



# Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Ithaca Reform Temple  
Spirit • Community • Justice

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Issue 222

January - February 2021

Tevet - Shevat - Adar 5781

טבת - שבט - אדר

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## Co-Presidents' Words

דברי הנשיא

Dear Friends,

As we have now passed the winter solstice, each day is getting longer and the nights shorter. With all that is going on in the world, in our country, in our community/communities and within ourselves, the increasing daylight and the prospect of positive changes ahead provides us with greater opportunity to expand our hearts with gratitude, love, and compassion.

The last few months have been challenging in so many ways: the continued devastating loss of lives and the unaddressed financial pressures due to COVID, the inequalities within our country, the social isolation we feel as we try to keep each other safe and healthy. Through it all, we continue to show up for each other and to reach deep inside ourselves and within our beloved community. We have embraced and supported members who have experienced deep and painful losses, some by sharing their shiva services and others by staying connected with them in their grief.

Though we know the next few months will be very rough for our country due to where we are in our handling of the pandemic, in this season of lights we also get to reflect the times that bring the warmth of light into our lives, like celebration of Chanukah with our family, friends and community. We will continue to bear witness to the immense sharing and helping of others in need, and the appreciating of the beauty of nature and the souls around us.

You'll see in this newsletter a Leadership Search Committee report written by Judy Saul about upcoming Shabbatonim with three rabbis. We are truly excited about each of these three candidates and believe you will be too! The Shabbatonim are spread out in January and February with a couple of weeks between them to allow you to think about and "digest" your thoughts, feelings, and impressions of the individual candidates. We need each and every one of you to take part in this important step in the history of Tikkun v'Or. Please join as many parts of the Shabbaton as you can and make your voices heard!

In anticipation of a few more months of mask wearing, we are going to "turn lemons into lemonade" and announce a TvO mask design competition very soon. The competition will involve TvO's younger generation - JLE students and other TvO kids - and the judges will be all Tikkun v'Or members. Keep your eyes open for this announcement!

In light and warmth ... Nomi and Denice

***Shabbat and Holidays***

שבת וחגים

*No services scheduled for January 1.*

Saturday, January 2, 10-10:45 am	Gan Shabbat with Rabbi Tziona Szajman
Friday, January 8, 6:30 pm	<i>Shabbaton</i> : Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat)
Saturday, January 23, 10:00 am	<i>Shabbaton</i> : Shabbat Morning Service
Friday, January 15, 7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) Led by Michael Margolin and Drew Thomas
Saturday, January 16, 10 am	Shabbat Morning Service - with Michael Margolin Bar Mitzvah: Drew Thomas, son of Abby & Bryan Thomas
Friday, January 22, 6:30 pm	<i>Shabbaton</i> : Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat)
Saturday, January 23, 10:30 am	<i>Shabbaton</i> : Shabbat Morning Service
Friday, January 28, 7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) Leader TBA
Friday, February 5, 6:30 pm	<i>Shabbaton</i> : Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat)
Saturday, February 6, 10 am	<i>Shabbaton</i> : Shabbat Morning Service
Friday, February 12, 7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) with Leader TBA
Friday, February 19, 7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) with Leader TBA
Saturday, February 20, 10 a.m.	Gan Shabbat with Rabbi Tziona Szajman
Friday, February 26, 7:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) Led by Michael Margolin and Rennie Smolenski
Saturday, February 27, 10 am	Shabbat Morning Service - with Michael Margolin Bat Mitzvah: Rennie Smolenski, daughter of Alita Howard & Karl Smolenki

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).

**Contemplative Morning Services: Tuesdays from 8:30-9:30 a.m.**

This weekly morning service, alive with music, poetry, prayer, quiet contemplation and a sense of community, has become a weekly anchor for many of us in these uncertain times. Led by Lauren Korfine, Diana Levy, Judy Saul, and Dalya Tamir. All are welcome!

Check your TvO weekly email or contact [info@tikkunvor.org](mailto:info@tikkunvor.org) for the Zoom link.

## Search Committee

The Search Committee is pleased to present three finalists for our position of Spiritual Leader. These candidates will be introduced to the congregation during three Shabbatonim on the weekends of **January 8, January 22 and February 5.**

Everyone is invited to a family-friendly Kabbalat Shabbat service at 6:30 pm on Friday evenings and a Shabbat morning service at 10 am on Saturdays (10:30 on January 23).

Members are also invited to a “meet and greet” at 3 pm on Saturdays and an adult education class from 3:30 to 5 on Sundays. JLE students (and their families) are encouraged to participate in a teaching from 10:45-11:15 a.m. on Sundays, and parents of JLE students are invited to a parents’ meeting at 7 pm on Mondays. Because of the pandemic, all events will be virtual. Further information and zoom links will be available before each weekend.

We realize that participating in these three Shabbatonim will take a significant amount of time. Since many of us will not be able to make all of the events, we encourage you to attend the same event at each Shabbaton so that you are better able to compare the candidates. Recordings will be made of the services and adult education classes, so those who cannot attend live may view the events at another time.

The Board is currently discussing the way in which it will gather member feedback and will announce the process as soon as it is finalized. We look forward to seeing you many times during January and February.

*Abby and Bryan Thomas  
invite you to join us as our son*

*Drew Francis Thomas*

*is called to the Torah  
as a Bar Mitzvah  
Saturday, January 16, 2021  
10 a.m.*

*Please join me  
as I'm called to the Torah  
for my Bat Mitzvah  
Saturday, February 27, 2021  
10:00 am*

*Rennie Catherine Smolenski*

JLE is continuing on Zoom this spring, with classes on Sunday mornings (starting on January 10) from 10-11 am, and on Wednesdays (for vav/zayin) from 4-5 pm.

There are no classes on Sundays February 14, and no classes on Wednesday February 17.

As we begin again in 2021, we look forward to JLE students meeting with rabbis during our three Shabbatons, from 10:45-11:15 am at the end of our JLE session. We appreciate students staying for the additional 15 minutes of conversation.

**Sundays January 10, January 24, and February 7:** A teaching for JLE students in grades 2 through 7 from 10:45 – 11:15 am. JLE classes will begin as usual at 10 am. We will meet together as a group at 10:45 and encourage parents and caregivers to join us until 11:15.

**Mondays January 11, January 25, and February 8, 7 pm:** A meeting with parents of JLE students .

Classes this year are focusing on connecting Torah and tradition with the world around us today.

**Kitah Bet/Gimel** ב/ג כיתה (grades 2/3) human rights and Chanukah. What does it mean to have religious freedom? They continue to add to their folders of *brachot* (blessings).

**Kitah Daled/Hey** ד/ה כיתה (grades 4/5) continues to consider stories of the Prophets of our traditions and current issues. What does Judaism say about water, and how did Miriam keep the Israelites connected to water? Why does the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe want to stay connected to water? Why did Miriam bring her tambourines but not extra bread when preparing to flee Egypt? Students consider all these questions, and share their own answers as they learn.

**Kitah Vav/Zayin (grades 6/7)**

Who or what does Jacob wrestle with? What do you wrestle with? What did Joseph's dreams say about him and his brothers, what do your dreams tell you, and what did the famous Jewish pschy Sigmund Freud think about dreams?

In the midweek class, students prepared and then led (with teachers Michael Margolin and Mirit Bessire, and madrichim Shoshana and Leeyam), two amazing and thoughtful / thought-provoking Shabbat services (one evening and one morning). They also discussed what a dvar Torah is, and some famous Torah commentators, and questions they might ask God.

On **Sunday, February 21, at 10 a.m.** we are planning a very special program with **THE BIBLE PLAYERS**, a Jewish comedy improv group. They will do a live Zoom program for a combined session hosted with JLE, the Rabbi Felix Aber Religious School of Temple Beth El, and IAUJC/ PJ Library/PJ Our Way of Ithaca. Stay tuned for details!

### **JEWISH SUMMER CAMP!**

Several Jewish overnight camps successfully opened last summer, and even more are making plans to open for summer 2021, with COVID precautions.

For more information about camps and to learn about \$1000 camperships:  
Foundation for Jewish Camp at <https://jewishcamp.org> or contact [naomi.wilensky@tikkunvor.org](mailto:naomi.wilensky@tikkunvor.org)  
To apply for a grant from IAUJC: <https://iaujc.org/>



## Gan Shabbat

## גן שבת

Kids ages 4-6, along with siblings and caregivers, are invited to a monthly zoom Shabbat program with Rabbi Tziona Szajman, her daughter Eliyana, puppet Shloimi, and sometimes even NumNum the hamster and a variety of LOL dolls! Sing, dance, laugh, and enjoy a little Shabbat time together from 10-10:45 am

Next programs: January 2 and February 20

Rabbi Tziona's website:

<https://therestfulrabbi.godaddysites.com>



## Teens V'Or

Teens v'Or held a virtual Latke Competiton! Entries were judged on presentation, but we heard that they tasted fabulous too! Teens will continue to meet virtually throughout the winter! Contact Tali Abraham <[aabraham@ithaca.edu](mailto:aabraham@ithaca.edu)> for more information.

## ***Building Committee***

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Do you own or have access to a scissor lift or something similar? We would like to do some light bulb changing, cobweb removal, etc. and the ceiling in our sanctuary is quite high.

We are hoping to avoid a high rental fee if someone in the congregation has something like this available to them.

Please reach out to Shawn Murphy at smurphesf@gmail.com or 607-351-7898 if you can help out. Thank you!

## ***Condolences***

תנחומים

Tikkun v'Or sends our condolences to Barbara Brenner and Jonathan Plotkin on the death of Barbara's brother, Michael Brenner, who passed away on December 14, 2020 at the age of 68 from a COVID infection. Michael was devoted to his family and friends and passionate about running the family business. His generosity extended to helping fund the construction of our TvO building.

Tikkun v'Or sends our condolences to Carol Chernikoff and family. Ruth Chernikoff, mother of Carol, grandmother of Jake (Christine) & Sam, great grandmother of Sadie, passed away peacefully on November 23 in Ithaca. *Ruth lived in the DC area for 70 years and moved to Ithaca in September 2019. She lived at Old Hundred where she received the most loving care. We loved having mom here & being with her all the time. Ruth was a nurse, was passionate about her family & friends, enjoyed sewing, painting, tennis, basketball & football. We are so grateful to the staff at Old Hundred & Hospicare for their support.*

TvO sends our condolences to Sara and Mark Pruce, Jonah, and Lilah, on the death of Sara's father, Rabbi Yisroel Teitelbaum, on Thursday, October 29.

May their memory be a blessing.

## ***Donors***

צדקה

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

*General Fund*

Dorian Fine

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Elizabeth Bixler, in honor of Ann Hoffman

Carol Bushberg, on Giving Tuesday, in honor of Cantor

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Jeffrey Furman & Sara Hess

The Greene-Milstein Family Foundation

### *Nediv Lev Campaign:*

Shawn Murphy

The numerous donors who supported the 30 Poems in 30 days for Ithaca Sanctuary Alliance Appeal through the GoFundMe page. The funds have now been sent to the First Congregational Church and distributed to the recipient.

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

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

מאכיל רעבים

Tikkun v'Or helps St. John's Community Services provide meals to those who need, by making 60 lunches for the 4th Thursday of each month. Thank you for making lunches:

Thanks to the Enns family, the Savran / Kelly family, the Debbie family, and Robin & Ed Dubovi for making lunches in November.

Thanks to Ken Birman and Anne Neiryneck for making lunches in December.

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.

## ***Many Thanks***

רב תודה

Thanks to:

- Recent service leaders: Miranda Phillips, Lauren Korfine, Carol & Sam Shama, and Faith Rogow
- The students of kitah vav and zayin (6th and 7th grade) for leading a Friday night service in November and a Saturday morning service in December: Julia, Bram, Sonia, Tsadia, Ozzie, Dalia, Maren, Yordi, Drew, Menzie, Coco, Kayla, Rennie, Ruby, Elijah, and Liliana. Thanks to morim (teachers) Michael Margolin, Mirit Bessire, and Kenny Berkowitz, and to madrichim (assistants) Shoshana Manscalo, Leeyam, Owen, and Samuel for preparing the students;
- Marne Oshae and Azamayra singers: Lise Rosenfield, Richard Rosenfield, and Corinne Stern for their lovely Chanukah concert. Thanks to Ira Kamp for running the sound system and to Michael Margolin and Naomi Wilensky for zoom hosting;
- Temple Beth-El and Rabbi Rachel Safman for inviting Congregation Tikkun v'Or to Chanukah programs and for joining us for a Chanukah concert;
- Rabbi Tziona Szajman for leading Gan Shabbat; and
- Lauren Korfine, Diana Levy, Judy Saul, and Dalya Tamir for leading the weekly Contemplative Morning Service.

## ***Tribute Cards***

Tributes cards have been sent:

To Miriam Korfine, and to Lauren Korfine and Mark Lenzenweger, by Helen and Herman Lenzenweger in memory of Arnie Korfine. May his memory be for a blessing.

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

To Barbara Brenner in memory of Michael Brenner, from: Alicia & Martin Hirschhorn, and from Sherry & Peter Burford, from Beth Cohen, and from Annie Wexler & Tony Gaenslen.

*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](mailto:sherry@tikkunvor.org)> or at (607) 319-4982.*

## Jewish Education Committee

ועד החינוך

This year our newly renamed Jewish Learning Experiences has adapted well to the Zoom platform, with the teachers stepping up and doing a fantastic job with all of the amazing resources and guidance from Naomi. Multiple training opportunities have happened at all levels. The Teens V'Or youth group continues to meet virtually with discussions and even a latke cook off! We are heading into winter break, and look forward to returning with visitors for some Purim Programming.

## Membership & Welcoming Committee

ועד החברות

Welcome to our newest member, Susan Arotzky.

For more information about becoming a member of TvO, contact Jennifer <jennifer.kagan@oswego.edu>

## Tu B'Shvat and Purim

טו בשבט ופורים

Holiday information from URJ <[ReformJudaism.org](http://ReformJudaism.org)>:

**Tu B'Shvat**, or the “New Year of the Trees,” is Jewish Arbor Day. The holiday is observed on the 15th (tu) of the Hebrew month of Shvat. This year it begins on the evening of Thursday, January 27, 2021. Scholars believe that originally Tu BiShvat was an agricultural festival, marking the emergence of spring. In the 17th century, Kabbalists created a ritual for Tu BiShvat that is similar to a Passover seder, with the eating of many fruits and nuts. It is a time to think about our connections to the earth and the seasons.



**Purim** is a joyous holiday that affirms and celebrates Jewish survival and continuity throughout history. The communal celebration involves a public reading of the Book of Esther (Megillat Esther), which tells the story of the holiday: Under the rule of King Ahashverosh, Haman, the king's adviser, plots to exterminate all of the Jews of Persia. His plan is foiled by Queen Esther and her cousin Mordechai, who ultimately save the Jews of Persia from destruction. The reading of the megillah typically is a rowdy affair, punctuated by booing and noise-making when Haman's name is read aloud. We eat hamentashen (triangular pastries), give money to the poor, and gives gifts of treats to friends and neighbors. Purim begins on the evening of Thursday, February 25, 2021.



## Mazel tov!

מזל טוב

Mazel tov to Alan Blankstein and Mana Hourieh Rezaeizadah and sisters Sarah and Ava, on the birth of Samuel Reza Blankstein, on December 23.

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## Ithaca Area United Jewish Community

*Honoring Our Past, Shaping Our Future*

Winter 2020 - 2021

Dear Community Members,

IAUJC has been active during the pandemic, although not in the public space. We had to cancel two large events in the spring, unfortunately. These were our Community Dinner and our annual Holocaust Commemoration. We look forward to organizing such large events again in the future.

Our PJ Library programs for young families have been very active since July; with monthly Zoom gatherings and the distribution of gift bags filled with fun activities and information on Shabbat and holidays. In December, the gift bag included a brownie mix and directions for using it to create an edible menorah! Thirty families (51 children in all) enjoyed these gifts. We also had a PJ family host a Zoom gathering and read a favorite Hanukkah book to those who attended.

Early in the pandemic, IAUJC created the Hesed Emergency Fund and reached out for donations to help folks in the Jewish community who are suffering financially due to the economic lock down. Over \$5000 was contributed since then. Thank you! Approximately \$2000 has been used to help local people in need through grocery gift cards and direct payments to creditors.

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, we hosted our first community-wide virtual gathering in coordination with our partners at The Jewish Federation of North America, Network of Independent Communities. We had local speakers including young people who described the benefits of Jewish summer camp experiences, as well as videos that illustrated both local and international programs that are ongoing during this pandemic. Our keynote speaker was Michael Siegal, Board of Governors Chair of The Jewish Agency for Israel. Mr. Siegal described the function and mission of the Jewish Agency and some of its programs in Israel. He also answered questions from our attendees. One video that he showed was of a recent plane load of Ethiopian immigrants arriving in Israel and being greeted by the Prime Minister.

IAUJC will continue its efforts in providing a solid foundation for our Jewish community here and around the world. We hope that you will consider a last minute gift at the conclusion of our annual campaign.

Sincerely, and with best wishes for a joyful 2021,

Marjorie Hoffman

### BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

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**Congregational Leadership****מנהיגות**

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

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