



Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Ithaca Reform Temple
Spirit • Community • Justice

CHADASHOT **חדשות**
Religious School Newsletter 2019 / 5780

Welcome to all TvO students!

***Religious School begins on
Sunday, September 8***

School starts at 9 a.m. for 2nd-7th grade
School starts at 10 a.m. for K and 1st grade

Sundays	9 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Bet-Zayin (2nd – 7th grade)
Sundays	10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.	Gan/Alef (K-1st grade)
Wednesdays	4:30 – 6 p.m.	Vav-Zayin (6th and 7th grade)

If you have not yet registered,
forms are available at www.tikkunvor.org
or info@tikkunvor.org

Meet our Morim (Teachers) and Madrichim (assistants) מורים ומדריכים

Kitah Gan/Alef כיתה א' /גן (K/grade 1) will be learning about Jewish holidays, Shabbat, and Torah stories with **Rabbi Tziona Szajman**.

Kitah Bet/Gimel כיתה ב' /ג (grades 2/3) will explore the meaning of *kedusha* (holiness) in their own lives, and learning Hebrew with **Miranda Phillips**

Kitah Daled/Hey כיתה ד' /ה (grades 5/6) will consider the stories and teachings of the Exodus and the Prophets and the purpose of prayer, with **Jeff Bercuvitz** and **Michael Margolin**.

An additional Hebrew specialist will be assisting these classes.

Kitah Vav/Zayin כיתה ו' /ו (grade 6/7), our older students, will be studying weekly Torah portions and the values they impart with **Kenny Berkowitz** and **Mirit Hadar**.

We will all be singing with **Marne Oshae**.

Cantor Abbe Lyons teaches the midweek class and bnai mitzvah preparation, with assistance from **Shoshana Maniscalco**.

Tali Abraham will advise Teens V'Or

Madrichim מדריכים are assistants/counselors. In our Religious School, madrichim are middle and high school students who help with numerous tasks that allow our classes to run smoothly. They take attendance, lead craft projects, demonstrate activities, distribute snack, make photocopies, supervise break times, and tutor individual students and small groups. These fabulous young people are graduates of our Religious School who come back each week to pass along their knowledge and enthusiasm for Jewish education.

Quick Hebrew lesson:

מדריך Madrich = male, singular

מדריכה Madricha = female, singular

מדריכים Madrichim = plural

מדריכות Madrichot = plural, female



Holidays (Chagim)

חגים

Please bring your children for Congregation Tikkun v'Or's High Holy Day services! This year all TvO Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services will be held at First Congregational Church (309 Highland Ave., Cayuga Heights). Children are welcome at all times. We believe it is upon all the adults (*aleinu* "it's upon us" - in the spirit of "it takes a village") to encourage a quiet, respectful presence by all the children. Parental guidance, combined with breaks and attendance at childrens' services can make for a joyful and prayerful holiday for all.

There will be childrens' services for ages 2-6 and for ages 6-10. on both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Childcare will be available at all morning and evening services. Times and more information will be listed in the high holy day newsletter and in temple emails.

Simchat Torah will be celebrated at Religious School on **Sunday, October 20**. Come for a **special tefillah session at 11 a.m.** We'll welcome our newest students with a Consecration ceremony, and dance and sing with the Torah! Stay afterwards for lunch in the sukkah!

The TvO community **Chanukah** celebration will be on **Sunday, December 22**.

We'll also learn about and celebrate Tu b'Shvat, Purim, and Passover together!

Our **Shavuot Siyum** (end of the year celebration) will be on Sunday, May 17. A *siyum* is the completion and celebration of a unit of Torah study. We'll combine these with a special morning of learning together and sharing.

Shabbat Shalom

שבת שלום

SHABBAT at Tikkun v'Or: Families with children of all ages are *always* invited and encouraged to attend Shabbat and holiday services. Students in Kitah Vav and Zayin should be especially mindful of the service attendance requirements. All are encouraged to participate in weekly services, b'nai mitzvah services, as well as Friday night dinners, Saturday morning services, and Torah study with Rabbi Brian Walt.

CLASS SERVICES

Each class has an opportunity to lead one Friday evening service with Cantor Abbe Lyons, and our oldest students also participate in at least one Shabbat morning service. The Friday services start with a dish-to-pass Shabbat dinner. While these services are led by particular classes, children of all ages are especially welcome to attend these energetic family programs. Please mark your calendars:

Friday, November 22	6:15 p.m. dinner, 7:00 p.m. service	bet/gimel (grades 2/3)
Friday, March 6	6:15 p.m. dinner, 7:00 p.m. service	daled/hey (grade 4/5)
Friday, March 20	6:45 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. service	vav/zayin (grade 6/7)
Saturday, April 25	10 a.m. (Shabbat morning)	vav/zayin (grade 6/7)

What's New?

Grades 2-7 meet from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Grades K-1 meet from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Students are expected to arrive on time, ready to learn, and stay for the full morning program.

Class time is usually divided into several sections, which include:

Limud (learning): לימוד

- 1) **Judaic Studies** - including history, holidays, mitzvot, and Talmud Torah
- 2) **Hebrew (Ivrit) עברית**
- 3) **Ruach (spirit) רוח and Tefillah (prayer) תפילה**: Songs and a short prayer service to practice what we are learning, with plenty of ruach (spirit and singing). Praying together as a community is an important way for children to practice what they are learning in class, build on their knowledge of Hebrew, and experience some aspects of Jewish spirituality.
- 4) **Hafsakah (break / snack) הפסקה**

We also often include:

5) **Chugim** (not “ch” as in “change” but “CH” as in “CHallah.”) חוגים Special projects including art, drama, dance, music, and mitzvot, to work on for four weeks in a multi-grade group with a parent, community member, or madrich (assistant) leading the group. Sometimes the whole school participates in chugim together – for Chanukah, Purim, or other holidays and special events.

Or 6) **Ha’asharah** (enrichment from special guests) העשרה We will let you know when special guests will be joining us so that parents can come learn with us too!

Or 7) **Farbrengen** (community gatherings) with Rabbi Brian: Join us on **December 8 and March 29 from 9 - 9:45 a.m.** for singing, dancing, prayer, stories, and teachings from the rabbi. Gan and Alef families, and grandparents and siblings welcome too!

Please note that students are to be picked up from 12-12:15 p.m.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

We ask at least one parent from each family to sign up to help in at least one way during the school year. Jobs include being a class parent, snack shopper (you get reimbursed), Chanukah celebration helpers, Purim party helpers, leading chugim and more. **Sign up to help on the first day of class!**

ATTENDANCE/ILLNESS POLICY:

Everyone is occasionally sick or has a legitimate reason to miss a class. For the health of our community and your child’s comfort, please keep your children at home if they are sick. Our illness policies are in place for the protection, health and well-being of ALL our students, their families and staff.

Please keep your children at home if they:

- a) *have a fever or have had one in the previous 24 hours*
- b) *are vomiting or have had intestinal disturbance in the previous 24 hours*
- c) *have heavy nasal discharge and/or cough*
- d) *have discharge from eye(s)*
- e) *have symptoms of a possible communicable disease*

If your child shows symptoms of illness upon arrival or during the school day, we will call and request that the child be picked up.

If your child will be absent, please call and leave a message at 607-256-1471, and contact your child's teacher as well.

Also please be sure that we have contact and emergency contact information should your child become ill during the Religious School morning.

Family weddings and b'nai mitzvah celebrations are good excuses for missing school; help your child be ready to talk with the class about his/her visit to another Jewish community! And contact the teacher to find out about missed work.

Learning

למוד

JUDAIC STUDIES Our curriculum focuses on the following Enduring Understandings:

Torah:

- Torah is an ongoing dialogue between the text and its students.
- Torah is real in our daily lives; it is with us wherever we are.
- Developing the skills to study Torah is essential to integrating Torah into our lives.

Avodah:

- Avodah is the work we do to find sacred connections to God, community, and self
- Engaging in the work of Avodah can bring order, beauty, meaning and insight to our lives.

G'milut Chasadim (acts of lovingkindness):

- We have a responsibility to do g'milut chasadim to make the world a better, holier place.

Student learning at TvO is experiential and hands-on. We have many resources and texts (like the Torah!) to guide us in creating interactive activities. The topics and themes listed below are addressed in many ways over the course of the two years each child is in the combined-grade classes.

Grades K and 1 - Gan / Kitah Alef כיתה א - גן

Introductions to Jewish holidays and stories, the alef-bet, and mitzvot.

Grades 2 and 3 - Kitah Bet/Gimel כיתה ב - ג

The personal relevance of Torah, Avodah, G'milut Chasadim

Thinking about God and k'dusha (holiness) in daily life

Making a difference, giving thanks, taking responsibility

Grades 4 and 5 - Kitah Daled/Hey כיתה ד - ה

Being part of the community by asking "Jew-cy Questions"

Giving meaning to prayer through kavanah (intentions) and kevah (actions)

Kibud (honor) & tzedakah (righteousness)

Learning from the Prophets

Grades 6 and 7 - Kitah Vav/Zayin כיתה ו - ז

Making decisions about becoming a Jewish adult

Learning from Torah study, Proverbs and Psalms

Looking at history and contemporary issues of Jewish life

Ethics, values, and middot (character traits)

What does this look like in the classroom? It looks like telling stories, sharing experiences, exchanging ideas, creating midrash (interpretations), singing, demonstrating skills, reading Hebrew, drawing pictures, solving puzzles, making meaningful crafts, making friends, and being a community of Jewish learners and thinkers.



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

Invites you to a Fall Holiday Family Event

Sunday, October 6, 2019

3:00 to 5:00 PM

Large Pavilion at Stewart Park



Stories and Crafts, Decorating the Sukkah,
Learning about Tashlich, Yummy Foods, Shofar Blowing, Puppet
Show and Puppet-Making by Lily Silly begins at 3:45

For further info write to info@iaujc.org
Free and open to the public. Bring your friends!

Tzedakah and Mitzvot

צדקה ומצוות

Every year our students practice גמילות חסדים gemilut chasadim, acts of lovingkindness. They honor their parents, help their friends, share with their siblings, make cheerful gifts for seniors, and give צדקה tzedakah (literally, "righteousness," but in this case, charitable donations).

Yom Kippur Food Drive Help the GIAC afterschool program by bringing snack foods to Yom Kippur services. We'll also have food drives on other weeks throughout the year.

Books

Ask about some of the great new books in our TVO Religious School library!

Biographies:

Liberty's Voice: Emma Lazarus by Erica Silverman. A voice for immigrants from another century.

Martin & Anne: The Kindred Spirits of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr and Anne Frank, by Nancy Churnin. They were born in the same year, in worlds apart, with messages of hope.

The Key from Spain: Flory Jagoda & Her Music, by Debbie Levy. A history of Ladino and the composer of Ochos Kandalikas.

For cat and music lovers:

Ketzel, the Cat Who Composed, by Leslea Newman. A surprisingly true story about a musical cat.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CALENDAR 2019-2020

Sept 8	Religious School	
Sept 15	Religious School	
Sept 22	Religious School	
Sept 29	No classes – Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown	
Oct 6	Religious School	
Oct 13	No Religious School (Indigenous People’s Day) Help build the sukkah!	
Oct 20	Religious School	*Simchat Torah 11-12 / Lunch in the Sukkah
Oct 27	Religious School	
Nov 3	Religious School	
Nov 10	Religious School	
Nov 17	Religious School	
Nov 24	Religious School No classes - Thanksgiving	
Dec 1	No classes - Thanksgiving	
Dec 8	Religious School	*farbrenge with Rabbi Brian
Dec 15	Religious School	
Dec 22	No classes	*Chanukah begins in eve
Dec 29	No classes	
Jan 5	No classes	
Jan 12	Religious School	<i>Special program with TBE</i>
Jan 19	Religious School	
Jan 26	Religious School	
Feb 2	Religious School	
Feb 9	Religious School	Tu Bshvat
Feb 16 & 23	No classes – School Break	
March 8	Religious School	Purim
March 15	Religious School	
March 22	Religious School	
March 29	Religious School	*farbrenge with Rabbi Brian
April 5 & 12	No classes - School break / Passover	
April 19	Religious School	
April 26	Religious School	
May 3	Religious School	
May 10	Religious School	
May 17	Religious School	Siyum (last day)

MIDWEEK CLASSES: Vav (6th grade) and Zayin (7th grade)
Wednesdays 4:30-6 p.m. (please note start/end time!) with Cantor Abbe Lyons

Sept 11	Jan 22
Sept 18	Jan 29
Sept 25	Feb 5
Oct 2 and October 9 No classes	Feb 12
Oct 16	Feb 19 no school – winter break
Oct 23	Feb 26
Oct 30	March 4
Nov 6	March 11
Nov 13	March 18
Nov 20	March 25
Nov 27 No classes- Thanksgiving	April 1
Dec 4	April 8 No school – Passover
Dec 11	April 15
Dec 18	April 22
Dec 25 No classes	April 29
Jan 1 & 8 & 15 No classes	May 6
	May 13 (if needed for snow day)

PARENTS OF VAV/ZAYIN STUDENTS:

*Please plan to attend several BNAI MITZVAH FAMILY MEETINGS
this year with Cantor Abbe Lyons*

First meeting:

Sunday, September 22, 9:30-11 am
at 54 Burdick Hill Rd

Contact Information

Religious School Director: NAOMI WILENSKY

Office phone: 607-256-1471

Cell phone 607-280-6781

E-mail: <naomi.wilensky@tikkunvor.org>

Jewish Education Committee:

Abby Thomas, co-chair

Abby.Thomas@cortland.edu

Alita Howard, co-chair

alitahoward@gmail.com

Anne Brous

anne@ithacabakery.com

Haym Hirsh

hh@drybagel.com

Joan Friedman

jfriedman102@gmail.com

Virginia Ubari

virginiaubari@gmail.com