



## Inside This Issue ...

**Ready to commit financially?** Gone are the days of receiving an annual membership dues notice from our synagogue's office. Starting in July, Tikvat Israel will stand financially on the largesse of its members through voluntary annual commitments from all. You'll learn more from Warren and Arlene Berger, who are chairing the new dues task force, described on **page 2**.

**"There are no words."** Yet Rabbi Israel generated plenty of thoughtful ones when he reflected daily on what he saw and heard on his four-day mission to Israel in November with a small group of Washington-area rabbis. Read a few brief blog excerpts of his descriptive insights on **page 5**.



**Rare stature in our state.** When our synagogue's early childhood center earned accreditation from the Maryland Department of Education in November, it became just the third Jewish preschool across the state to do so. Read what it took for director Debbie Ungar and her staff to accomplish that distinctive feat on **page 10**.

**Friendly face with a firm hand.** Don't be fooled by the welcoming presence of our newest staff member, Ellen Shifflett, when you enter the synagogue's main entrance on weekday mornings. She's a retired military police officer who since mid-November has been ensuring a high level of security on site. Read about her on **page 11**.



**The mailbox is full.** Actually, there's always room for more congregants' letters. This issue features a personal tribute to the late Avy Ashery plus several letters of appreciation from congregants. Read them all on **page 12**.

## Standing Against Hate



Synagogue treasurer Barry Lipsy was one of the 75 Tikvat Israel members who spent Nov. 14 on the National Mall for the March for Israel. See more images of participating congregants on **page 6**. (Photo by Felicia R. Black)

## WEEKLY RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Monday	7:15 a.m.	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	7:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	7:30 p.m.
Thursday	7:15 a.m.	7:30 p.m.
Friday	8:00 a.m.	
<i>Kabbalat Shabbat</i>		6:00 p.m.
<i>Shabbat</i>	9:45 a.m.	
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	7:30 p.m.

All services are both online and in person.

## CANDLE LIGHTING & HAVDALAH TIMES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Candle Lighting</u>	<u>Havdalah</u>
Jan. 5-6	4:41 p.m.	5:43 p.m.
Jan. 12-13	4:48 p.m.	5:49 p.m.
Jan. 19-20	4:55 p.m.	5:57 p.m.
Jan. 26-27	5:03 p.m.	6:05 p.m.
Feb. 2-3	5:12 p.m.	6:13 p.m.
Feb. 9-10	5:20 p.m.	6:21 p.m.
Feb. 16-17	5:28 p.m.	6:29 p.m.
Feb. 23-24	5:36 p.m.	6:37 p.m.

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# Member Dues Task Force Gearing Up to Introduce Annual Pledge Process

BY WARREN BERGER AND RABBAH ARLENE BERGER

As most members probably know (even new ones), the membership of Tikvat Israel overwhelmingly approved a motion to switch to an annual pledge commitment financial model for the next fiscal year starting this July.

The decision, which was made at last June's congregational meeting, followed the recommendation of TI's Dues Structure Task Force.

In essence, all individuals wishing to affiliate with our synagogue will make a pledge – a financial commitment to support Tikvat Israel based on their financial capabilities and what they think Tikvat Israel provides to them. They will make their pledge this spring with the full transparent knowledge of what it will cost per person to sustain synagogue operations for the next year.

No longer will TI have financial billing using a fixed membership dues structure based on family size and member age. Previous issues of the *Tikvat Israel Bulletin* (as well as the materials used at last June's meeting) provided more details about the plan and the benefits that we expect to derive.

The two of us have agreed to lead the renamed Dues Transition Task Force as co-chairs for the implementation phase of this significant switch. Some previous members of the task force, including Roni Silverstein and Betty Fishman, have agreed to continue, but we still need more volunteers, so let us know if you are interested. This is an important time for Tikvat Israel, and we need your help so it goes as smoothly as possible.

You will see more communications as we start to ramp up. We are developing a plan that we will share with everyone and keep you all informed about our progress. Looking forward to this (though we have a lot of work to do).

## Kott to Keynote Inclusion *Shabbat*



**Hope Kott will speak during Inclusion *Shabbat* on Feb. 3.**

Congregant Hope Levy Kott will be the speaker for Inclusion *Shabbat* on Feb. 3, when she will speak about “The *Mitzvah* of Removing Stumbling Blocks: Justice and Inclusion in the Jewish Community and Beyond.”

She and her husband, Phil, have been members of TI for almost 40 years. Each has served on several committees, and Hope served on the board of directors. The pair planned and oversaw the construction of the accessible restroom near the sanctuary.

Since her leg amputation in 2015, Hope has been a passionate advocate for the inclusion of individuals with disabilities and universal accessibility. Through her generous spirit and outstanding attitude, she has become a certified peer visitor, mentoring new amputees through their first post-surgical year.



# PRESIDENTS' CORNER

## Under the Fig Tree

BY BETH SMITH AND SALLY KRAM, TIKVAT ISRAEL CO-PRESIDENTS



**Beth Smith**

As winter approaches with its short days and cold nights, it is sometimes hard not to despair. These feelings have been heightened among American Jews by events in Israel and events at home. As American Jews mourned the death of Israelis plucked out of their daily lives, some while they were celebrating *Simchat Torah*, the most joyous holiday on the Jewish calendar, it took less than 48 hours for voices—domestic and foreign—to condemn the Israelis and by extension defend the actions of Hamas. (“Yes, it was terrible but . . .”).



**Sally Kram**

The American conversation has focused on the hypothetical line between anti-Zionism and antisemitism, but, in reality, it was a distinction without a difference to many of us. If it were just anti-Zionism, why would so many synagogues receive bomb threats? The assumption is that ALL Jews support Israel and its political leadership, and are therefore oppressors who deserve punishment.

As we ponder whether we are “Fiddlers on the Roof” in America just as Jews over time have been fiddlers in Europe, the Ottoman Empire, the Caribbean and Asia, consider the words of our first American president, George Washington who, while owning slaves, was a prime founder of what would become the most rigorous and longstanding example of representative democracy in history.

In the spirit of George Washington’s 292<sup>nd</sup> birthday (February 22), let us consider some of his words written shortly after the founding of our nation—specifically the letter he wrote to the Touro Synagogue in Newport, R.I., in 1790.

Rhode Island was the last state to join the original thirteen colonies and sign the Constitution, because of its founders’ concerns that the document did not provide enough protection for religious plurality. George Washington traveled to Newport to secure Rhode Island’s support for the Bill of Rights, which included the First Amendment guaranteeing freedom of religion and freedom from a state religion. Following his visit, he wrote a letter to Moses Seixas, the leader of the Touro Synagogue, which read, in part:

“The citizens of the United States have a right to applaud themselves for having given mankind examples of an enlarged and liberal policy—a policy worthy of imitation. All possess alike liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship.

“It is now no more that toleration is spoken of as if it were the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights, for, happily, the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens in giving on all occasions their effectual support. . .

“May the children of the stock of Abraham who dwell in this land continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants—while every one shall sit safely under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid.”

George Washington’s universalist message is one we can take to heart. From the founding of our nation, America’s Jews have been invited to freely practice their religion.

Think of how you can return George Washington’s gift. Get involved and pick a path—anything from running for office, staffing a soup kitchen, or volunteering closer to home by sitting on a Tikvat Israel Committee, participating in TI services, or supporting or staffing a TI program. Volunteering at Tikvat Israel is sacred work and we want to share the *mitzvah*. Live Micah’s message (*Micah 4:4*) echoed in George Washington’s letter which says, “But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make him afraid . . .”

All members will receive a call from one of us or another member of the board in the coming months reaching out to find out about your interests and talents and whether you may want to get more involved. Consider how our Founding Fathers and Mothers adapted their own talents to the new nation and model it in service to Tikvat Israel. Take the call and join us under the fig tree.



### Mazel Tov

... to **Rebecca Salon** for receiving the 2023 Marc Gold Employment Award from TASH, a national disability rights organization promoting inclusive communities.

### Congregational Condolences

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

**Susan Cohen**, on the loss of her husband Avrum Ashery

**Chuck Chatlynne**, on the loss of his wife Louise Chatlynne



# What's In a Name: Gender Identity and Being Called to the *Torah*

BY RABBI MARC D. ISRAEL



This month, we begin reading from the book of *Shmot*, known as *Exodus* in English but correctly translated as “Names.” It comes from the opening line of the *parasha*: “These are the names of the children of Israel who came to Egypt with Jacob, each one and their household.”

Names play a central role in the *Tanakh* and in Judaism more generally. The *Torah* is filled with long lists of genealogies, making it clear who begat whom and ensuring we know the tribal origin of any new characters who are introduced.

Moreover, the meanings of names usually have significance. More than 2,000 years before William Shakespeare would pen Juliet’s famous line “What’s in a name?” the *Tanakh* recounts Avigal’s telling King David (whom she would later marry) about her first husband Nabal, saying “*Kishmo ken hu* – for he is just what his name says: His name means ‘boor’ and he is a boor.”

Still today, we place great importance on the meaning of a name, with new parents carefully picking a name that indicates both the connection to previous generations and the prayer for character traits they hope their child will carry.

But what happens if your given name no longer fits your identity? Specifically, what if your name and gender identity are no longer congruent? In English, it’s relatively easy to make the change – you pick out a new name, often based on your original name. Someone named Manny might become Amanda.

In Hebrew, it’s a bit more complicated, because our full Hebrew names include a gender-identifying word – *ben Ploni v’ Plonit* or *bat Ploni v’Plonit* – the son or daughter of so-and-so. And for people who identify their gender as non-binary, there is a further challenge because Hebrew as a language follows binary patterns regarding gender. Every noun has a gender, and the adjectives change based on that gender. There is no form for non-binary gender currently in Hebrew.

This becomes complicated when calling someone up to the *Torah*. Jewish law indicates that a person should be called to the *Torah* for an *aliya* using their name as son or daughter of their father because tribal lineage is based on one’s father. However, the law also indicates the formula can be modified in certain circumstances, usually to avoid embarrassing the person being called forward. And today, in some Orthodox communities and most non-Orthodox communities, the person is called forth as the son or daughter of both parents. While this adaptation makes the process more egalitarian, it does not resolve the issue for people who are gender fluid or identify as non-binary.

In May 2022, the Rabbinical Assembly issued a *teshuvah* (response) to the question of how synagogues can address the question of “Calling Non-binary People for a *Torah* Honor.” It suggests a series of changes in the formula that we use to call everyone to the *Torah*, most of which are subtle enough that few people

would hear them and notice. And it also puts forward a way to call people up who are non-binary, using the words “*mi-beit* – from the household of” instead of *ben* (son) or *bat* (daughter).

Based on my recommendation, in consultation with the Religious Practices Committee, Tikvat Israel plans to adopt many of the changes that the *teshuvah* suggests. Before doing so, we want everyone to have an opportunity to look at the *teshuvah* and to better understand the issues. Therefore, we have set two study sessions to examine the broader issue of gender inclusivity and the *teshuvah* itself. These study sessions will take place following *Kiddush* on Jan. 20 and Feb. 17. We invite you to join us for each session to better understand the underlying issues and the solutions proposed by the *teshuvah*.

Please note: The proposals do not require anyone to change the name by which they have always been called to the *Torah*. Rather, they offer additional options for people who do not identify with the traditional binary gender options.

At the same time, it also allows anyone who wishes to adopt a gender-inclusive name to do so, regardless of one’s gender identity. Our names are important and should describe who we are and how we define ourselves. The way we are called to the *Torah* should affirm and respect our identity. These changes aim to ensure this will be true for our entire community.

## RECENT AND UPCOMING PERFORMANCES BY CHAI DYNAMICS

BY SUE URBAN



(Photo by Jonathan Solomon)

On two Sundays in December, Chai Dynamics gave concerts in the lobby of Olney Theatre Center as a prelude to the theater’s performances of “Fiddler on the Roof.” In between those two concerts, Chai Dynamics performed *Chanukkah*

songs and many others at its second concert for the Jewish Residents of Leisure World. And on the last *Shabbat* of January, the group will perform for the second time as part of “*Shir-On*,” Beth Shalom Congregation’s annual showcase of Jewish *a cappella* groups.

For more information about Chai Dynamics, visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/chaidynamics>. If you’re interested in auditioning for the group or booking them for an event, please e-mail them at [chaidynamics18@gmail.com](mailto:chaidynamics18@gmail.com).

# A First-Hand Report from Israel: Rabbi Israel's Blog Postings

**Editor's note:** Below are a few short excerpts from Rabbi Marc Israel's blog that he maintained during his four-day Jewish Federation-sponsored trip to Israel in late November. He was one of eight rabbis from the Washington area on the solidarity mission, which included meetings with Israeli President Isaac Herzog and U.S. Ambassador to Israel Jack Lew. His blog provides reflections and photos. Read his full account on the Tikvat Israel website.

## From his entry titled Day 1:

"We then drove to 'Hostage Square' – a plaza between the Tel Aviv Museum of Art and Hakiryia (the Israeli Pentagon) that has become the base for the families of the hostages and people who are providing support services. Walking around, there were various booths set up to provide spiritual or mental health services, food, a graffiti wall and a place to be together. We heard the heartbreaking stories of missing loved ones from two families, one of which was written up in *The Times of Israel* (we are the "small group" whom the article referenced). Their stories were incredibly painful to listen to and yet so important to hear."



**Rabbi Israel with fellow participants in the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington's sponsored mission to Israel over four days in late November.**

## From his entry titled Day 2:

"In the past, when Israelis talked about defending themselves, it often carried a sense of bravado that made me uncomfortable. But I discovered today that the absence of the bravado that I heard today was even more difficult. The Army is slowly rebuilding trust. The government is not. The people are strong and resilient and this, more than anything, is what gives me hope."

## From his entry titled Days 3 & 4 (2 excerpts):

"In between our meeting with Yoni and going to the hospital, we stopped at an army base where one of our staff members' son is serving. This was an elite search and rescue unit of reservists, most of whom were 28-29 years old. The first day of *Chanukkah* will mark 10 years since they were drafted together. Before October 7, they had been planning a reunion party. This was not what

they had in mind. Several years out of the IDF, the group included a medical student, software engineer, social worker, an entrepreneur, a physical therapist, graphic designer, landscape architect and realtor. Some were married, one had a son who was born at the end of September. All of them had dropped everything when they got the call on October 7. For some, this meant closing a business or losing a full year of school. For all of them, it meant being away from family for who knows how long. But none of them hesitated to come. They know that they are saving lives every day."

"The mission was over, but I was staying a few more days. I asked Yoni, our amazing tour guide for the trip, about volunteer opportunities for the next day. He told me

that he was going back south that day to pick agriculture, one of the many industries deeply impacted by the war. I asked if I could join him, and we arranged to meet at a parking lot along the way at 6:20 a.m. and he would drive the rest of the way. Stopping at the new Soda Stream factory parking lot to get our assignments, we continued south to a farm near the southwest corner of Israel, just a few kilometers from the borders of Egypt and Gaza. (Thankfully the ceasefire held for another 24 hours.) We spent the next 6 hours picking grape tomatoes, being careful to keep the green stem on, which is a signature of Israeli grape tomatoes (imports don't have them). There was something incredibly therapeutic in the monotony of picking tomatoes. It gave me time to think, to process but most importantly, to contribute to the war effort, no matter how small it might seem."

## What Has the Capital Campaign Improved So Far?

BY CAROL CHELEMER, CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIR

Capital Campaign funds continue to support needed infrastructure replacements and repairs at Tikvat Israel. Projects are undertaken on a priority basis, as determined by the Building Committee, led by Alan Apter (past vice president for administration), with input from Executive Director Aaron Chusid.

Thus far, the following improvements have been completed:

- Installation of three new HVAC units for the sanctuary, social hall and lobby;
- Repair of the elevator culminating in receipt of a certificate for use (for the first time in several years);
- Repaving of a portion of the driveway and the back parking lot, including remediation of water pooling;

- Adding a new paved walkway from the back patio to the back parking lot;
- Replacement of the kitchen door.

In addition, funds will be transferred from the Capital Campaign account to TI's general account to reimburse for the purchase of a new water heater and exterior HVAC cage (preventing theft of copper fittings).

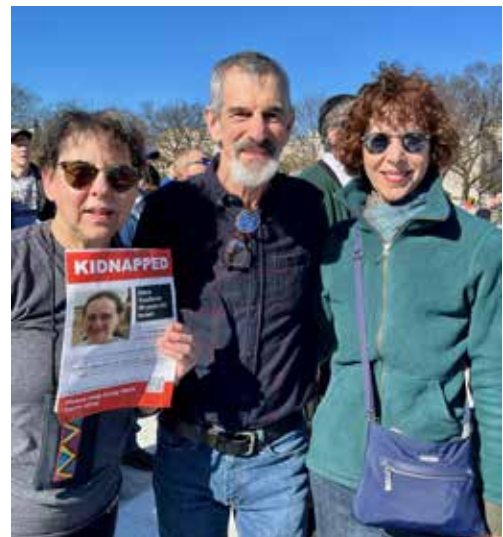
Thank you to all who have made pledges to finance the Capital Campaign in the past year!

By action of the board of directors, no further projects may be undertaken until the total funding is in hand. So it is important for those who pledged contributions to submit their payments as soon as possible to allow for more improvements to our building.



# A Head Above the Crowd

Seventy-five Tikvat Israel congregants, including Rabbi Israel and Cantor Helzner, were among the more than 200,000 estimated participants in the March for Israel gathering on the National Mall on Nov. 14. Many congregants met at the Shady Grove Metro and traveled together with Rabbi Israel to the rally. Member Spencer Lane, who stands well over 6 feet tall, was instrumental in keeping the group together by holding up the Tikvat Israel sign among the huge crowd. *(Photos by Felicia R. Black and Rabbi Marc Israel)*





# New Lighting System for Our Sanctuary

BY AARON CHUSID, TIKVAT ISRAEL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Just in time for *Chanukkah*, the new lighting system in our sanctuary is now completely up and running!

This upgrade to our facilities was paid for by a gift from Michele Eisenberg, z"l. Michele loved to read Torah, but was often frustrated by the glare from the lighting that made it difficult to see the text clearly on the scrolls. The new lighting system was designed specifically to decrease glare, making it easier for everyone to read the words of Torah.

The new system has additional benefits beyond its functionality. The lighting uses LEDs, which will reduce energy usage and generate less waste heat. It has electronic controls, which means lights can be operated by remote control or via an app instead

of running around the room to find all the switches. This also allows us to dim the lights in individual sections, creating customized lighting for the needs of different events, and create schedules to turn lights on and off at set times. That means we will no longer need to leave lights on overnight during *Shabbat* and holidays, further reducing our environmental footprint.

We are continuing to make adjustments and corrections; most notably, adding additional spotlights to make the *bimah* more visible to people in the back rows or watching on livestream. But the biggest part of the work is complete, and our new lights will help strengthen our commitment both to our Jewish faith and to *tikkun olam* — repairing the world — for years to come. A fitting tribute to Michele and her impact on our congregation.

## A Party for All Ages

Nearly 60 congregants of all ages gathered at Tikvat Israel on Sunday, Dec. 10, to celebrate the 4th night of *Chanukkah* with a lively *dreidel* tournament and crafts and games for kids, including pin the flame on the menorah; a holiday sing-along led by Cantor Helzner; and candle lighting. Mini-*latkes*, donut holes and chocolate *gelt* were enjoyed by all.

Congregant Linden Wolf won the hard-fought *dreidel* competition, while in the poll on favorite *latke* toppings, applesauce edged out sour cream as the favorite among congregants, with ketchup and hot sauce at the bottom. AJ Laveer convinced multiple congregants to try out hot sauce on the mini-*latkes*, which

resulted in the cantor casting the second of the two votes for hot sauce as the best *latke* topping.

Eliana Lane, daughter of Spencer and Kimberly Lane, won the pin the flame on the menorah contest by getting her sticker closest to the goal. Felicia Black and Kimberly Lane were the only two individuals with a perfect score on the *Chanukkah* crossword puzzle. (Anyone who'd like to try their hand at the puzzle can find it at <https://crosswordlabs.com/view/how-many-ways-can-we-spell>.)

Holiday-themed props were available with a photo backdrop for selfies. Thanks to the organizer Rachel Laveer. (Photos by Felicia R. Black and AJ Laveer)



## WOMEN'S NETWORK

# Our Winter Programming's Sure to Warm Your Heart

BY BRENDA BROOKS, CO-PRESIDENT, WOMEN'S NETWORK



As we say goodbye to 2023 and welcome 2024, the Women's Network has a variety of exciting programs to showcase.

As we ring in the new year, our first event at 8 p.m. on Jan. 17 is a group discussion of the book *One Hundred Saturdays: Stella Levi and the Search for a Lost World* by author Michael Frank. It will be led by Fortuna Scheige. The book focuses on the remarkable story of 99-year-old Stella Levi. Her conversations with the book's author over the course of six years bring to life the vibrant world of Jewish Rhodes, the deportation to Auschwitz that extinguished 99 percent of her community and the resilience and wisdom of the woman who lived to tell the tale. It will be an inspiring discussion.

On Jan. 28, there will be an exciting virtual travel program on Jewish India, led by Rahel Musleah, who was born in Calcutta, and is the seventh generation of a Calcutta Jewish family that traces its roots to 17th-century Baghdad. For this event, which will take place on Zoom at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 28, we will partner with the sisterhood of Adas Israel Congregation. Musleah will describe India's rich Jewish heritage, which spans from biblical times until today. She will reveal the intriguing history and culture of India's distinctive Jewish communities.

Finally, in February, Women's Network is planning another *Rosh Chodesh* learning program. (The date originally was scheduled for January.) To allow more time for planning, a new date will be announced and will appear in the Women's Network newsletter, along with details. The topic will relate to this year's theme of self-care and potential lifestyle changes to achieve better health.

Looking back at our recent fall activities, our Nov. 12 *Rosh Chodesh* learning program featuring Seth Cowan was well-attended and a big hit. Cowan walked us through some healthy eating ideas for breakfast, lunch and dinner, then planned a tasting menu for each meal. Thanks to Roz Kram and our Women's Network volunteers, we sampled a delicious selection of food, accompanied by the presenter's words of wisdom on nutritional eating, during which he expertly answered many questions. It was an educational and enjoyable program, with recipes provided for us to prepare at home.

The full group of participants at the Women's Network opening program on Oct. 22. (Photo by Amy Matathias)



The full group of participants at the Women's Network opening program on Oct. 22. (Photo by Amy Matathias)

On Dec. 9, Women's Network sponsored a festive *Chanukkah Shabbat kiddush* lunch, with a delicious selection of holiday food for all to enjoy. Preceding the lunch, we were inspired by a reading from the Women's League for Conservative Judaism's Weekly Words of Torah. For each *Shabbat Parashat*, the Women's League relates the reading to the concept of *arevut*, or responsibility.

If you are interested in our upcoming programs and are not yet a Women's Network member, we invite you to join. Registration forms and payment instructions are included in the weekly Women's Network e-newsletters. For those who don't receive these emails and would like this information, contact [bbrooksx@gmail.com](mailto:bbrooksx@gmail.com) and ask to be added.



Maxine Perlmutter (left) and Fortuna Scheige lent some musical accompaniment for fellow Women's Network members on Oct. 22. (Photo by Amy Matathias)



The enjoyment of food is often a staple of popular Women's Network events. (Oct. 22 photo by Amy Matathias)

### HEALTHY DINING WITH TASTY SAMPLES

Thirty Women's Network members attended a tasty, edifying event Nov. 12 with Seth Cowan (son-in-law of congregant Elliot Cowan). A licensed dietician/nutritionist with a master of science degree from Tufts University, he shared ideas for making healthy food choices throughout the day's meals, with an emphasis on fiber and protein. Attendees were treated to breakfast with pumpkin overnight oats, lunch with green salad and hard-boiled eggs, and dinner with vegetarian chili. (Two of his recipes can be found at <https://bit.ly/cowan-recipes>.)

By the time dessert was served, attendees were much less likely to overindulge.



Nutrition specialist Seth Cowan along with Maxine Perlmutter before his remarks to the Women's Network on healthy eating in November. (Photo by Amy Matathias)



While listening to a talk about healthy eating, members of the Women's Network enjoyed a fiber-rich meal that included oatmeal, eggs and chili. (Photo by Amy Matathias)



## EDUCATION AND YOUTH

# Religious School, Teen News, Dinners and Reading to Kids

BY JUDY STERN, VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATION



### Netivot Religious School Program Has Begun!

A new religious school program has begun at Tikvat Israel for children in kindergarten and first grade. The students meet on Sunday mornings with their teacher, Gale Pressman. Activities include learning about Jewish holidays and *mitzvot*, stories, art, music and plenty of fun. Parents have reported that their children look forward to each Sunday's class.

The second semester begins in January and there is room for more students. Families do not need to be members of Tikvat Israel to enroll their K-1 children.

For more information or to register, please contact Rabbi Israel or Judy Stern at [judymstern7@gmail.com](mailto:judymstern7@gmail.com).

### TI Teens

Our first TI Teens Movie Night was held on Saturday evening, Nov. 18. Teens enjoyed a lively evening of *havdalah*, followed by dinner and a movie. Future programs will include Student Service Learning hours activities, as well as group games and visiting speakers.



Students in grades 7-11, from the synagogue as well as from the outside community, are invited to join the TI Teen group. For further information, and to be placed on the mailing list, contact me at [judymstern7@gmail.com](mailto:judymstern7@gmail.com).

### Early Childhood Family Network Shabbat Dinners

Our monthly Young Families *Shabbat* dinners for families with young children continue to be well-attended.

Dinners begin at 5 p.m. and include a short *Shabbat* service and activity prior to the meal.

Dinners include a child-friendly menu, as well as a tasty meal for older siblings and adults. Please consider joining these monthly events, which provide an opportunity for families to welcome *Shabbat* together in a warm, friendly environment. Check *B'Keshet* and ECC newsletters for the monthly schedule and registration information.

### Volunteer Readers Visit the ECC

In November, we began a program with TI congregants reading books to the ECC children.

Tamah Graber, an experienced school librarian, read to the children, and was greeted enthusiastically by the students. Hope Kott recently read two books about diversity from books she selected. The children asked lots of questions about her wheelchair and participated in a lively discussion about the many differences among people. Being kind to others was another topic of discussion. Cliff Fishman read a book to the children in early December about *Chanukkah* and followed with the classic "Green Eggs and Ham," which the kids delighted in retitling "Green Eggs and Jam."

If you are interested in visiting and reading to an ECC class for one time or more, please send me your contact information at [judymstern7@gmail.com](mailto:judymstern7@gmail.com).

## NEW TEACHER OF NETIVOT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL: GALE PRESSMAN

BY JUDY STERN, VP OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH



Gale Pressman

Tikvat Israel's Sunday morning religious school for kindergarten and 1st graders opened in October, and Gale Pressman accepted the position as teacher of the class.

She and her husband, Marc, have been members of Tikvat Israel since 1988. They have four grown children and 10 grandchildren. Their daughter, Karen, lives in Israel with her husband and five children.

Gale has had a long and varied career in the field of education. She began teaching in an Orthodox Jewish Day School in Pittsburgh, where she was a teacher of secular studies. She credits the Judaics Studies teacher she was paired with as an important mentor for her. Gale has been a Sunday school teacher at Tikvat Israel, a general studies teacher at the Jewish day school in Rockville, an art director at the JCC Rockville Summer Camp, a special education teacher in Washington, D.C., and a pre-school teacher for many years.

Gale is a professional artist who does fused glass, ceramics and doll-making. She enjoys infusing her teaching with arts and crafts, hands-on activities, songs and stories. Gale describes her method of teaching as having children use their hearts, hands and heads.

We feel fortunate having Gale as the teacher of our new Tikvat Israel education program.

# EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

## Attitude of Gratitude at ECC

BY DEBBIE UNGAR, DIRECTOR, EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER



As winter arrives, the ECC continues its important work providing a safe, stimulating and fun place for children to thrive each day.

In November, a new story time program started in the ECC on Wednesday mornings, organized by Judy Stern. Congregants from the synagogue come to read books to the classes in the library. The children love it! We look forward to future readers coming to visit.

We conducted a schoolwide *tzedakah* project to collect Thanksgiving foods for Interfaith Works, a non-profit organization that distributes food to families in need. This year we collected 228 items, which was our biggest donation to date. The pre-kindergarten classes took a field trip to visit Interfaith Works and placed food items we collected into the donation bins. The guide gave them a tour of the facility and explained that clients are able to come and select which items they need. It was a very meaningful visit for everyone.

The ECC prepared food and gathered as a school to celebrate Thanksgiving together in the social hall on Tuesday, November 21. Each class contributed a dish for our feast. The menu included cornbread, fruit salad, broccoli souffle, stuffing, green beans, and pumpkin bread. We sang songs and danced together. It was a wonderful way to start our Thanksgiving holiday!

In December, the ECC was busy with special activities to celebrate each day of *Chanukkah*. The festivities started with a *Chanukkah Shabbat* Sing led by Auntie A on Friday. During the week, children had the opportunity to bake cookies and *sufganiyot* (donuts). Ms. Ellie, our music teacher, led a *Chanukkah* sing-along. We enjoyed *latkes* for a special snack. There was a wonderful *Chanukkah* glow-in-the-dark party led by our Israeli dance teacher, Sharon. It was a fun-filled week!

As the ECC heads into 2024, we are thinking about registration for the 2024-25 school year. If you know a family interested in learning more about the ECC or taking a tour, contact Debbie@tikvatIsrael.org for more information.



Congregants, such as Tamah Graber (left), have begun to serve as guest readers in ECC classrooms. (Photo by Debbie Ungar)



Youngsters in the ECC danced in dreidel style to the guitar sounds provided by Ms. Ellie. (Photo by Debbie Ungar)

## ECC Achieves State Accreditation, a Rarity Among Jewish Preschools

Tikvat Israel's Early Childhood Center is thrilled to have achieved accreditation from the Maryland State Department of Education for the first time. This makes the ECC the only Jewish preschool in Montgomery County and one of only three Jewish programs in the state to have received this recognition, according to Debbie Ungar, TI's early childhood director.

Maryland accreditation is a process in which programs commit to continuous quality improvement to benefit children, families and staff. The process includes outside evaluation of program policies, procedures, school operations and family and community engagement.

The ECC started the self-appraisal process in 2020 by forming a committee to determine what areas of our program needed improvement. Staff members submitted their training and education to be credentialed by the state.

The lengthy process culminated on Nov. 16 with a validation visit from the

Maryland State Department of Education. Two validators visited classrooms and other school facilities to ensure alignment with Maryland accreditation standards.

Ungar noted the significance. "We could not have accomplished this without the outstanding educators who are committed to Tikvat Israel ECC and providing excellent early childhood education," she said. "We are so proud to be a part of affording the children with the highest level of education possible."

Currently, 193 preschool programs hold state accreditation in Maryland. Because the state's accreditation process does not require programs to specify if they are a religious program when applying, the state does not maintain its own data on this, according to Nicole Johnson, accreditation manager in the Maryland Department of Education's Quality Improvement Initiatives, Division of Early Childhood.





# A New Weekday Greeter with a Watchful Eye

BY JAY P. GOLDMAN, *TIKVAT ISRAEL BULLETIN* EDITOR



**Ellen Shifflett joined the synagogue staff in November to oversee a safe system of building entry on weekday mornings. (Photo by Debbie Ungar)**

If you visit Tikvat Israel on a weekday morning, you can expect a greeting and a question from the newest member of the synagogue's staff.

From her office desk newly positioned inside the building's front doors, Ellen Shifflett carries the title of greeter/receptionist to welcome children and family members arriving early for preschool, as well as service providers, delivery staff and other visitors.

She also will ask everyone entering — even synagogue staff members coming to work for the day — to display a required ID card. ECC families have been issued their own ID cards for drop-off and pickup times, while others will be asked for a photo ID card before being admitted.

"I ensure everyone coming in has a reason for being there," she said.

Shifflett, a resident of Montgomery Village, comes to this post with significant experience in military law enforcement. She recently retired after 13 years as a military police officer with the U.S. Navy, most recently assigned to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda. She previously held postings in Guam, California and Virginia.

She will be stationed in the lobby from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. She assumed the job on Nov. 16 as part of the synagogue's upgraded security measures following the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war.

The addition of a mid-year staff position is partially funded by a grant from the Montgomery County Council. In addition, the families of ECC students have been assessed a \$180 per year security fee. The fee is voluntary during the first year.

Shifflett, a mother to two boys, 5 and 12 years of age, said she believes her presence is addressing initial parent concerns with several telling her, "We appreciate you being here."

## A DRAMATIC OFF-HOURS PERSONA



Office staff assistant Nadia Palacios recently performed at the Gaithersburg Art Barn in a show titled "Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberly," based on characters from Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. Palacios played Mrs. Lydia Wickam, who is shown lying across the laps of other performers at the front of the accompanying photo. A recent review on the DC Theater Arts website said Palacios "shows promise as a comedic actor." (<https://bit.ly/3REMd2O>)

## MY TREASURED COLLECTION OF TORAH FUND PINS

BY ROZ KRAM

Each fall, a public request comes from the Women's Network to support the works of the Jewish Theological Seminary known as the Torah Fund. Over the years, some of the contributions have supported the construction of residence halls for female rabbinical students and, in recent years, to run programs that train Conservative rabbis and cantors for dealing with current challenges.

Those who contribute a donation of a specific amount receive a thank you gift — a lapel pin produced with a special theme.

I have supported the Torah Fund project over a number of years but found I did not wear the pins. I spoke to Bobbi Gorban about this, and she developed a plan to help me proudly display the 33 pins I have collected over the years. She created a wall hanging that is one of the first things you see when you enter our home. (Thank you Bobbi.) Some of the themes represented through the pins include *Shalom* (peace), *Tikvat* (hope), *l'dor v'dor* (from generation to generation) and *bavurah* (friend).

Larry M. Levine took the accompanying photo of this treasure.



## Judean Memorial Gardens

Traditional Jewish Burial Service and perpetual care in the heart of Montgomery County, MD. Come and browse the hundreds of beautiful trees, gardens, works of art, and award-winning Memorial Chapel. **Judean Cemetery Tel. 301-384-1000**

Tikvat Israel owns a section of sites at Judean, with special completion discounts available to members.

To reserve your sites please call Aaron Chusid at Tikvat Israel: 301-762-7338.



NO. ON GEORGIA AVE, CROSS RTE 28, GO .6 MI, RIGHT ON BATCHELLORS TO 16225 on R



## Avy's Essential Role

In a recent *Bulletin* article (September-October 2023) about my conversion, I neglected to mention the critical role played by Avy Ashery of blessed memory.

I met Avy through his art, which was on display at Goldberg's Bagels, where I frequently have a breakfast meal. I was so impressed with his depiction of David and Goliath that I had to buy that print for myself. Although David is short and Goliath is a giant, nonetheless the powerful person in that picture is little David.

That began our acquaintance, and many other art purchases over the years.

Avy took it upon himself to teach me Judaism. To be open-minded about the many different types, so that the lessons from my Orthodox training would not be the only thing I would learn about Judaism. When I started to look for a second synagogue, I decided that no synagogue and no rabbi are perfect, but that whatever *shul* was good enough for Avy would be good enough for me!

That led me to Tikvat Israel, and eventually to Rabbi Israel, who so graciously offered to convert me.

So, if I had not met Avy Ashery, I might never have become the Jewess I am today. Thank you, Avy!

*Leah Lansing*

## Affirmations of Our Future

Thank you for honoring me this year as *Kallat Bereshit* at *Simchat Torah*. This is a special memory I will always cherish. Thank you to all who contributed to sponsor the wonderful *kiddush* lunch and to Roz Kram for always making our special occasions more special.

I recently returned from a river cruise along the Rhine River. The stops in Speyer, Germany, and Amsterdam, The Netherlands, stand out because I had time to visit Jewish sites. Speyer holds the remains of a synagogue from the 11th century CE where several partial walls are still standing, as is the *mikvah* (hidden by debris from WWII bombing). Amsterdam has the magnificent Portuguese Synagogue, built in the 16th century CE by the first Jewish community there — conversos fleeing Spain and Portugal who rediscovered their Judaism.

But I also visited several magnificent cathedrals in Strasbourg, France, and Cologne, Germany. The construction of each was carried out over hundreds of years. And I thought of the thousands of individuals who may have had a hand in supporting the building or in the actual construction. Those persons contributed despite knowing that they would never see the completion.

This brings me to Tikvat Israel's endowment fund, our Fund for the Future. Contributing to this fund is making a personal statement that Tikvat Israel will be here beyond our own membership and serve as a center of prayer and study and connection for our community and the communities to come. I encourage you to join me in 2024 with a contribution to the Fund for the Future, an affirmation of our faith in the future.

*Carol Chelemer*  
*Chair, Fund for the Future*

## Kitchen Duty

I wanted to mention that on Nov. 18 I sponsored the *kiddush* luncheon in appreciation of all those who help me in the kitchen

by cooking, setting up, cleaning or shopping. I sponsored the planting of trees in Israel as a way of saying thank you and also acknowledged a group called FORK, Friends of Roz Kram.

If anyone wants to celebrate a special event in the new year, the Tikvat Israel kitchen staff would like to help you celebrate.

*Roz Kram*

## Office Assistance Appreciated

The TI administrative staff would like to take this opportunity to thank Beth Smith, Sandra Sheskin, Sara Harris, Barbara Katz and Melissa Apter for volunteering their time these past few months in the TI office.

Without their time, effort and laughter, we wouldn't have been able to make the High Holidays such a successful event.

*Susan V.L. Davis*  
*Office Manager, Tikvat Israel*

## Manna Food Support

Thank you to Tikvat Israel for your generous donation to Manna Food Center. Your donation of 282 lbs. of food on Oct. 1 deeply impacts our mission to eliminate hunger in our community. Your donation is multiplying our resources.

*Jackie DeCarlo, Chief Executive Officer*  
*Manna Food Center*

## Outdoors Havurah Revival

BY BRENDA BROOKS

After a long hiatus that preceded the onset of COVID-19, the outdoors *havurah* held an event on Sunday, Nov. 19, at the Seneca Creek State Park in Gaithersburg. This was a reunion for several of us, but we were also delighted to welcome some new members to our group.

We carpoled that morning from the synagogue for the drive to the park. It was a beautiful place for a lovely walk along the water, via the Lake Shore Trail. Eleven of us participated, enjoying the group camaraderie and hiking outdoors on a terrific day with beautiful views of the water. We captured the day with a few photos of the group and scenery. We even got a view of a blue heron along the trail.

Following the hike, we gathered for lunch at a local restaurant. Plans will be made soon for a winter event, which will likely be at a museum. In the spring we will meet again for another outdoor hike at an area park. If you are interested in future events and would

like to be added to the group's e-mail list, contact Brenda Brooks at [bbrooksx@gmail.com](mailto:bbrooksx@gmail.com).



**Members of the outdoors *havurah* took a mid-November hike through Seneca Creek State Park in Gaithersburg.**



## Many 'New' Books Waiting at TI's Flax Library

BY JANICE ROSENBERG, LIBRARY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Tikvat Israel library volunteers Sandra Sheskin, Marsha Lyons and I recently visited the Friends of the Library bookstores located in Rockville and Wheaton. We were on a hunt to find used books on Jewish topics, in good condition, that we could add to TI's Herman J. Flax Library. Among us, we were able to find many books that fit our criteria. In fact, we were able to purchase 28 titles for less than \$80!

If you enjoy visiting used bookstores, we could use your help. As you are hunting for books to purchase for yourself, think about buying books on Jewish topics to donate to TI's library. We would appreciate newly published fiction, non-fiction, biographies or short stories for children, teens or adults.

TI's library accepts donations in good condition published since the year 2000. Leave donated items on the glass table to the left of the library's front door. Be sure to include a slip with your name and contact information.

To borrow a book from the Flax Library, send an e-mail to [TikvatIsraelLibrary@gmail.com](mailto:TikvatIsraelLibrary@gmail.com), and include the book title, your name and your contact information. Items can be borrowed for three weeks, with one renewal.

Here are a few of the books recently added and now available at TI's library:

- *The Book of V*, by Anna Solomon. Three characters' stories overlap, showing how women's lives have and have not changed over thousands of years.
- *Forest Dark*, by Nicole Krauss. A profound, mesmerizing novel of metamorphosis and self-realization.
- *A Horse Walks into a Bar*, by David Grossman. In a dive bar in a small Israeli city, a comedian past his prime takes the stage for his final show.
- *Meiselman: The Lean Years*, by Avner Landes. After a life spent playing by the rules, a lonely thirty-six-year-old man is looking to come out on top, at last.
- *The Midwife of Auschwitz*, by Anna Stuart. One woman's fight for love, life, and hope during a time of incomprehensible darkness.
- *The Muralist*, by B.A. Shapiro. An American painter vanishes in New York City in 1940 and no one knows what happened to her.
- *Walking the Bible: A Journey by Land Through the Five Books of Moses*, by Bruce Feiler. One man's epic journey—by foot, jeep, rowboat, and camel—through the greatest stories ever told.
- *The Woman with the Blue Star*, by Pam Jenoff. Illustrates the power of friendship and the extraordinary strength of the human will to survive.

Happy reading!

## SEA Change Seeks Rental Unit Retrofitting



**Members of TI's SEA Change chapter, including Cantor Rochelle Helzner (second from left in front row), called for federal government infrastructure funds to be applied to rental apartment retrofitting.**

Seven Tikvat Israel members were among the 370 people representing synagogues, churches and activist organizations at the Good Hope Union UMC in Silver Spring on Dec. 5 to commit to action on climate justice in our communities.

The assembly asked for commitments from officials in our local government to earmark infrastructure funds coming from the federal government to retrofit the apartments of low- and moderate-income renters in Maryland to create healthier environments.

Participants discussed shifting from gas to electric energy in homes. "There was a lot of discussion about the harmful levels of methane in homes sampled caused by leaks, which is an endemic problem that industry has been discussing as a mitigation to stave off the banning of fossil fuels altogether," said participant Michael Amster.

Tikvat Israel's SEA Change members combined with the multi-congregation cohort to participate. In attendance were Debbie and Michael Amster, Anna Levy, Mark Diamond, Roni and Bob Silverstein and Cantor Rochelle Helzner.

## BLOOD DRIVES CONTINUE TO FILL NEEDS



**Synagogue Executive Director Aaron Chusid waits his turn to donate at the Nov. 8 blood drive. (Photo by Robbi Cohen)**



**Volunteer Larry Gorban handled check-in duties at the blood drive. (Photo by Robbi Cohen)**

The Nov. 8 blood drive at Tikvat Israel yielded 26 pints of blood. Thanks to all of the donors, volunteers at the reception table (Larry Gorban, Keith Brooks, Jonathan Solomon), Red Cross staff, as well as Tikvat Israel staff (Aaron Chusid, Nadia Palacios and Iber Gonzalez).

The next Tikvat Israel blood drive will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 31, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the social hall. You can now register to be a blood donor by signing up at <https://rcblood.org/41Kgf7S>.

Robbi Cohen is the coordinator of the Tikvat Israel blood drives run by the American Red Cross.

# Tikvat Israel Remembers With Respect Those Whose *Yahrzeits* Occur From from 20 *Tevet* through 21 *Shevat* — January 2024

## JANUARY 1

### 20 *TEVET*

Walter Blumberg  
Beatrice Boroff  
Frieda Cohen  
Louis Hecht  
Sara Kaplan  
Sadie Koeppl  
Clement Ezra Marcus  
Mildred Stein  
Sol Tropp

## JANUARY 2

### 21 *TEVET*

Elaine Bernstein  
Fay Blum  
Nimal Kuruppu  
Julius Landy  
Havivah Levy  
Hilda Levy  
Michael O. Miller  
Ida M. Schiffman  
Carolyn (Kitty) Strauss  
Cila Weiss  
Rabbi Richard W. Winograd  
Richard Wottitzky

## JANUARY 3

### 22 *TEVET*

Morris Cohen  
George Ray Davis  
Anne Hoffman  
Anne Kristal  
Maurice Levinsohn  
Abraham Peck

## JANUARY 4

### 23 *TEVET*

Samuel Asen  
Albert Blonder  
Ruth Halpern  
Cathy E. Lerman  
Noah Roitman  
Sidney Sirkis  
Rebecca Louise Soldano  
Eugene Thompson  
Evelyn Weingross  
Warren Weinstein

## JANUARY 5

### 24 *TEVET*

Stanley Bergstein  
Harry H. Cohen  
Mollie Jacobs  
Solomon Meltzer

## JANUARY 6

### 25 *TEVET*

Sarah Cohen  
Hilda Diamond  
Rose Finster  
Mollie Flax  
Bernard Gross  
Jacob Kanner  
Davida Kline  
Norman F. Kline  
Rebecca Lipofsky  
Nathan Plafker  
Henry Schwartz

## JANUARY 6 (continued)

### 25 *TEVET*

Eleanor O. Stillman  
Louis Waxler

## JANUARY 7

### 26 *TEVET*

Benjamin Robert Bliss  
Moishe Chaim Chait  
Bert Herman Chatlynn  
Benjamin Futrovsky  
Sam Gorin  
Marcus Jacobs  
Rose Podolsky  
Morris Silverman  
Maurice Solomon

## JANUARY 8

### 27 *TEVET*

Rena Cora Block  
Marie Gabes  
Leslie Green  
David Kushner  
Lena Rosenblum  
Marilyn Teitelbaum  
Della Whittaker

## JANUARY 9

### 28 *TEVET*

Richard Alan Goodman  
Meyer Kinsky  
Florence Lentchner  
Max Levine  
Reubin Rosenberg  
Joyce Blumberg Schwartz  
Dora Stutz

## JANUARY 10

### 29 *TEVET*

Lena Berlin  
Samuel D. Bredt  
Saul Cohen  
Mathilde Eichtersheimer  
Malcolm First  
David Benjamin Grishman  
Moody Grishman  
Harold Kaplan  
Shoshana Kolirin

## JANUARY 11

### 1 *SHEVAT*

Lawrence Blonder  
Nathan Gershowitz  
Marion Goldstein  
Sidney Labovich  
Samuel Lerner  
Estelle Lipsy  
Joseph Seiler

## JANUARY 12

### 2 *SHEVAT*

Alyssa Michelle Kasse  
Sarah G. Kravitz  
Frances Nadel  
Sylvia Seiler  
Esther Blake Wilchins

## JANUARY 13

### 3 *SHEVAT*

Fred Cutler  
Raymond Eldredge  
Sarah Gorin  
Bertha Grossman  
Celia Hecht  
Anna Hoffman  
Nat E. Koeppl  
Morton Leman  
Carl Lerman  
Jacob Schneider  
Bess Snyder

## JANUARY 14

### 4 *SHEVAT*

Edith Chefer  
Leo Pachenker  
Isaac Zipin

## JANUARY 15

### 5 *SHEVAT*

Eva Brooke  
Dorothy Caplan  
Gutman David Cohen  
Mordechai Costa  
Bernard Einbinder  
Belle Krasner Fabel  
Samuel Helzner  
Ben Kalman  
Anna Linsenber  
Rachel Mandel  
Maxwell Rosenlicht

## JANUARY 16

### 6 *SHEVAT*

Connie Brooks  
Robert L. Gellman  
Jackie Greene Fisher  
Martin Hershenhorn  
Leroy Lowenfeld  
Celia Bress Radin  
Marion Salon

## JANUARY 17

### 7 *SHEVAT*

Frances Kanner  
Jennie Lerner  
Stanley Nasoff  
Jack Zoltrow

## JANUARY 18

### 8 *SHEVAT*

Ludwig Klein  
Phyllis Leise  
Harry Levinstein  
Elsa Neuwirth  
Joseph Steinberg

## JANUARY 19

### 9 *SHEVAT*

Mildred Brafman  
David Caplan  
Goldie Chelemer  
Jerome Danoff  
Molly Levinson  
Max Mendelson  
Harry Miller  
Hans Moses  
Zanvel Nisenson  
Edith Plesset  
Rose Schwartz  
Sheldon Wagner  
Rose Weinstein

## JANUARY 20

### 10 *SHEVAT*

Seymour Engel  
Sarah Miriam Green  
Howard Gudelsky  
Pauline Levy Hein  
Rheta Kruger  
Louise Pasternak  
Yefim Sandler  
Lori Faith Schwartz

## JANUARY 21

### 11 *SHEVAT*

Paul Berman  
Libby Gordon

## JANUARY 22

### 12 *SHEVAT*

Sara Dick  
Jacob Finster  
Lillian Gorinson  
Ruth Hochberg  
Jules Liss  
John Gordon Phillips  
Morton Salit  
Bernice Zimlin

## JANUARY 23

### 13 *SHEVAT*

Edith Adler  
Mildred Rothman Coblitz  
Frank Ehrlich  
Sylvia Kronzek  
Edith Lazarus  
Issy Matheson  
Sumner Meiselman  
Rose Murdock  
Norman Tubiash

## JANUARY 24

### 14 *SHEVAT*

Shirley Baer  
Fannie Rose Cohen  
Irvin A. Lavine  
Ruth Milenky  
Nathan Osofsky

## JANUARY 25

### 15 *SHEVAT*

Mordechai Armoza  
Rose Auerhahn  
Rosalind Graber  
Miriam Kagan  
Jalle Koricki  
Sara Sokolow  
Charlotte Turkkanis  
Leonard Wagman

## JANUARY 26

### 16 *SHEVAT*

Charles Benesch  
Selma Oppenheim  
Max Rothman  
Steve Smith  
Eli Herman Stein  
Albert Toney

## JANUARY 27

### 17 *SHEVAT*

Miriam Ginsburg  
Alex M. Kravitz  
Benjamin Newman  
Beatrice Venetsky  
Charles Walder

## JANUARY 28

### 18 *SHEVAT*

Judith Flax Elustondo  
Abe Goldstein  
Laura Hoffman  
Isadore Kramer  
William Mazaroff  
Beverly Pasternak  
Ruth Rosen  
Kate Schefter  
Bernice Schwartz

## JANUARY 29

### 19 *SHEVAT*

Rabbi Robert Chernoff  
Bernard Glaser  
Jacob M. Greenbaum  
Ellie Greene  
Debbie Rosen Kron  
Ernest Rosenwald

## JANUARY 30

### 20 *SHEVAT*

Milton Ackerman  
Leo Greenberg  
Michael Hamburg  
Rosie Kasper  
Morris Oppenheimer  
Mark Schaffman  
Fanny Stoll  
Morris Yonks

## JANUARY 31

### 21 *SHEVAT*

Samuel Cohen  
Sarah Cohen  
Elaine Danovitz  
Alan D. Hillerson  
Eliezer Kishner  
Joseph Kolirin  
Rebecca Pear  
Mildred Schwartz  
Celia Sobovinsky



# Tikvat Israel Remembers With Respect Those Whose *Yahrzeits* Occur From from 22 *Shevat* through 20 *Adar I* — February 2024

## FEBRUARY 1

**22 SHEVAT**  
Martha Barrish  
Goldie Goldman  
Les Lampert  
Arlene Minott

## FEBRUARY 2

**23 SHEVAT**  
Benjamin Adelson  
William Edlowitz  
William Gershowitz  
Samuel Helfant  
Norman Kanner  
Ada Milder  
Lori Schwartz  
Jay L. Zebooker

## FEBRUARY 3

**24 SHEVAT**  
Doris Lillian Asher  
William Berly  
Fay Gardner  
Deborah Lynn Kron  
Ruth Yudkoff Love  
Freda Stutz

## FEBRUARY 4

**25 SHEVAT**  
Jerie Cohen  
Ruth Fogel  
Charlotte Helzner  
Lois Klion  
Stanley Zelman Marder  
Vera Meyerson  
Rose Rosenthal  
Fannie Sills  
Emanuel Thaler

## FEBRUARY 5

**26 SHEVAT**  
Howard M. Berman  
Adele Cohen  
Elizabeth Davis  
Sidney Katz

## FEBRUARY 6

**27 SHEVAT**  
Haskel Chigorsky  
Benjamin Cohen  
Leslie Fineman  
Hase Marie Hershbaum  
Yetta Horowitz  
Alvin Kabik  
Eli Miller  
William Renfrew  
June Warhoftig

## FEBRUARY 7

**28 SHEVAT**  
Shoshana Natovich Ben-Ami  
Philip Braunstein  
Harry Cohen  
Bruce Glauberg  
Doris Kanner  
Mae Mukasey  
Beina Schwartz

## FEBRUARY 8

**29 SHEVAT**  
Isador Bilsky  
Edward Rosenbloom

## FEBRUARY 9

**30 SHEVAT**  
Hyman Gilston  
Jacob Teitelbaum

## FEBRUARY 10

**1 ADAR I**  
Florence Eber  
Sylvia Goldin  
Simi Goodman  
Freda Lankin  
Faigi Levine  
Irwin David Olin  
Samuel Rosenhaft  
Gertrude Schuchman  
Arthur J. Schwartz  
Max Weingross  
Sidney Weiss

## FEBRUARY 11

**2 ADAR I**  
Edith Baron  
Morris Hein  
Sarah Jarcho  
Minnie Rubinstein  
Leon E. Smith

## FEBRUARY 12

**3 ADAR I**  
Harry S. Field  
Tillie Gaspin  
Gloria M. Halpern  
Esther Kaminsky  
Betty Klein  
Baruch Schwarz  
Morris Shapiro  
Morris Tranen

## FEBRUARY 13

**4 ADAR I**  
Lillian Feingold  
Annie Goldstein  
Alan Kaufman  
Jamila Dweck Marcus  
Sandra Segal  
Alan Jay Smith  
Yetta Steiner

## FEBRUARY 14

**5 ADAR I**  
Shirlye Berman  
Esther Bloom  
Saul Diamond  
Mike Gross  
Arlene Kahn  
Charles Kandalis  
Carl Lang  
Laura Raucher  
Irving Schwartz  
Esther Simon

## FEBRUARY 15

**6 ADAR I**  
Alvin Bernstein  
Jacob Blafkin  
Annie Colodne  
Ann Gilman Miller  
Samuel Podgor

## FEBRUARY 16

**7 ADAR I**  
James Gorelick  
Lillian Kensky  
Louis Krepchin  
Bessie Marco  
Samuel J. Romm  
Elizabeth Zusman

## FEBRUARY 17

**8 ADAR I**  
Shulamit Sporen Breit  
Mary Fine

## FEBRUARY 18

**9 ADAR I**  
Barbara Goldstein Durand  
Israel Erdman  
Milton H. Feig  
Lena Feingold  
Lewis Frank  
Alex Liebenson

## FEBRUARY 19

**10 ADAR I**  
Ida Berly  
Guadalupe Castillo  
Josephine Erdheim  
Michael Hersh  
Helen Kaplan  
Nathan Lampert  
Joshua Leise  
Zev Aria Ludwinowitz  
Gary Reider  
Sidney Rosen  
Murray Rothman  
Nina Silverstein

## FEBRUARY 20

**11 ADAR I**  
Morris Cohen  
George Eber  
Ida Friedman  
Richard Klein  
K. Gordon Oppenheimer  
Hilda G. Robbin  
Alexander Rothberg  
Gertrude Schwartz  
Pearl Solet  
Cynthia Spritzer  
Benjamin Suskind

## FEBRUARY 21

**12 ADAR I**  
Filemon Castillo  
Bessie Danoff  
Fanny Izen  
Belle Lerner  
Emily Livingston  
Louis D. Robbin  
Frank Sobovinsky

## FEBRUARY 22

**13 ADAR I**  
Abraham Brooke  
Shulamit Elster  
Eva Glater  
Marshall Silverstein

## FEBRUARY 23

**14 ADAR I**  
Paul Altman  
Fannie Curchack  
Lena Fineman  
Corina D. Nichols  
Karen Schubert  
Ruth Anne Sheskin

## FEBRUARY 24

**15 ADAR I**  
Elaine Kasper  
Bert Levin  
Zahava Nevet  
Anna Shapiro  
Zandel Smith

## FEBRUARY 25

**16 ADAR I**  
Celia Bliss  
Morris Gellman  
Max Katzen  
Jacob Pear  
David Ronis  
Philip Schnitzer  
Abraham I. Selwyn  
Ascher Wolf

## FEBRUARY 26

**17 ADAR I**  
Carl Boden  
Friedrich Breit  
Sigmund Brown  
Erna Casper  
Murray Grand  
Abraham Kabot  
Freda Kagan  
Milton Moss  
Gerda Reich  
Isadore Schwartz

## FEBRUARY 27

**18 ADAR I**  
Stephen Edwards  
Helen Gross  
Rose Ludwin  
Susan Meyers  
David Stuart Pearl  
Jacob Sage  
Lena Sandler

## FEBRUARY 28

**19 ADAR I**  
Tillie Lieberman  
Joseph Salzer

## FEBRUARY 29

**20 ADAR I**  
Renne Katz  
William Raucher  
Benjamin Rosenthal  
Mae Shulman



# Donations

*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 October and November. If your donation during this time does not appear in the list, or if there is an error in the listing, please contact the synagogue office at 301-762-7338.*

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by Alice and David Gantz  
by Marilyn and Michael Greenwood  
by Amy and Daniel Matathias  
by Stephen M. Raucher  
by Sue and Howard Wilchins

*In memory of Marcelle Copaken*

by Jeannette Eisler  
by Alice and David Gantz  
by Marilyn and Michael Greenwood  
by Barbara Milenky

In memory of Adair Bloom Lederman by  
Danny Bachman and Debby Berlyne  
In memory of Adair Bloom Lederman by Alice  
and David Gantz  
In memory of Stephen Shulman by Marilyn and  
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*Mazel Tov to Cantor Helzner, on the birth of her grandson*

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In honor of Felicia's birthday and Dan and Felicia's  
anniversary by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon

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In memory of Bonnie Cowan by Terry Horowitz  
and James Hendler

In memory of Gerald Kaiz by Terry Horowitz  
and James Hendler

In memory of Etta Kessler by Terry Horowitz  
and James Hendler

In memory of Jeanette Meyers by Julia and  
Martin Meyers

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In honor of Howard Wilchins, *Katan Torah*, by  
Sandy and Joel Friedman

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Eugene Ridberg

In memory of Dudley Schwartz by Allison  
Schwartz

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In memory of Marcelle Copaken by Deborah  
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In memory of Adair Bloom Lederman by  
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Muriel Asher

In memory of Bonnie Cowan by Jules and  
Muriel Asher

## Education

*In memory of Marcelle Copaken*

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by Karen and Michael Cohen  
by Linda and Rael Sacks  
by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon

In memory of Stephen Shulman by Joe and  
Alise Snyder

## General Fund

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In honor of Aaron Fineman's birthday by  
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In honor of Felicia Black, on her birthday,  
and Dan and Felicia on their 35th wedding  
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*In honor of Carol Chelemer, Kallat Bereshit*

by Marlene Chait  
by Alice and David Gantz  
by Rebecca Salon and Jay Goldman  
by Leilani Lansing

In honor of Carol Chelemer and Howard  
Wilchins by Ellen and Sherman Eisner  
In honor of Sam Gilston by Susan and Jay Plafker  
In honor of Tami and Samuel Gilston's wedding  
anniversary by Tamah Graber  
In honor of Tami and Samuel Gilston's 55th Wedding  
Anniversary by Paula and Marvin Kasper  
In honor of Howard Wilchins' *Simchat Torah*  
*aliyah*, by Bainbridge Island Family, David Schor  
In honor of Sue and Howard Wilchins by  
Rebecca Salon and Jay Goldman

*Mazel tov* to Molly and Stu Turkewitz on their  
son Noah's wedding to Lindsey Donahue by  
Ellen and Sherman Eisner

*Mazel tov* to Rebecca Salon and Jay Goldman  
on the naming of their granddaughters Efrat  
and Ruth, by Ellen and Sherman Eisner

*In memory of Louise Chatlyne*

by Madeline and Jose Guzman  
by Jayme Sokolow  
by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon

*In memory of Marcelle Copaken*

by Elyse and Jeffrey Bernstein  
by Brenda and Keith Brooks  
by Marsha and Arthur Fabel  
by Aaron Fineman  
by Betty and Clifford Fishman  
by Penina and Sam Freedenberg  
by Rebecca Salon and Jay Goldman  
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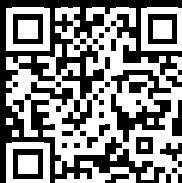
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by Betty and Clifford Fishman

by Penina and Sam Freedenberg

*In memory of Adair Bloom Lederman*

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In memory of Thomas Rosenblatt by Ellen and Sherman Eisner

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In honor of Howard Wilchins, *Chatan Torah* by Betty and Clifford Fishman

In honor of Tami and Samuel Gilston's 55th Wedding Anniversary by Lynn and Stephen Schoen and Ferne and Harvey Levine

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

*Mazel tov* to Jason and Debra Levine, on the birth of their newest grandchild, by Sandy and Larry Levine

In memory of Adair Bloom Lederman by Sara Harris

*In memory of Marcelle Copaken*

by Robert and Janice Balin

by Bruce Goldin

by Sara Harris

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### RABBI'S REFUGEE FUND

In memory of Marcelle Copaken by Sandra and Larry Levine

In memory of Adair Bloom Lederman by Robert and Janice Balin

### SHELLY GOLDIN MEMORIAL FUND

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In memory of Marcelle Copaken by Elaine Weinstein

In memory of Gerry Kaiz by Barbara Katz

In memory of Adair Lederman by Bruce Goldin

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In memory of Adair Bloom Lederman by Karen and Michael Cohen

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*In memory of Marcelle Copaken*

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by Ziva and Gerald Schuchman

In memory of Gerald Kaiz by Amy and Daniel Matathias

*In memory of Adair Bloom Lederman*

by Wendy Bauman

by Amy and Daniel Matathias

by Ziva and Gerald Schuchman

*In memory of Stephen Shulman*

by Roberta and Larry Cohen

by Penina and Sam Freedenberg

by Amy and Daniel Matathias

# JANUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> 20 Tevet 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan **TI Office & ECC Closed**	<b>2</b> 21 Tevet 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>3</b> 22 Tevet 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>4</b> 23 Tevet 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>5</b> 24 Tevet 8:00 AM Minyan 4:41 PM Candle Lighting 6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>6</b> 25 Tevet 9:30 AM Preliminary Service 9:45 AM Shabbat Services (Parashat Shemot) 5:43 PM Havdalah
<b>7</b> 26 Tevet 9:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>8</b> 27 Tevet 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>9</b> 28 Tevet 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>10</b> 29 Tevet 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>11</b> 1 Shevat 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan  Rosh Chodesh Shevat	<b>12</b> 2 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 4:48 PM Candle Lighting 6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>13</b> 3 Shevat 9:30 AM Preliminary Service 9:45 AM Shabbat Services (Parashat Vaera) 11:15 AM Auntie A Shabbat Family Jam 11:15 AM Torah Club 5:49 PM Havdalah
<b>14</b> 4 Shevat 9:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan Martin Luther King Jr. Day	<b>15</b> 5 Shevat 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>16</b> 6 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>17</b> 7 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan 8:00 PM Women's Network Book Club (Zoom)	<b>18</b> 8 Shevat 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>19</b> 9 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 4:55 PM Candle Lighting 6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>20</b> 10 Shevat 9:30 AM Preliminary Service 9:45 AM Shabbat Services (Parashat Bo) 12:30 PM Study Session: Gender Inclusivity 5:57 PM Havdalah
<b>21</b> 11 Shevat 9:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>22</b> 12 Shevat 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>23</b> 13 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan 8:00 PM Board Meeting	<b>24</b> 14 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>25</b> 15 Shevat 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan  Tu B'Shvat	<b>26</b> 16 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 5:03 PM Candle Lighting 6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00 PM Tu B'Shvat Dinner	<b>27</b> 17 Shevat 9:30 AM Preliminary Service 9:45 AM Shabbat Services (Parashat Beshalach) 10:30 AM Torah Club 11:15 AM Auntie A Shabbat Family Jam 6:05 PM Havdalah
<b>28</b> 18 Shevat 9:00 AM Minyan 10:30 AM Women's Network Virtual Tour of Jewish India 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>29</b> 19 Shevat 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>30</b> 20 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>31</b> 21 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 10:00 AM Blood Drive 7:30 PM Minyan			All events subject to change. Please read <b>B'keshet</b> for the latest status.



# FEBRUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b> 22 Shevat 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>2</b> 23 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 5:12 PM Candle Lighting 6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>3</b> 24 Shevat 9:30 AM Preliminary Service 9:45 AM Shabbat Services (Parashat Yitro) 10:00 AM Inclusion Shabbat 6:13 PM Havdalah
<b>4</b> 25 Shevat 9:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>5</b> 26 Shevat 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan			<b>6</b> 27 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>7</b> 28 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>8</b> 29 Shevat 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan
<b>11</b> 2 Adar I 9:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>12</b> 3 Adar I 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>13</b> 4 Adar I 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>14</b> 5 Adar I 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>15</b> 6 Adar I 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>16</b> 7 Adar I 8:00 AM Minyan 5:28 PM Candle Lighting 6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat	<b>17</b> 8 Adar I 9:30 AM Preliminary Service 9:45 AM Shabbat Services (Parashat Terumah) 12:30 PM Study Session: Gender Inclusivity 6:29 PM Havdalah
<b>18</b> 9 Adar I 9:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>19</b> 10 Adar I 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>20</b> 11 Adar I 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>21</b> 12 Adar I 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>22</b> 13 Adar I 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>23</b> 14 Adar I 8:00 AM Minyan 5:36 PM Candle Lighting 6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Purim katan Purim katan	<b>24</b> 15 Adar I 9:30 AM Preliminary Service 9:45 AM Shabbat Services (Parashat Tetzaveh) 10:30 AM Torah Club 11:15 AM Auntie A Shabbat Family Jam 6:37 PM Havdalah TBD Shushan Purim Katan Hamantashen Swap & Competition
<b>25</b> 16 Adar I 9:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>26</b> 17 Adar I 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>27</b> 18 Adar I 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan 8:00 PM Board Meeting	<b>28</b> 19 Adar I 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	<b>29</b> 20 Adar I 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	All events subject to change. Please read B'keshet for the latest status.	



## *Tikvat Israel Congregation*

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## DATED MATERIALS . . . . PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

### Shul Shorts

#### **Gender Inclusivity at TI**

A two-part *Shabbat kiddush* study series focusing on gender inclusivity at Tikvat Israel will take place on Jan. 20 and Feb. 17 from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Rabbi Marc Israel will lead the exploration of a recent *teshuvah* (rabbinic responsum) that proposes a gender-sensitive formula for calling non-binary individuals to the Torah for *aliyot*. Congregants will discuss other ways to promote gender inclusivity in our community.

#### **Board to Retreat in January**

The Tikvat Israel Board of Directors will hold a retreat on Sunday, Jan. 7, at the synagogue to examine the next steps in implementing the synagogue's strategic plan. The board members will mark progress made during the past year and develop a set of goals for 2024.

Using the strategic plan and cross-referencing ideas from the book *Relational Judaism*, the governing board hopes to find ways to continue to grow our congregation and deepen relationships between our congregants.

#### **Kabbalat Shabbat with Instruments**

The next two KS with I are slated to take place in the social hall and to be available via livestream on March 15 and May 10. The spirited service, led by Cantor Rochelle Helzner, includes uplifting melodies, both traditional and new.

The pre-service receptions are seeking sponsors. Contact the cantor if interested.

#### **Cantor's Concert June 9**

The year's biggest cultural event at Tikvat Israel, the annual Cantor's Concert, will feature Trio Sephardi in the social hall on Sunday, June 9.

Trio Sephardi is a Northern Virginia-based ensemble that performs traditional songs of the *Sephardim*, the descendants of Jews exiled from Spain in 1492. Their repertoire carries a special emphasis on traditional and original songs learned from their mentor, Bosnian-born singer/composer Flory Jagoda. The trio formed in 2010.