



# Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Ithaca Reform Temple  
Spirit • Community • Justice

Issue 218

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Nisan - Iyar - Sivan 5781

ניסן - אייר - סיון

## Co-Presidents' Words

דברי הנשיא

I'd like to start by stating the obvious: holy cow, these are strange and difficult times. I recently read a meme going around about how during these unprecedented times it is important to remember that we are *not* all in the same boat – that while we are all floating in this Covid-19 ocean, our boats are very different. Some of us may have kids to homeschool, some of us are all alone, some of us are caring for elders, some of us wish we could just go back to work, some of us are anxious and possibly depressed, and some are happy to have the time for self-exploration. As we float in our different boats, we hope that you have been able to “dock” for a short time through one of our online services, a virtual seder (either the amazing Freedom Seder or your own). Maybe you've reached out to your buddies/triplets or had a virtual committee meeting. I am amazed at how vibrant our community has been through these difficult times.

As you know, the Board voted to move forward with the spiritual leader search and we are excited for our community to participate in Cantor Abbe's Shabbaton on May 15-17. We encourage everyone to attend as many virtual events as possible, in order to make an informed decision. Details about the decision-making process will be coming to your email soon! As always we welcome emails to ask clarifying questions and allow us to address your concerns.

Finally, I would like to thank all our members, including Diana Levy, our Digital Seder hosts, and others who continue to make our congregation a warm and welcoming community. Lauren and I continue to be so proud to serve as your co-presidents during these challenging times.

– Shira



Specific information about times and links for upcoming services and programs will be sent in the weekly e-news, or contact [info@tikkunvor.org](mailto:info@tikkunvor.org).

The schedules are also updated regularly on the TvO Facebook page and website [www.tikkunvor.org](http://www.tikkunvor.org).

## ***Shabbat and Holidays***

שבת וחגים

*Links and more details for each of these services will be sent by email.  
If you are not already on our weekly enews list, contact [info@tikkunv.org](mailto:info@tikkunv.org)*

**MORNING SERVICE AND CONVERSATIONS Tuesdays 8:30-9:30 a.m.** Rabbi Brian Walt  
**May 5 \* May 12 \* May 19 \* May 26**

8:30-9 am *Morning & Healing Service*: Waking up to the gift of a new day!  
9:00-9:30 a.m. *Conversation*

You can join the service or the conversation or both.

**Saturday, May 9, 11 am BAR MITZVAH: JONATHAN BAEI** Cantor Abbe Lyons  
Jonathan, son of Tim Bael and Sandra Thananart, will read from the Torah. He will lead a full service next year at this time! Mazel tov!

**Virtual Shabbaton with Cantor Abbe Lyons** *More information about each will be coming soon!*

**Friday, May 15, 6:30 pm KABBALAT SHABBAT (Welcoming Shabbat)**

**Saturday, May 16, 10 am SHABBAT MORNING**

**Saturday, May 16, 3 pm CONVERSATION WITH TVO MEMBERS**

**Sunday, May 17, 3:30-5 pm ADULT EDUCATION**

**Saturday, May 23 SHABBAT MORNING Bemidbar (In the Wilderness/Desert)** Rabbi Brian Walt  
9:30-10:30 am Shabbat Morning Mindfulness Service  
10:45-11:30 am Torah study: Jewish teachings about the wilderness / desert as a place of spiritual revelation

**Friday, May 29 KABBALAT SHABBAT (Welcoming Shabbat) and SHAVUOT** Rabbi Brian Walt  
7:30-8:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat/Shavuot Service  
8:15-8:30 pm Informal conversation or break time  
8:15- 9:30 pm Torah Conversation Orthodox and Unorthodox  
A community conversation about our responses as individuals and as a community of progressive Jews to the Netflix short series, *Unorthodox*. Congregants are encouraged to view the series and to reflect on how our responses to the series teach us about our own Jewish identity and our relationship to traditional Judaism and to Judaism more broadly. The conversation is open to everyone including those who haven't watched *Unorthodox*.

**Friday June 5 KABBALAT SHABBAT (Welcoming Shabbat)** Rabbi Brian Walt  
**7:30-9:00 pm Lomir Zingen Lets Sing!** The songs we love  
A joyous Shabbat service featuring some of the favorite songs we have sung together over the past 11 years. Rabbi Brian will comment on how the songs reflect our efforts to create a liturgy and musical tradition that reflects our deepest values and that nurtures a meaningful connection to our Jewish cultural and spiritual heritage. We will imagine that we are outside our building overlooking the lake singing the songs we love, led by our amazing musicians.

**Saturday June 6 SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE**

**9:30-11:00 am** *May the Source of all Life bless us all with safety and much blessing*

The Torah portion includes the priestly blessing that we use through this day to bless our children and also to bless one another on holidays and Shabbat. In the service we will focus on the blessings in our lives, we will bless one another on our journeys and Rabbi Brian will share the many blessings of his tenure as rabbi of the congregation.

May the Source of Life always shine light upon us and be gracious to us.

May the Source of Life bless us all with peace.

*Other services in June have not yet been scheduled. Please check your emails and the TvO website.*

## Religious School

## בית ספר תיקון ואור

*Kol Hakavod* and a shout out to our amazing Religious School teachers and students! They transitioned to online learning without barely a hiccup, sharing their homes and stories and continuing their Jewish community education. On **May 17**, we'll come together as a school for a "Zoom Siyyum" (siyyum is a concluding celebration), to honor our graduating students, sing a few songs, and share ideas for Jewish learning over the summer.

**Kitah Gan/Alef** אג /א (K/grade 1) read books with Rabbi Tziona Szajman, played a home scavenger hunt for Passover, met alpacas (!), played Shimon Omer, and climbed a mountain to hear the Ten Commandments.

**Kitah Bet/Gimel** בג /ג (grades 2/3) continued to learn Hebrew with Morah Chava (Miranda Phillips), celebrate birthdays together, and sing. They considered that one of the ways to say "Jews" in Hebrew is "*Yehudim*," the root of which is "*hodaya*" -- thankfulness, and that another Hebrew word for Jews is "*Yisrael*," the root of which means "struggle." What are we thankful for, and what do we struggle with?

**Kitah Daled** ד /ד (grade 4) talked with Michael Margolin about Exodus, shared magic tricks, and researched Jewish change-makers, including Rose Schneiderman, Levi Strauss, Carl Sagan, and Steven Spielberg. They read *Snow in Jerusalem* and talked about the people and communities of Israel and Palestine.

**Kitah Hey** ה /ה (grades 5) students and their teacher Jeff Bercuvitz took on the challenging topics of "How do we, as Jews, respond to fear?" How might music, prayer, practice, and hand-washing help us be prepared for difficult times? They played "Jew-pardy" and continued to ask Big Jew-cy Questions.

**Kitah Vav/Zayin** וז /ז (grade 6/7) students talked about the things that are most precious to them. ("If you could only take one thing into the desert with you, what would it be?") They took turns reading from the weekly parasha, which includes detailed instructions for making the Breastplate of Decision. They examined the breastplate on the TvO Torah and talked about the significance of each part, and then created their own breastplates using a set of play jewels and discussed the stones' symbolic meanings. They played a physically demanding game that connected the Torah reading with Steven Spielberg, Harrison Ford, and the Indiana Jones movies.

On line with Mirit Bessire and Kenny Berkowitz, they discussed coping with being at home, the Hebrew calendar, and the Torah portions for the week.

The midweek class with Cantor Abbe Lyons made lunches for people experiencing homelessness and food insecurity, and learned a bit about *Birkat Hamazon*, the blessing after meals

We're also looking into options for independent on-line Hebrew study programs to offer for the summer, especially for our upper elementary and middle school students. While the most important thing right now is everyone's health and safety, and the community and camaraderie we have together, we are also thinking of those who are thinking ahead to bnai mitzvah celebrations and Hebrew learning to be able to continue their studies in the months ahead. These strange times bring some new opportunities, and we will be letting you know what is available as soon as possible.

## Teens v'Or

Teens v'Or baked challah in February. Yum! They also held a virtual movie night in April. They plan to get together more online this spring, and restart in person ASAP.

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

מאכיל רעבים

Tikkun v'Or helps St. John's Community Services (formerly the Rescue Mission Friendship Center) provide meals to those who need, by making 60 lunches for the 4th Thursday of each month. Thanks to Cantor Abbe and the students of vav/zayin (6th and 7th grade) for making lunches in February; and double thanks to the Debbie family for making lunches in March and April. If you would like to help please contact Dorothy Debbie at [dorothynotwork@gmail.com](mailto:dorothynotwork@gmail.com) or 272-3893. For those of you who would like to help out but can't 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.

## ***Ithaca Sanctuary Allianca***

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted all of us in our own communities and around the world. There is not one part of our lives that has not been touched. There are many needs that we have been asked to fulfill. The Tompkins County Immigrant Rights Coalition (TCIRC) is asking you to support another critical need, that of individuals being released from the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility.

People inside the detention center are desperate. As one declared, "Being detained here, we are like the proverbial lamb waiting to be slaughtered." Releases of some people from detention are underway due to the tremendous efforts of regional immigrant rights organizations to connect people with lawyers and to pay their bonds. But they cannot get released without an address/place to go, for at least two weeks to quarantine. Here in Central New York, we can provide help with the following:

\*Housing for at least two weeks, e.g., detached spare room, apartment, or camper that can house an individual or a family (we will provide you with public health guidelines).

\*Funds to pay for AirBnB-type accommodations, food, medications, personal protective equipment, sanitation supplies, transportation, and other needs. Donate here

\*Transportation (if you are not in a vulnerable population) from Batavia to Ithaca and/or to their final destination post-quarantine (we will provide you with public health guidelines)

\*To offer housing or transportation (or learn more about how to do this safely), please contact Patricia Rodriguez at [prodriguez@ithaca.edu](mailto:prodriguez@ithaca.edu).

\*To donate funds: [https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/donate-to-the-tompkins-county-workers-center-in-support-of-the-tompkins-county-immigrant-rights-coalition?source=direct\\_link&](https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/donate-to-the-tompkins-county-workers-center-in-support-of-the-tompkins-county-immigrant-rights-coalition?source=direct_link&)

Please consider donating a portion of the stimulus check you expect to receive. Note that once we have housing, we will also be seeking food, clothing, and laptops, tablets, or phones.

Funds will be collected by TCIRC and shared with our partners in Buffalo and Rochester. We appreciate whatever you can give.

Wishing all in our community strength, safety, and good health during these difficult times.

Tompkins County Immigrant Rights Coalition

Ithaca Sanctuary Alliance

Tompkins County Workers Center

## **Many Thanks**

רב תודה

Thanks to:

- Recent service leaders: Peter Silberman, Cantor Abbe Lyons and the students of bet and gimel (2nd and 3rd grade) and their morah (teacher) Miranda Phillips;
- Recent oneg hosts: Lise Rosenfield, families of the bet/gimel students;
- Thanks to Lauren Monroe for sharing her knowledge of biblical archeology at Religious School;
- Thanks to those who helped with the Rick Recht program and concert, especially Marjorie Hoffman (IAUJC), Alita Howard, Lise Rosenfield, and Richard Rosenfield;

And during this time of on-line programs, special thanks to:

- Rabbi Brian for his continued leadership;
- Lauren Korfine leading us in song online for so many services;
- Diana Levy for technical assistance on our many amazing online services and conversations;
- Julie Kleinberg for leading us in music, to Mihal Ronen for leading us in candle lighting, and to Noa Shapiro-Tamir and Dalya Tamir for leading us in the Kiddush on Friday night;
- Judy Saul for co-facilitating discussions;
- 

Thanks to all who helped with the TVO Freedom seder:

- Leadership and Inspiration: Rabbi Brian Walt and Rabbi Arthur Waskow;
- Music: Will Fudeman and Lauren Korfine;
- Honors: Jeff Bercuvitz, Stacey, Langwick and Tsadia, Richard and Lise Rosenfield;
- Readings: Annie Wexler and Tony Gaenslen, Judy Saul, Sherry Altman, Martha Armstrong, Beth Cohen, Lois Levitan, Carole Resnick, Mara Sapon-Shevin, Elan Shapiro, Roberta Wallitt; Elan Shapiro;
- Community Activists: Phoebe Brown, Alliance of Families for Justice & Mutual Aid Tompkins; Kate Cardona, Showing Up for Racial Justice; Mary Ann Grady, Plowshares & Catholic Workers; Beth Harris, Jewish Voice For Peace; Nia Nunn, Community Unity Music Education Program & Ithaca College; Gay Nicholson, Sustainable Tompkins; Anne Rhodes, Building Bridges & Showing Up for Racial Justice;
- Naomi Wilensky for coordinating registration;
- Diana Levy for materials and technical support;
- The more than 100 congregants and community members who joined in to make a memorable and inspiring evening!
- Thanks also to those who opened their homes / computers to welcome others for virtual seders!

## **Condolences**

תנחומים

Tikkun v'Or sends our condolences to Rabbi Brian and his wife Caryn, on the death of Caryn's father, Selwyn Broitman. Dr. Broitman died from complications as a result of the Covid19 virus. Rabbi Brian asks that we pray for his soul's journey into whatever is next and/or make a contribution in his memory to the synagogue.

You can write to Rabbi Brian at [rabbi@tikkunvor.org](mailto:rabbi@tikkunvor.org).

May his memory be for a blessing.

## **Listening to Elijah / Giving During the Time of Covid: Thoughts From a Congregant**

Dear TvO community,

I am sending prayers of healing and recovery for all those who are not well and a hope that you are finding a way to stay connected and navigate through these difficult times.

I believe our kindness and endurance as a Jewish people can contribute to this difficult moment.

Our Jewish values guide us to give tzedakah, or justice-driven charity in this time. As a Jew I am called to give my stimulus check to communities who have been left out of government support. Undocumented immigrant communities are falling through the cracks of the government's aid packages and yet they are cultivating, harvesting, shipping, and preparing the food that we rely on. Let us open our tents and treat everyone, regardless of their documentation status, as if they were a member of our family.

Below are a few organizations. I hope you will consider joining me in supporting one of the organizations below or one of your choosing.

**Alianza Agricola** (Agricultural Alliance) is an immigrant farm worker led organization in Central and Western New York that is raising funds to distribute food and financial assistance to immigrant farm workers: [www.gofundme.com/f/alianza-agricola-emergency-solidarity-fund-covid19](http://www.gofundme.com/f/alianza-agricola-emergency-solidarity-fund-covid19).

**Tompkins County Immigrant Rights Coalition** (TCIRC). Their funding campaign supports individuals being released from the Buffalo Federal Detention Facility.:

<https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/donate-to-the-tompkins-county-workers-center-in-support-of-the-tompkins-county-immigrant-rights-coalition>

**Cornell Farmworker Program** is also providing food, masks, and other resources to immigrant farmworker communities in the Ithaca area: <https://cardi.cals.cornell.edu/programs/farmworker/>

Thank you for considering this generous act of giving. I wish you a Zissen Yom, a sweet day.

In Community,  
Michael Margolin

## **Donors**

צדקה

### *Many thanks to our recent donors:*

#### *General Fund:*

Thomas Sperry & Lisa Tsetse, In honor of Rabbi Brian  
Lauren & Christopher Monroe Walt  
Patricia & Robert Libby

#### *Nediv Lev Campaign:*

Miranda Phillips & Bobby Kleinberg

#### *Religious School Fund:*

Anonymous

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

**Congregational Leadership**

מנהיגות

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

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

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