



Congregation Tikkun v'Or

Ithaca Reform Temple
Spirit • Community • Justice

October 12, 2022

Dear Tikkun v'Or Members,

Warm wishes for a healthy and fulfilling year to all. We were so happy to see so many of you at High Holiday Services both in person and online. We found this year's services to be meaningful and inspiring, and we hope you did as well. We are thankful to have Rabbi Shifrah Tobacman's leadership, and lucky to also have Rabbi Lenore Bohm join us for Rosh Hashanah, and to have Michael Margolin lead us during Yom Kippur. It's a tremendous gift that we have such a deep bench of lay leaders who were able to hold and inspire our community with wisdom and heart when Rabbi Shifrah was unable to be with us in person. Our heartfelt thanks to Lauren Korfine, Miranda Phillips, Jeff Bercovitz, Richard Rosenfield, our musicians - Azameira, and the many others who led us in song and prayer.

This year's High Holiday events reminded us of how priceless this community is. Tikkun v'Or is many things to many people. A center for learning, a spiritual home, a home for the holidays, a place to make and meet friends, a place to pursue justice. Our founders and past presidents have created something truly special at TvO. And we are deeply committed to sustaining and enriching that foundation; but we need your help. Whether you are drawn to us for our values of community, spirit, justice, or all three, we ask you today to donate generously with your dues to help us live up to those values.

Give generously when it comes to our value of *spirituality*. We are excited to be able to provide a Tapestry of Offerings to meet our diverse spiritual needs. We are also committed to repairing our Torah. Give generously when it comes to the value of *community*. This includes our building, the place we gather. It's in need of so many repairs that it could star in a whole season of "This Old Shul." We need to replace our carpeting and will soon need a new roof. We have flooding issues and doors that don't lock automatically. We would like to invest in user-friendly technology so that we can continue to hold hybrid services and programs. And give generously to help us live up to our value of *justice*; We spent a lot of time over the past weeks talking about climate justice, and we are committed to making all of these building repairs with the lightest of footprints on our planet. Lastly, we want to pay our employees, **including our teachers**, fair salaries without raising our school tuition; we are a community that cares about social justice, and this is something that starts at home.

We need as much as you can give to support our needs - but we also need your time, your creativity, your energy. Work with us to make TvO the community you want it to be. Over the next few months, we will be reaching out to all our members to talk about what we need and ask how you would like to become involved. Please engage with us so that progressive Judaism continues to thrive in Ithaca. As they say, it takes a village - and *you* are all the village it takes.

May it be a Shana Tova for all. We look forward to your continued membership and participation.

Sue Merkel
Co-President

Laurie Willick
Co-President

Tikkun v'Or Member Contributions: Three-Part Financial Structure

Congregation Tikkun v'Or raises the funds we need through **dues, gifts and fees**. Our financial structure is inspired by traditional Jewish values of fairness, dignity, inclusivity and generosity. ***Finances should never be a barrier to Tikkun v'Or membership. However, to ensure the long-term viability of the temple, we ask that you please think seriously about your level of support and follow the suggested guideline to the best of your ability. Dues, gifts and fees are all fully tax deductible.***

Dues are assessed in two parts: the *hetzi-shekel* (half-shekel) portion, and a portion determined by an income-based sliding scale.

The ***hetzi-shekel*** portion (\$90 per household) is intended to symbolize the equality of all members in the community, regardless of income. The concept derives from the story told in the book of Exodus that Moses and Aaron collected a half-shekel from each of the Israelites as their first contribution toward building the sanctuary.

The **income-based (“fair share”) dues*** are 1.6% of household income from all sources. The sliding scale dues structure reflects our community’s commitment to justice and fairness. These are guidelines. Please pay as your circumstances allow. As an example, if your gross income is \$40,000 X 0.016=\$640 Suggested “Fair Share” Dues Payment.

Our projected budget depends on most members *self-assessing* and paying at the 1.6% level. However, if life circumstances affect your ability to pay dues at the target level or at the times indicated, please self-assess at a lower level or adjust the payment schedule as needed. You can also contact us, Laurie Willick and Sue Merkel (presidents_22@tikkunvor.org), to discuss your dues at any time. ***Finances should never be a barrier to Tikkun v'Or membership.***

Gifts: The *hetzi-shekel* and income-based dues (described above) comprise about 66% of our budget. Thus, Tikkun v'Or also relies on **nediv lev**, which translates as “generosity” or “giving from the heart”. This phrase comes from the book of Exodus where it is told that the Israelites offered materials for building the sanctuary with a “willing heart,” each contributing according to their ability. **Nediv lev** contributions to Tikkun v'Or account for approximately 15% of yearly revenue and are requested during our annual spring fundraising campaign.

Fees for our Jewish Learning Experiences and b'mitzvah program help cover the costs of these programs, but do not fully sustain the school. If school fees pose a financial hardship, please be in touch with us, Laurie Willick and Sue Merkel (presidents_22@tikkunvor.org), to discuss. Note that first-year families with students in grades K-5 are given the option of paying a slightly higher school fee that includes temple membership (*i.e.*, if this option is chosen, other temple membership dues are waived for that first year). Please contact our school administrator, Naomi Wilensky (naomi.wilensky@tikkunvor.org), with questions about fees or registration.

Payment options:

1. **Check:** Congregation Tikkun v'Or PO Box 3981 Ithaca NY 14852. Please note “ Membership Dues” in the memo.
2. **Online, using PayPal:** Please go to the TVO website and click on the “Dues Payment” page under the “Join Us” tab on the main menu (<https://tikkunvor.org/returning-members-dues-payment/>)
3. **Credit card:** Contact Sally Ezra at (607) 256-1471 sally.ezra@tikkunvor.org, or enter credit card information on the dues form.

Either way, please respond no later than November 16, 2022. Thank you in advance for your quick response, which will be a big help in managing our finances. Information on the dues form is confidential and accessible only to the co-presidents and to Tikkun v'Or’s bookkeeper, Sally Ezra.

Benefits of Membership in Congregation Tikkun v'Or

- A vital, progressive Jewish presence in our community
- A rabbi who inspires, educates and supports our congregation
- A beautiful building that houses our community
- Many meaningful life cycle events
- Inspiring Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and other holiday services
- Growing Jewish Learning Experiences and b'mitzvah programs
- Bereavement support
- Adult education opportunities
- Prayer services on most Fridays and many Saturdays
- Social justice projects
- Programs to stimulate our minds, conscience, and spirit
- Community Shabbat dinners
- A community Passover seder, meaningful and delicious
- Jewish community events shared with other Ithaca congregations
- Access to our listserv and Members Only section on our website
- The right to vote and have your voice heard as we make decisions for the community



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Dues Payment Form

Please complete the form below, and mail it to Congregation Tikkun v'Or, P. O. Box 3981, Ithaca, NY 14852. Or to renew your membership online using PayPal, please click on the "Dues Payment" page under the "Join Us" tab on our website: www.tikkunvor.org. **Whether you renew by mail or online, checks are preferred to avoid credit card fees.**

My contribution for 2022-2023:

Fair Share dues (*see guidelines above):	\$ _____
+ \$ 90 (half-shekel contribution)	\$ <u>90</u>
Total =	\$ _____

Name(s) _____

Payment method: (check one):

- One payment (in full by November 16, **checks preferred to avoid credit card fees**):
 ___ By check (please include your check with this form).
 ___ By credit card (charges made on or about November 16).
- Two payments (half-payment by November 16 and the balance by February 22)
 ___ By check (please include first check with this form).
 ___ By credit card (charges made on or about November 16 and February 22).
- Four equal payments: only by credit card
 ___ By credit card (charges made on or about November 16, January 22, April 22, June 22).

If you are paying by credit card, please provide the following additional information:

Card company (check one) ___ Visa ___ MasterCard

Name (as it appears on card) _____

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration (Month/Year) _____

I authorize Tikkun v'Or to charge \$_____ to the credit card listed here.

Signature _____