



Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Ithaca Reform Temple
Spirit • Community • Justice

Issue 224 May-June 2021

Iyar - Sivan - Tammuz 5781

אייר סיון - תמוז

Co-Presidents' Words

דברי הנשיא

This spring's weather appears to represent what is happening in our lives and in our beloved congregation. From our earthly ground, plants are pushing their way through to the surface bringing their glorious tenacity and beauty, trees are budding and some even flowering. The wonder and awe of birth and rebirth. The weather reminds us of the world we live in. The coldness, blusteriness and storminess of uncertainty, agitation, and unrest as well as the warmth, calm, and gentle breeze of hope, love, understanding and communion.

We are now being presented with the gifts of birth and rebirth within ourselves and our congregation (as well as our communities and our world!). For the first time in many years, we will be welcoming a new spiritual leader who will be residing in our Ithaca community. Rabbi Shirah Tobacman and her partner will be relocating in July from California to be here with us. What a profoundly wonderful opportunity for us to continue to grow as a congregation, be exposed to familiar and new ways of exploring our Jewish spirituality, and to enrich our journey on being the community we aspire to be. As this journey with our new spiritual leader begins, we will also be carefully emerging from the spaces (both physically and psychologically) we had to create in order to survive the pandemic. We will have the chance to take the lessons we have learned about ourselves, each other, and how we may want to create and enhance those relationships we want to have with each other ... with deeper understanding, respect and love.



We will keep you posted on the opportunities that will be presenting themselves very soon to welcome and acclimate our new spiritual leader Rabbi Shifrah, as well as to meetings, services and celebrations that will bring us back together physically and emotionally!

With deep gratitude and love ...
Denice and Nomi



Shabbat and Holidays

שבת וחגים

- Friday, May 7, 7:30 pm **Kabbalat Shabbat** (Welcoming Shabbat) Led by Annie Wexler, Fran Markover and Lauren Korfine
- Friday, May 14, 7:30 pm **Kabbalat Shabbat** (Welcoming Shabbat) Led by Anne Brous
- Saturday, May 15, 10-10:45 am **Gan Shabbat** with Rabbi Tziona Szajman
- Friday, May 21, 7:30 pm **Kabbalat Shabbat** (Welcoming Shabbat) Led by Carol & Sam Shama
- Friday, May 28, 7:30 pm **Kabbalat Shabbat**(Welcoming Shabbat)
Led by Michael Margolin with Coco Hamilton
- Saturday, May 29, 10 am **Shabbat Morning Service** -with Michael Margolin
Bat Mitzvah: Coco Hamilton, daughter of Melanie and Charles Hamilton
- Friday, June 4, 7:30 pm **Kabbalat Shabbat** (Welcoming Shabbat) Led by Peter Silberman
- Friday, June 11, 7:30 pm **Kabbalat Shabbat**(Welcoming Shabbat) Leader TBA
- Friday, June 18, 7:30 pm **Kabbalat Shabbat**(Welcoming Shabbat)
Led by Michael Margolin with Kayla Gerson
- Saturday, June 19, 10 am **Shabbat Morning Service** with Michael Margolin
Bat Mitzvah: Kayla Gerson, daughter of Maggie and Henry Gerson
- Friday, June 25, 7:30 pm **Kabbalat Shabbat** (Welcoming Shabbat) Led by
Led by Michael Margolin with Ruby Gozen-Keck
- Saturday, June 26, 10 am **Shabbat Morning Service** -with Michael Margolin
Bat Mitzvah: Ruby Gozen-Keck, daughter of Julie Gozen and Tom Keck



Specific information with 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.

*Charlie and Melanie Hamilton
invite you to join us
as our daughter
Colette Red
is called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah
Saturday, May 29
10 a.m.*

*Henry and Maggie Gerson
invite you to celebrate
as our daughter
Kayla Gerson
is called to the Torah
as a bat mitzvah
Saturday, June 19
10 a.m.*

*Please join us as
Ruby Gozan-Keck
is called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah
Saturday, June 26, 2021 10 a.m.
— Julie Gozan and Tom Keck*

Many Thanks

רב תודה

Thanks to:

- Recent service leaders and zoom hosts: Peter Silbeman, Carol and Sam Shama, Barbara Regenspan, Omega Hollies, and Melanie Conroy-Goldman Hamilton;
- Thanks to Michael Margolin for the our recent bnai mitzvah services;
- Miranda Phillips and Ezri Rubenstein-Miller, and Liam, Ava, Ben, Will, Ryan, Eliyana from the bet and gimel (2nd and 3rd grade);
- Will Fudeman for arranging the program with Rabbi Arthur Waskow;
- Omega Hollies and Joel Tabb for leading our virtual Passover seder, and musicians Lauren Korfine, Will Fudeman, Corinne Stern, and Marne Oshae, and to Ira Kamp for sound, and to Fran Markover for sharing her holiday poem; Peter Silberman and Naomi Wilensky for zoom hosting;
- Rabbi Tziona Szajman for leading Gan Shabbat;
- Lauren Korfine, Diana Levy, Judy Saul, and Dalya Tamir for leading the weekly Contemplative Morning Service.

Thanks to Temple Beth-El, IAUJC and PJ Library / PJ Our Way for joining forces with us to bring JRADIO All-Stars to the Ithaca community of learners. It was a great way to start our Passover week!

Kitah Bet/Gimel כיתה ב/ג (grades 2/3) students have become wonderful emerging Hebrew readers! They heard many Jewish folktales, considered the importance of holidays and human rights, and asked what they can do to help others.

Kitah Daled/Hey כיתה ד/ה (grades 4/5) noted the coming of spring and recited blessings on seeing flowers for the first time in the season. How do we become more aware of the changes around us? Students researched Justice Changemakers and shared what they learned.

Kitah Vav/Zayin כיתה ו/ז (grades 6/7) is all about questions. They learned about Jewish baseball player and spy, Moe Berg and wondered about the parts of ourselves we hide from others. They listened to Chuck Berry's "Promised Land" and asked how do we form identities as individuals, and as a people? How does can companies show commitment to racial justice? How do we make decisions? How did the Israelites in the Torah make decisions? Every Torah portion offers questions for our lives today. How do we find some answers?

Do you notice something about all the classes?

Jewish Learning Experiences is all about ASKING QUESTIONS.

We share answers among students, madrichim (assistants), and morim (teachers), add insight from Jewish sources, examine traditions, and consider our own experiences to make valuable connections.

Our final classes for this spring:

Sunday May 2, 10-11 am JLE

Wednesday May 5, 4-5 pm JLE Midweek - vav/zayin

Sunday May 9, 10-11 am JLE

Wednesday May 12, 4-5 pm JLE Midweek - vav/zayin

Sunday 16, 10-11 am JLE *We are hoping that at least some students can meet in person outside at TVO for our final season of this year. More info coming soon!*

Mazel tov to our graduating class: Menzie Berkowitz, Elijah Kelly, Lilliana Kress, Ruby Gozen-Keck, Kayla Gerson, Coco Hamilton, Rennie Smolenski, Drew Thomas, and Yordi Wilensky. We hope to continue to see you all at TVO often, as madrichim, at Teens v'Or, and as valued members of the congregation.

Kol Hakavod to morah (teacher) Mirit Bessire on her new job at Johns Hopkins University. She will still be helping us with our Hebrew curriculum for next year but will not be teaching weekly at JLE.

Today Rabbah Thanks to all our morim (teachers): Rabbi Tziona Szajman, Miranda Phillips, Michael Margolin, Kenny Berkowitz, and Mirit Bessire, and our **madrichim** (assistants) Ezri Rubenstein-Miller, Sam Sachs, Duffy Berkowitz, Samuel Debbie, Leeyam Hadar, Owen Thomas, and Shoshana Manscalo.

Next year: In person!

בשנה הבאה

Gan Shabbat: Saturday, May 15, 10 am

גן שבת

Let's build a mountain!

Join Rabbi Tziona, her daughter Eliyana and NumNum the Hamster for Shavuot stories, songs, and learning.

Build in advance and bring creation or pictures to class OR build all together! Use the materials of your choice to make the Israelites receiving the Torah at Mt Sinai. Will your mountain be made of fruit, lego, paper, icing? Will your Torah be made of clay, cookies, rocks?

For children ages 4-6, along with siblings and caregivers, Rabbi Tziona's website:

<https://therestfulrabbi.godaddysites.com>



Teens v'Or

Teens v'Or had fun this spring with a Passover cooking challenge, and learned about the Gayogohó: no people from Michael Margolin.

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

Donors

צדקה

Many thanks to our recent donors:

Feeding the Hungry

Samuel & Carol Shama

General Fund

Anonymous

Bridget Meeds

Thomas Sperry & Lisa Tsetse

Max Herman

Patricia & Robert Libby

Michelle Marino

Roy Luft & Nancy Emerson

Eva & Arnold Young

In Support of the Cayuga Share Farm:

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Will Fudeman

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Ann Wexler & Tony Gaenslen

Melissa & Peter Enns

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Naomi & Joe Wilensky

Samuel & Carol Shama

Judith Saul & Regi Teasley

Beth Cohen

Mihal Ronen & Bruce McKee

Peter Silberman & Jennifer Kagan

Sherry Altman

Claudia Brenner

The Service Class at LACS

Wendy & Aron Gutman

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

Mazel tov!

מזל טוב

Mazel tov to Elijah Kelly on becoming a bar mitzvah!

Mazel tov to TvO high school graduates — best of luck on all your future endeavors (not all are known at this time): Silas Anderson (Butler University), Duffy Berkowitz, Maya Blanchard (Young Judaea's Year Course in Israel), Samuel Debbie (SUNY New Paltz), Noah Friedman (U.S. Marine Corps), Maryn Horvath (University of Tampa), Jeramie Miles-Robinson, Badyn Milstein-Tousenard, and Max Rubenstein-Miller (University of North Texas College of Music).

Kol HaKavod to TvO's illustrious writers:

Melanie Conroy-Goldman Hamilton's novel *The Likely World* was on the longlist for the 2021 VCU Cabell First Novelist Award and a finalist for the 2020 Foreword Indies Award.

Fran Markover's poetry book, *How Soft the Letting Go* will be published midsummer by Passenger Press. It won second place in the Henry Morgenthau III Poetry Contest. Some poems will be familiar; some poems were part of the Miriam Chaikin Poetry Prize (on Westbeth.org). Other writing included was from 30 poems/30 days composed to support TVO member Barbara Regenspan's fundraiser for Ithaca Sanctuary Alliance. Fran's poems are about family, the Jewish experience, loss and remembrance. She hopes she channeled the sacred in everyday, "ordinary" people, events, objects in our lives. This summer, she'll be attending Marge Piercy's poetry workshop and would love to share new work with her temple family.

Tony Gaenslen has recently published *A Hard Road to Justice / My Life as a Renegade Lawyer*, an account of his lifetime of activism in the Civil Rights, justice, and labor movements.

"This book is about how I went from being a Southerner idealizing Robert E. Lee to jumping into the Civil Rights movement, eventually spending 11 days in a Mississippi death-row jail cell for registering Black people to vote. It recounts my days as a lawyer in California for Cesar Chavez, where I had to be David fighting Goliath, the corporations. It describes how I sued Cornell University for discriminating against its women faculty and how I won that case. My hope is that my story will inspire others to "jump in" and join the great struggle for justice and freedom in our country right now."

"A Hard Road" is available locally at Buffalo Street Books and Odyssey Books, or on Amazon.

Tobi Feldman was a contributor to the recently published *The Truth about Success*, a collaboration by twenty-five women about overcoming loss & heartache, finding & stepping into your authentic self, single motherhood & parenting with a deployed spouse, and healing through medical trauma & scary diagnoses. Available on Amazon or <https://megganlarson.com>.

"Shavuot celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai and encourages us to embrace the Torah's teachings and be inspired by the wisdom Jewish tradition has to offer.

Shavuot is the Hebrew word for "weeks," and the holiday occurs seven weeks after Passover. Shavuot, like many other Jewish holidays, began as an ancient agricultural festival that marked the end of the spring barley harvest and the beginning of the summer wheat harvest. In ancient times, Shavuot was a pilgrimage festival during which Israelites brought crop offerings to the Temple in Jerusalem. Today, it is a celebration of Torah, education, and the choice to participate actively in Jewish life." Shavuot begins this year on Sunday, May 15 at sunset.

More info at <https://reformjudaism.org/jewish-holidays/shavuot>

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 Nina Cummings & Doug Stayman and Dorothy Debbie for making lunches in March. Thanks to Nina Cummings & Doug Stayman, Dorothy Debbie, and Sue Merkel & Joe Yavitt for making lunches in April.

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.



A year ago, the Interfaith Communities of Greater Lansing and Ithaca wished to welcome the residents of Milton Meadows by having our March dinner in their community room. As you know, the pandemic brought all gatherings to a halt.

This year, as we gave thought to celebrating the 4 year anniversary of our Interfaith and Community gatherings, we decided that we would like to contribute to food security within our community.

We are partnering with Milton Meadows residents to stock their own non-perishable free food cabinet. Having something onsite will be particularly helpful to parents with young children and folks with mobility issues.

With the generous support of a skilled carpenter we have provided them with a cupboard where they may share with one another. Milton Meadows is a community that serves veterans and income eligible community members.

While encouraging community members to "give what you can and take what you need", we will add to the cupboard with donated items as well. Look for a box in the entry at TvO, when available, or reach out to Shawn Murphy to make other arrangements at smurphesf@gmail.com, (607)351-7898.

Follow us on Facebook @interfaithcommunity



Tribute Cards

Tributes cards have been sent

From Beth Cohn:

In memory of James W. Smith, father of Joan Friedman. May his memory be a blessing.

In memory of Allen Stern, brother-in-law of Corinne Stern. May his memory be a blessing.

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.

Come for a good time, stay for a great cause

V I R T U A L

T R I V I A

at

T V O

A Benefit for the Ithaca Sanctuary Alliance

May 15 at 7:00 PM

Suggested donation is \$10 per person
 All donations will benefit the Sanctuary Space
 At First Congregational Church
 ALL are welcome!

[Register here](#), or, contact lauriewillick@gmail.com
 A Zoom link will be shared prior to the event

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JEWISH SUMMER CAMP!

Many Jewish overnight camps are 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 IAUCJ: <https://iaujc.org/>



Ithaca Area United Jewish Community

Honoring Our Past, Shaping Our Future

April 2021

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

Dear Friends,

Our IAUJC board members are grateful to reach this season, with vaccinations on the rise, and the hope of a more normal life ahead. We have all needed to adapt, to learn new ways to communicate, to help others, to pray and to gather. It is inspiring to see just how adaptable we are.

We are also so very grateful to the 214 donors who contributed to our 2020 annual campaign. Our donors remembered our mission and supported it, despite the isolation caused by the pandemic. We raised a total of \$83,879 in 2020, and will soon be making grants to our local Jewish organizations, based on the funds designated for that use.

We started the Hesed Emergency Fund in 2020, which aims to help members of our community who are in financial distress. Thank you to those who support this fund. It is being used carefully and thoughtfully. Keep us in mind if you know of anyone who needs a helping hand with expenses. Gifts to this fund may be made online at <https://iaujc.org/causes-we-support>.

The new 2021 campaign is now underway. We invite you to take action and then feel the satisfaction of preserving a strong Jewish community, here in Ithaca and around the world. We hope you will join your friends and neighbors in this task.

On the evening of April 7th, we hosted a virtual Holocaust Commemoration, with 93 active screens and a group of wonderful participants. We honored Gale Halpern and Rita Melen, who talked about their parents' experiences during the Holocaust, and their own participation in the Ithaca Holocaust Speakers' Bureau. We lit candles in memory of the lives lost. We heard from the Yiddish singers, Abi Gazunte, from Cantor Richard Rosenfield and from Lexi Leitner, a student at IC, who sang Hatikvah. We also heard from Shelley Wernick, about the JFNA's Holocaust Survivors Initiative. It was a moving and educational evening.

Sincerely,
Marjorie Hoffman
IAUJC Campaign Chair

Congregational Leadership**מנהיגות**

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For updated calendar information,
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 or check <www.tikkunvor.org>
LIKE us on Facebook!

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

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