
16	17 <b>Father's Day</b>	18		19 <b>Building Rental</b> 6:30-8:30 pm	20 <b>Kabbalat Shabbat</b> 7:30 pm Leader & <i>Oneg:</i> Open for Volunteers	21 <b>Beha'alotecha</b>
23	24	25 Exec mtg 7-9	26 Lunches for the Friendship Center 6 pm	27	28 <b>Kabbalat Shabbat</b> 7:30 pm Richard & Lise Rosenfield <i>Oneg:</i> Patti Jacobson	29 <b>Shelach</b>
30	1	2		3 Independence Day	4	5
						6

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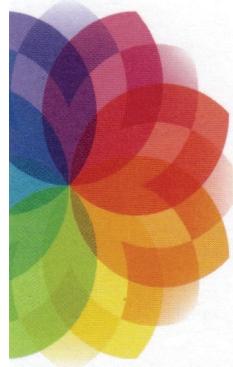
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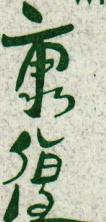
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## Congregational Leadership

## מנהיגות

Rabbi Brian Walt		rabbi@tikkunvor.org
Administrative Coordinator and Religious School Director		
Bookkeeper	Naomi Wilensky	256-1471 naomi.wilensky@tikkunvor.org
Presidents	Sally Ezra	257-7017 sally_ezra@yahoo.com
Vice President	Lauren Korfine	256-0132 lk79@cornell.edu
Past-President	Shira Reisman	339-6830 shishi923@gmail.com
Scribe	Denice Cassaro	256-0373 denicecassaro@gmail.com
Treasurer	Shawn Murphy	351-7898 presidents@tikkunvor.org
At-Large Board Members	Miranda Phillips	277-1241 presidents@tikkunvor.org
	Carol Shama	315 480-6365 csshama462@gmail.com
	Allison Anderson	273-4173 allison@rockbass.com
	Nico Tedayan	ntedayan@gmail.com
	Peter Silberman	273-5414 silbermanp@gmail.com
Avodah Committee	Anne Brous	229-2592 Anne@ithacabakery.com
Building Committee	Anne Brous	272-5535 Anne@ithacabakery.com
Caring Committee	Carol Shama	315 480-6365 csshama462@gmail.com
Finance Committee	Ira Brous	272-5535 ira@ithacabakery.com
	Doug Stayman	280-8975 dms43@cornell.edu
Jewish Education Committee	Abby Thomas	836-1029 Abby.Thomas@cortland.edu
	Alita Howard	347-4415 alitahoward@gmail.com
Israel/Palestine Committee	Lois Levitan	LCL3@cornell.edu
Racial Justice Committee	Laurie Willick	319-4235 lbwillick@hotmail.com
Program Committee	Aron Gutman	277-0573 gutmanik@gmail.com
Action Against Hunger Committee	Harriet London	257-1502 londonharriet@gmail.com
Welcoming & Membership Committee	Sharon Ziegler	272-0680 ziegler.sharon@gmail.com
Bereavement Support Committee	Patti Jacobson	279-3895 BereavementSupport@tikkunvor.org
Teens v'Or	Tali Abraham	aabraham@ithaca.edu

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