



# Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Ithaca Reform Temple  
Spirit • Community • Justice

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

דברי הנשיא

Dear friends,

It is hard to imagine during these tumultuous and challenging times that it has only been a month since we celebrated the new year, Rosh Hashanah, and Yom Kippur. And what a wonderful celebration it was!

Once again we would like to thank all those who were involved in the planning, preparation, and execution of the High Holy Days, too many to name individually. The long list includes the following, and our apologies if we forgot anybody:

- the resourceful and smart High Holy Days committee
- the fabulous talents and beautiful voices of Azameira
- the creators of a unique and magnificent machzor that will be TvO's own for years to come
- the knowledgeable and dedicated technical support that started before the holidays and continued throughout Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur enabling us to be in our temple – some in-person and some through Zoom – and enjoy the music and the Torah readings
- and the many congregants who took part in the various segments – Tashlich & picnic, Isaiah Challenge, Avodah service, Yoga, Meditation, and childrens' programs, as well as those who participated in services in one form or another.
- And last but not least, Rabbi Shahar who joined us shortly before the Holy Days and worked with us to create what some people called “an intimate” experience. We had over 200 computers (with multiple attendees per computer) registered!

Please know that we're forever grateful to each and every one of you!

And for other news ---

The search committee has reconvened for a second round of a leadership search for our congregation. The committee has been meeting since August, has received multiple applications, and is now in the process of final review of current applications and continued recruitment. Word-of-mouth has been an important part of our search. If you have any potential applicants in mind, please have them contact us and let us know of their interest in the position.

At present time we are working on additional events while current events continue. Shabbat services led by our wonderful lay leaders continue almost every Friday night and the weekly Tuesday mornings meditation and prayer program continue as well. Thank you to those congregants who keep our TvO family together by leading those special programs during this time! Stay tuned for upcoming events!

Dues letters went out and we're hoping to have everybody's response this month. Please don't hesitate to contact us at [presidents\\_20@tikkunvor.org](mailto:presidents_20@tikkunvor.org) if you have any questions or concerns. We truly appreciate any contribution you may be able to give.

*Continued on page 2*

In this time of confronting our country's history of oppression and social inequalities, dealing with the number of natural disasters due in part to climate change, the increasing numbers of Covid cases, and the upcoming elections that keep us all awake at night, let's keep each other in our hearts, send love to the world around us, and support our family, friends, community, and the nation in any way you can. And don't forget to VOTE!!!

Warmly,

Denice Cassaro and Nomi Talmi

## ***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 e-news list, contact [info@tikkunv.org](mailto:info@tikkunv.org)***

Friday, November 6, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat)

Led by Michael Margolin & Mirit Bessire with the students of Kitah Vav & Zayin (6th & 7th grade)

Friday, November 13, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat)

Led by Miranda Phillips

Friday, November 20, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) Led by Lauren Korfine

Friday, November 27, No services scheduled

Friday, December 4, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) Led by Carol and Sam Shama

Saturday, December 5, 10 am Shabbat morning service

Led by Michael Margolin & Mirit Bessire with the students of Kitah Vav & Zayin (6th & 7th grade)

Friday, December 11, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) and Chanukah Celebration with Marne Oshae and Azemeyra

Friday, December 18, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) Led by Faith Rogow

No services scheduled for December 25 or January 1.

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).



*Join us on Zoom  
to Celebrate Chanukah!  
Friday, December 11, 7:30 pm  
Music with Azemeyra  
More info coming soon!*

## Jewish Learning Experiences

## בית ספר תיקון ואור

**Kitah Bet/Gimel** כיתה ב/ג (grades 2/3) students are practicing Hebrew reading and thinking about the stories of the Torah. Who are our ancestors? Why do we tell these stories?

**Kitah Daled/Hey** כיתה ד/ה (grades 4/5) students are exploring what it means to tell the truth, even when it is difficult or unpopular, as it often was for the prophets of our traditions. They are relating this to important issues of our times, including climate change, the Black Lives Matter movement, and COVID 19.

For Simchat Torah, **Kitah Vav/Zayin (grades 6/7)** made Torahgami -- origami based on the stories of Creation, and used funny animal filters to re-create the story of Noah's ark, exploring questions about why Noah was *not* the leader of a new people. They study the Hebrew text too, expanding their reading skills with Torah study.

Together we are navigating the challenges of breakout rooms, chats, and screen sharing, but also getting to know each other by our background screens, silly filters, and learning together. Another supply bag for each student will be coming in December, with special goodies for Chanukah!

## Teens v'Or

Teens are continuing to meet twice-monthly during the school year. In September they examined antisemitism, and picked apples. In October they discussed the upcoming elections and decorated pumpkins. All TVO teens are welcome to join in these conversations and outings! Contact Tali <aabraham@ithaca.edu>

## Gan Shabbat

## גן שבת

Kids ages 4-6, along with siblings and caregivers, are invited to a monthly zoom Shabbat program.

Join Rabbi Tziona Szajman and her daughter Eliyana and special guest puppet Shloimi, to sing songs, hear wisdom from puppets, and learn about Jewish holidays and Torah. Come in pajamas if you like and bring a stuffed animal. This is a warm open space for having fun with Judaism. Prepare for lots of movement, games, and stories.

The next sessions are November 14 and December 12, from 10-10:30 a.m.

Rabbi's Tziona's website:

<https://therestfulrabbi.godaddysites.com>



## **Condolences**

## **תנחומים**

Tikkun v'Or sends our condolences to Lauren Korfine, Mark Lenzenweger, and their family, on the passing of Lauren's father, Arnie Korfine.

Arnie Korfine died on Friday night after living with pancreatic cancer for almost 3 years. He was 82 years old and died on the day of his mother's 25th yahrtzeit. Lauren asks that the congregation pray for his beautiful soul's journey to its next place, and for her family's hearts while they heal. Donations in memory of Arnie Korfine can be made to the Lustgarten Foundation <https://lustgarten.org> which funds research on pancreatic cancer.

Tikkun v'Or sends our condolences to Bryan and Abby Thomas, Owen, and Drew, on the death of Bryan's father, Edward William Thomas, on October 17.

Bryan wrote: "A man with three first names who lived life as if he were three men. One in the sky, one on land and one in the water.

He was a brother, husband, father, and grandpa. He lived a life wearing many hats as a paperboy, Eagle Scout, taxi driver, firefighter, UPS delivery man, airport security guard, Semi-truck driver, a Navy airman, master sky jumper, data processing manager (using computers well before they were a household item), custodial worker, Bus Driver, antique chair caner, Audubon Society volunteer, dog breeder.

Dad lived through his hobbies and his passions. In the clouds he soared as a master skydiver, a licensed glider pilot, he constructed and flew his own ultralight kit airplane, and enjoyed building radio controlled model airplanes. On land he was an explorer and world traveler, he touched foot in all 50 states, he built and drove his own antique style model car, was an avid motorcyclist, a DIY carpenter and handyman, an accomplished bowler, skier, successful black powder hunter and marksman. Dad's life in the water was as a competitive swimmer making the mile swim look as if it were a walk in the park, a licensed boat owner cruising Chautauqua Lake, snorkeling around the world, and explored the ocean scuba diving with tiger sharks.

My Dad has always been a fighter. He came back from 2 broken legs, fused spinal cord, liver cancer, skin cancer, transplant surgery. Now it's time to be at peace."

May their memories be a blessing.

## **Tribute Cards**

Tributes cards have been sent:

To Carl Snitzer in memory of his wife Linda Snitzer, from Shawn Murphy

To Beth Cohen, in memory of her father, from Ann Wexler and Tony Gaenslen

To Lauren Korfine, in memory of her father, from: Ann Wexler & Tony Gaenslen, Hallie Mitnick, and Sherry & Peter Burford

*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> or at (607) 319-4982.*

## Jewish Education Committee

ועד החינוך

The JE Committee focused this late summer and fall on how to approach Jewish learning for the children during the pandemic. With the decision in early August to commit to remote learning for the safety of the TvO community, we concentrated on supporting Naomi using the new tools and resources available. This also included remote High Holiday programming for both younger and school-age groups. We have switched to a monthly Gan Shabbat format for now.



## Mazel tov!

מזל טוב

Mazel tov to Jonathan Plotkin and Barbara Brenner on the wedding of their daughter Sarah to her beloved Jesse (also a local Ithaca native). Their wedding was Sunday, September 6.

## Donors

צדקה

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

#### *General Fund*

Michelle Marino,

*in appreciation of Tuesday morning services*

Bullrock Corporation, *for signing up for solar energy*

Naomi & Joe Wilensky

#### *Yeladim Religious School Fund*

Will Fudeman

#### *Building Fund*

Corinne Stern, *in support of security systems*

#### *Nediv Lev Campaign:*

Richard & Lise Rosenfield

#### *In Support of 30 Poems in 30 Days / Sanctuary Alliance*

Anonymous

Marilynne Sommers

Eileen Millan

Kyle Summerskill

Howard Fishman

Ellen-Marie Brown

#### *High Holiday Donations*

Leslie Adelson & Larry Bieri

Ann Hoffman & Brian Heltsley

Corinne Stern

Nina Miller

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Leyana Dessauer

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Ann Wexler & Gaenslen, Tony

Donald & Kathryn Simons

Naomi Crimm

Robert Coville

Barbara Behrmann

Carol Chernikoff

Seth & Margaret Soulstein

Nancy Young & William George

Eric Goodman

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

## Many Thanks

רב תודה

Thanks to:

- Recent service leaders: Peter Silberman, Barbara Regenspan and Rabbi David Regenspan, Faith Rogow, Anne Brous, Omega Hollies, and Rabbi Tziona Szajman;
- Lauren Korfine, Diana Levy, Judy Saul, and Dalya Tamir for leading the weekly Contemplative Morning Service;
- Barbara Regenspan for coordinating 30 Poems in 30 Days, for Ithaca Sanctuary Alliance, and to all the poets and donors who contributed.

A huge thank you to all who contributed in so many ways to our incredible Zoom HHD. (Please forgive us if we omitted anyone's name. You are not forgotten.) The services were so warm, intensely spiritual, organized, with wonderful participation from the community. The music and musicians were so inspiring with an unmatched sound and technical skill. Rabbi Shahar and the planning committee worked incredibly hard to cover all the bases and they were covered beyond our highest expectations. It is a standard that we hope to bring forward as we move into a new year.

Special thanks to:

- Rabbi Shahar Colt for leading us in beautiful and inspiring ways;
- Ira Kamp for all of his work on the technical and musical side;
- Marne Kamp Oshae for leading Azameira;
- Diana Levy, Miranda Phillips, and Rabbi Shahar for creating the TVO machzor;
- Diana Levy for being the Host of all hosts;
- Miranda Phillips for coordination of coordinators, hosts, and services;
- Elly Frankel, for writing the High Holidays guide, and Lois Levitan for her careful and speedy editing;
- The High Holidays Committee: Miranda Phillips, Diana Levy, Faith Rogow, Elly Frankel, Peter Silberman, Anne Brous, Lauren Korfine, Nomi Talmi, Marne O'shae, Ira Kamp;

And many grateful thanks to:

- Our musicians, Azameira - Marne O'shae, Tamar Kushnir, Lauren Korfine, Richard Rosenfield, Lise Rosenfield, Corinne Stern, Jeff Bercuvitz, Tsadia Bercuvitz;
- Service Coordinators: Elly Frankel, Peter Silberman, Michael Margolin, Beth Cohen, Lois Levitan
- Ushers: Faith Rogow, Lois Levitan, Laurie Willick, Peter Silberman, Beth Cohen, Miranda Phillips, Naomi Wilensky, Zoey Zentner, Haym Hirsh;
- Young participants: Yordana Wilensky, Tsadia Bercuvitz, Sam Sachs, Maya Blanchard, Samuel Debbie, Duffy Berkowitz, Julia Kleinberg, Maren Friedman;
- Shira Reisman, Miranda Phillips, Lois Levitan and Martha Armstrong, and Sharon Ziegler, for imagining, organizing and ushering our sweet apples and honey picnic -- such a gift to be able to celebrate safely together in person;
- Jeff Bercuvitz for his inspiring tashlich and shofar blowing by the inlet;
- Shofar blowers: Peter Silberman, Jeff Bercuvitz, Max Rubenstein-Miller
- Fran Markover, for sharing her powerful poetry;
- Chris White for his haunting Kol Nidre on the cello;
- Faith Rogow for her meaningful haftorah reading;
- Cantorial leading: Richard Rosenfield, Jeff Bercuvitz, Miranda Phillips;
- Torah Readers - Richard Rosenfield, Lise Rosenfield, Maren Friedman, Dave Tedayan;

- Al Cheit readers – Anne Brous and Omega Hollies;
- Jody (Jyoti) Kessler for leading meditative yoga;
- Ira Kamp for leading contemplative meditation;
- Michael Margolin for leading the Avodah service;
- Judy Saul for moderating this year's Isaiah Challenge Remembering Kirby Edmonds and for planning with Laura Branca;
- Laura Branca, Kristian Davis Bailey, Taili Mugambee, Elan Shapiro, and Roberta Wallit for sharing how profoundly Kirby touched their lives;
- Elly Frankel for her moving Yizkor remembrance about her dad.
- Will Fudeman for his time-honored singing;
- Peter Silberman for coordinating the Yizkor list and other documents;
- Miranda Phillips, Elly Frankel, Tom Frank, Suzanne Aigen, Lois and Martha, Rachael Shapiro, Peter Silberman, and Naomi Wilensky for delivering the machzorim (prayerbooks) around town;
- Rabbi Tziona Szajman and Naomi Wilensky, and Jeff Bercovitz for leading children's programs;
- Naomi Wilensky for registration and zoom management;
- Jonathan Plotkin and Nomi Fridman for their incredible perseverance getting our TvO wifi upgraded so we could stream services reliably;
- Nomi Talmi and Denice Cassaro for their leadership, words of welcome, inspiration and guidance;
- All who had other honors and readings and shared their thoughts for al chet readings;
- Also, thanks to all who donated food and snacks for Southside and "No More Tears / No Mas Lagrimas," and to Anne Brous, Faith Rogow, Elly Frankel, and Miranda Phillips for hosting the collections. Thanks to Anne Brous for taking 3 loads of supplies to the "No More Tears/ No Mas Lagrimas" building behind the old Green Star. They are very grateful, as is the Avodah Committee, for the enthusiastic response to our request to our TvO community.

*That's more than forty TvO and community members mentioned by name who contributed to making these high holidays happen in such a special way. We know and honor that many more of you participated with your food donations, your readings, your prayers, your patience, your spirit, and your presence. We thank you all for sharing this time together.*

### **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:

September and October: The Debbie family

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 Area United Jewish Community

*Honoring Our Past, Shaping Our Future*

### YOUR SUPPORT TODAY IS CRITICAL TO SUSTAIN OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY FOR IAUGC AND ALL THE LOCAL & GLOBAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS THAT WE SUPPORT

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Look for us on Facebook

Best wishes for a safe and healthy 5781 from the IAUGC board. Since March we are all struggling in the face of the pandemic from health issues, both physical and psychological, and with economic hardships. Despite the restrictions imposed on us, we and all of our local Jewish organizations are working hard in new ways. The IAUGC aims to support the Jewish community both locally and internationally. We can only do this with your support which is so vital.

As in prior years:

- **Grants to local Jewish organizations** were disbursed, based on the funds designated and collected in last year's campaign. Funds went to the religious schools of Temple Beth El and Congregation Tikkun v'Or; the Hillels at Cornell and Ithaca College; B'Yachad Jewish Preschool and Chabad. These organizations have been as active as ever.

We did have to cancel two large community events this spring, but we have been busy developing other ways in which we may serve you:

- **IAUGC made a generous contribution to Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard.**
- We established the new **Hesed Emergency Fund**, to help Jewish individuals in financial need. With the help of the leadership of our local Jewish organizations, a number of families and individuals have already benefited, through grocery gift cards, direct grants and help with paying rent. Thank you to those who donated to the fund to make this possible.
- **Local PJ Library and PJ Our Way families** have been receiving monthly gift bags from IAUGC containing activities for children, treats and items to celebrate Shabbat and the holidays. We have organized Zoom gatherings each month so that PJ families could socialize and do Jewish activities together. **In some cases, we partnered with Chabad, Tikkun v'Or and Temple Beth El and will continue to partner with others locally in delivering these programs and services.**

Our 2020 campaign ends on December 31st, and we find that donations are lagging far behind last year. This means that both our local grant recipients, and Jews around the world who receive our aid, will suffer. In order to continue our support at established levels, we are dependent on your generosity. Many of you may not be in the position of donating at the levels you have in the past. All donations together do make a difference, so donate whatever you can. We hope that others of you may be able to increase your donation to make up for those who cannot. When we help others, we make a significant difference!

You may contribute online at <https://iaujc.org/causes-we-support> or mail your check to IAUGC PO Box 4214 Ithaca NY 14852-4214. If you are sending a check and would like to allocate your gift to a specific fund or funds, please include a note with instructions.

We are learning how to do virtual outreach and will be setting up small focus groups to brainstorm ways in which we can best serve you. Write to [Marjorie@iaujc.org](mailto:Marjorie@iaujc.org) if you would like to be part of a focus group. Our next event (by ZOOM) entitled **Covid-19: Its Impact on Jewish Ithaca and Beyond** is scheduled for Dec 6<sup>th</sup>. Further details to follow.

Thank you if you have already sent in your 2020 donation, and if you have not, please send in your contribution as soon as possible

With hope for a year of good health and blessings in 5781,

Marjorie Hoffman, Campaign Chair

Marcia Zax, Chair



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

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For updated calendar  
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or check <[www.tikkunvor.org](http://www.tikkunvor.org)>  
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## Contents תוכן

From the Co-Presidents.....	1-2
Shabbat and Holidays.....	2
Jewish Learning Experiences (JLE).....	3
Teens v'Or.....	3
Gan Shabbat.....	3
Condolences.....	4
Tribute Cards.....	4
Jewish Education Committee.....	5
Mazel tov.....	5
Donors.....	5
Many Thanks.....	6-7
Feeding the Hungry.....	7
IAUJC.....	8
Congregational Leadership .....	9

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

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