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Tikvat Israel BULLETIN

Nefesh Mountain in Concert at TI's Social Hall March 19

BY ABBEY FRANK AND BETH SMITH, CONCERT CO-CHAIRS



The five-musician touring band Nefesh Mountain will perform at Tikvat Israel on March 19.

Nefesh Mountain, hailed as one of today's formative boundary-pushing progressive bluegrass groups, is coming to Tikvat Israel at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 19.

This serves as the 2023 Cantor's Concert, a major fund-raising event for the congregation. It will honor congregants Shirley Waxman and Joel Bressler (see **page 6**).

The concert will take place live in TI's social hall with a livestreaming option. Tickets are \$36 in advance, \$40 at the door. Last year's concert sold out, so purchasing tickets in advance is highly encouraged.

Nefesh Mountain's unique blend of bluegrass music, which combines elements of both American and Celtic folk, Appalachian bluegrass and Eastern melodies, has brought the band national attention.

The band's creators are husband and wife team of Doni Zasloff and Eric Lindberg. Zasloff grew up in Montgomery County with a personal connection to Tikvat Israel. (Read an exclusive interview with her on page 7.)

Zasloff began writing her own songs while teaching at her daughter's synagogue preschool, eventually forming the Mama Doni Band, which won the Simcha Award at the 2008 International Jewish Music Festival.

As in years past, we will have a variety of sponsorship levels for the concert. You should have received information in the mail, but if you need more details, contact Beth Smith, Abbey Frank or Aaron Chusid. Your sponsorship of this concert is not only a way to show your appreciation to Shirley and Joel for all that they have and continue to contribute to the Tikvat Israel community, but your support helps sustain the ongoing programming and operations of our synagogue.

Inside This Issue ...

- Two Members in the Spotlight. The annual cantor's concert is an occasion to recognize the long contributions of one or two loyal synagogue members. This year's concert spotlight in March will shine on Shirley Waxman and Joel Bressler. Read about them on page 6.
- Seats at Seders. If you expect to have an extra seat or two at your Passover table or are seeking a seat at someone's table in April, Hope Kott wants to match you up. Read her plan on page 8.
- Trivia But Not Trivial. Board member Alan Apter recently compiled data about all the names appearing on the memorial boards in the rear of the sanctuary. He turned up some unusual finds. See the story on page 24.

WEEKLY RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Monday 8:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.

8:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday

Wednesday 8:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 8:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m.

Kabbalat

Shabbat 6:00 p.m.

Shabbat 10:00 a.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.

Note: Several services are now in person (Kabbalat Shabbat, Shabbat morning and Sunday morning minyan). All services continue online.

Additional in-person services will be announced in B'kesher.

CANDLELIGHTING **TIMES**

Friday, March 3	5:45 p.m.
Friday, March 10	5:52 p.m.
Friday, March 17	6:59 p.m.
Friday, March 24	7:06 p.m.
Friday, March 31	7:13 p.m.
Wednesday, April 5	7:17 p.m.
(Passover)	
Thurday, April 6	8:17 p.m.
(Passover)	
Friday, April 7	7:13 p.m.
Tuesday, April 11	7:23 p.m.
(Passover)	
Wednesday, April 12	8:24 p.m.
(Passover)	
Friday, April 14	7:19 p.m.
Friday, April 21	7:33 p.m.
Friday, April 28	7:40 p.m.

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Celebrating Purim

Here's what you need to know if you're celebrating Purim at Tikvat Israel.

Erev Purim, Monday, March 6

Fast begins 5:15 a.m.

Purim puppet show, 6:30 p.m.

Purim service and megillah reading, 7:30 p.m.





Shul Shorts

Baseball Tickets for TI's Annual Outing

It's still winter, but the Women's Network is thinking about spring and the start of the baseball season. The group has 50 tickets to sell to TI members, their relatives and friends for the 1:35 p.m. game on Sunday, June 4, between the Washington Nationals and Philadelphia Phillies. It's also Kids Arm Hug Doll Giveaway Day at the ballpark.

Our seats are in three rows in Section 227 (between 1st base and the right field corner) under an overhang. This block of seats also has a row that is wheelchair accessible. Tickets can be reserved (cost is \$40 per ticket) by contacting Rebecca Salon at rsalon@verizon.net.

Marking a Cancer Fight

Tikvat Israel congregants will honor cancer patients, cancer survivors and their family members and honor the memory of a late congregant at a special Shabbat morning service on April xx. The event will be called "A Celebration of Life," and a special kiddush will take place after services.

Congregant Michele Eisenberg, who passed away on Oct. 5 following a battle against pancreatic cancer, was the original organizer of this event. Members of her family are expected to attend.

Instrumental Shabbat

The next *Kabbalat Shabbat* with Instruments will be held at 6 p.m. on May 5 with a reception starting a half-hour earlier. It will be held in person in the social hall and will be broadcast through the livestream. This spirited service includes uplifting melodies both traditional and new.

The final instrumental *Shabbat* service will happen on June 2.

RABBI'S CORNER

Let All Who Are Hungry Come Eat?

BY RABBI MARC D. ISRAEL



Each year at our Passover *seder* we recite these words, but do we truly mean it? If so, why are they recited only after the *seder* has begun? And if we say them only at the *seder*, who is it that hears our words?

According to Rabbi Yosef Soloveitchik, "Ha Lachma Aniya is the renewal of a pledge of solidarity among the Jewish peo-

ple—solidarity between individual and individual, and between the individual and the Jewish community as a whole. It is a proclamation that we are one people and that we are ready to help one another." I am struck by his comment, especially about the relationship and responsibility that exists between the individual and the community.

For most of my career as a rabbi, I have resisted calls to host a communal *seder*. Part of the power of the *seder* is that it takes place around the dining room table and not in the synagogue. It emphasizes the need for each family to make our people's story their own story. Families create their own special rituals and traditions that make the *seder* unique and memorable for future generations. For those who have the opportunity, I still strongly encourage you to take part in a *seder* at a home.

However, I have learned that there are many people in our community who no longer participate in a second *seder*. For some people, this is a choice they have made because they believe we should observe only one day of the holiday, as they do in Israel. Many others would like to participate in a second *seder* but have told me it has either "become too much work" or it's "not worth it" when there won't be anyone new around the table.

If the "Bread of Affliction" represents the relationship between the individual and the community, then I believe we have a responsibility to ensure that everyone has a *seder* to attend each night. This is why we will be hosting our first Tikvat Israel communal *seder* on the evening of Thursday, April 6. (See related story, page 11).

This will be a **communal** *seder* in every sense of the word: It will be open to Tikvat Israel members, as well as the general public.

The *seder* will be appropriate for adults and children of all ages, with parallel activities/discussions happening at different tables focused on different age groups.

I will be the main "convener," and work with several members who will facilitate different sections of the *seder*, highlighting important themes with fun, innovative, and thought-provoking questions, songs, and symbols.

The meal will be a mixture of catered and shul-made food, including my own *matzo* ball soup! This combination allows us to highlight some special recipes from our synagogue, while helping to keep the cost of the *seder* affordable for all. We will ensure that no one is turned away based on (in)ability to pay.

During the recent rabbinic mission to Alabama, we visited important sites from the Civil Rights movement, where we were reminded that the story of the escape from slavery was not a singular event, but an ongoing struggle. Each year at *Pesach*, we have an opportunity to retell our people's story, reminding ourselves that the reason God brought us out of the land of Egypt was to know the heart of the stranger in order to work to create a more just society for all the downtrodden. In joining together for this *seder*, we will also consider the forms that slavery takes in our world today and explore the ways that we as a community can help free ourselves and create more opportunities for all people to experience the freedom that the *Torah* envisions for our world.

This year, we will not wait until our *seder* to encourage those "who are hungry come eat," but make that declaration today. I encourage you and your friends to join us for this meaningful event.

Inspirational Week Focused on Civil Rights

Rabbi Marc Israel joined a group of fellow rabbis from the Washington, D.C., area during an Alabama Civil Rights Tour in early February to mark Black History Month. The first three days focused on Selma and Montgomery and the stories and people behind the Voting Rights Act, the bus boycott and the Freedom Riders.

The clergy also took a deep dive into the Jewish history in the two Alabama cities, and they saw first-hand the horrible tornado devastation sustained in Selma just a few weeks earlier.

Rabbi Israel described the experience in mid-course this way: "Feeling grateful and inspired."



Rabbis from the D.C. area, including Marc Israel, spent a week in Alabama to learn about the fight for civil rights in America.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Conservative Judaism: A Changing Movement

BY WARREN BERGER, TIKVAT ISRAEL PRESIDENT



Have you ever wondered why we affiliate with USCJ, the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism? Perhaps you have the lingering impression that "Conservative" is a vague movement with an ideology somewhere between Reform and Orthodox, but that it doesn't really have its own identity? Well, USCJ has been trying to change that label for many, many years!

They are trying to articulate a focus on fostering community and building relationships (you've heard of Relational Judaism, right?). Conservative Judaism aims to embrace tradition with a specific (and encouraged) process for reinterpreting *halakhah* (Jewish law) to make our practices relevant to our current society. They like to use the phrase "Authentic and Dynamic Judaism."

As many of you know, the USCJ is the umbrella organization that supports Conservative synagogues/kehilot. The Rabbinical Assembly (RA) is the membership organization for Conservative rabbis; it interprets halakhah and develops guides, standards, and practices for Conservative Judaism. The RA is about Judaism as a religion and training Rabbis while USCJ is about member groups' operations and administration. Tikvat Israel is affiliated with USCJ while Rabbi Israel is a member of the RA.

Over the past 4 years, the USCJ and the RA have been working together more closely to foster better communication, cooperation, and alignment. (Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal is now the CEO of both.) Someday this cooperative venture could also include sister organizations like Camp Ramah, Nativ, and the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem (and there are many others—which sometimes challenges them to be in sync).

USCJ and the RA have collaborated on a new website, ExploringJudaism.org (see description on page 17). Try going to this new site first (rather than Chabad or My Jewish Learning) to look up information about a holiday, prayer, or a lifecycle event to get answers that should be more relevant to our beliefs and practices. See how our movement has integrated:

- Tradition AND Modernity
- Particularism AND Universalism
- Ideals AND Lived Experience
- Individuality AND Community

Last year, Rabbi Israel led a series of classes to discuss recent (and not so recent) *teshuvot* (rulings) – such as on the use of electricity or driving on *Shabbat*. These were written years ago, but we reinterpreted them ourselves, based on technology improvements and based on the pandemic-imposed shift towards virtual services. The RA's rulings provide a basis for our discussions and then provide guidelines and choices that a rabbi and community can follow. Without these, we would have to do a lot more on our own. We are grounded in tradition, but Conservative Judaism allows (and even facilitates) adjustments when our civilization changes.

What else do our dues to USCJ get us? We have benefitted from our affiliation in many ways:

- 1. General support from the synagogue advisor/liaison for our region
- 2. Specific advice and support for our recent Rabbi and Executive Director searches
- 3. Training sessions and retreats for our Rabbi
- 4. Training sessions and conferences for our Executive Director (via NAASE the North American Association of Synagogue Executives)
- 5. Leadership training for our officers and board members
- 6. Frequent webinars (e.g., about inclusion, building sacred communities, and financial sustainability)
- 7. Extensive security training (via their partnership with SCN the Secure Community Network)
- 8. Support for presidents via a google group and also a social media forum for all lay leaders
- 9. Youth groups (USY, Kadima)

As president, I attended the December 2022 USCJ General Assembly of *Kehilot*. Here are some notes, which you may find of interest:

- Rabbi Blumenthal discussed building our "people-first" movement together:
 - **Becoming** helping people become their best selves
 - **Belonging** empowering people to create connection and community
 - **Inspiring** finding meaning in life's journey
- There may be a shortage of rabbis this year (some congregations who are searching will not be able to hire one)
- We should judge programs by the relationships that were formed, not by attendance (or donations)
- The movement as an organization is strong financially (3 years of surpluses)
- Newly elected president Andy Schaer discussed the movement's and synagogues' shared values and symbiotic relationships:
 - Strong Synagogues <-> Strong Movement
 - Strong lay and professional relationships
 - Belief in the value of the whole

One additional highlight of our affiliation is the USCJ biennial conventions. I went to the convention in Boston in December 2019 (right before Covid) with a few other congregants and the Rabbi. It was a fun, inspiring, and educational experience. (Specifics were written up in the *Bulletin* in early 2020.) I am happy to announce that the next one in December 2023 will be held even closer: Baltimore. I will provide more information when available.

I hope everyone has a happy Purim and Passover!

Capital Campaign Moves into Work Phase as Pledge Drive Continues

As the Capital Campaign continues to seek pledges from Tikvat Israel members, the synagogue has launched work on the first phase of much-needed repairs and replacements. To achieve the priorities set by the congregation, the additional contributions are still needed.

The generous response of members to the campaign produced nearly \$460,000 in pledges by the end of January. This still leaves us short of our \$600,000 goal. We must reach that total to complete the long list of synagogue repairs and equipment replacement within the campaign's four-year work plan.

Based on advice from outside consulting engineers, synagogue leaders have created a list of priorities to address our building's most pressing needs. Among the items at the top of the list are those intended to ensure the comfort, safety and security of our facility.

For example, the first priority was the replacement of the heating and air conditioning system in the sanctuary, which was completed in January. Replacement of the kitchen door--frame and all, to make that entry safe and secure from outside temperatures and pests, was completed in February.

Another priority is the HVAC in the social hall and lobby. Costly repairs required to the elevator in the education wing also will be an early target to enhance use of our 2nd floor and satisfy certification requirements.

The congregation will be scheduling further work over the next four to 10 years to match the expect flow of income on pledge commitments. All plans are contingent on the campaign's fundraising efforts. This means the pace of accomplishing needed work is tied to a financially prudent budget that depends on continuing support from our members.

So far, many families have been extraordinarily generous in making pledges, but more is needed. Members who have not yet made a pledge are urged to join those who have. Members who have already made pledges are encouraged to increase their donations if possible.

The Capital Campaign has created the following six donation categories for pledges: Tzadek, \$36,000 and up; Visionary, \$18,000; Builder, \$12,000; Leader, \$6,000; Defender, \$3,000; and Advocate, \$1,800. Pledges can be paid in installments over a one-, two- or three-year period. Earlier payment of the full amount, however, would be especially helpful to allow completion of the work as soon as possible.

You can participate by making a pledge using a form mailed recently to members or by going online to the synagogue website at *Tikvatisrael.org/Capital Campaign*. Or you can contact Executive Director Aaron Chusid (301-762-7338) to arrange your pledge. You also can contact campaign co-chairs Howard Wilchins and Carol Chelemer directly to speak with them privately about arranging your contribution.

As of Jan. 30, 58 families (including all TI officers and board members) already have stepped up and made pledges toward our goal. We sincerely thank them.

Those Who've Made Capital Campaign Pledges

TZADEK LEVEL

Michele Eisenberg z"l Melanie Grishman Betty and Cliff Fishman Steve Raucher Sue and Howard Wilchins

VISIONARY LEVEL

Carol Chelemer Tami and Sam Gilston Sara Harris

BUILDER LEVEL

Susan and Alan Apter Janice and Bob Balin Bobbi and Larry Gorban Rebecca Salon and Jay Goldman

LEADER LEVEL

Melissa Apter and Avi Bardack
Debbie Berlyne and Danny Bachman
Elyse and Jeff Bernstein
Ellen and Sherman Eisner
Bruce Goldin
Jerry Kaiz
Roz and Ted Kram
Maxine and Jim Perlmutter
Ron Rabin
Anna Robbins
Lois and Neil Sbar
Roni and Bob Silverstein
Jayme Sokolow
Nancy and Jonathan Solomon

DEFENDER LEVEL

Arlene and Warren Berger Anita and Mel Brenner Rosie and Howard Chernoff Ellie and Mark Diamond Hope and Phil Kott Sally and Neil Kram Barry Lipsy Amy Sanders Sandra and Gene Sheskin Hilda Springer Alma Steinberg

ADVOCATE LEVEL

Martie Adelman and Marc Schneider Wendy Bauman Brenda and Keith Brooks Roberta and Larry Cohen Denise and Howard Dickenson Elizabeth Ellison Barbara and Steven Gendel Elaine and Micah Krichevsky Robin and Stuart Lempert Anna Levy

Nancy and Rodney Matheson Beth and Richard Smith

FRIEND LEVEL

Felicia and Dan Black Rachel Lipsy and AJ Lanphere Sheri and Matthew Brown Ellen and Richard Lederman Mark Bush Sandra and Larry Levine Aaron Chusid Susan and Jay Plafker Aaron Fineman Fortuna and Steve Scheige Jenny Gendel Linda and Ed Silverstein Jill Goldsborough Judy Stern and Uzi Ben-Ami Kate Jennes-Kahn and Steven Kahn Stephanie and Howard Weiss

> JOIN US Call the office (301-762-7338) to make your pledge!

Concert Honorees: Shirley Waxman and Joel Bressler

The annual Cantor's Concert is an occasion for Tikvat Israel to recognize congregants who've dedicated significant volunteer time and financial support (and more!) over the years to the life of our congregation. This year's honorees are the married couple, Shirley Waxman and Joel Bressler.

Shirley Waxman

She may be best known locally as Tikvat Israel's resident fabric artist extraordinaire, but Shirley Waxman's Judaic ceremonial objects for synagogue and home reach across the globe.

Her Judaic collection includes pieced, painted, embroidered and elaborately embellished *challah* covers, wall hangings, *kippot*, *tallitot*, *chuppot* (marriage canopies) and Torah mantles. She has given lectures and led workshops on fabric art throughout the country.

Waxman's work has been featured at museum shows, secular

and liturgical, locally and nationally. Her commissioned pieces can be found in synagogues throughout the world, including eight Torah mantles at TI. Her *tallitot* are worn widely by *shul* attendees.

Waxman's work graces our foyer and sanctuary, attracting ongoing community attention to the synagogue. She organized and oversaw the embroidery of the large wall hanging in the sanctuary, "For Everything There is a Season," as well as the more recent fourpanel welcoming wall hanging in the lobby, "*Bruchim Habaim*."

Since she joined the congregation in 1988, she has orchestrated numerous cultural programs for the congregation's youth and adults. Among the various programs and artistic ventures she has organized and directed are a weekend of Yemenite folklore, music, food and artifacts; a Sephardic Festival weekend, including foods from Beyhan Trock's cookbook, "The Ottoman Turk and the Pretty Jewish Girl"; a weekend of learning about "Chocolate and Jewish Values"; an evening with Herb Baumel, the original fiddler in the Broadway production of "Fiddler on the Roof"; a dance performance with a wearable art fashion show; and the first ArtSites exhibit in the synagogue.

Waxman is also a Judaic folklorist and Israeli folkdance choreographer. She was the founder and director of ArtSites, the Guild for Judaic Art, and director of the Israeli Folklore and Folkdance Department of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington for 13 years. At TI, she has made her mark as a choreographer of the synagogue's annual *Shavuot* pageant, an event for which she also designed the costumes.

"Of all the things I've been involved in, I most enjoy seeing lots of young families participating. That's wonderful to me," she says.



Shirley Waxman and Joel Bressler are being recognized as the congregation's honored guests at the 2023 Cantor's Concert at Tikvat Israel.

A native of Hamilton, Ontario, she spent the first decade of her professional life in the nursing field.

Her philosophy of life comes from her folklore background. As she puts it: "Teach others and you will learn. Express what is meaningful for people and hopefully they will understand and feel joy from your work."

Joel Bressler

He can claim to be a native New Yorker, but only until age 9. That's when Joel Bressler moved with his family to Jacksonville, Fla. That's the location where he grew up, married and raised a family of

three. He spent his professional years there as a pharmacist and nutritional researcher. He also served as cantor of the city's largest Conservative congregation, the Jacksonville Jewish Center.

His world changed in 1989 when, as a widower, he was introduced to Shirley Waxman. Following their marriage in 1990, he joined Tikvat Israel and soon became a true asset to the congregation. He served on the board of directors, chaired the religious practices committee, taught adult education classes and, perhaps most importantly, founded the synagogue's *Chevra Kadisha*. He often has been called upon to serve as a backup cantor over the years.

In the community, until recently, Bressler had conducted regular *Shabbat* services at the Hebrew Home in Rockville. In addition, he joyfully served as the High Holidays cantor in Charleston, S.C., and Patuxent, Md., and often returned in this capacity to his beloved Jacksonville as well. He thoroughly enjoyed each opportunity, saying, "I found these to be unique experiences, exploring the personalities of various congregations."

Bressler and Waxman have travelled extensively, including a variety of stays in Eastern Europe, Ukraine, Mexico and Israel. He has worked hard to ensure a synagogue visit is part of the itinerary in each foreign country they visit.

Bressler's passion is the importance of good nutrition. He has authored articles and given presentations to community groups on the subject. He has also written two books on the subject: "Nutrition: The Case of Misplaced Emphasis" (1986) and "Essentials of Nutrition: Good Nutrition vs. Malnutrition" (2016).

He is the proud grandfather of seven and great-grandfather of 12.

Revisiting Her Jewish Roots, Doni Zasloff Returns to Tl as Performer

One of the featured performers at the annual cantor's concert on March 19 has a direct connection to our synagogue.

Doni Zasloff, known in her youth as Daniela, was called to the Torah as a *bat mitzvah* at Beth Tikva (now Tikvat Israel) in the 1980s. Jim Perlmutter, longtime TI member, served as her tutor.

The *Tikvat Israel Bulletin* secured an exclusive interview with the concert performer in advance of her return to our synagogue. Perlmutter helped to conduct this interview via e-mail.

Q. How does it feel to return to the synagogue where you grew up and where you and your family had so many friends and relationships?

Zasloff: I am beyond excited about this concert! It means so much to me to go back to the place where it all started. The synagogue means the world. Jimmy Perlmutter, especially, who was my *bat mitzvah* tutor. All of the memories on going to synagogue every week. The place was home to me.

Q. Do you have any special memories of your *bat mitzvah* or your Jewish life in Montgomery County?

Zasloff: There's so many memories. I don't know where to begin. So much of my Jewish soul and spirit came from my childhood and life in Montgomery County. My love of music and everything Jewish came from the relationships I had along with the memories and moments at the synagogue.

Q. How did Nefesh Mountain get its start?

Zasloff: Nefesh Mountain is truly a love story between Eric and me. As we were falling in love, we started writing this music. It came from both of our hearts, and it was our truth. Nefesh Mountain has become much bigger than us, and I couldn't be more grateful to be sharing this music all over the country and the world.

Q: How did you evolve from your Mama Doni days of performing primarily music for kids and families to being the lead singer for Nefesh Mountain?

Zasloff: Mama Doni started when my older children were very little. I started that because I wanted to make the music for them. But as an artist and a person and a mother, I am growing always and evolving and so Nefesh Mountain was the next chapter after Mama Doni.

Q. When did you first realize that Jewish bluegrass was a niche that would be so widely popular and welcomed across all branches of Judaism?

Zasloff: We had really no idea that Nefesh Mountain was going to become what it is today. We really started writing the music



Rockville native Doni Zasloff will perform musically at the *shul* where she had her *bat mitzvah* in the mid-1980s.

as we were falling in love and trying to make honest music. We started to realize this wasn't something that had been done before and the response we were getting from Jewish communities, and secular audiences as well, was really overwhelming. It seemed we had found something that people needed and wanted. We are just so grateful that our music is touching people.

Q. How does it feel to be so widely recognized and appreciated?

Zasloff: I wake up every day feeling so grateful that I get to do what I love. I honestly can't believe it sometimes. I've been through a lot in my life, and I do not take it for granted in the least. I'm so grateful to finally have a partner who is my soulmate. My two older beautiful children and the recent miracle and gift of our new baby Willow, who is now 19 months old and who will be at the concert! I'm so excited to bring her and Eric to such a meaningful and special place.

Q. Where do you see the band evolving in the next few years? What new markets can you foresee?

Zasloff: We are continuing to make music that is honest and share it with people of all backgrounds. We are opening up our sound with new instrumentation and exploring all sounds of Americana and our roots. We hope our music can break down barriers and walls between people—that is bring people together. Often, we hear from audiences that they had never even met a Jewish person before, and they hug me with gratitude. Feels like we have had moments that really can make a difference. If this music can help heal someone or this world even a little bit, then it's all worth it.

Q. What is it like touring with your precious daughter Willow?

Zasloff: It's the best! She's a little ray of sunshine. I can't wait for you all to meet her.



I have often thought that the concept of hospitality began with Abraham and Sarah. Now I believe hospitality was one of *Hashem's* first examples to us. G-d created the heavens and the earth and even a special place for Adam and Eve with everything they needed to live and learn. Each year on Passover, we have the opportunity to create our own special place to eat and celebrate. It is especially wonderful to share our Passover creation with others.

If you do not have a *Seder* to go to or if you have room at your *Seder* for others, please fill out the attached form by **March 29** and return it to the office or contact Hope Levy Kott at (301) 921-8268 or by e-mail at hkott@aol.com.

hone number/e-mail	
Yes! We would like to host up to	people on Wednesday, April 5, 2023
Yes! We would like to host up to	people on Thursday, April 6, 2023
Yes! We would like to attend a Sedo	er on □ Wednesday and/or □ Thursday.
lease indicate the names and ages (of children) of all who will be attending:
lease indicate as well if your family:	
does □ does not observe the Sepl	nardic custom of eating kitniyot or legumes .
does □ does not keep kosher.	
does □ does not eat exclusively ve	egetarian meals.
does □ does not observe tradition	nal Yom Tov restrictions.
onducts/prefers the <i>seder</i> mostly in	English □ or mostly in Hebrew □
lease tell us anything else your host	would need to know (allergies, etc.):

Spring Programming is Blooming at Tikvat Israel

BY SALLY KRAM, TIKVAT ISRAEL VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROGRAMMING



The crocuses are peeking through the snow, the days are getting warm and TI members' thoughts turn ... to *matzah*? Spring is a festive time of year for Jews with *Purim* and *Pesach* competing for our attention.

Here's a rundown of what you can expect.

Holiday Programming

In celebration of both holidays, TI will host its annual and beloved *Purim* Puppet Show, staged once again by the Lipsy sisters, followed by the usual creative reading of the *Megillah* on March 6 (and again on March 7). All ages are invited to attend the festivities on March 6 in full costume. You are never too old for a *Purim* parade.

(Flash from the past: View the sock puppet version from the height of the pandemic when The Purim production took place entirely on Zoom: https://fb.watch/is6zbcrrRY/.)

While recovering from *Purim*, our resident scholar of many things Cliff Fishman will get us all in the mood for *Pesach* with a Zoom-based talk on the *Haggadah* at 8 p.m. on March 22. The *Haggadah's* history and meaning to the Jewish people over the ages will be thoroughly explored. Check *B'Kesher* for more details about this and other pre-*Pesach* events such as the selling of the *chametz*.

Pesach itself will receive special attention this year. On April 6, Tikvat Israel is hosting its inaugural Second Night Seder for the entire community. The seder will feature Pesach teachings, community camaraderie and, of course, delicious pesadik food. Make your reservations early!

While on the topic of holiday programming, join TI on May 19 as it celebrates *Yom Yerushalayim* with another community meal. Registration details will be reported in *B'Kesher* and on TI's website.

Also planned for the spring are additional lay-led and rabbi-led Torah study after services on selected *Shabbatot*. These meaningful and deeply compelling discussions are being planned by Cliff Fishman. See *B'Kesher* for additional details

Cultural Programming

Tikvat Israel continues to offer various experiences for its congregants beyond its religious programming. If you are interested in additional program options, consider attending the following concerts and happenings:

On March 19, TI will host a performance by Nefesh Mountain, the Jewish bluegrass band, the headliner for TI's major fundraiser in 2023 (see stories, pages 1 and 7);

On April 23, TI is featuring Nordic Fiddlers Block, part of the Focus concert series (see story, page 17);

On May 11, all *Mah Jongg* players are invited to TI for a daylong tournament, sponsored by the Women's Network, open to everyone from the most experienced players to new learners; and

On June 4, TI's Women's Network is hosting its annual base-ball outing to Nationals Park to watch the Washington Nationals play the Philadelphia Phillies.

All dates and times for these events will be listed in *B'Kesher*. Keep an eye out for the updates.

Social Action Activities

Tikvat Israel is continuing its vigorous support of the broader community. On March 29 at 4:30 p.m., congregants are invited to drop off home-prepared food in the TI parking lot as part of our support for the Stepping Stones homeless shelter.

How Can You Help?

Ever thought about planning and running your own event at Tikvat Israel? A recently introduced program planning worksheet should make it easier. The easy-to-use two-page document will spell out all the relevant information for your proposed program to give TI staff and leadership an opportunity to give you direct say in what happens at TI.

Using the worksheet, any TI member can propose a program and, with the details in the sheet, it can be supported and implemented by TI members.

Want to know more? Contact Sally Kram at sallykram939@gmail.com.

ONE MORE CHANCE FOR SHABBAT DINING



The second of three *Shabbat* evening dinners planned at TI in 2022-23 took place on Feb. 3 in connection with *Tu B'Shevat*. Shown behind the broccoli salad served that evening to about 60 diners are (from left) kitchen workers Sara Harris, Barbara Katz, Hilda Springer and Roz Kram. The next dinner takes place in connection with *Yom Yerushalayim Shabbat* on May 19. (*Photo by Felicia R. Black*)

Sponsors Enable Free Viewing of Israeli Films in Person

Thanks to two sponsors in the congregation, Bruce Goldin and someone who asked to remain anonymous, about 100 synagogue members were able to enjoy in-person viewing of two top-flight Israeli films in January and February at no charge. It marked the first in-person film festival in three years at the *shul*, though a remote viewing option was appreciated by many who didn't attend to watch in the sanctuary.

The drama "Plan A" was screened on Jan. 28, and the comedy "Kiss Me Kosher" was shown on Feb. 4. Without a discussion moderator this year from the Israeli Embassy, festival organizer



Felicia Black raised a point about the Israeli drama "Plan A," the first of two films screened at the synagogue. (*Photo by Cliff Fishman*)



More than 100 congregants turned out over the two nights to watch Israeli films in the sanctuary. (*Photo by Cliff Fishman*)

Sally Kram filled in admirably. Delicious food and conversation were shared by all after both films in the TI social hall.

"Thanks to all volunteers and participants, and I hope everyone can make it again next year in 2024," Kram said.



Sally Kram, organizer of the annual film fest, capably doubled this year as the discussion moderator. (*Photo by Felicia R. Black*)



Some of the post-film snacks available to those who turned out on one or both evenings. (*Photo by Cliff Fishman*)



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Monthly Alternative Service for Those Seeking Shabbat Variety

Do you enjoy Jewish song, spirituality and *ruach* but find traditional services aren't quite your jam?

A new alternative minyan is starting on March 18. Led by Rachel Laveer (née Lipsy), the minyan will occur once a month on the *Shabbat* morning prior to *Rosh Chodesh*. This *Shabbat* is known as *Shabbat Mevarchim* because the blessing for the new month is recited during this service. So the *minyan* will aptly be named the *Rosh Chodesh Minyan*.

Laveer came up with this concept from her days at the Jewish Day School, during which she enjoyed participating in what was named the "havurah minyan" as it was modeled after the style of the Havurah movement of Judaism. The students who participated in the havurah minyan didn't read from a traditional siddur, but instead built their own over many years, with each new cohort adding to the previous generation. Over time, this built a homemade siddur filled with prayer-based songs, Hebrew zemirot, creative readings and Amidah-inspired meditations.

Laveer is using this homemade *siddur* as inspiration to create a booklet to be used for the *Rosh Chodesh Minyan*.

Included will be new songs as well as traditional ones, and some time set aside for either Torah discussion or introspective meditation, depending on the mood of the day. To encourage enthusiastic participation from attendees, there will be egg-shakers, tambourines and other percussion instruments available for all *minyan*-goers to use.

Taking place parallel to regular *Shabbat* services, the *Rosh Chodesh Minyan* will start at 10:30 a.m. and end at noon. It will occur in-person in the Tikvat Israel library.

Second Night Seder at TI

By member request, Tikvat Israel will be holding a community *seder* on the second night of Passover this year. Join with us at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 6, for a one-of-a-kind *seder* for the whole family. There will be a registration fee for dinner, and sponsors are being sought so that every family who wants to participate will be able.

Watch *B'Kesher* and the website for details, and RSVP at *tikvatisrael.org/seder5783*.

Borrowing a Book from TI's Library is Easy

BY JANICE ROSENBERG

The Herman J. Flax Library has over 1500 books—fiction, non-fiction, and biographies—on its shelves. Borrowing a book is easy. Just send an email to the library's new email address, TikvatIsraelLibrary@gmail.com, and include the book title, your name, and your contact information.



Here are a few titles you may discover while visiting TI's library:

Fiction:

Among the Living, by Jonathan Rabb A Holocaust survivor's unconventional journey back to a new normal in 1940s Savannah, Georgia.

Rachel & Leah: Women of Genesis, by Orson Scott Card The story of Jacob through the eyes of Rachel and Leah.

Sunday Jews, by Hortense Calisher Explores issues of identity in an eclectic family.

We Were the Lucky Ones, by Georgia Hunter Inspired by the true story of a Jewish family separated during World War II and their determination to survive and find each other again.

The Weight of Ink, by Rachel Kadish
The lives of two women are interwoven in this novel that takes place in London in the 1660s and the early 21st century.

Biographies:

Somewhere for Me: A Biography of Richard Rodgers, by Meryle Secrest Chronicles the life of the composer by covering five decades of American musical history.

Einstein, by Walter Isaacson An in-depth look at the life of Albert Einstein, his childhood, biggest discoveries and personal struggles.

As a reminder, the library accepts donations of books only if they were published since the year 2000, or are Jewish classics, or are of historical significance. All donated works should be in good condition.

Happy reading!

WOMEN'S NETWORK

Straight Ahead on Schedule: Mah Jong Tourney, Shelly Goldin Shabbat

BY JANICE BALIN, WOMEN'S NETWORK COORDINATOR

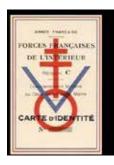


Welcome to the Women's Network corner! This is the place to learn about recent events and future programming.

The secular year started out with a bang! The Women's Network offered three programs, something for everyone. On Jan. 11, Elaine Weinstein led the book group in an interesting discussion of the book *Something Beautiful Happened*, by Yvette Manessis Corporon. The author shared the story of how 70 years after

her grandmother helped hide a Jewish family on a Greek Island during WWII, she set out to track down her descendants—and discovered a new way to understand tragedy, forgiveness and the power of kindness. This book was popular among our readers.

On Sunday, Jan. 15, Rabbi Marc Israel presented our second *Rosh Hodesh* program, "*Shma Yisrael*: Jewish Ethical Wills." A gifted teacher, he weaved together ancient and contemporary examples of ethical wills and shared a guide to writing one's own ethical will. Both women and men from the congregation walked away with ideas on how to start the process of writing such a document and how and when to share it with their families. Thanks to Fortuna Scheige and Maxine Perlmutter for organizing this event.





Historical tour guide Stephanie Paul led a program for a half dozen synagogues' women's groups about French Resistance during World War II.

On Sunday, Jan. 22, the Women's Network partnered with five other Sisterhoods to travel to Paris, France, for an interesting and enlightening virtual presentation of the French Resistance during WWII. Stephanie Paul presented this program. More than 35 Tikvat Israel households participated, and the reviews were highly positive at the end. Thank you for the many generous donations received from congregants following the event. They will help support such programs in the future.

Our special programming continued into February when comedian Seth Front offered a hilarious culinary history of Jews in America, based on the astrological signs of the delicatessen! He had a sign for all of our favorite Jewish foods: blintzes, latkes, bagels, pickles, pastrami, knishes, lox, chicken soup, black and white cookies and even egg creams. Front is a rabbi's son so you can imagine how his humor can connect Jews to their heritage and faith. It was a fun night for all participants.

Later in February a team of *Mishloach Manot* workers organized, packaged and delivered boxes to all members of the congregation to make their celebration of *Purim* special. Melissa Apter, Roz Kram, Ellie Diamond, Janice Balin and even Sheri Brown (helping remotely from California) spent many hours creating a theme for this year, ordering the content, learning how to use the Shul Cloud module, and preparing for *Purim*. A special thank you to Debbie Unger, the ECC director, for helping to place orders for us. The fundraiser was a huge success.

There is much more to come! Mark your calendar for these two special programs:

- On Thursday, May 11, the Women's Network will sponsor an all-day *MahJong* Tournament in the social hall. This tournament will be open to the public and should prove to be a fun day for all players. Beth Smith is the event chair. If you have time to help her with planning or operations on the date of the event, please contact her.
- The Annual Shelly Goldin Women's Network *Shabbat* is scheduled for Saturday, May 13. Elyse Bernstein and Susan Apter will be assigning service parts. Hilda Springer and Fortuna Scheige will work with Roz Kram to plan a beautiful luncheon for the congregation. If you wish to participate to honor our beloved Shelly, contact the appropriate coordinator. If you wish to donate, send your donation to Brenda Brooks through Paypal or by check. This beautiful morning can't happen without YOU!

Continue reading the Women's Network newsletter and *B'Kesher* for other programs scheduled for this year.

TWO TITLES REMAIN FOR STUDY BY WOMEN'S NETWORK

Lively discussions are almost guaranteed at the Women's Network book group discussions.

The latest one, in mid-January, attracted 18 women, who gathered on Zoom to analyze *Something Beautiful Happened:* A Story of Survival and Courage in the Face of Evil, by Yvette Manessis Corporon. Elaine Weinstein moderated the discussion.

Two book discussions remain on the schedule: *Peony*, by Pearl Buck, on Wednesday, March 15, at 8 p.m. on Zoom; and *House on Endless Waters*, by Emuna Elon, on Sunday, May 21, at 10 a.m., in person at Tikvat Israel.

Any female congregant teen-age or older is welcome to participate in the discussions.



Elaine Weinstein shared her views as discussion moderator during the mid-January gathering of the Women's Network book group. (*Photo by Amy Matathias*)

EDUCATION AND YOUTH

Sunday School Launches for Kindergarten and 1st Graders

BY JUDY STERN, VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH



The latest development about education for young people at TI, as well as youth events.

Religious School

Tikvat Israel will start a religious school program for children in kindergarten and 1st grade for the next school year. The class will be held on Sunday mornings, taught by an experienced teacher. Children will be exposed to introductory Hebrew and learn about the Jewish holidays, customs and values.

This will be an opportunity for 5- and 6-year-old children to come together with others in the community to have fun while they learn.

For more information or to register, contact judystern7@aol.com.

Tikvat Israel Teens

This school year, teens in grades 7 through 10 have joined together for various activities. In January, they met for dinner with Rabbi Israel, followed by a discussion of how antisemitism affects their lives and their world.

At the end of February, the group worked in the Tikvat Israel kitchen to bake *hamentaschen* for *Purim* with Roz Kram.

On March 11, there will be a movie night, which will include dinner and *havdalah*. Teens in grade 7-10 are welcome to attend

CHAI DYNAMICS PERFORMS AT LOCAL FESTIVAL

Chai Dynamics was one of four local Jewish *a cappella* groups that performed at Beth Sholom Congregation's 10th annual *Shir*-On Shabbat concert in Potomac.

Chai Dynamics is an adult Jewish *a cappella* group, cosponsored by Tikvat Israel and Shaare Torah.

The singers took the stage after *kiddush* and lunch in a concert that featured creative arrangements of traditional Jewish liturgical songs as well as Israeli and American pop tunes.

The other groups were Shir Madness, a high school group from the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School; Makela, a local group for young professionals; and Kol Sasson, representing the University of Maryland.



Chai Dynamics, consisting mostly of TI members, strikes a silly stance during a recent practice session.

the movie night, which was a big success last year. The movie this time will be "Maktub," an Israeli comedy. RSVP to https://forms. gle/9XxSgachKJ7Fp7Y3A

Plans are under way for a picnic and games to be held in May. We welcome all Tikvat Israel teens, as well as friends and relatives of our congregants. To participate in the teen group, or to learn more about it, reach out to me at judystern?@ aol.com.

Special Needs Support

A support group is forming at TI for Jewish parents of children with special needs.



Jonathan and Elanor Lantner get friendly with the Israel family's dog during the Tikvat Israel Teens event at Rabbi Israel's home in January.

Tikvat Israel will be connecting parents who would like to share parenting experiences, discuss concerns, solutions and ideas for including their children in the education, rituals and events of Jewish life. Parents will come together at Tikvat Israel in an informal group, designed to provide support and share advice.

Participants from the community are also welcome to attend these gatherings. If you are interested in joining or learning more about this new group, contact Rabbi Israel or Judy Stern.

STEPPING UP TO STEPPING STONES



Two of the seven TI congregants who gathered at the synagogue on Feb. 1 with food they prepared for delivery to Stepping Stones are Larry Gorban and Molly Turkewitz. Ellen Eisner manages TI's support of the shelter in Rockville. If you want to help with the next dinner meal, contact her at eeisner@comcast.net.

To Serve or Not to Serve

BY SHERMAN EISNER

To serve or not to serve, that is the question! Do we go forward on May 29th to serve food at Shepherd's Table, or do we let others carry our water? I say we link arms under the Tikvat Israel banner and sally forth. Who's with me?

Are you aware that we (Temple Israel and Tikvat Israel) have been serving food at Shepherd's Table for over 38 continuous years, with only a three-year hiatus for COVID? We've performed this *mitzvah* four to five times each year, in any month with a fifth Monday. Each session lasted about two hours and involved serving 125-175 people.

As coordinator, my role is to ensure that we have a sufficient number of volunteers at each session—usually around 12.

So now, who will join me in this noble effort on May 29th? Wait . . . do I see a sea of hands? Please email me at shermaneisner147@gmail.com if you're interested in participating.



Washington Jewish Week featured TI's involvement at Shepherd's Table in August 2019. Our volunteers enjoyed what they were doing.

BLOOD DONORS CONTRIBUTE 26 PINTS

Twenty-six pints of blood were collected at Tikvat Israel's blood drive on Feb. 2 in the social hall. Approximately a third of the donors were synagogue members.

Robbi Cohen served as primary organizer, supported by fellow volunteers Larry Gorban, Jonathan Solomon and Stu Turkewitz.

Watch *B'Kesher* for information about signing up for next blood drive at TI on June 14. It will be run by the American Red Cross.



I want to thank everyone in the TI community for your support, encouragement and the meals you provided to my family. It has been a difficult time dealing with my injuries, but I am making progress with the help of your prayers and positive thoughts.

The TI community has been there for my family when we needed your help. We are so happy to be a part of this community.

Sue Plafker

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FUND FOR THE FUTURE

How We Receive Donations and Disburse Funds

BY GENE SHESKIN AND CAROL CHELEMER, FUND FOR THE FUTURE TRUSTEES

The Fund for the Future exists for the purpose of supporting Tikvat Israel's long-term financial security. That is clearly stated in its bylaws ("Establishment and Organization Principles for the Tikvat Israel Fund for the Future"). More specifically, the Fund for the Future has provided consistently increasing annual distributions to support the operations of the congregation.

Money contributed to FFF (by bequests and other gifts) is invested and managed as an endowment. This means that only earnings may be distributed to Tikvat Israel; the principal is not to be reduced. It is managed by the United Jewish Endowment Fund, along with similar funds of many other area congregations and communal organizations.

How can you make a contribution to the FFF?

Contributions may be made in a number of ways and in a number of forms. Cash contributions may be made by check sent to Tikvat Israel or online (through Shul Cloud) by credit card or e-check. Contributions of stocks and bonds may be made by providing the certificates to Tikvat Israel or through the transfer of securities from brokerage accounts.

What is critical is that all contributions for the FFF be clearly designated. Note: If you are interested in setting up a restricted fund for a specific purpose (\$10,000 minimum), a written agreement

needs to be drawn up. Be sure to keep records to substantiate your contributions; most are tax deductible in the year contributed.

How is the amount for distribution from the FFF to TI's operating fund determined?

The annual calculation is made based on a 12-quarter average value to determine the amount available for distribution after subtracting the historical value of the contributions (i.e., the principal). As long as that number is positive, there is an amount available for distribution.

How does TI receive funds from the FFF?

Once the calculation is made, that information is provided to TI's Board of Directors. The board may request a distribution from the FFF's Board of Trustees. The request shall include the amount of funds requested and the purpose(s) for which the funds are to be used.

The FFF's Board of Trustees considers the request and, if it approves, the chair writes to UJEF requesting that amount. When received, the funds are deposited into TI's operating account.

In summary, distributions can be made on an annual basis, so long as the calculations show that funds are available. To date, three distributions have been made, totaling over \$50,000.

Tikvat Israel Exceeds Its Chai Campaign Goal

BY JAYME SOKOLOW, CHAI CAMPAIGN CHAIR

The Chai Campaign set its sights on raising \$74,000 in 2022. But thanks to the generosity of our congregants, we raised a record \$81,000!

Many congregants, in the words of our *siddur*, united to "establish synagogues for prayer" and gave "funds for heat and light, and wine for *kiddush* and *havdalah*." A heartfelt thanks to all for their contributions.

The Chai Campaign would like to acknowledge the contributions of the following members who so generously supported our 2022 fundraising effort:

DIAMOND (\$5,400)

Melanie Grishman

PLATINUM (\$3,600)

Alan and Susan Apter Clifford and Betty Fishman Phil and Hope Kott

GOLD (\$1,800)

Larry Berger
Danny Bachman and Debby Berlyne
Jeff and Elyse Bernstein
Elizabeth Ellison
Michael and Shannon Gellman
Sam and Tami Gilston
Bruce Goldin
Larry and Bobbi Gorban
Barbara Katz

GOLD (\$1,800) continued

John and Rianne Melmed
Ron Rabin
Steve Raucher
Leonard and Celia Schuchman
Robert and Roni Silverstein
Jayme Sokolow
Jonathan and Nancy Solomon
Hilda Springer
Howard and Sue Wilchins

SILVER (\$1,000)

Robert and Janice Balin Carol Chelemer Larry and Roberta Cohen Michael and Karen Cohen Sherman and Ellen Eisner David and Alice Gantz

SILVER (\$1,000) continued

Bruce Goldin
Denise Kanuck
Rod and Nancy Matheson
Neil and Lois Sbar
Sandra Schwartz
Edward and Linda Silverstein
Marvin and Judith Waldman
Joel Bressler and Shirley Waxman

DOUBLE CHAI (\$720)

Marc Schneider and Martie Adelman Keith and Brenda Brooks Howard and Rosemarie Chernoff Aaron Fineman Sara Harris Jay Goldman and Rebecca Salon

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Pre-Schoolers Maintain a Busy Schedule Combining Play and Chesed

BY DEBBIE UNGAR, DIRECTOR, EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER



Winter is a very busy time in the ECC, with exciting activities and programming. In preparation for our *PJ Havdalah* event, the classes learned about *havdalah* and made their own spices, and *kiddush* cups. Our three- and four-year-old classes participated in a JCraft program where the children made their own *havdalah* candles. The excitement culminated with the PJ *Havdalah* program on January 28. Rabbi Israel led the service, and families sang,

danced, and used musical instruments in this interactive program led by Auntie A of Rhythm 'N Ruach.

For *tzedakah*, in connection with our pajama *havdalah* program, the ECC collected pajamas and socks to donate to Interfaith Works. The *Arayot* and *Nemerim* classes counted and graphed the 47 pairs of pajamas and 46 pairs of socks that were collected. The pre-kindergarten classes took a walking field trip to the center to deliver the donations. The children enjoyed and learned from their involvement in the act of charity.

We prepared for *Tu B'Shevat* by studying trees. As part of the JSTEM program, the pre-kindergarten children studied drip irrigation and its use in the Israeli desert. Children made their own drip irrigation system for parsley seeds, and they will monitor the growth of the plants, which should be ready for use on Passover.

On February 21, the ECC will celebrate *Yom HaMishpacha*, or family day, a holiday in Israel that replaced Mother's Day and Father's Day. This day more easily honors all family structures. Families are invited at 9:00 am to have breakfast in the classroom, participate in a special art activity, and dance with their children in Israeli dance.

The ECC has begun registration for the 2023-2024 school year and summer session with flexible scheduling options for children 14 months to 5 years. We invite prospective families to set up tours by calling the ECC office at 301-251-0455 or emailing Debbie Ungar at Debbie@tikvatisrael.org.







Cutline 2 goes here



Cutline 3 goes here

Yoga Classes on Thursdays at the Shul

Join Sarah Fishman, who has been teaching yoga in Montgomery County for over 15 years, to keep your health and wellness on track. Not only can yoga reduce stress, aches and pains; it can also help us sleep better and bounce back more quickly when we do get sick or injured. Flexibility is not a prerequisite of yoga, but it may be one of the beneficial side effects!

There are two classes to choose from, at 4–5:15 p.m. and 6-7:15 p.m. on Thursdays in the TI Library annex. Both classes also are available on Zoom for those who

prefer to practice at home. (No classes will be held on April 6 or 13 in observance of *Pesach*.)

The early (4 p.m.) group focuses on "Functional Yoga" — *Bubbes* and *Zaydes* are welcome and will be in good company! The later (6 p.m.) option is a Vinyasa Flow class appropriate for experienced beginners and intermediate students who are free of serious injuries or medical conditions.

Contact Sarah at namastesarah@gmail.com for registration information.

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A NEW EXPLORATION WEBSITE FOR CONSERVATIVE JEWS

Don't miss the new platform known as *ExploringJudaism.org*, where people can share personal and meaningful Jewish wisdom and reflection in addition to insight on practical living through the lens of Conservative/Masorti Judaism.

ExploringJudaism.org is a digital home for the Torah of Conservative/Masorti Judaism. While the name of this stream of Judaism was born well over a century ago, in the contemporary world Conservative Judaism is expressed through connection, community and the creation of meaning. This lens on Judaism is rooted in the idea that Judaism grows with us, that we're guided by process, and that there is beauty in the balance.

ExploringJudaism.org is about embracing the complexity and beauty of Judaism and our personal search for meaning and learning. This website is an ever-growing collection of resources, viewpoints, and journeys through Judaism.

The website is in beta version to meet the goal of sharing the Torah of Conservative Judaism in a meaningful and sustainable way. You can offer feedback on the site so it evolves based on your interests.



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Folk Music Shows Continue at TI Under Focus Partnership

BY MICHAEL AMSTER

Tikvat Israel's partnership with Focus continues to bring amazing performing artists to our sanctuary. The artists and audiences are delighted with the fantastic acoustics and comfortable setting.

Tickets for the folk music concerts are modestly priced, and there is no need to *schlep* to an arena or stadium to hear great live music. We hope to see you at an upcoming concert.

Two more shows are planned during the next two months.

On March 12, we'll present James Keelaghan with David Woodhead. To quote Eric Bibb, the award-winning American acoustic bluesman, after listening to Keelaghan perform: "[You're] a joy to hear, just beautiful. Reminded me of the best of the best of another time – Liam Clancy, Tom Paxton etc." Less colorful but more succinct, Dave Marsh, the eminent *Rolling Stone* critic, simply described Keelaghan as "Canada's finest songwriter." Find out more about the artist at *keelaghan.com*.

You've probably seen Woodhead's name listed on the backs of recordings in your collection, as he's on some 300 projects and has worked with many influential artists, including Stan Rogers, Gil Scott-Heron and David Sanborn. Find out more about him at davidwoodhead.com.

On April 23, the Nordic Fiddlers Block will bring to our sanctuary awesome musicianship honed by some 700 gigs, playing across Scandinavia, mainland Europe, the United States and the United Kingdom. Learn more about the Nordic Fiddler's Block at *thenordicfiddlersbloc.com*. (Debbie and I heard them perform last summer in Rockport, Mass. They are fantastic!)

Tickets are available in advance via the Focus website, *focus-music.org*, at \$25 each, or \$30 at the door to members of Tikvat Israel or Focus; the price is \$30 to non-members. There is a separate button on the site to select virtual tickets, at \$25 in advance and \$30 on the day of the performance. Be sure to select the date of the TI concert, not an appearance by the band at another venue.

Congregational Condolences

Condolences to those Tikvat Israel members who lost loved ones recently recently (mid-December through mid-February):

... to *Avi Bardack*, for the loss of his grandfather, Noah Roitman

... to Barry Lipsy, for the loss of his mother, Estelle Lipsy

... to **Keith Brooks**, for the loss of his mother, Connie Brooks

... to the family of Phyllis Leise

Tikvat Israel Remembers With Respect Those Whose Yahrzeits Occur From from 8 Adar through 9 Nisan- March 2023

March 1 8 ADAR

Dorothy Ashery Shulamit Sporen Breit Stephen Cohen Mary Fine Adelle Lapin

March 2 9 ADAR

Rosalind Apter Barbara Goldstein Durand Israel Erdman Milton H. Feig Lena Feingold Lewis Frank Alex Liebenson Pauline Oppenheimer Irving Reich Emma Tiller

March 3 10 ADAR

Avrom Armoza Ida Berly Guadalupe Castillo Bernard Cohen Josephine Erdheim Michael Hersh Helen Kaplan Nathan Lampert Joshua Leise Zev Aria Ludwinowitz Marge K. Martin Milton Mulitz Gary Reider Sidney Rosen Murray Rothman Nina Silverstein

March 4 11 ADAR

Morris Cohen George Eber Ida Friedman Donna I. Malkin Arthur Musher K. Gordon Oppenheimer Aaron Pressman Hilda G. Robbin Alexander Rothberg Gertrude Schwartz Pearl Solet Cynthia Spritzer Benjamin Suskind

March 5 12 ADAR

Filemon Castillo Bessie Danoff Fanny Izen Sara Lebowitz Belle Lerner **Emily Livingston** Louis D. Robbin Frank Sobovinsky

March 6 13 ADAR

Abraham Brooke Shulamit Elster Eva Glater Marshall Silverstein

March 7 14 ADAR

Paul Altman Burton Boroff Fannie Curchack Lena Fineman Solomon Gorschman Corina D. Nichols Karen Schubert Ruth Anne Sheskin

March 8 15 ADAR

Elaine Kasper Bert Levin Zahava Nevet Anna Shapiro Zandel Smith

March 9 16 ADAR

Harry Balin Celia Bliss Morris Gellman Sam Jorban Max Katzen Milton Kensky Jacob Pear Joseph Podgor David Ronis Philip Schnitzer Abraham I. Selwyn Ascher Wolf

March 10 17 ADAR

Carl Boden Friedrich Breit Sigmund Brown Erna Casper Murray Grand Abraham Kabot Freda Kagan Dr. Milton Moss Gerda Reich Isadore Schwartz Harry Weinstein

March 11 18 ADAR

Stephen Edwards Frances First Helen Gross Rebecca Kauffman Rose Ludwin Colin Melmed Susan Meyers David Stuart Pearl Morris Polansky **Jacob Sage** Fannie Salzer Lena Sandler

March 12 19 ADAR

Herman Hamburg Maurice Krause Gloria Levinrad Tillie Lieberman Joseph Salzer Dudley Schwartz

March 13 20 Adar

Marguerite Eldredge Renne Katz Abraham Isaac Levy William Raucher Benjamin Rosenthal Maé Shulman Marlene Shulman Rabbi Jerome Weistrop

March 14 21 ADAR

Tillie Beard Theresa Kabik Bernard Levine Phyllis Newman Mary Nussbaum Martin Robinson Melvin Salzman Daniel Howard Steiner David Suson Anna Zipin

March 15 22 ADAR

Sylvia Abramson

Svlvia Eiserike Edna Eisner Clem Fishman Benjamin Lederman Paul Margolies Howard Paul Morrison Pauline Rosenblatt Nyusya Sapozhnikova Pearl Simon Dr. Ben A. Williamowsky

March 16 23 ADAR

Linda Beaumont Isadore Chait Albert Katz Charlotte Zeidman

March 17 24 ADAR

Lillie Becker Robert Davidson Ruth Davis Morris Freedman Miriam Bobys Green Henry J. Land Minnie Parzow Max Steinberg

March 18 **25 A**DAR

Irving Ashery David Ray Ćheslock Pearl Gottesman David Lefkowitz Sarah Robinson Sophie Schwartz

March 19 26 ADAR

Helen Cohen Annie Edlowitz Burnell Goodman Samuel Halperin Mark Kabik Jesse Kaiser Betty Mae Kramer Esther Lerner Donald Linden William Myers

March 20 27 ADAR

Albert Bressler Shirley M. Caplan Richard Cohen Alexander Diamond Emil Lentchner Bella Dinter Lieberman Edward Turkanis

March 21 28 ADAR

Carl Fishman Beatrice Friedman Irving Garfinkle Thomas Gorban Samuel Kaplan Belle Kobrinetz Marion Laken David Sills Ethel Solomon Selma Winson

March 22 29 ADAR

Louis Auerbach Benjamin Barris Naomi Beneteau Bernard N. Flax Edward Krick Meyer Kushner Donald Lewis Sidney Migdal Louis Newman Henry Oppenheim Sylvia Panitz Freda Shevitz

March 23 1 NISAN

Harold Botkin

March 24 2 NISAN

Lea Chernoff Samuel Holland Geraldine Kaiz Simon Katz Ruth Kramer Lena Levine Mortimer Ratnoff Edna Simai Harriette Solowey Ethel Toney Judith Weinstein Ida Weisbord

March 25 3 NISAN

Debbie Bloom Maurice Gabes Ruth Gilston Lottie Greenwood Ernest Gruenfeld Mark Morrison Leroy Moses Rose Silverman

March 26

4 NISAN

Tillie Grossman Edward J. Raine Minnie Sakoff

March 27

5 NISAN

Lillian Brecker Pearl Bredt Ronna Esther Butterworth Leah Feinsilber David Krauss Edward Rabin Harry Silverman Beatrice "Binnie" West

March 28

6 NISAN

Sara Berman Moshe Cohen Hyman Grand Alice Katz Abraham Moskowitz Isadore Romm Herman Schrier Pauline Seiler Irwin Suson Rhoda Zuskin

March 29

7 NISAN

Hannah Barrack Saul Ehrlich Stephen Harris Matthew Kessler Doris Lampert Anna Rom Bertha Seiler Reuven Shacham Helen Shulman Samuel Wagman

March 30

8 NISAN

Daisy C. Jones Harriet Cohen Sylvia Copaken Élizabeth Grishman Martin Kronenberg Carolyn Wermiel Sophie Zaccagni

March 31

9 NISAN

Ann Eisler Samuel Frank Salome Gardsbane Nathan Markovitz Isaac Silverman

Tikvat Israel Remembers With Respect Those Whose Yahrzeits Occur From from 10 *Nisan* through 9 *Iyar* - April 2023

APRIL 1 10 NISAN

Jacqueline Cohen Feliciano Cruz Gerhard Gruenfeld Herman Markovitz Ruth Schimmel

APRIL 2 11 NISAN

Lina Hoffman Jacob Levi Julie Melmed Molly Oppenheim

April 3 12 Nisan

Louis Bernstein Gerald Lempert Patricia Teller Sandra Tolpin Sonia Trachtenberg

APRIL 4 13 NISAN

Rachel Brown Ann Engel Marjorie Kaiz Offer Morris Pike Sam Prince Samuel Solsky

APRIL 5 14 NISAN

Henry Goldberg Jacob Goldstein Dora Kishner Akhtar Saadian Michael Sanders Michael C. Shapiro Diane Katz Shedroff

April 6 15 Nisan

Edward Lankin Tillie Pressman Harry Shooman Kalman Sokolow

April 7 16 Nisan

Stanley Berger Harry G. Blackstone Joseph Burdoo Samuel Grossman Lauri Joseph Irving Kaplan David Klein Ida Licht Irwin Lowenfeld

April 8 17 Nisan

Dayna Leslie Dubin Benjamin Fleitell Joseph Gordon Harriet Raine Dorothy M. Robinson Rose Stahler

April 9 18 Nisan

Irving Curchack Jennie Kornhauser Leonard Mitchel

APRIL 10 19 NISAN

Aaron Feinmark Samuel Nathan Leavitt Rita Shetzich

APRIL 11 20 NISAN

Alfred Cowan
Ray Kramer Gesumaria
Dianna Hamburg
Jeanne Krause
Jacob (Jack) Matathias
Fannie Saltzman
Sol Schwartz
Helen Sharlot
Samuel Shull
Bernice Singer
Albert Stutz

APRIL 12 21 NISAN

Benjamin Bogage Stephen Gary Mary Ruth Glucksman Aaron Polansky

APRIL 13 22 NISAN

Lorraine Cohen Jenny Fierman Susana Nardea Gorelick Charles Haberman Helen Haberman Yaakov Havakuk Samuel Taylor

APRIL 14 23 NISAN

Irv Apatoff
Nathan Bloom
Norman Goldman
Isaac Kaplan
Nadia Schuchman
Jackie Tievy
Daniel Wexler

APRIL 15 24 NISAN

Samuel Appel Norman Cohen Diane Finkelstein Ruthanne Osheroff

APRIL 16 25 NISAN

Lenore (Norrie) Kline Bain Maurice Levy

APRIL 17 26 NISAN

Dorothy Daffe Tillie Feldman Joseph Glucksman David Leise Faye Raff Nettie Waltzer Joseph Zalen

APRIL 18 27 NISAN

Ellis Goldman
Julius Lifshutz
Esdra Jose Morhaim ben
Malkuna
Meyer Puner
Herbert Weinstein
Oscar Zaccagni

APRIL 19 28 NISAN

Allan Beck
Sarah Cowan
Tillie Grand
Evelyn Spector
Marcelle Tangy
Anna Teitelbaum
Gertrude S. Van Aalten

APRIL 20 29 NISAN

Esther Duker Pollack Sidney Polster

APRIL 21 30 NISAN

Esther Engelstein Evelyn B. Kaplan Ethel Melmed Irving Suskin Paul Waltzer Sonnie Wolf Harry Yudkoff

APRIL 22 1 *Iyar*

William Dorfman David Fischer Herbert Horowitz Theodore Perlman Raula Stern Joseph Wagman Gary Yudkoff

APRIL 23 2 Iyar

Sarah Bachman Michael Chusid Isidore Cohen Louis Fainberg Harold Gorschman Morris Sirmai Hilda Klein Vinokur

APRIL 24 3 IYAR

Linda Bressler Lily Rose Kerman Frances Penenburgh Stella Suskind Ethel White

April 25 4 Iyar

Reva Bloch Riva Myra Bloch Hannah Edelman Esther May Feinsilber Dr. Herman Flax Celia Linden Carol Miller Sylvia Prosnit Jacob Sweet

APRIL 26 5 Iyar

Celia Bressler Allan Danoff Sylvia Weinstein Levine Mona M. Martin William Mensh Gisela Reich Hilde Scheraga Bernard Stern

APRIL 27

6 IYARHerba DelMonte
Harry Lifshutz
Toba Ohr
Harry Sneiderman

APRIL 28

Glenn Sohn

7 IYAR

Max Bloom Marilyn Bloomberg Nachman Burdett Ilan Cohen Ethel Freedenberg Vincent Gesumaria Ruth Goldman Ruth Jacobs Samuel Katz Hvman Kram Gela Marmor Samuel Marmor Libby Deutsch Rosen Renel Silver Philip Wilchins Josephine Wottitzky

APRIL 29

8 IYAR

Dora Alper George Boroff Abraham Friedman Morris Gateman Louis Harrison Yaakov Lichter Nachama Williamowsky

APRIL 30

9 IYAR

Pauline Dunsmore Rachel Juni Samuel Lebowitz Max Regensteiner



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The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following donations to the various funds of Tikvat Israel. The donor lists that follow reflect gifts received at the synagogue in December and January. If your donation during this time does not appear in the list, please contact the synagogue office at 301-762-7338.

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In memory of ...

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Carl by Marlene Chait Gisela by Genie Glucksman

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by Beth and Richard Smith by Lisa and Damon Ehrlich by Matthew and Sheri Brown by Sara Harris by Ziva and Jerry Schuchman

In memory of Noah Roitman

by Matthew and Sheri Brown by Michael and Debbie Ungar by Richard and Beth Smith

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by Jules and Muriel Asher

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In memory of Celia Brown Schuchman by Jules and Muriel Asher

In memory of Joshua Barrack by Jules and Muriel Asher

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In memory of Connie Brooks by Fortuna and Steven Scheige In memory of Estelle Lipsy by Fortuna and

Steven Scheige

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CHAI CAMPAIGN

In appreciation of the ongoing support of the Tikvat Israel community by Sheri A Brown In memory of Celia Schuchman by Carol Chelemer

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In honor of Cantor Rochelle Helzner by Mary and Neal Meyerson

In honor of Cantor Rochelle Helzner's birthday by Bonnie and Elliot Cowan

In honor of Cliff Fishman's birthday by Betty Fishman

In honor of Melanie Grishman's 80th birthday by Marc Schneider and Martie Adelman In honor of Melanie Grishman's 80th birthday by Sara Harris

In honor of Beth Smith, as *Kallah Bereshit*, by Jim and Maxine Perlmutter In honor of Hilda Springer by Ela Pelish In honor of Marc Pressman by Jim and Maxine Perlmutter

In honor of Rabbi Marc Israel by Mary and Neal Meyerson

In honor of the marriage of Rachel Lipsy to A.J Lanphere by Jim and Maxine Perlmutter

In memory of Connie Brooks by Debby Berlyne and Danny Bachman

In memory of Connie Brooks by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon

In memory of Celia Schuchman

by Sheri Å. Brown by Betty and Cliff Fishman by Bobbi and Larry Gorban by Fortuna and Steven Scheige by Matthew and Sheri Brown by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon

In memory of Estelle Lipsy

by Debby Berlyne and Danny Bachman by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon by Nancy and Rodney Matheson by Sue and Howard Wilchins by Wendy Bauman

In memory of Estelle E. Stolovy, and thank to Rabbi Israel and Cantor Helzner and the Bereavement Committee for all that you did for her funeral and to comfort our family, by Susan Stolovy

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Michele Eisenberg by Betty and Cliff Fishman

In memory of Milton M. Rodes by Ellen and Sherman Eisner

In memory of Maynard and Zoe Ugol by Sandra Ugol

In memory of Noah Roitman (Avi Bardack's grandfather) by Debby Berlyne and Danny Bachman

In memory of Noah Roitman by Paul and Eti Bardack

Wishing a *refuah shlema* to Sue Plafker by Bobbi and Larry Gorban

KIDDUSH FUND

In appreciation of Aaron Chusid by Lois and Neil Sbar

In appreciation of Rosalyn Kram by Melanie Grishman

In honor of Aaron Chusid's one-year anniversary as Executive Director by Arlene and Warren Berger

In honor of Cantor Rochelle Helzner's special birthday by Betty and Cliff Fishman

In honor of Roz and Ted Kram's anniversary

by Amy and Daniel Matathias by Betty and Cliff Fishman by Bob and Janice Balin by Ellen and Sherman Eisner by Karen and Michael Cohen

RABBI'S FUND

In appreciation of the Tikvat Israel Community, for its guidance in raising our children to adulthood as Jews, and as members of their own *kehilla*, by Bonnie and Elliot Cowan

In memory of Arnie Springer by Hilda Springer In memory of Benjamin Futrovsky by Hilda Springer

In memory of Carolyn (Kitty) Strauss by Hilda Springer

In memory of Celia Schuchman by Ziva and Gerald Schuchman

In memory of Charlie Futrovsky by Hilda Springer

In memory of Howard Schwartz by Judith and Paul Schwartz

In memory of Estelle Lipsy by Anna Levy In memory of Estelle Lipsy by Ellie and Mark

In memory of Estelle E. Stolovy by Susan Stolovy

In memory of Noah Roitman (Avi Bardack's grandfather) by Ellie and Mark Diamond

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In appreciation of Tikvat Israel Community for its guidance in raising our children to adulthood as Jews, and members of their own kehilla, by Bonnie and Elliot Cowan

In appreciation of Bruce Goldin's support of the Israeli Film Festival, by Ziva and Jerry Schuchman

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WOMEN'S NETWORK

In honor of Susan Apter and Melissa Apter for all their work in developing and coordinating the *Bat Mitzvah* at 100 Celebration by Anna Levy

In memory of Celia Schuchman by Amy and Daniel Matathias

PERSONAL SUPPORT HOTLINE

The Jewish Community Support Line is available for anyone in the Washington, D.C., area who feels overwhelmed and uncertain about options for support. Call 703-J-CARING.

The support line is a partnership between the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, Jewish Social Services Agency and a network of human service organizations.

For additional information, visit the JSSA website at https://www.jssa.org/jcaring/.

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Is it Ab or Av? The Mystery of the Memorial Boards

BY ALAN APTER

The remembrance boards on the back walls of the sanctuary have not been updated on the synagogue office's spreadsheets in years. In an effort to update the information and make it available in ShulCloud, I undertook the project to enter all the missing data.

A few interesting tidbits struck me while completing this project recently.

- Transliteration can be tricky. That's particularly so when it comes to the spelling of Hebrew months. Is it *Ab* or *Av*? *Shevat* or *Shebat*? *Cheshvan* or *Heshvan*? *Tebet, Tevet*, or *Teveth*? *Tammuz* or *Tamuz*? *Nissan* or *Nisan*? You can find all variations on our wall boards.
- The oldest date on the memorial boards appears with an individual who died in 1912. One person is listed as having died in June 1944 with no day listed. Perhaps this person was involved in D-Day?
- **Several plaques list** *Yom Kippur* **as the date of death.** This is sometimes indicative of a person who perished in the Holocaust.
- Many entries are grouped by family. Often the interval of death dates is a year between them for the same Hebrew month.
- The boards contain names of families still active in our *shul*, though some are from families long departed. The most common Jewish names listed included Goldberg, Gittleman and Levy, but the very last entry I put in the spreadsheet was Brown.