



Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Ithaca Reform Temple
Spirit • Community • Justice

Issue 220

September-October 2020

Elul-Tishrei-Chesvan 5781

אלול - תשרי חשוון

Co-Presidents' Words

דברי הנשיא

As this summer is embracing the changes autumn is bringing in, with its opportunities for reflection and preparation for what is ahead, we enter with you a time of many challenges none of us had anticipated. Our resilience and abilities to sustain and nurture our core values of spirit, community and justice are and will continue being tested this upcoming year. If these last two months, our first as your co-presidents, are any indication of how our congregation will lean into its strengths and its depths of commitment to each other and the world we love, we are convinced the foundation of this congregation is strong.

We, as a community, are experiencing a number of transitions. We are transitioning from the leadership and gifts provided by Rabbi Brian Walt these last 10 years to searching for a new spiritual leader. The Search Committee has done an excellent job navigating the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has forced us to transition from person-to-person contact to utilizing zoom for our interactions with one another. This has pushed us to think deeply about what is needed to sustain and nurture our community as we continue our services, teach our young, conduct our meetings, hold special events, and stay connected with each other. We have learned the virtual world provides its own gifts. It has made it possible for people to participate in our offerings, who otherwise may not have been able to for a variety of reasons (i.e. mobility, time, distance). It has changed the way we will be approaching the High Holy Days. Our talented High Holy Days committee has been working diligently to put together an exciting program which will bring us all together for this special time of year in our celebration of Jewish life.

With the coming of the High Holy Days, we will be entering a period for taking time to pause, reflect, repair, and rejuvenate as individuals, as individuals in a community, and as a whole community. Let us together find paths to embrace the challenges ahead while supporting and holding each other and our community(ies) close to our hearts. As part of our community journey, we invite you to participate in some of the events/workshops we will be having as part of our yearlong exploration and dialogue on “Jews Challenging White Supremacy (Racism),” as well as our Shabbat services, weekly Tuesday mornings meditation, prayer, and conversation, weekend programs for children and youth, and other upcoming TvO events. We are ever grateful to all of you who are making these programs happen! May we seek to thrive and continue to lay down the groundwork much needed for a better and more just future.

L'Shanah Tovah – Nomi and Denice

Leadership Search

The Search Committee began its second search in August. Our opening is posted on jewishjobs.com and has been listed with Hebrew College and the Academy of Jewish Religion (both non-denominational seminaries) and with Aleph. We also hope that each of you is spreading the word far and wide. You never know who will know someone who knows someone.

We have already heard from several interested candidates. The committee will meet soon after the High Holidays to review all resumes received and decide next steps. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact Judy Saul at jasaulny@earthlink.net.

Ithaca Sanctuary Alliance: 30 Poems in 30 Days

The September “30 Poems in 30 Days” fundraiser in support of the Ithaca Sanctuary Alliance is up and running. Please check out our site to learn how you and your family members and friends all over the world can make a difference, even if you don’t participate as a poet and/or can’t donate:

gofundme.com/f/30-poems-in-30-days-for-ithaca-sanctuary-alliance

See the blog here: <https://30poems30daysithacasanctuary.blogspot.com>

Email: bregenspan@colgate.edu with thoughts, questions, or poems to post on our blog!



Many Thanks

רב תודה

Thanks to:

- Recent service leaders: Omega Hollies, Lauren Korfine, Miranda Phillips & Bobby Kleinberg with Julia and Will;
- Lauren Korfine, Diana Levy, Judy Saul, and Dalya Tamir for leading the weekly Contemplative Morning Service;
- Rabbi Lenore
- Naomi Wilensky for leading Family Storytime and Family Havdalah;
- Thanks to Denice Cassaro and Nomi Fridman, and the leaders at Kol Haverim, for arranging for a special program with Rabbi Abby Stein.

Jewish Learning Experiences

בית ספר תיקון ואור

This is a really exciting year for **JEWISH LEARNING EXPERIENCES!**

What's that? It's our new name for "Religious School," chosen to express how committed we are to joyous, experiential hands-on adventures learning, whether from in and around our beautiful building or from our own homes. Thanks to all the madrichim (assistants), morim (teachers) and Jewish Education Committee members who helped brainstorm and choose our new name.

We look forward to being part of **Jewish Learning Experiences** with you!

Our classes this fall will be meeting online, with some time for our whole learning community to be together, and then breaking off into smaller groups for one hour on Sunday mornings. The morim have been planning and learning new ways to make this time fun and meaningful even when we can't be together in person.



Miranda Phillips (Morah Chava) will be working and playing with **Kitah Bet/Gimel** (כיתה ב/ג (grades 2/3). They'll connect with each other through holidays, Shabbat, Hebrew, and mitzvot.

Kitah Daled/Hey (כיתה ד/ה (grades 4/5) will be exploring the world with **Michael Margolin**. Along with Hebrew studies, they'll be introduced to social justice through the prophets, and delving into Jewish history and rituals.

Kitah Vav/Zayin (grades 6/7) are continuing their journeys with **Mirit Bessire and Kenny Berkowitz**, with weekly Torah study and discussions relating to their daily lives.

On Wednesdays, they will be delving into Jewish values, social justice, and history with Michael, and deeper understandings of Hebrew with Mirit.

The bnai mitzvah students will also be learning individually with Michael and Miranda.

What amazing teams, in every combination!

Kitah Gan/Alef (כיתה א/גן (K/grade 1) is taking a bit of a break for this year, since we understand how challenging virtual learning can be for young students. However, **Rabbi Tziona Szajman** will be leading monthly programs for children (and their parents). Registration for these is appreciated; more information will be available in the TVO weekly emails.

The first two programs will be on Sunday, September 20 (for Rosh Hashanah) and September 27 (Yom

Kippur) from 9:30-10 am. After that, **GAN SHABBAT** will be on Saturday mornings.

All **JLE** families are invited for a Family Meeting on **Sunday, September 13, from 10-10:40 a.m.** to learn a bit more about this year. Parents and students will have a chance to say hello to the teachers and hear a bit about their plans. A Zoom link will be sent to all registered families. For more information, or to register, contact naomi.wilensky@tikkunvor.org

Shabbat and Holidays

שבת וחגים

*Links and more details for each of these services will be sent by email.
The full high holidays schedule will be detailed in the upcoming newsletter supplement.
If you are not already on our weekly enews list, contact info@tikkunv.org*

Friday, September 4, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) Led by Peter Silberman
Saturday, September 12, 7:30 pm Selichot with Rabbi Shahar Cole
Friday, September 18 and Saturday September, 19 Rosh Hashanah
Friday, September 25, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat)
Sunday, September 27 and Monday September 28 Yom Kippur
Friday, October 2, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat)
Friday, October 9, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) Led by Faith Rogow
Friday, October 16, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat)
Friday, October 23, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat)
Friday, October 30, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) Led by Carol & Sam Shama

Specific information about times and links for upcoming services and programs will be sent in the weekly e-news, or contact info@tikkunv.org.

The schedules are also updated regularly on the TvO Facebook page and website www.tikkunv.org.

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. Thank you for making lunches:

July: Wilensky family and Sue Merkel & Joe & Ben Yavitt;

August: Wilensky family, and Bridget Meeds, Duffy and Menzie.

If you would like to help please contact Dorothy Debbie at 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.

Teens v'Or

Teens v'Or met weekly / virtually all summer with advisor Tali Abraham, discussing Black Lives Matter, the Israel-Palestinian conflict, the diversity of the Jewish people and tradition, looking at the dangers of "ashkenormativity." They also explored the history and practices of Reform Judaism, the meaning of Tisha b'Av, and views about God, and being Jewish in America.

They plan to continue twice-monthly during the school year. All TVO teens are welcome to join in these conversations! Contact Tali <aabraham@ithaca.edu>

Donors

צדקה

Many thanks to our recent donors:***General Fund***

Alan Blankstein, *in support of Miranda's teaching activities*

In honor of Ann Hoffman and wishing her a speedy recovery:

Gary & Colleen Brink

Neesa Levine

Teresa Sandler

Janet Jacobson

Religious School Fund

Lisa Machlin and family, *In memory of Paul, and for special needs children in the religious school*

Nediv Lev Campaign:

Laurie Willick & Alexi Zentner

Eleanor Frankel & Thomas Frank

In honor of Rabbi Brian Walt's retirement and his contribution to our community, donations were made in his honor by TvO to the Multicultural Resource Center and to the Dorothy Cotton Institute:

Richard & Lise Rosenfield

Hoffman, Steve & Carol Teelin

Ethan & Rachel Ash

Leslie Adelson & Larry Bieri

Joel & Joan Abrams

Peter & Sherry Burford

Ann Wexler & Tony Gaenslen

Joseph Yavitt & Sue Merkel

Ira & Anne Brous

Karin Suskin & Chris Sperry

Timothy Bael & Sandra Thananart

Ross & Tobi Feldman

Marion Deats

Samuel & Carol Shama

Laurie Willick & Alexi Zentner

Miranda Phillips & Bobby Keinberg

Sherry Altman

Robyn Bem

Judith Saul & Regi Teasley

Eleanor Frankel & Thomas Frank

Alicia & Martin Hirschhorn

Naomi & Joe Wilensky

Patti Jacobson

David & Nicole Tedeyan

Shawn Murphy

Sally & Gregory Ezra

Jonathan Plotkin & Barbara Brenner

Bruce Fabens & Diana Levy

Beth Cohen

Grace Horowitz

Mark Lenzenweger & Lauren Korfine

Nomi Talmi

Sharon Ziegler

Lois Levitan & Martha Armstrong

Julie Gozan & Tom Keck

In honor of Cantor Abbe Lyons' service to Congregation Tikkun v'Or, donations were made in her honor by TvO to Be'Chol Lashon and to the Tompkins County Immigrant Rights Association:

Julie Gozan & Tom Keck

Mihal Ronen

Richard & Lise Rosenfield

Naomi & Joe Wilensky

Beth Cohen

Jonathan Plotkin & Barbara Brenner

Mark Lenzenweger & Lauren Korfine

Ann Wexler & Tony Gaenslen

Joseph Yavitt & Sue Merkel

Howard & Harriet London

Sally & Gregory Ezra

Miranda Phillips & Bobby Keinberg

Bruce Fabens & Diana Levy

A Tribute Card was sent by Bernice Borison, in honor of Ann Hoffman and wishing her a speedy recovery

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



Ithaca Area United Jewish Community

Honoring Our Past, Shaping Our Future

August 2020

Dear Community Members,

BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

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Rabbi Ari Weiss, *ex officio*
Naomi Wilensky, *ex officio*

David Sagan,
Data Supervisor

PO BOX 4214
ITHACA, NY
14852-4214
email: info@iaujc.org
www.iaujc.org
Look for us on Facebook

The IAUJC Hesed Fund was initiated this spring to help Jews in our area who are experiencing financial distress. We would like you to know that your donations are being put to good use. We have located a few families who are making great use of the grocery gift cards we have purchased to augment their food supply. We are capable of helping additional people and we are also seeking further contributions to the Hesed Fund.

If you, yourself, are in need of emergency assistance, or if you know someone who is, please write, or refer others, to Marjorie@iaujc.org

PJ Library - In other program areas, we have gained quite a few new PJ Library subscribers in the last few months. We are up to over 130 children receiving a free book every month! That is a lot of readers for our small community.

On a Friday in July and in August, we delivered Shabbat gift bags to PJ Library families who requested them. The bags included Shabbat candles and the prayers for Friday night, some baked goodies and crafts activities for the children. There was also a pre-Shabbat Zoom gathering on the evening that the bags were delivered. In July, Miri Birk of Chabad hosted the gathering. In August, Naomi Wilensky of Congregation Tikkun v'Or hosted the meeting. These gatherings were attended by children and parents. They were a great way for PJ Library families to make contact and have a little fun together.

As is the case with many non-profit organizations, IAUJC is experiencing a decrease in contributions during this time. We were unable to host our community dinner in March and our Holocaust commemoration. Thus, we have been "out of sight" for a few months. We would like to remind you though, that your support is vital in order for us to assist our local Jewish organizations and those around the world represented by the Jewish Federation of North America. Although many of us are turning inward at this time, and understandably so, there is also great reason to turn outward. Let us work together to share our fortunate circumstances with those in need.

Donations may be made online at <https://iaujc.org/causes-we-support>.
Checks can be mailed to IAUJC, PO Box 4214, Ithaca NY 14852.

Thank you for your generosity,

Marjorie Hoffman
Campaign Chair



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

Congregational Leadership

מנהיגות

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Racial Justice Committee			
Program Committee	Aron Gutman	277-0573	gutmanik@gmail.com
Action Against Hunger Committee	Harriet London	257-1502	londonharriet@gmail.com
Welcoming & Membership Committee	Jennifer Kagan		jennifer.kagan@oswego.edu
Bereavement Support Committee	Lois Levitan		BereavementSupport@tikkunvor.org
Events Working Group	Alita Howard	347-4415	alitahoward@gmail.com
Teens v'Or	Tali Abraham		aabraham@ithaca.edu

For updated calendar
information,
call 607-256-1471
or check <www.tikkunvor.org>
LIKE us on Facebook!

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

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