



Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Ithaca Reform Temple
Spirit • Community • Justice

Issue 230: May-June 2022

Nissan - Iyar - Sivan 5782 סיון - אייר - ניסן

Presidents' Words

דברי הנשיא

Dear all,

We want to offer our heartfelt condolences to the family of TvO's longtime member and our beloved friend, Arthur Birnbaum. Many of us have fond memories of Arthur and we hope these continue to be a blessing to all who knew him.

This time finds Nomi in Israel, enjoying a family wedding and long awaited visits with many family and friends. Here at home, Shawn is just getting done with a roller coaster of a mid-April storm which saw an uncharacteristic foot of snow dumped on some, loss of power for others of up to four days, coupled with a busy week of preparing thousands and thousands of trees and shrubs to be used for conservation plantings across the region. For Shawn, this yearly happening is his wake up call that, even though there was just a foot of snow, spring is here, a most welcome transition.

We've been going through transitions ourselves here at TvO. We are approaching the end of our first year with a resident rabbi and are looking forward to spending two more years engaging with both Rabbi Shifrah and the rest of our TvO community (hopefully with fewer and fewer Covid surges and restrictions). Thank you so much to all who took part in the process of helping to imagine a "Tapestry of Services" over the last few months. We have a beautiful community full of thoughtful and huge hearted individuals! The "Visitors' Working Group" will be meeting soon and Thanks to Judy Saul who has graciously agreed to step up to be the group's organizer and chair.

We're planning to hold our **Annual Members Meeting on June 26** this year, probably 3-5 pm. We'll send a reminder with the final time closer to the meeting date. Please mark your calendars! We truly hope that the times will allow as many of us as possible to meet together. We miss seeing all of you and being in person, so very much.

Additionally, members will soon be receiving communication regarding our annual **Nediv Lev** campaign, "giving from the heart", from Nomi and Shawn. Please keep your eyes on your inbox!

We're also excited to share with you that the Welcoming Committee of TvO is planning a gathering for new members and folks who have shown interest in Congregation Tikkun v'Or. Rabbi Shifrah, members of the Welcoming committee, and Nomi Talmi as co-president will be there eager to warmly meet and greet the newcomers and answer questions about Tikkun v'Or. The gathering will be held outdoors at the temple at noon on Sunday, May 22, right after JLE. We are looking forward to the opportunity to welcome new and potential members and get to know one another in person! For more information please contact Lois Levitan at loislevitan@gmail.com

We hope you all had a meaningful Passover celebration and are having warm and renewing spring transitions.

In loving community,

Nomi Talmi and Shawn Murphy, Co-Presidents

Adult Education with Rabbi Shifrah

חינוך מבוגרים

COUNTING THE OMER — It's Ancient, Contemporary, Earthy, and Mystical! Sunday, May 15, 3:30-5:30 pm, in person at TvO

Join Rabbi Shifrah for poetry, playfulness, and contemplative practice to enhance your springtime journey from the liberation of Passover to the receiving of wisdom associated with Shavuot. Counting the Omer is a tradition from Judaism loaded with rich symbolism, and attached to a simple 49-day practice. Rabbi Shifrah will share brief poetic meditations and light-hearted stories, and offer tools for engaging in the practice in a meaningful way. Whether you are new to counting the Omer, or a long time practitioner, this will be a fun and engaging opportunity to learn more.

About Counting the Omer: The Omer represents a period in ancient days when the people would travel to the temple in Jerusalem to make offerings from their early spring harvest. Seven weeks later, they would bring an offering from their second harvest. Later, after the destruction of the temples, the counting of seven weeks became associated with the journey from the liberation of Passover to the receiving of Torah represented by Shavuot.

Each day of the Omer is referred to in kabbalistic literature (Jewish mysticism) as a gateway to Divine Presence. These gates serve as spiritual guideposts, an opportunity to re-orient oneself on the trail of life. This offers us fertile spiritual soil in which to notice qualities we may want to nurture, such as kindness, discipline, balance, endurance, awe, and connection. Its agricultural and communal origins also make the Omer an excellent opportunity for considering our relationship to each other, the Earth that sustains us, and the Source and Breath of All Life.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP: SHEMIRA

Monday, May 23, 6:30 pm in person at TvO

The Bereavement Support Group and Rabbi Shifrah will be discussing the practice of shemira (being with the body of the deceased) and potential ways to adapt this traditional practice for our community. If you are interested in attending, please contact Judy Saul at jasaul201@gmail.com.

OFFICE HOURS: Rabbi Shifrah's regular office hours are from 2-6 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, Congregants can also contact the rabbi directly if they'd like to schedule an appointment either during regular hours or at another time (such as weekday evenings or Sundays). Contact rabbishifrah@tikkunvor.org or call/text 607-229-6747. R. Shifrah is generally not available on Monday and Tuesday, except in the case of an emergency.

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, and Judy Saul. All are welcome!

Check your TvO weekly email or contact info@tikkunvor.org for the Zoom link.

Shabbat and Holidays**שבת וחגים**

Check your weekly TvO email for more details on all services. If there is a Zoom link in the email, the service is on Zoom. If there is a Zoom link *and* a sign up for in-person attendance, it is a hybrid program. Contact info@tikkunvor.org to be added to the email list.

Saturday, April 30, 10 am Shabbat morning led by Rabbi Shifrah

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

Led by Michael Margolin and Tsadia Bercuvitz

Saturday, May 7, 10 am Shabbat morning ***Bat Mitzvah: Tsadia Bercuvitz***

Led by Rabbi Shifrah and Michael Margolin with Tsadia

Friday, May 13, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) *Leader TBA*

Friday, May 20 Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat)

6:15 pm Daled/Hey Families: Bring your own picnic dinner

7 pm Daled/Hey (4th and 5th grade) students lead Kabbalat Shabbat services with Miranda
(*Note early time. The service will be on zoom for those not part of this class*)

Saturday, May 21, 10 am Shabbat morning led by Rabbi Shifrah

Friday, May 27, *No service scheduled*

Friday, June 3, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat)

Led by Michael Margolin and Sonia Enns

Saturday, June 4, 10 am Shabbat morning ***Bat Mitzvah: Sonia Enns***

Led by Rabbi Shifrah and Michael Margolin with Sonia

Sunday, June 5, 10 **Shavuot** service led by Rabbi Shifrah

Friday, June 10, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) *Leader TBA*

Friday, June 17, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) *Leader TBA*

Friday, June 24,, 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat (Welcoming Shabbat) *Leader TBA*

*It would be meaningful to us and would bring us real joy
to have you Zoom in to join us
Saturday, May 7, 2022 (6 Iyar 5782)
at 10 a.m. as our daughter*

Tsadia Jessie Langwick Bercuvitz

Ruach Mayim

is called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah.

*We would also love to have you join us
for the evening service Tsadia will lead on
Friday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m.*

*We so wish we could have you all there with us
in person but it would still be great
to have you with us on Zoom.*

*Warmly,
Stacey and Jeff*

*Melissa and Peter Enns
invite you to join us
Sonia Enns
is called to the Torah
as a bat mitzvah
Saturday, June 4, 2022 at 10 a.m.*

Current guidelines for all bmitzvah services at TvO allow for only invited guests to be in-person, with all others welcome to join on Zoom on Friday evening at 7:30 pm and Saturday mornings at 10 . Please join us in celebrating with our young Jewish scholars! Links will be in the e-news closer to each service.

Jewish Learning Experiences

בית ספר תיקון ואור

We didn't have many classes in April, but it was still chock-full of Jewish Learning Experiences!

Kitah bet/gimel ב"ג ביתה (second and third grade) students actively practiced the Four Questions for Passover. How active? With bean bag throwing, jumping, playing Passover Twister, and enthusiastic singing. They also led a special Sunday morning tefillah session for their families. Students demonstrated what they've learned about prayers of thanks, prayer of wishes, and songs for peace and joy.

Kitah daled-hey ד"ה ביתה (fourth and fifth grade) students considered how and why we acknowledge both the bitter and the sweet on Passover and other times, with maror and charoset, and with stories of both challenges and the celebration of freedom. They'll be leading a **Shabbat service on Friday, May 20**. Daled/Hey families can **bring your own picnic dinner at 6:15 pm**, and join for services with Miranda and the students at **7 pm**. The service will also be on Zoom for everyone to join.

Kitah vav/zayin ו"ז ביתה (sixth and seventh grade) continued Torah study. Several of the spring parashot (portions) discuss leprosy, so they also learned about nurse Lillian D. Wald (1867-1940), who revolutionized the delivery of healthcare to poor New Yorkers and led a grassroots, science-based response to the flu pandemic of 1918-19. They also tasted offerings from Michael Twitty's African American Seder Plate <https://afroculinaria.com/2019/04/16/african-american-seder-plate/> and discussed how this chef/author/historian uses food, ritual, and African-American-Jewish foodways as a medium for self-discovery and liberation. They studied Torah stories about scapegoats, and blame, and goats in general. They read poetry and stories by [Lesléa Newman](#), author of *Heather Has Two Mommies* and the poem *Pandemic Pantoum*, among many other writings.

On Saturday, May 14, Kitah Zayin students will meet at Lime Hollow Nature Center for a **B'Mitzvah Nature Experience** with Michael Margolin.

Last month, JLE students also learned with Rabbi Shifrah, creating their own movements to the seder song and a dramatic crossing of the Red Sea: <https://tikkunvor.org/sedersong2022/>

Family JLE students learned about the mitzvah of Bikkur Cholim, caring for the sick. They made cards for staff at Cayuga Medical Center and dry soup mix jars to give to sick friends. They had a Passover adventure, choosing ingredients for charoset (marshmallows were a favorite!), smashing grapes to make grape juice, and hiding and finding afikomen.

Stay tuned for more information about our concluding **siyyum on May 22**, **registration** for the 2022-2023 school year, the new **Ithaca Noar** program for all Ithaca Jewish teens,

Mazel tov!

מזל טוב

Mazel to Ozzie Sach and Maren Golden on becoming bnai mtizvah!

We Refuse to be Enemies

Monday May 7, 7 pm

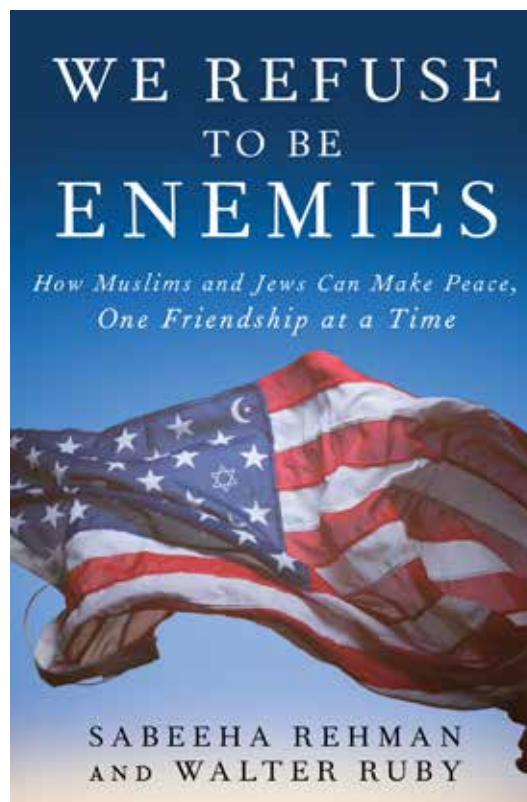
Join with TvO and members of Muslims of the Southern Tier and Al Huda Islamic Center of Ithaca for this conversation and discussion of “We Refuse to Be Enemies: How Muslims and Jews Can Make Peace, One Friendship at a Time” with authors Sabeeha Rehman and Walter Ruby.

Contact info@tikkunvor.org for the Zoom link.

“A gripping account of how our two communities stood up for each other in the face of Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, and a prescription for how we can work together going forward to buttress pluralism, democracy, and religious liberty in this country. Not to be missed.”

—Dr. Sayyid Syeed, President Islamic Society of North America (ISNA)

<http://www.sabeeharehman.com/we-refuse-to-be-enemies>



Small Sparks

Small Sparks is creative programming inspiring a broad range of people in the TvO community to hatch and participate in informal, programs that build on a pleasure, passion or interest to bring people together.

Email questions to Jeff Bercuvitz at jeff@thesparkscenter.org

Torah Tuesdays, May 3, 7-8 pm In person at TvO with Carol Shama.

Contact csshama462@gmail.com

Write On! May 10, May 17, and May 24 With Annie Wexler, for those already registered.

Kosher Pixels, Saturday May 21, 5 pm on Zoom with Chris Xenakis

Take a picture (or take several pictures; even cell phone snapshots are fine!) and share them with one another on Zoom. What do your favorite photo(s) mean to you, and/or how do your special photos connect with a meaningful part of your life that you want to share?

Contact cixenakis@juno.com

Stories That Zoom with Bruce McKee and Jonathan (JP) Plotkin

Dates coming soon!

Many Thanks

רב תודה

Thanks to:

Rabbi Shifrah for leading us for Shabbat services and adult education.

Recent Shabbat leaders: Michael Margolin, Anne Brous, Mihal Ronen and Bruce Mckee, Annie Wexler and Tony Gaenslen, Jeff Bercuvitz and Tsadia Bercuvitz, Barbara Regenspan, Carol Shama, and Beth Cohen;

Lauren Korfine and Marne Oshae for adding music to so many of our services;

Lise and Richard Rosenfield for being our Torah rollers for so many services;

Recent Zoom angels: Beth Cohen, Lauren Korfine, Peter Silberman;

Small Sparks leaders: Lara Estroff, Martha Armstrong, Chris Xenakis, Jeff Bercuvitz, Carol Shama, Annie Wexler, Fran Markover and Tony Gaenslen, Elan Shapiro;

Laurie Willick and Alexi Zentner and Rabbi Shifrah for leading the TvO seder, and Joan Friedman and Anne Brous for organizing;

Rabbi Lenore Bohm for leading a Torah study group;

All volunteers, organizers, and participants from Tikkun v'Or and Temple Beth-El for coordinating and hosting the Purim CARnival, and to IAUJC for the special funding;

Rabbi Shifrah and Rabbi Safran for leading the Purim service;

Michael Margolin and the midweek vav and zayin students for cleaning up the TvO parking lot, moving gravel away from the sidewalk and planting circle;

Alita Howard for skillful moderation of the congregational meeting in April.

Welcoming Committee

ועד החברות

We love to welcome and get to know our new members. For more information contact Lois Levitan, loislevitan@gmail.com.

Donors

צדקה

General Fund

Bridget Meeds

Will Fudeman, *Donation for peace*

Julie Gozan & Tom Keck, *In support of the board and congregation going forward*

Max Wakshlag

Donations in support of the Landau/Kuttab Dialogue Event

First Congregational Church

Azfar Farooquee

Bereavement Support Group

If you are in need of planning or support, please reach out:

Email the Bereavement Support Group at: BereavementSupport@tikkunvor.org. This email includes Rabbi Shifrah and Naomi Wilensky as well as other members of the Bereavement Support Group.. You can also email Rabbi Shifrah directly at: rabbishifrah@tikkunvor.org.

If you prefer to not use email, please call Rabbi Shifrah or a member of the group:

- Rabbi Shifrah cell: 607-229-6747; TvO office: 607-256-1471.

Condolences

תנחומים

TvO offers heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of our beloved, longtime member and friend, [Arthur Birnbaum](#), who died peacefully on April 21. There will be a memorial service at TvO on May 22.

We are sad to announce the death of Aziz Kommel on March 29. He taught several of our students and participated in leading service with Rabbi Brian Walt several times.

May their memory be a blessing.

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.

Thanks to those who made lunches in March:

Ozzie Sachs & Christine Evans & Dorothy Debbie.

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.

WHAT TO DO
WITH THOSE LEFTOVERS
FROM THE ONEG?
DINNERS OR PARTIES?
No Need to Eat Them All!
**Clean food is welcome at
St. John's Community Services
(618 W. State St.
across from Kinkos)
Monday - Friday
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
phone 273-6684**
Outside of those hours, call the
shelter at 354-8990 to arrange to
deliver food.



Ithaca Area United Jewish Community

Honoring Our Past, Shaping Our Future

Spring, 2022

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WHAT'S NEW FROM ITHACA AREA UNITED JEWISH COMMUNITY!

- Our **Annual Holocaust Commemoration** took place virtually on April 27th. Celia Clement, a second-generation Holocaust survivor from Ithaca, spoke about her family memoir, *Three Sisters: A True Holocaust Story of Love, Luck, and Survival*. There was a candle lighting ceremony to honor the lives lost, a performance by the Cornell Chai Notes, and a presentation by the youth of Temple Beth El. Our thanks to Temple Beth El for hosting the Zoom presentation.
- Our **Global Spotlight Initiative** received 5 proposals from interested local community members (thank you for your interest!) for support of international organizations that promote the pillars of IAUGC. We had \$2000 to donate from our Global Fund. Two organizations were selected:
 - **Dental Volunteers of Israel (DVI)**, nominated by Scott Noren, will receive \$1500. Their website is <https://dental-dvi.org.il/>.
 - **Givat Haviva International School**, nominated by Noemi Kraut, will receive \$500. Their website is <https://gh-is.org/>
- Our **Campership** program, supported by the Robert and Marcia Ascher Endowment to IAUGC will be helping to finance camp attendance for 2022. Five campers from five different families will attend five different camps. Our support totals \$8200 this summer.
- We now support 166 subscriptions to the PJ Library Jewish storybook program in our local area! That is a lot of Jewish culture and ethics being transmitted to our next generation.

Please consider a donation to IAUGC to keep all these wonderful programs alive.

Sincerely,
Marjorie Hoffman
Campaign Chair



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

In the Community

LOAVES & FISHES OF TOMPKINS COUNTY SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

During these times, it has been more challenging to fill our volunteer schedule. Please consider joining our Amazing Volunteer Team!

Volunteer Shifts Available:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:00 – 11:30 am or 11:30 am – 2:00 pm

Tuesday & Thursday: 2:30 - 5:00 pm or 5:00 – 7:30 pm

Covid Safety Protocols Observed

For more information, please email: info@loaves.org or visit loaves.org

ITHACA SANCTUARY ALLIANCE FUNDRAISER

Support the impending independence of the first mother-daughter pair to live in the FCC Church's sanctuary by purchasing your hanging baskets for this spring/summer by May 8:

<http://oliverpaigngreenhouses.com/documents/groups/Baskets.pdf>

Purchase gorgeous and unbelievably healthy hanging baskets to support the Ithaca Sanctuary Alliance: One basket is \$22.50, two baskets are \$43, three baskets are \$62, four baskets are \$78.

To order: Email Nancy Weislogel nweislogel@gmail.com with the item name(s), color(s) and number(s), quantity of each item, and intended payment method (personal check to FCCI or online credit card on FCCI website).

TEMPLE BETH-EL ARTS COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

Israeli Independence Day Film Festival, from Menemsha Films, May 4-17

Eleven films being offered! New films (and bonus content) will become available to view each night of the festival and will remain available through the rest of the week. Watch the films in the comfort of your home!

Find out more and purchase a subscription at <https://www.menemshafilms.com/israel-film-fest-2022>

Use the PROMO Code – “TBEITH” for a \$10 discount.

Several free subscriptions are available for those who need them. Please contact the Arts Committee

AND:For further discussion:

Learn More About Israel's History: Sunday, May 15 at 3 pm

In person at Temple Beth-El and via Zoom: k:<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82495020771?pwd=b3BJUnlJd0Q1RGtLRkpJLzAyNXBUQT09>

Meeting ID: 824 9502 0771 Passcode: FILM

Join Daniel Robinson (Rabbi Safman's husband) and Prof. Uriel Abulof. They will be discussing some of the films from the Israeli Independence Day Film Festival and will engage with attendees about the history of Israel. They will focus on three films from the festival: *Ben Gurion, Epilogue; Our Natural Right* and *Golda*. The event will be enjoyable even if you have not viewed the films.

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Congregational Leadership

מנהיגות

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	Jennifer Kagan	jkagan@twcny.rr.com
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For updated calendar information,
 call 607-256-1471
 or check <www.tikkunvor.org>
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**Tikkun v'Or Welcomes
Interfaith Families!**

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