

# Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Ithaca Reform Temple Spirit • Community • Justice

Issue 223

March-April 2021

Adar - Nissan - Iyar 5781

אדר - ניסן - אייר

#### Co-Presidents' Words

דברי הנשיא

Dear all,

We would like to raise a toast to you, our members, for taking us to the finish line with your incredible participation at the final stages of Tikkun v'Or search for our future spiritual leader. We are so grateful to be a part of a congregation of people who are so thoughtful, caring, and extremely intelligent! Yes, it can be challenging at times, but it's also what propels us forward and makes us grow in so many wonderful ways!

This past Sunday's meeting resulted in a choice of our spiritual leader. Over 90 members voted and 83% approved the decision. We will keep you updated as we move through the final stages of this process.

It is clear to us we are one strong community and that, no matter what, we're together. What an amazing congregation we are!

With deep gratitude, Nomi and Denice Co-presidents





#### Shabbat and Holidays

שבת וחגים

Friday, March 5, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) Led by Peter Silberman Friday, March 12, 7 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) Led by Miranda Phillips and the students of Kitah Bet/Gimel (2nd and 3rd grade) \*Note early start time! Friday, March 19, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) Led by Carol Shama Saturday, March 20, 10-10:45 am Gan Shabbat with Rabbi Tziona Szajman Friday, March 26 No services scheduled Friday, April 2, 6-7 pm Virtual Passover (see page 3) Friday, April 9, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) Leader TBA Friday, April 16, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) Leader TBA Saturday, April 17, 10-10:45 am Gan Shabbat with Rabbi Tziona Szajman Friday, April 23, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) Led by Michael Margolin and Elijah Kelly Saturday, April 24, 10 am Shabbat Morning Service - with Michael Margolin Bar Mitzvah: Elijah Kelly, son of Jennifer Savran Kelly and Chris Kelly Friday, April 30, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) Leader TBA

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

The schedules are also updated regularly on the TvO Facebook page and website 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 for the Zoom link.

Christopher Kelly and Jennifer Savran Kelly
invite you to join us
as our son
Elijah Savran Kelly
is called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah
Saturday, April 24, 2021
10:00 a.m.

#### Passover Seder, April 2, 6-7 p.m.

פסח

Virtual Passover Seder (Spirit, Fun, Togetherness!)

The Avodah Committee organizing a virtual seder, with a tentative date of April 2. If you would like to volunteer to be a reader, contact Joan Friedman at <friedman.joan@gmail.com>.

In addition to the traditional Passover/seder and the themes of oppression, racism, injustice, we will be suggesting that donations be made in TvO's name to be split between The Cayuga Share Farm (see information about this under Social Justice News the TVO weekly e-newsletter) and Kitchen Cupboard (to which we have donated historically from our in-person seder revenue). Details about how to do this will follow at a later date.

We will encourage all zoom participants to have matzoh and wine/grape juice, charoset, etc. available for use during the service. And for anyone who wants, we will share a Jewish zoom meal at the end of the service, from 7-8 pm

If possible, let Peter Silberman <silbermanp@gmail.com> or Anne Brous <Anne@ithacabakery.com> know if you intend to be present at this event. The zoom link will be sent as it gets closer.

#### Discussion with Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Thursday March 18, 7-9 p.m.

Rabbi Arthur Waskow (who joined us for Tikkun v'Or's virtual seder last year) recently published a new book: *Dancing in God's Earthquake: The Coming Transformation of Religion*. We have the opportunity to meet with Rabbi Waskow to discuss his book and his vision for the future of religion. At this time of transition for our congregations, and our nation, what could be more fitting the moment?

We will be ordering copies of Rabbi Waskow's book for you to read prior to the program at a special discounted rate of \$12.50 per book. For us to get the books in time, please let us know you are interested in a copy of the book by midnight of Monday March 8. You can order a copy of the book even if you are not able to attend the program. Check your email for information about ordering and the zoom link, or email info@tikkunvor.org.

### 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 Alita Howard, Sue Merkel and Joe Yavitt, and the Milstein-Touesnard family for making lunches in January.

Thanks to Paul and Dorothy Debbie for making lunches in February.

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.

#### Jewish Learning Experiences

<u>בית ספר תיקון ואור</u>

JLE students returned to (online) class after a few weeks' break. They continue to make all kinds of Joy And Meaning (JAM!) with JLE (JELLY!). This is starting to sound like a very sweet sandwich! On Sunday, February 21 **The Bible Players** led a combined session with JLE, the Rabbi Felix Aber Religious School of Temple Beth-El, and IAUJC/ PJ Library/PJ Our Way of Ithaca. We heard a silly retelling of the Purim story and played goofy games on zoom.

We will be joining together again on **Sunday, March 20** for the **JRadio All-Star Interactive Passover Seder.** Classes will begin at usual at 10 am, and then at 10:30 we'll switch to a new link for the program from 10:30-11:15 am.

All JLE students recieved a special delivery of *mishloach manot* (Purim bags) with a grogger, Purim puzzles, a mask to decorate, hamentashen, and candy. Happy Purim!

**Kitah Bet/Gimel** ביתה ב/ג (grades 2/3) students often start their morning by breaking into groups with Morah Chava (Miranda) and Ezri for Hebrew studies. It's stil fairly new for some of them, but they are learning quickly.

This class is already preparing to lead a **Shabbat service on March 12 (7 pm)**. Join us to sing songs, light candles and eat challah and favorite foods, drink wine/grape juice, and say thank you prayers. The students will help lead these -- by singing them, and by sharing with you how they connect with these prayers.

Kitah Daled/Hey ביתה ד/ה (grades 4/5) students considered how interactions with people and interactions with the environment are connected. How do we each bring shalom (peace) and tikkun (healing) to our world? How do Jewish communities and individuals organize to bring about change? Michael, Duffy, and Sam pose challenging questions; the students offer both answers and more challenging questions back!

In Hebrew, they are focusing on nikkudot (vowels). These can be tricky to remember, but important for reading.

**Kitah Vav/Zayin** (**grades 6/7**) explored the plagues in the Torah, and the race for a polio vaccine between competing Jewish doctors, Albert Sabin and Jonas Salk.

They often start off their mornings with an important question for the class. They then split into groups for Hebrew and Judaic Studies. With Kenny, students look at the parasha of the week, using illustrated slides to delve into some deep questions. "Mr Dictionary" (Owen) helps define some terms, and "Mr Mitzvah" (Samuel) shares a related mitzvah for the week. With Mirit and Leeyam, students explore Hebrew words and concepts, combining study of Hebrew in prayers, roots from biblical Hebrew and modern conversational usage.

In the midweek class, students are delving into ideas about identity -- Jewish identity, American identity, pre-teen identity, and what this all means to them. They explored using the Hebrew word "Ani" (I) in song, sentences, and poetry. In the midweek class, students are exploring social identity and how being Jewish fits in to that. They shared items which symbolized themselves and examined Jewish objects from Beit Hatfutsot (The Museum of the Jewish People) in Tel Aviv, and other museums.

We'll continue to have Jewish Learning Experiences together through March and April, with breaks on Sundays March 28 and April 4 (and Wednesdays March 31 and April 7).

#### **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

To apply for a grant from IAUJC: https://iaujc.org/

#### Jewish Education Committee

<u>ועד החינוך</u>

The Jewish Education Committee had very successful discussions with all three spiritual leadership candidates. Tu biShvat was celebrated in JLE, continuing to meet via Zoom. We had an exciting special Purim session with the Bible Players Purim was celebrated with a joint online event with Temple Beth-El. We celebrated two intimate and personal online B'nai Mitzvah and look forward to 3/4? more this spring. We still hope to be able to wrap the JLE year with a socially-distanced siyyum celebration in May.

גן שבת Gan Shabbat

Children ages 4-6, along with siblings and caregivers, are invited to a monthly zoom Shabbat program with Rabbi Tziona Szajman, her daughter Eliyana, and NumNum the hamster. In February, children learned the story of Purim, made their own graggers, sang a song, and played "Stump the Rabbi."

March 20, 10-10:45 am

Join Rabbi Tziona, her daughter Eliyana and NumNum the Hamster for Passover stories, crafts, learning and songs. Our craft is "Make an Afikoman Bag."

For zoom links and to receive the materials to make this with us during our Gan Shabbat please contact <naomi.wilensky@tikkunvor.org>

April 17, 10-10:45 More info coming soon!

Rabbi Tziona's website: https://therestfulrabbi.godaddysites.com

#### Teens V'Or

In January, Teens v'Or had a virutal movie night, and in February, teens made Valentines cards for residents at Oak Hill Manor. Special thanks to Zoey Zentner and all the teens wo showed up to meetings with our leadership candidates; your voices and opinions are important!

Contact Tali Abraham <aabraham@ithaca.edu> for more information about programs with Teens v'Or. All teens associated with TvO are welcome!

תנחומים

Tikkun v'Or sends our condolences to Corinne Stern on the death of her brother-in-law, Allen Stern.

Tikkun v'Or sends our condolences to Joan Friedman and family. James W. Smith, the father of Joan Friedman and grandfather of Noah and Maren, passed away in Ohio on February 8 with his wife and Joan by his side. Born into a sharecropping family in rural Tennessee during the Great Depression, his life was a testament to the power of hard work and relentless determination.

May their memories be a blessing.

# מזל טוב Mazel tov!

Mazel tov to Drew Thomas and Rennie Smolenski on becoming bnai mitzvah!

# צדקה Donors

Many thanks to our recent donors:

General Fund
Gerry Friedman & Sally Dutko

Rabbi Fund Jonathan Plotkin & Barbara Brenner

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 and zoom hosts: Michael Margolin, Anne Brous, Omega Hollies, and Peter Silberman;
- Bnai Mitzvah Zoom hosts: Maya Blanchard, Miranda Philips, and Naomi Wilensky, and Karl Smolenski for his tech support!
- Rabbi Tziona Szajman for leading Gan Shabbat;
- Lauren Korfine, Diana Levy, Judy Saul, and Dalya Tamir for leading the weeklyContemplative Morning Service;
- Special thanks to all who hosted services and meetings during the Shabbatonim: Miranda Phillips, Peter Silberman, Judy Saul, Nomi Fridman, Denice Cassaro, Michael Margolin, Lauren Korfine, Zoey Zentner, Alita Howard, Naomi Wilensky;
- Thanks to Shabbaton musicians and readers: Lise Rosenfield, Richard Rosenfield, Lauren Korfine, Tamar Kushnir, Jeff Bercuvitz, Tsadia Bercuvitz, Corinne Stern, Julia Kleinberg, Will Kleinberg, Bobby Kleinberg, Miranda Phillips, Omega Hollies, and Fran Markover; Torah Readers: Lise Rosenfield and Richard Rosenfield, Noa Shapiro-Tamir, and Miranda Phillips.

Social Justice תיקון עולם

# FROM TvO's JUSTICE IN ISRAEL - PALESTINE COMMITTEE: FILM DISCUSSION Sunday, March 7, 7 pm

Join in a discussion of the 2020 film MAYOR, which is playing via Cinemapolis' Virtual Cinema until March 4. "MAYOR is a real-life political saga following Musa Hadid, the Christian mayor of Ramallah, during his second term in office. His immediate goals: repave the sidewalks, attract more tourism, and plan the city's Christmas celebrations. His ultimate mission: to end the occupation of Palestine. ... MAYOR offers a portrait of dignity amidst the madness and absurdity of endless occupation while posing a question: how do you run a city when you don't have a country?"

To access the film (only available until March 4), go to https://cinemapolis.org/ and scroll down to the 3rd row of film listings. Cost is \$12 for 72 hours access.

The zoom link for the March 7 discussion will be posted in the TVO eNewsletter.

#### FROM TvO's SANCTUARY SUPPORT GROUP:

Early in the pandemic NYS farm laborers were deemed 'essential workers' and thus have been expected to be at their jobs throughout the pandemic. Because the vast majority of farmworkers are undocumented immigrants, they have been ineligible for the various forms of relief that have helped keep U.S. citizens afloat (e.g., stimulus checks, enhanced unemployment insurance) and also ineligible in NYS for COVID-19 vaccinations. At the same time, because of their crowded living and working conditions, there's been an alarming increase in COVID infections in the local farmworker community.

The Cornell Farmworker Program has set up a **FARMWORKER EMERGENCY FUND** to support local farmworkers. If you are in a position to help with any size of tax-deductible donation, please send your check made out to Social Ventures, 124 Westfield Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850, specifying that it's for this fund. Questions? Contact Lois <loislevitan@gmail.com>.

**COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE FOR FARMWORKERS**: Community members can also assist local farmworkers in other ways (e.g., by becoming a notary public, a driver, a legal guardian, English tutor, etc.) Mary Jo Dudley from the Cornell Farmworker Program will be holding an informational session for potential volunteers at a date TBD in March. Contact Laurie Willick <lauriewillick@gmail.com> if you are interested in attending.

#### SAVE THE CAYUGA SHARE FARM: TVO MATCHING FUNDS

The Cayuga SHARE Farm is in danger of being lost. The 70 acre organic farm was the first land returned to the Cayuga people after over 200 years of exile from their homeland. Funds are being raised to keep the farm, near Union Springs, in the hands of the traditional Cayuga (Gayogohóno' People of the Pipe) leaders. *TvO will match donations up to \$500*.

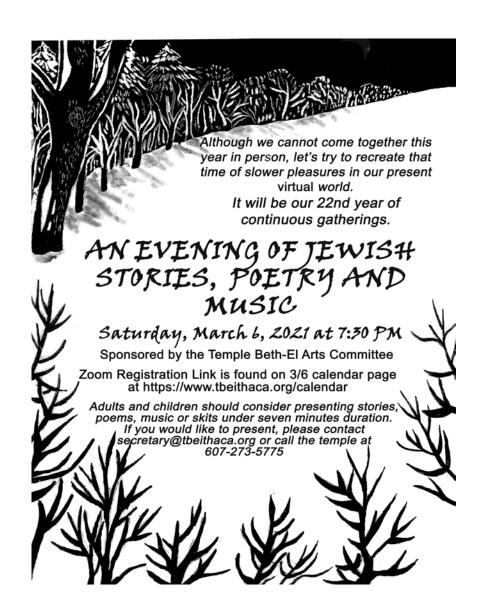
Please send your check donation to Tikkun v'Or and put Save Cayuga Share Farm donation in the Memo line DO NOT donate through the gofundme link! We'll send a check that will include all of your donations plus TvO's donation. Please send your donation to TvO by March 15, 2021. See https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-cayuga-share-farm for more information (but donate via TvO)!

#### **Tribute Cards**

Tribute cards have been sent to Barbara Brenner, from: Carol Chernikoff, in memory of Michael Brenner Martin & Alicia Hirschhorn, in memory of Michael Brenner

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.



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# Ithaca Area United Jewish Community

Honoring Our Past, Shaping Our Future

February 2021

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

The IAUJC is pleased to announce our newest board member, Shani Abel. Shani is an Israeli, and Jerusalem native, who moved to Ithaca for a three-year stay in 2019, with her husband Uriel and two children, Nevo and Keshet. Her past work includes computer programming and project management, writing and editing and working with various non-profit organizations within Israel. She was also a leading member of the French Hill Jewish-Arab community of *Maan-Yahad* in Jerusalem, and hopes her commitment to community engagement and social justice will continue to thrive within Ithaca's Jewish community and beyond.

#### Shani says:

"I believe in the power of community. My neighborhood in Jerusalem comprises Jews of all factions (secular, conservative, ultra-orthodox, modern orthodox), Arabs (Muslim and Christian), Druze, Koreans and Indians. There is nowhere else like it. The community we have built there over the past few years showcases the diversity, while exemplifying the unity and mutual responsibility. In Israel it is easy to be a Jew. It is something we, as Jews, need never think about. We are privileged. Hence, my Jewish community in Israel will always include others. The segregation that pervades the country, not least in the education system, where kids learn almost exclusively with their peers – secular, religious, orthodox, Arab – is a little less pervasive in my neighborhood. My children have known and grown with an incredibly diverse set of peers both in Israel and in the US and I can only be thankful for that.

However, having lived in the US I can appreciate the power of the Jewish community as well. Here, it is harder being a Jew, less obvious, and takes work. My children will not learn about the Jewish holidays at school, they will not celebrate them with their peers, they will not have school sponsored Bar/Bat Mitzva programs, they will not learn about the Holocaust, nor will they understand why they need to attend services on holidays or extracurricular Jewish education programs. Coming from Israel, it seems forced. Growing up here, it seems a necessity. I have seen how quickly my children forget the language and traditions of our ancestors; I understand how important a Jewish community is to help them remember."

We look forward to working with Shani while she is in Ithaca!

Sincerely,

Marjorie Hoffman



# Congregational Leadership

#### מנהיגות

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

Congregation Tikkun v'Or PO Box 3981 Ithaca NY 14852

# Steepation Tikkung

Ithaca Reform Temple Spirit • Community • Justice

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

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