



## Inside This Issue ...

### Tough Act to Follow.

Tikvat Israel is calling on a three-decade veteran to handle the duties of *hazzan* at our *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* services this fall following the retirement of Rochelle Helzner. Cantor Eliot Vogel of suburban Philadelphia is not an unfamiliar presence in our *shul*. Read all about him in an extended interview with *Bulletin* editor Jay P. Goldman on **page 4**.

### Volunteers of the Year.

*Simchat Torah* annually gives our congregation a chance to recognize the outstanding volunteer efforts of two members. This year, on Oct. 15, we will mark publicly the various contributions of Jeff Smith and Shirley Waxman with special *aliyyot* and a festive lunch in their honor following morning services. Read about the pair of honorees on **page 7**.

### Learning Later in Life.

A half-century after he last studied the subject as a college freshman, congregant Danny Bachman has decided to pursue again his interest of biblical Hebrew. You can discover on **page 12** how he's addressing this and wants to share his renewed interest with others.

### Books for Debate.

The Women's Network has made its deliberate choices – five fiction and non-fiction books worthy of reading and group discussion over the next nine months. You can find on **page 9** the array of literature they'll be dissecting at in-person and remote sessions starting this month.

### Our Busy Schedules.

From skimming the calendars appearing on **pages 18 and 19**, you'll get a quick sense of how full congregational life will be during September and October. The calendars are up to date at the time of *Bulletin* production, but sometimes circumstances force changes, so check the website calendar of events at <https://www.tikvatisrael.org/happenings/full-calendar/> for the latest information.

## Our Final Issue in Print

The September-October issue of *Tikvat Israel Bulletin* is the final one to appear in print. Future issues will be digital publications, under cost-cutting undertaken by the synagogue board in the FY '26 budget adopted by congregants in June.

Beginning with the November-December issue, the synagogue's office staff will send each bi-monthly issue of the *Bulletin* as a PDF on or by the first day of the month of publication to all congregants whose e-mail addresses are on file. Congregants may request a photocopied version of the newsletter from the office staff at that time.

The *Bulletin* will continue to be produced six times a year for the time being.

## 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

Shabbat & Yom Tov Date	Candle Lighting	Havdalah
9/5-6	7:14 p.m.	8:11 p.m.
9/12-13	7:03 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
9/19-20	6:51 p.m.	7:48 p.m.
<i>Rosh Hashanah</i>		
9/22	6:47 p.m.	
<i>Rosh Hashanah</i>		
9/23	7:45 p.m.	
9/24		7:44 p.m.
9/26-27	6:40 p.m.	7:39 p.m.
<i>Yom Kippur</i>		
10/1-2	6:32 p.m.	7:31 p.m.
10/3-4	6:29 p.m.	7:28 p.m.
<i>Sukkot</i>		
10/6	6:24 p.m.	
<i>Sukkot</i>		
10/7	7:32 p.m.	
10/8		7:11 p.m.
10/10-11	6:18 p.m.	7:17 p.m.
<i>Hoshana Rabbah</i>		
10/13	6:14 p.m.	
<i>Shmini Atzeret</i>		
10/14	7:13 p.m.	
<i>Simchat Torah</i>		
10/15		7:11 p.m.
10/17-18	6:08 p.m.	7:07 p.m.
10/24-25	5:58 p.m.	6:58 p.m.
10/31-11/1	5:50 p.m.	6:49 p.m.

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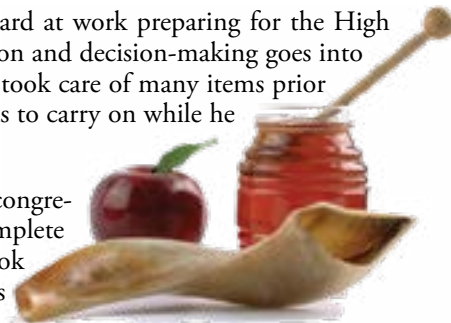
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## The Countdown to High Holidays 5786

BY ALAN APTER, HIGH HOLIDAYS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Your High Holidays committee has been hard at work preparing for the High Holidays since May. A lot of planning, discussion and decision-making goes into getting ready. We are grateful that Rabbi Israel took care of many items prior to his summer sabbatical, allowing the rest of us to carry on while he was gone.

Information packets were mailed to all congregants in early August. These included a complete overview of religious service schedules, the Book of Remembrance form, home hospitality details and special programs.



Keep the following in mind:

- You need to complete registration, purchase guest tickets, sign up for youth services, babysitting and other programs, and identify special needs by **Friday, Sept. 12**. This deadline enables the TI office to mail tickets or arrange the ticket will-call. Online completion of all forms is preferred to improve the office's efficiency and accuracy.
- Tickets cannot be purchased at the door.
- Tickets must be shown to greeters to enter the *shul*.
- If you have a service honor, arrive at least 20 minutes prior to your likely time on the *bimah* and inform the *Gabbai Gadol* (normally stationed on the kitchen side of the social hall) of your presence. Otherwise, the honor may be reassigned.
- Please keep voices down in the lobby, as people will be praying in the social hall.
- If you need assistance during the services, ask an usher for help.
- *Yizkor* will be held during the morning service on *Yom Kippur*.

Contact the synagogue office with any questions.



## Sukkah Raising and Ruach Day for Sukkot

BY SPENCER LANE

Tikvat Israel will build a *sukkah* on our back patio outside the doors at the rear of the social hall. Setup and take-down require considerable effort, and we could use all the help we can get. Please contact me to volunteer (or with questions) at [spencer.kb1te.lane@gmail.com](mailto:spencer.kb1te.lane@gmail.com).

We will construct the *sukkah* on the morning of Sept. 28, and take it down during the afternoon of Oct. 19. In both cases, you can show up empty-handed, and we'll put you to work, but there are some things that would be useful to bring. Work gloves and safety glasses are useful as the *skach* that makes up the roof can be a bit splintery. A screwdriver can be used for tightening the structure down, and a short ladder or tall step stool will help you reach the roof.

Additionally, this year we are turning the *sukkah* build into a communal event, something like a barn raising. Join us for TI *Ruach Day* on Sept. 28. There will be snacks, drinks, games and a bit of arts and crafts. Come help us build the *sukkah* as a community.

## RABBI'S CORNER

# Olam Chesed Yibaneh

BY RABBI MARC D. ISRAEL



A few weeks ago, we installed our new synagogue officers and board of directors, concluding the ceremony by singing *Olam Chesed Yibaneh* – “We shall build a world of kindness.” This phrase is taken from *Psalm* 89, a psalm that speaks of God’s ideal world, where God is envisioned metaphorically sitting on a throne built upon *tzedek* (righteousness), *mishpat* (justice), *chesed* (kindness) and *emet* (truth).

This particular psalm is dedicated as a *maskil l'Eitan HaEzrach* (a contemplation for Ethan the Ezrachite), focusing on the role of chesed in sustaining the covenant with God. To emphasize this point, the rabbis teach that Ethan the Ezrachite, who etymologically would appear to refer to a minor Biblical character named Eitan ben Zerah ben Yehudah, is actually Avraham Avinu (our forefather Abraham). A commentary explains this connection, noting that Avraham was considered the epitome of chesed, pointing to the story in which he ran to provide food for guests who passed by his tent, noting this was true regardless of who they were or where they came from.

This lesson is even more important in today’s world. The only way to create a better world for ourselves and our posterity is if we build it upon a foundation of *chesed* – through bestowing acts of kindness to anyone we encounter.

Let me suggest three simple ways for members of our congregation to do this:

- Inviting newcomers to meals. Recently, I spoke to a number of families who ideologically feel most comfortable at Tikvat Israel but are currently attending Orthodox synagogues. Delving a bit deeper, in each case, they spoke about the way the Orthodox communities welcomed them, with people immediately inviting them to their house for *Shabbat* meals, offers to help them get their home set up, etc. From Abraham *Avinu* to today, inviting someone new for a meal in your home is a sign of a welcoming and kind community, where everyone is treated with chesed from the moment they walk through the door.
- Serving a meal at Shepherd’s Table. Long before the merger with Beth Tikva, members of Temple Israel had been serving meals at Shepherd’s Table on the 5th Monday of the month, which occurs 3-5 times a year. After many years of organizing this important *mitzvah* project, Sherman and Ellen Eisner have decided not to continue. We need someone who is willing to take lead in organizing volunteers so we can continue our tradition of expressing our *chesed* beyond the walls of our synagogue and the Jewish community.
- Preparing a meal for a family in a time of need. Whether it is after the birth of a baby, during a time of illness or after the death of a loved one, we each experience times where otherwise simple

tasks can become overwhelming. One way to build a kinder world is to take initiative to contact families in such circumstances and help provide a few meals during this time of need.

For many of us, these tasks and others like them are not particularly difficult nor do they require a tremendous amount of time. Yet these simple acts of kindness can make a world of difference for the recipients; beyond the food itself, each of these acts helps create that *olam chesed*, a world of kindness. If you are inspired to help lead any of these initiatives, I invite you to contact me.

For the rabbis, connecting Avraham *Avinu* with chesed goes beyond the link to the story in which he provides guests with a meal. More fundamentally, in making this connection, our sages teach that from its inception, the foundation of Judaism is *chesed*. Let’s all find ways to do our part.

## Rooting for the Home Team



The Women’s Network attracted 49 congregation members and their friends to the annual mid-summer baseball outing at Nationals Park on Sunday, Aug. 17, where they watched the Philadelphia Phillies take an 11-9 victory over the home team. The synagogue was recognized on the outfield scoreboard in mid-game. Rebecca Salon served as event organizer. (Photos by Jay P. Goldman)



# Veteran Hazzan From Suburban Philadelphia to Serve TI on High Holidays

Tikvat Israel's cantorial needs will be well-served during the High Holidays by the lyric baritone of Cantor Eliot Vogel, a veteran *hazzan* and educator for more than 40 years.

Vogel, 70, is *hazzan* emeritus at Har Zion Temple in Penn Valley, Pa., along suburban Philadelphia's Main Line. He served that Conservative *shul* for 31 years before retiring in 2022. Since then, he has worked as interim *hazzan* on *Shabbat* for a congregation in Blue Bell, another Philadelphia suburb.

He will co-lead services with Rabbi Marc Israel on *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* this year, following Cantor Rochelle Helzner's retirement in June. She served Beth Tikva and Tikvat Israel for 41 years before accepting cantor emeritus status.

Vogel earlier worked as a cantor for a congregation in South Orange, N.J., and was a teacher at the H.L. Miller Cantorial School, affiliated with the Jewish Theological Seminary.

He was interviewed in August by Jay P. Goldman, editor of the *Tikvat Israel Bulletin*. His responses have been edited for clarity and conciseness.

**Your stint with us at TI isn't your first High Holiday season assignment in post-retirement, is it?**

**Vogel:** I served a congregation in Texas my first year. Last year I was mostly a "Jew-in-the-pew," spending the holidays with two of my three daughters in their communities.

**Did you have familiarity with Rabbi Israel during his years serving a congregation on the Main Line before coming to Tikvat Israel in 2019?**

**Vogel:** Familiarity yes, but unfortunately not a working relationship. Our congregations were a part of a collaborative Hebrew High School in the area. He worked with colleagues of mine from the education department.

**Was your familiarity with our rabbi a factor in your willingness to serve in the upcoming role with us?**

**Vogel:** I really got to know Rabbi Israel better when my daughter moved to Rockville. (Daughter Adina and her family joined TI as members.) I attended Tikvat Israel on several occasions and found him to be warm and genuine. My daughter is involved professionally in the Jewish world and has gotten to know both the rabbi and his wife in that context. The positive feelings she has shared about them have had some influence on me—mostly just affirming what I experienced.

**Any strong impression of TI from your visits?**

**Vogel:** When I visited Tikvat Israel the first time, I was delighted to discover that Richard Lederman is a long-standing member. We worked together at Har Zion Temple for many years.

**What's the particular challenge a cantor faces when coming in as an interim or a full-time replacement at the High Holidays following someone who had a 41-year relationship with a congregation?**

**Vogel:** After four decades, a congregation is attached to the sound, style and substance of their cantor's High Holiday service. For

many at Tikvat Israel who have known no other cantor, there is bound to be a level of disappointment and loss at not having "the familiar" at the most crucial time of the year. As an interim High Holiday cantor, I'm working closely with your rabbi trying to absorb all that I can about the services your cantor has led. I know that there are certain elements — specific tunes or prayer passages — that the congregation looks forward to and, of course, I will want to include these. What I can't do, no matter how hard I try, is to sound like your previous cantor.

**Has the cantorial role changed in any marked ways within the Conservative movement over your professional life?**

**Vogel:** Generally, Jews in the Conservative movement have less attachment to tradition and less inclination to sit through services they can't relate to because "that's the way it's always been done." Therefore, cantors today have to be much more conscious of who their "consumers" are. Pace of the service and engagement of the congregants is much more important today. Also, I find that cantors are, generally speaking, much more eclectic in their use of music from various periods and genres as they search for the "sweet spots" in order to engage their congregants. This approach may meet with varying degrees of success.

**I saw an interview of you in the *Philadelphia Jewish Exponent* that reported: "[Vogel] said it's time for a younger voice to step onto the *bimah* and help transition to shorter services with more instruments and congregational participation. Vogel believes that Conservative synagogues are moving in that direction, while he is better-versed in the longer Conservative services of yesteryear."**

**Vogel:** The pandemic highlighted some of the failings we've been having in the movement with attendance at services. It forced us to be much more intentional with what we put on there for consumption. There was a point at which I felt that congregants need more "entertainment" in their services. Of course, since the pandemic and the widespread use of streaming services, congregants can "go" anywhere for services. Each community ultimately will need to continue to grapple with these questions and come up with an approach that feels authentic to them.

**What's the state of supply and demand for cantors in 2025?**

**Vogel:** Not sure that I know. What is interesting is how many rabbis and cantors either have dual degrees or are functioning in both capacities. There are some highly motivated and very impressive individuals in the field today—both single degree and double.

**What should our congregation anticipate in the coming year as it goes through the process of figuring out how to best address our cantorial needs?**

**Vogel:** Hopefully the congregation will continue to aspire to hire an individual who is knowledgeable in and committed to the use of "*nusach ha t'fillah*" as the basis of their cantorial practice. While at times congregations need song leaders, it is also valid to expect that a cantor can move people spiritually through a professionally and artistically presented piece of liturgy.



Cantor Eliot Vogel

# Listening, Learning, Looking Ahead Upon Cantor's Departure

BY ELISSA (LIS) SCHWARTZ, TRANSITION VISIONING TEAM CHAIR

Tikvat Israel has embarked on an important journey to envision our future spiritual, musical and communal life, following Cantor Rochelle Helzner's transition to emeritus status. Rather than moving immediately to hire a replacement, the synagogue's board has charged the Transition Visioning Committee with leading a thoughtful, inclusive process to assess our needs holistically.

While the cantor's departure prompted this process, our work is guided by a broader reality: The synagogue has a variety of staffing needs beyond the position vacated by our cantor. That's why our conversations have explored so many topics—worship, music, education, pastoral care, community engagement and administrative support. We are looking at the full picture of what will keep Tikvat Israel vibrant for years to come.

Our mission is to honor Cantor Helzner's enduring legacy while engaging the entire congregation in imagining a vibrant future—one that nurtures spiritual growth, strengthens connections, and opens doors to new possibilities in leadership, programming and community life.

## What We're Learning

Over the past several months, we have met with clergy, staff and dozens of congregants in both formal and informal settings, including our July 12 *kiddush* talk and Aug. 8 pre-*Shabbat* conversation. These discussions have been rich, thoughtful and, at times, challenging, as they reflect both our deep appreciation for tradition and our hopes for innovation.

From our listening sessions, we've heard expressions about these needs:

- **Spiritual Leadership and Worship.** Members value inspiring, participatory services led by leaders who *daven with* the congregation rather than perform *for* it. As one member put it, "We don't want a performance—we want someone who is *davening* with us, not to us."

Congregants appreciate traditional melodies while welcoming creativity, such as varied musical styles, occasional use of instruments, and guest leaders who can bring new energy.

- **Music as a Connector.** Music is central to our spiritual life. "The melodies are what bring me in and keep me engaged," one participant shared. Suggestions included reviving choirs for High Holidays, hosting special musical weekends, and incorporating multi-generational singing into services.
- **Innovation Without Losing Tradition.** Ideas included cantor-in-residence weekends, themed musical *Shabbatot* and drawing on our own talented members to lead services or teach new melodies.
- **Educational Opportunities Across Generations.** Members called for

more structured learning for those leading services, expanded adult education and engaging programs for children that integrate music and spirituality. One congregant said: "I'd love more chances to learn how to lead parts of the service—it makes you feel connected in a different way."

- **Pastoral Care and Connection.** Many emphasized the importance of visiting the sick, supporting *shiva minyanim* and guiding life-cycle events. "When the rabbi or cantor shows up in the hospital, it means the world," said one longtime member. Some suggested training lay leaders to help ensure pastoral needs are met.
- **Inclusion of Families and Youth.** Parents want melodies and programming that appeal to children, opportunities for them to participate, and a welcoming environment where they feel comfortable in the building.
- **Openness to New Models.** Many are willing to consider leadership structures beyond a full-time cantor, such as combining music and education roles, hiring a musically skilled rabbi or engaging rotating guest leaders—provided these choices sustain our spiritual and communal vitality.

## What's Next

The committee is now handling the following:

- Hosting additional listening opportunities to ensure every voice can be heard.
- Compiling all feedback into a community "wish list" of priorities.
- Considering how best to address other staffing needs, including administrative and programmatic support.
- Working with synagogue leadership on a clear transition plan, including timelines and communication about whom to contact for various needs.
- Finding creative ways to keep our community engaged and inspired—especially as we approach the High Holidays.

We will share the evolving priorities with the congregation as soon as they are complete.

## Thanks for Your Voice

To everyone who has attended a conversation or shared your thoughts: thank you. This process works because of your openness, ideas and care for Tikvat Israel's future.

Your feedback is shaping our next chapter. Together, we will honor our past, embrace our present and build a vibrant, connected future for Tikvat Israel.

If you have thoughts to share or questions about the process, reach out to us at [visioning.tikvatisrael@gmail.com](mailto:visioning.tikvatisrael@gmail.com) or 240-544-7925.



A handful of the individuals who shared their views about cantorial needs at the visioning group's social hall event on Aug. 8. (Photo by Aaron Chusid)

## CO-PRESIDENTS' CORNER

# Our Generous and Committed Members

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



Beth Smith



Sally Kram

The High Holidays are a period of reflection. For the co-presidents of a synagogue, entering another season of contemplation about where we've been and where we are going is particularly powerful.

As we enter a new fiscal year, we are particularly mindful of the generous congregants who have made TI a thriving community.

Two years ago this coming December, when we attended the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism convening in Baltimore, we caused quite a stir when we told colleagues that our synagogue was going to abolish membership dues and adopt a voluntary pledge model. Some had heard about the voluntary approach, but no one we met had tried it. Everyone was curious to know how it would work for us.

We did not adopt it hastily. Some may recall when we adopted our current strategic plan, this change was one of many recommendations. You also may remember we had a team that spent a year doing research before recommending we abolish our dues structure and move to the pledge mode.

It was so exciting when the congregation voted to make the change. Little did we know just how successful the new model would be; more funds have been raised than in prior years under the dues model! With each household having the opportunity to decide what to comfortably give, members know they have a personal stake in their *shul*, and that adds inclusivity to our congregation.

And so, in 2024 it began. The pledges came in. We tracked our progress. Many submitted and paid their pledges at the very beginning of the fiscal year, a few even before the new year began. Some congregants with adult children living in the area had the pleasure of seeing their offspring become members now that they could choose the amount they could afford to give. Other young people heard about our new setup and joined, too. We even attracted a few former members who decided it was the right time to come back.

We did find a few members who were so accustomed to receiving a bill that they didn't realize that a change had occurred, so they didn't submit their pledges. However, personal phone calls helped them deal with the new process.

Now we are delighted to share with you some genuinely exciting news.

- In the first year of our voluntary commitment, we experienced a 23 percent increase in funds contributed by our members over the previous year's dues. It shows us that our dues, which had not been raised in many years, were unrealistically low for some households. For others, their pledges

rightsized their financial commitment to TI, reflecting their household giving capacity.

- This year, our second year of the model, we are still seeing an increase, albeit more modest, of 6.9 percent over last year's pledge levels, another success.
- While we are not yet at 100 percent pledge commitment, we are well above 50 percent of our members renewing. We actually have pledges from 62 percent of member households, as of mid-August. We are hopeful the rate of giving will continue as more members pledge.
- We hope pledges from new members and those who joined in 2024-25 will help increase our total for our second year.

We are thrilled by the generosity of our members. And we hope that our explanations of how we have spent the pledge money at each of our two congregational meetings over the past fiscal year has brought greater transparency to the budgeting process and has helped us all better understand the real needs of our *kehillah*.

Thank you all for helping to build a viable future for our synagogue. Our best days are ahead. *L'Shana Tovah Y'Metukah*.

## 11 Non-Profits Benefit with Havurah Gifts

BY DAVID GANTZ, TZEDAKAH HAVURAH CHAIR

This year's total *tzedakah* collection at Tikvat Israel amounted to \$5,385.78, a 27 percent increase from last year.

The donations came from these and other sources: \$3,700 from the *pushke* and direct donations, and \$846 from *Purim* canister.

The *Tzedakah Havurah* allocated \$5,335 as charitable gifts, leaving \$50.78 in the account to begin the 2025-26 *tzedakah* year. Eleven groups each received gifts of \$485: Comfort Cases, Ogen (Israel Free Loan Association), B'nai Brith's Project Hope, Dror Israel, Eli-Israeli Association of Child Protection, Leket Israel (Israeli Food Bank), Manna Food Bank, The Good People Fund, Nourish Now of Montgomery County, Small Things Matter, and Tree House Child Advocacy of Montgomery County.

You may give *tzedakah* using our virtual *pushke* at <https://tikvatisraelrockville.shulcloud.com/payment.php>. Direct your donation by entering *Tzedakah Havurah* in the section that says "add a note" or "add special instructions."

The *havurah* consists of me as chair plus Hope Kott, Dan Jacobs, Robbi Cohen, Elyse Bernstein, Roz Kram and Marsha Lyons.



# Two Committed Volunteers to be Feted on *Simchat Torah*

BY JASON SCHWARTZ, RELIGIOUS PRACTICES COMMITTEE CHAIR

Tikvat Israel uses the occasion of *Simchat Torah* each fall to recognize two of our most committed volunteers.

This year we are excited to honor Jeff Smith as our *Chatan Torah* and Shirley Waxman as *Kallat Bereishit* on Wednesday, Oct. 15, during the holiday service.

On *Simchat Torah*, we rejoice in the renewal of the weekly Torah cycle. The last reading in the book of *Deuteronomy* (known as *Chatan Torah*, or “bridegroom of the Torah”), and the first reading in the book of *Genesis* (*Kallat Bereishit*, or “bride of Genesis”), are reserved for congregants who have made significant contributions to our synagogue’s spiritual, educational and cultural life.



Jeff Smith

**Jeff Smith** is a multi-talented congregant who has made an impact on Tikvat Israel in countless ways, from teaching study sessions on *Shavuot* and High Holidays to developing and running “Drama on *Shabbat*,” to serving as *Gabbai Gadol* on *Shabbat* mornings, to overseeing the renovating and beautifying of our social hall.

Smith has led many fund-raising and other initiatives for our congregation, but none as impactful or as successful as our recently completed Time to Sing, a year-long celebration of Cantor Rochelle Helzner’s

41-year career with Tikvat Israel, culminating in a sold-out performance featuring musician Joey Weisenberg.

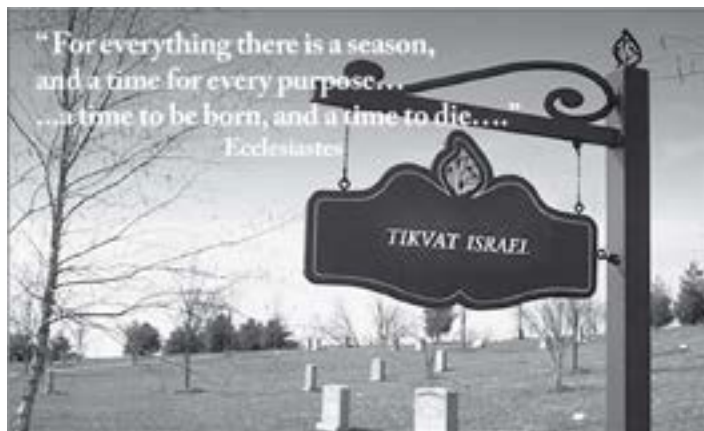


Shirley Waxman

**Shirley Waxman** is a renowned fabric artist and Jewish folklorist who has been crafting Judaic works of art for decades. Many of these works, such as both of our sets of Torah covers and the wall hanging in the synagogue lobby, were created as community engagements, and the impact of her creations and collaborations extends to the broader Jewish community in a very significant way. Deeply imbued with Jewish symbolism, every one of her creations is an opportunity to learn, such as when *b’nai mitzvah* students learn about the history and meaning of the *tallit* as well as how to tie their own *tzitzit* (fringes).

She has a passion for social action, such as when she worked to empower Ethiopian women to start businesses creating *atarot* (decorative *tallit* adornments) using traditional African designs. A true aficionado of Israeli culture, many recall Waxman leading Israeli dancing on *Simchat Torah* and at other celebrations.

In addition to their Torah honors during the service, we will celebrate with a festive *kiddush* luncheon. *Mazel tov* to our honorees, and may they go from strength to strength!



When you purchase family burial spaces in the Tikvat Israel Congregation Section at the Garden of Remembrance, your thoughtfulness will echo from generation to generation.

As a full-service partner to you and your family, in advance or at your time of need, our experienced staff can assist and care for all of your decision-making needs. We provide funerals at graveside, in our new Memorial Chapel, or in our Gazebo, and offer a wide selection of upright, slant, and grass-level granite and bronze memorials.



**Garden of Remembrance**  
GAN ZEEARON MEMORIAL PARK

Serving the Jewish Community and its Congregations,  
One Family at a Time

## Our New Crop of *Mashgichim*

BY BETH SMITH, TIKVAT ISRAEL CO-PRESIDENT

We held the first *mashgiach* training in many years on Sunday, Aug. 10 in the Tikvat Israel kitchen. Eight members stepped up to take on the mantle of kosher kitchen supervision.

The training was conducted by kitchen manager Joe Atkin and long-time professional *mashgiach* Harley Liebensohn.

The new *mashgichim* are Joe Miller, Jason Schwartz, Debbie Levine, Sandra Schwartz, Gale Pressman, Genie Glucksman, Nataly Schwartz and Felicia Black. Joining this group for refresher training were Sue Meiselman and Roni Silverstein, who previously completed training but have not served in the role for several years.

There will be another training in the early fall for Monica Meyer and Barry Lipy, both of whom were out of town on Aug. 10. If anyone else is interested in becoming a *mashgiach*, please contact Atkin at [kitchen@tikvatisrael.org](mailto:kitchen@tikvatisrael.org) so you can be included in the next session.

The newly trained *mashgichim* volunteers will be assigned to oversee meal-related events on *Shabbat*, holidays and other occasions at TI.

# Tikvat Israel High Holidays Hospitality 5786

Did you know that the act of offering hospitality could save your life? It was hostility to any form of hospitality that ultimately doomed Sodom to destruction. But Lot's invitation to the angels in need of hospitality is what saved him and his daughters from Sodom's destruction.

In reality, hospitality is what helps, even if only temporarily, to alleviate the feeling of loneliness that guests or even hosts may experience. It is the companionship of other people, more than the food or drink, that ultimately matters and is the true benefit of hospitality extended *and* received. Many among us may now feel like we are living in challenging times with job loss and uncertainty about what the future holds. Hospitality is even more important.

If you need a place to go or have room at your table for the *Yom Tov* meals, please reach out to your fellow congregants. Fill out the attached form by Sept. 15 and return it to Hope Levy Kott at [hkott@aol.com](mailto:hkott@aol.com). You may also contact Hope directly at (301) 404-2098.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Best phone number/e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

For Hosts	For Guests
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes! We would like to <b>host</b> a Yom Tov meal. We have room for as many as _____ people.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes! I / We would like to <b>attend</b> a Yom Tov meal
<input type="checkbox"/> Erev Rosh Hashanah, Monday, Sept. 22	<input type="checkbox"/> Erev Rosh Hashanah, Monday, Sept. 22
<input type="checkbox"/> the second <b>night</b> , Tuesday, Sept. 23	<input type="checkbox"/> the <b>second night</b> , Tuesday, Sept. 23
<input type="checkbox"/> Yom Kippur <b>break fast</b> , Thursday, Oct. 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yom Kippur <b>break fast</b> , Thursday, Oct. 2

For Guests: List the names (and ages of children) of all who will be attending:

Name	Age (if child)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please indicate if your family: **(For both hosts and guests)**

- ☐ does ☐ does not keep Kosher.  
☐ does ☐ does not eat exclusively vegetarian meals.  
☐ does ☐ does not observe traditional Yom Tov restrictions.

Please tell us anything else your host would need to know (allergies, transportation needs, accessibility, etc.).



May You Be Inscribed in the Book of Life for a Good Year!





## WOMEN'S NETWORK

# Wrapping up 5785 and Moving into 5786

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

Susan Apter and I, along with the rest of the Women's Network leadership team, extend a warm welcome to our new and returning members as we roll out our events in 5786.

Instructions for event registration, dues payments and contributions to this year's Torah Fund are included in the Tikvat Israel High Holidays information packets mailed to all congregants in early August and in our Women's Network e-newsletter. As with previous years, dues payments may be made by checks sent to treasurer Elyse Bernstein or through PayPal.

We will continue to promote this year's events through the excellent e-newsletter managed by Amy Matathias. During the High Holidays, look for this year's Women's Network bookmarks, which list our book group discussions and other Women's Network activities, including our annual *Shabbat* service.

Women's Network is welcoming a new coordinator for the Torah Fund, Ellie Diamond. We are delighted she is filling this role. Please support Torah Fund, which is under the Women's League of Conservative Judaism. Its mission is to educate and train Conservative/Masorti rabbis, cantors, scholars, educators, summer camp directors, chaplains, campus Jewish life staff and committed lay leaders. This year's theme is *Oseh Shalom*, meaning "Maker of Peace," which really resonates in our current times.

Our first event of this program year is a discussion of *The Gates of Gaza* by Amir Tibon, to be held on Sunday morning, Sept. 14 at TI. (See related story below.) The discussion leader will be Anna Robbins. Tibon is an Israeli journalist who recounts his experience of surviving the October 7 attack with his family in *Kibbutz Nahal Oz* on the Gaza border. He describes his family's ordeal and the bravery that ultimately led to their rescue. His book also tells the story of the *kibbutz*, from its founding to the attack's aftermath. Tibon incorporates information from over 30 original interviews.

Women's Network will offer two *Sukkot*-related activities this year. We will create *Sukkah* decorations on Sunday, Sept. 28, as part of the congregational *Sukkot* event that day. On Sunday, Oct. 12, we will collaborate with SEA Change on a *Sukkot* social action program. The event, called *Justice in the Sukkah*, will include a brunch. The themes that day will be housing justice, climate justice and food insecurity.

Women's Network will hold its paid-up membership event at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 26. We are delighted to welcome embroidery artist Rachel Braun as our presenter for this program.



Embroidery artist Rachel Braun will present at a Women's Network activity on Oct. 26.

Cantor Emeritus Rochelle Helzner connected us with Braun, whose work encompasses beautiful artistic interpretations of the *Torah*. Our members will also be treated to delicious food. In addition, there will be plenty of time to *schmooze*.

We thank our members who participated in our summer programs and the women

who coordinated those events. Rebecca Salon coordinated a successful Washington Nationals baseball outing with all 50 tickets sold for the Aug. 17 game between the Nats and the Philadelphia Phillies. She has been arranging these events for many years, and they always are lots of fun.

Also this summer, Sandra Sheskin led a back-to-school supply drive in support of Harmony Hills Elementary School. She is another ongoing volunteer who has been conducting this program on an annual basis. We are appreciative of both Rebecca and Sandra for their hard work and dedication to Women's Network.

We are excited to launch this year's programs and look forward to our continued success. Thanks for your continued support. If you have any questions, suggestions or wish to volunteer, contact me at [bbrooksx@gmail.com](mailto:bbrooksx@gmail.com).

## FIVE TITLES PICKED FOR BOOK DISCUSSION IN 2025-26

Five books will be part of the Women's Network's 2025-26 book group. They include two non-fiction works—one related to the October 7 attack on Israel and another about the Holocaust—as well as three fiction books.

The Women's Network identified these selections through a group vote.

The book discussions will take place on Zoom or in person at Tikvat Israel (in Room A), as noted below. The sessions are open to all women who are teenaged or older and affiliated with Tikvat Israel.



The books to be discussed by Women's Network members during the coming 10 months.

- Sept. 14, at 10 a.m. in person at TI: *The Gates of Gaza* by Amir Tibon. The discussion will be led by Anna Robbins.
- Nov. 16, at 10:30 a.m. in person at TI: *The Hebrew Teacher* by Maya Arad. The discussion will be led by Susan Apter.
- Jan. 14, 2026, at 8 p.m. on Zoom: *I Seek a Kind Person* by Julian Borger. The discussion will be led by Elaine Weinstein.
- March 18, 2026, at 8 p.m. on Zoom: *The Third Daughter* by Talia Carner. The discussion will be led by Paula Kasper.
- May 31, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. in person at TI: *Songs for the Brokenhearted* by Ayelet Tzabari. The discussion will be led by Marsha Lyons.

Descriptions of the books can be found at [https://bit.ly/WN\\_Books](https://bit.ly/WN_Books).

## My Experiences Advocating in Annapolis - We Can All Do This!

BY CANTOR EMERITUS ROCHELLE HELZNER

A few years ago, I attended a workshop on juvenile justice sponsored by Jews United For Justice. Feeling strongly about the issues presented, I decided to take the plunge and join JUFJ to meet with our Maryland legislators in Annapolis during an advocacy day on this issue.

I was nervous about exactly what I would be expected to do and initially felt intimidated by the idea of having to interact with and persuade our elected state officials. Since then, I have attended three additional advocacy sessions in Annapolis. Here is what I discovered and what one can expect. You can do this, too!

Our state legislative session is short, running from the beginning of January until the beginning of April, so there is a narrow margin for advocacy at the state level. Tikvat Israel folks often carpool to Annapolis. Partner organizations help arrange rides. If one is comfortable driving, there is no trouble parking. I met some wonderful people on those drives up and back.

Upon arriving in Annapolis, we always first convene at a church or community center near the legislative offices. In my experience, between 100 and 250 people show up from social justice organizations all over the state to advocate for a specific issue. We have lunch together with vegetarian options. Then there is an informational presentation by speakers who remind us why we are there, the background, and our goals in speaking to our representatives.

Feeling much more prepared, we are divided into groups according to our legislative district, usually between 6 and 10 people, with



a team leader for each group. We are given a list of legislators whom we are scheduled to meet. Folks volunteer to take roles according to their comfort level. Not everyone needs to take a role. Then all walk to the legislative office buildings. The architecture is impressive and the insides of the buildings are beautiful. You already feel you are participating in something important.

Each team follows its schedule, locating the offices of their assigned legislators. Sometimes the teams are lucky to meet with the legislators themselves. Sometimes the chief of staff meets with us. Then one member of the team voices why we are there and what action we would like the legislator to take. If folks on our team have direct experience with the issue, they tell their story. We ask if the legislator has taken a position on the issue, and we reiterate why we think it is important for them to support or oppose the issue. Being among others in the group, some with more advocating experience, is comforting and gives one the courage to contribute. Sometimes, just being present is enough.

At the end of our meetings, the full group either reconvenes or heads home. In addition to feeling as if I have taken action through the legislative process, I have met the most wonderful, interesting and committed people at these sessions.

I highly recommend you give this a try in the coming year. Our Tikvat Israel SEA Change members will keep you informed on issues, and when advocacy days are happening, both at the state level in Annapolis and at the Montgomery County level in Rockville. Find an issue that speaks to you. Hope to see you in Annapolis!



### Engagement Matters

As many of you know, there is no one currently heading up the membership committee, so I thought this reminder might help congregants.

When potential new members are visiting on *Shabbat* as part of “*shul* shopping,” it is important we all make an effort to greet and welcome them.

I recently heard from a congregant of two years who said he and his family had visited two other Conservative *shuls* in the area where no one engaged or welcomed them.

Our members did engage, and I am happy to report that the visiting family became members who participate in *davening* and other activities at TI.

We can all play a small but important role by welcoming visitors on *Shabbat*.

Ellen Lederman

### Sheltered With Love

The Krichevsky family thanks the congregants of Tikvat Israel who sheltered us with great kindness and caring following the death of our beloved Micah. The *minyanim*, *shiva* visits and drop-ins were uplifting. Even two months later, members are still being supportive. We are appreciative of all that we experienced.

*Elaine, Evan, Tamar and Krichevsky family*

### Minyan Options

We have a wonderful community at Tikvat Israel. It's also great that we have *minyanim* at TI and on Zoom. Sometimes one just can't get to the synagogue in person for the *minyan*.

*Mimi Meltzer*

# Books About Jewish Holidays in TI's Flax Library

BY JANICE ROSENBERG, LIBRARY COMMITTEE CHAIR

The High Holidays are a deeply sacred and reflective period in the Jewish calendar, marking the beginning of a new year. *Rosh Hashanah*, *Yom Kippur* and *Sukkot* offer a time for reflection and spiritual renewal, and provide an opportunity to set new intentions for the year ahead.

Here are a few books about the Jewish holidays you will find in TI's Flax Library:

- *Healthy Cooking for the Jewish Home: 200 Recipes for Eating Well on Holidays and Every Day* by Faye Levy. Introduces a progressive approach to nutritious kosher cuisine for the holidays.
- *The Jewish Home: A Guide to the Jewish Holidays and Life Cycles* by Daniel B. Syme. Explains the history and meaning of the Jewish holidays and important rituals.
- *Celebration: The Book of Jewish Festivals* by Naomi Black. Includes the origins of the six major Jewish holidays.
- *In the Jewish Tradition: A Year of Festivities and Foods* by Judith B. Fellner. Features *Rosh Hashanah*, *Yom Kippur*, *Sukkot*, *Chanukah*, *Purim*, *Pesach* and *Shavuot*.
- *The Jewish Holidays: A Guide and Commentary* by Michael Strassfeld, Arnold M. Eisen and Betsy Platkin Teutsch. Examines the meaning of the Jewish holidays and how to observe them.
- *The Jewish Way: Living the Holidays* by Irving Greenberg. Covers the religious significance of the Jewish holidays.

Search TI's library's online catalog to find books in the collection about the Jewish holidays and other topics. Open TI's website and, under "Study," click on "Flax Library Catalog." To borrow a book, send an e-mail to [TikvatIsraelLibrary@gmail.com](mailto:TikvatIsraelLibrary@gmail.com).

## Did You Borrow?

It happens. Library books go missing. If you borrowed *100 Most Jewish Foods*, *The Fish That Ate the Whale*, *Kantika* or *We Were the Lucky Ones* from the Flax Library, please let me know via e-mail to [TikvatIsraelLibrary@gmail.com](mailto:TikvatIsraelLibrary@gmail.com), or return them to the box marked "Returns" in the Flax Library or the one below the pop-up library in TI's lobby—no questions asked!



Books about the Jewish holidays can be checked out of TI's Flax Library.  
(Photo by Janice Rosenberg)

## Shul Shorts

### Men's Club Reopener

The newly revived Men's Club at TI hopes to conduct multiple service and social events during the coming year. The first is a Getting to Know You event with free coffee and snacks at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 14 in the social hall.

Become a founding member by sending in your registration to the synagogue office this month. Contact Phil Mandel at [Phil.mandel@gmail.com](mailto:Phil.mandel@gmail.com) or Shep Roey at [sheproey@gmail.com](mailto:sheproey@gmail.com) with questions.

### Blood Donors Sought

Join fellow congregants in giving at the next TI blood drive on Wednesday, Sept. 3, running from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Register for the drive at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), click the link for "schedule your donation," and fill in sponsor code: TikvatIsraelRockville (no spaces). Or contact Robbi Cohen at [peezer200@yahoo.com](mailto:peezer200@yahoo.com) for assistance.

### Apple Picking

Join congregants of all ages at a pre-*Rosh Hashanah* apple picking activity on Sunday, Sept. 7 at Larriland Farm, located just across the Montgomery-Howard County line. Discover the group's rendezvous point and more details on the TI website.

### Holiday Melodies

Join congregant Jason Schwartz ([jason@schwartzcentral.com](mailto:jason@schwartzcentral.com)) at a *Niggun* Circle with Ma'agal MD in the TI lobby at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 11. Explore melodies that move souls and inspire everyone to connect with the Days of Awe in new ways.

### Open Board Meetings

Meetings of the Tikvat Israel Board of Directors take place on the fourth Tuesday of most months at 8 p.m. (following evening minyan) via Zoom. Congregants are permitted to join as observers (with the only closed portions relating to personnel or legal discussions).

Agendas for meetings, as well as the Zoom links, can be obtained in advance from the synagogue office or from recording secretary Janaki Kuruppu.

## Mazel Tov

... to **Molly and Stuart Turkewitz** on the forthcoming wedding of daughter Ellen to Evan Unger on Sept. 12.

... to **Harold (Hal) Diamond** on celebrating his 85th birthday.

... to **Rabbi Marc Israel** on being mentioned in a recent Jewish Telegraphic Agency article on ending the war in Gaza.  
[bit.ly/RMI\\_end-war](http://bit.ly/RMI_end-war)



# A Half-Century Later, Congregant Returns to Biblical Hebrew Study



Danny Bachman

Nearly 50 years after he last studied the subject as a college freshman, congregant Danny Bachman recently decided to delve back into his interest in biblical Hebrew.

He asked the *Bulletin* for a chance to share his renewed interest and exploration in this interview.

**Can you describe the course of study that you finished this spring?**

The Jewish Theological Seminary offers an online course in biblical Hebrew. (More information, including signup instructions, are at [www.jtsa.edu/biblical-hebrew-at-jts](http://www.jtsa.edu/biblical-hebrew-at-jts).)

**What was your previous experience studying Biblical Hebrew?**

I studied *Tanach* in the Gratz College Hebrew High School program in Philadelphia, where I grew up, and then took a course when I was in college. My freshman year in college was the last time I formally studied biblical Hebrew.

**What brought you back to studying Biblical Hebrew later in life?**

Over the years, I've gained a lot of experience reading and *layning* Torah. That familiarity with the text made me feel more at ease approaching formal study again.

**Has your perspective on the language changed because of these classes?**

Absolutely. One of the things I appreciate now is the richness in the small details of the language. For example, the “dagesh”—the dot in the middle of some Hebrew letters—can completely change pronunciation and meaning.

**Do you think the online format works as well as in-person learning?**

Rabbi David Moster, who teaches the course at JTS, has put a lot of thought into how to make online learning both engaging and interactive. That's no small feat in a virtual classroom. He brings in the history of the text and the development of biblical studies, which adds a whole new dimension to the class.

**Can you give an example of that broader approach?**

In one class, he walked us through an academic mystery. In each session, he spent a few minutes showing us a 19<sup>th</sup> century text and retraced, step by step, how he identified handwritten notes in the text, and connected them to a specific 13th-century manuscript which is now in the JTS library.

**Did you know all of that before?**

Not at all. For example, I learned that nearly all *Sifre Torah* in use today are based on the *Leningrad Codex*, a handwritten book that is today in a library in St. Petersburg. That kind of historical context gives so much more depth to reading the *Torah*.

**Now that you have completed the course, what next?**

I plan to continue studying with Rabbi Moster in the fall. I feel like I am only in the middle of a long and very interesting journey.

**Are you planning to share what you've learned?**

I'm considering, with Rabbi Israel's encouragement, offering a basic biblical Hebrew class at TI. One possibility would be to help those who already read Torah and want to better understand the words they're chanting. But I'm open to other ideas. If anyone is interested, by all means, let me know at [danieldbachman@gmail.com](mailto:danieldbachman@gmail.com).

## Why the Aspen Hill Eruv Matters

BY JANAKI KURUPPU

Tikvat Israel maintains an *eruv* around the community with the help of volunteers, in partnership with Kehilat Pardes in Aspen Hill. The *eruv* is supervised by Rabbi Uri Topolosky, with advice from Rabbi Yaakov Love, a *dayan* in Passaic, N.J.

You may know the *Torah* prohibits “work” on *Shabbat*, but did you know there are 39 activities defined as work under Jewish law? The law prohibits carrying items from a private domain, such as your home, to a public domain, to someone else's home or to the synagogue.

For someone who is strictly observant of *Shabbat*, these items can include house keys, water bottles (especially important in the summer), prayer shawls or prayer books. (More details about the law are available at [www.myjewishlearning.com/article/eruv](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/eruv).)

What is the *eruv* and how does it solve the problem? The *eruv* is a boundary that extends the “private” domain to encompass the community, so that anyone in the community is able to lawfully carry items within that boundary.

Our *eruv* is defined by fences and walls that already exist and are connected by designated wires (utility lines) and supporting poles. In our section of the *eruv*, the fence and wall behind the synagogue and Rockville High School link up to utility lines running along Baltimore Road from Twinbrook Drive to Norbeck Road.

A few of us volunteer weekly to examine sections of the *eruv*, between Wednesday and Friday morning, to ensure it remains intact. Rabbi Topolosky will train anyone who would like to help. He is a wonderful teacher, and you will learn a lot. Contact Jason Schwartz or Janaki Kuruppu at [jkuruppu@gmail.com](mailto:jkuruppu@gmail.com).



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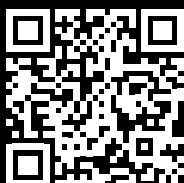
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## EDUCATION AND YOUTH

### Religious School Adds Collaboration and Staffing

BY RONI SILVERSTEIN, VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATION



The education programs at Tikvat Israel are getting ready for a creative and busy new year. Our Hebrew school, *Netivot*, is growing once again. We will have kindergarten, 1st and combined 2nd/3rd grade classes this year, as well as newly hired instructional staff.

Classes will begin on Sept. 14. *Netivot* will be held Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Registration remains open on our website.

We are excited to announce we were awarded a sustainability grant from the Jewish Federation of Washington to enhance our early childhood programming. Keep on the lookout for new exciting opportunities for families with young children coming this year.

Another new innovation is the partnering of our religious school families with other Tikvat Israel groups and activities. *Netivot* will join the whole congregation on a trip to pick apples for *Rosh Hashanah*, parents will lend a hand building the *sukkah* during school hours, and we are planning a *Netivot* and ECC *Shabbat* in the spring.

We seek one or more volunteers to help us build a junior congregation for children in grades K-5. The Education Committee's vision is to have an age-appropriate service and activities once per month on *Shabbat*. If you are interested, contact Roni Silverstein.

In terms of *Netivot* staffing, we are pleased that our two teachers from the past year are returning, and we have added two more educators. Welcome back to Limor Dahan, our *Netivot* kindergarten teacher, and to Gale Pressman, who will return as our arts specialist this year.

A big welcome to our two new *Netivot* teachers. Celia Skulnik will teach our *Netivot* 1st graders. During the work week, she is a special and elementary school teacher in Montgomery County Public Schools after teaching in North Carolina for four years. In college, she was awarded the Elon University Teaching Fellow. Skulnik has an extensive Judaic background.

Pelia Werth will teach our *Netivot* 2nd and 3rd graders. She is pursuing her doctorate at Johns Hopkins University with a dissertation titled "Paths of Righteousness: Shared Pilgrimage Sites in the Holy Land, c. 1050-1300." She has a master's in history and medieval studies. Werth's Jewish studies include a summer program at the Conservative Yeshiva in Jerusalem. She was a Hebrew teacher at Congregation B'nai Jehudah in Kansas. We are thrilled to have her join our *Netivot* program.

With lots of learning and fun to come, we are excited to get the new year started.

# BROADMAN-KAPLAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

## Staff Augments Its Health Care and Safety Training

BY DEBBIE UNGAR, DIRECTOR, BROADMAN-KAPLAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER



The ECC is excited to start the 2025-26 school year. We continue to offer a high-quality, child-centered program with flexible hours found at few other schools.

TI's school has accreditation from the Maryland State Department of Education. We also participate in Maryland Excels, a quality rating system for childcare in Maryland, and are at level 5, the highest possible.

Our dedicated, caring staff brings warmth, professionalism and excitement to our program. Our ECC operates six classes, including two for infants and toddlers and a Hebrew immersion class. We still have a few openings, and tours are available.

We have exciting activities and special programs planned, as we welcome many new students and families. We have added an additional toddler class for children 12-18 months, and are excited to welcome our new class of 2029.

The children will continue to have morning special activities that add to our educational and child-centered school program.

On Mondays, all classes have music with Ellie Schuchman. On Wednesdays, Marcie Nadler teaches our pre-kindergarteners using an innovative program she created called J-STEM, focusing on science, technology, engineering and math through a Jewish lens. She serves as a resource for the entire school, identifying opportunities where STEM and Judaism intersect.

On Thursdays, the pre-kindergarteners visit the library. They have story time and learn how to find books that they can read at home.

On Fridays, the entire school joins together for *Shabbat Sing* led by Adrienne Suson of Rhythm 'N' Ruach. This program combines Jewish music and rhythm instruments for a wonderful educational and fun experience.



Parachute fun for ECC pupils in the social hall.

The ECC staff spent a week in late summer setting up classrooms and studying together to prepare for the new school year. The entire ECC staff will be taking training in asthma, allergy and anaphylaxis prevention and management, which will certify our school as an allergy- and asthma-friendly school through Maryland Excels. We are thrilled to learn the skills that will help us keep all the children safe.

We are fortunate to have the Helen Raucher Memorial ECC Staff Development Trust, through the generosity of TI member Stephen Raucher, to fund these wonderful learning opportunities for the educators in the ECC.

The ECC will participate alongside TI staff in security training through JShield in emergency preparedness and situational awareness with Shay HaLevi. This training reinforces and updates our existing security procedures.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year in the ECC. Wishing everyone a *Shana Tovah!*



A petting zoo temporarily took up residence for ECC pupils outside TI.



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# 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 June and July. 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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Bess Snyder by David Gorman and Janice Rosenberg  
Simon Strassman by Sally Friedman

Renee Rosenblum Thaler by Barbara and David Thaler  
Richard Volin by Ann Ruth Volin  
Rose Weinstein by Ruth Weinstein  
Peggy Wilchins by Sue and Howard Wilchins

TIKVAT ISRAEL SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2025

## Bereavement Committee

In memory of Freya Tumarkin by Marilyn and Michael Greenwood  
In memory of Michah Krichevsky by Alice and David Gantz

## Cantor's Fund

In appreciation of your 42 wonderful years as our amazing Cantor by Elaine Weinstein  
In honor of Cantor Helzner and Kabbalat Shabbat with Instruments by Tamah Graber  
In memory of Ruth Katz by Alison Schwartz

## Education

In memory of Jonathan Pollack by Shani Zebooker

## Fund for the Future

In memory of Mark Eisenstadt by Carol Chelemer

## General Fund

In honor of Debby Berlyne and Danny Bachman on the impending marriage of their daughter Miriam to David Nelson by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon  
In honor of Sue and Martin Urban on their 50th wedding anniversary by Becky Siman  
In honor of Sue and Martin Urban on their 50th wedding anniversary by Brenda and Irwin Manes

In memory of Nathan F. Adelman by the Adelman/Schneider Family  
In memory of Abram Berlin by Sandra and Larry Levine  
In memory of Jonathan Pollack by Amy and Dan Matathias by Bobbi and Larry Gorban by Daniel Bachman and Deborah Berlyne by Matthew and Sheri Brown by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon by Nancy and Rod Matheson

*Mazel tov* to Sue and Martin Urban on their 50th wedding anniversary by Deborah and Robert Amchin

*Mazel tov* to Sue and Martin Urban on their 50th wedding anniversary by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon

## General Fund (continued)

In honor of Harold Diamond's special birthday by Robert and Janice Balin  
In honor of the Urbans' 50th anniversary by a Non Member  
In memory of Abram Berlin by Sandra and Larry Levine  
In memory of Marvin Schneider by Marc Schneider and Martie Adelman

## Kiddush Fund

In honor of the 63rd anniversary of Mark's bar mitzvah by the Fisch, Packer, and Diamond families: Elie and the kids and grandkids

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Rabbi Israel's 25th anniversary as a Conservative rabbi by Tamah Graber  
In honor of Rabbi Israel's 25 Years as a Conservative Rabbi, and on receiving an honorary Dr. of Divinity degree, by Elaine Weinstein  
In honor of Susan and Martin Urban on their 50th wedding anniversary by Sarah Harris  
In honor of Susan and Martin Urban, on the occasion of their 50th anniversary by Pam and Howard Gorin  
In honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Sue and Martin Urban by Madeline and Jose Guzman  
In memory of Micah Krichevsky by Elaine, Evan, and Tamar Krichevsky

## Shelly Goldin Memorial Fund

In memory of Miriam Caplan by Ron Rabin  
In memory of Shelly Goldin by Bruce Goldin

## Tzedakah Fund

In memory of Frank Gantz by Alice and David Gantz  
In memory of Pearl Gantz by Alice and David Gantz  
*Mazel tov* to Susan and Martin Urban in honor of their 50th anniversary by Alice and David Gantz

# Tikvat Israel Remembers With Respect Those Whose *Yahrzeits* Occur From 8 *Elul* - 8 *Tishrei* — September 2025

## SEPTEMBER 1

### 8 *ELUL*

Charles Larry Blair  
Mollie Broadman  
Sam Klass  
Hyem Kramer  
Sam Sharlot  
Pearl Zipin Tubiash  
Sol Shalom Wexler  
Fannye Zlotnick

## SEPTEMBER 2

### 9 *ELUL*

Abraham Fierman  
Bessie E. Miller  
Maxene Rosenthal  
Harriet Klausner Suskin  
Minnie Teitelbaum

## SEPTEMBER 3

### 10 *ELUL*

Ben Ami Barsky  
Shirley Gendel  
Morris Kanow  
Hilda Schwartz  
Dick Stein  
Rose Volin

## SEPTEMBER 4

### 11 *ELUL*

Esther Friedman  
Evelyn Goldberg  
Cornelis Hartendorp  
Bertha Knott  
Harry Witt

## SEPTEMBER 5

### 12 *ELUL*

Eugene Brooks  
Doris Grossmann  
Frances Karlin  
Louis Karlin  
Florence M. Novack  
Rabbi Chaim Tevya  
Williamowsky

## SEPTEMBER 6

### 13 *ELUL*

Gertrude Bender  
Kenneth Grossman  
Morris Alex Jacobs  
Morris Weintraub  
Norman Winson

## SEPTEMBER 7

### 14 *ELUL*

Daniel Barash  
Benjamin Feller  
Abram Fraeman  
Emil Notovitz  
Sylvia Senzer

## SEPTEMBER 8

### 15 *ELUL*

Samuel Abramson  
Jacob Berman  
Chaya Karmel  
William Schaechter  
Daniel Shaz  
Abraham Simon

## SEPTEMBER 9

### 16 *ELUL*

Jack I. Karlin  
Jack Keilsohn  
Lorraine Rayden  
Barbara Krieger Teller

## SEPTEMBER 10

### 17 *ELUL*

Anna Esther Askow  
Jacob Hershbaum  
Sondra Levin  
Robert M. Minkoff  
Edith Scherer  
Julius Seligman  
Bertha Smith  
Hilda Starr  
Alexander Stolovy  
Jacob Teller

## SEPTEMBER 11

### 18 *ELUL*

Bernice Grossman  
Evelyn Flax Mirmelstein  
Sylvia Pachenker  
David Pearl  
Irene Wexler

## SEPTEMBER 12

### 19 *ELUL*

Sanford Belkin  
Louis Chernoff  
Abraham Hamburg  
Meyer J. Levin  
Lamar Miller  
Alan Robinson  
Morris Rosenthal

## SEPTEMBER 13

### 20 *ELUL*

Mollie Berly Lipofsky  
Mildred Serman  
Mayer Zlotnick

## SEPTEMBER 14

### 21 *ELUL*

Lew Cyrulnik  
Leah Mayer  
Fannie Rosen  
Irwin Marvin Towers

## SEPTEMBER 15

### 22 *ELUL*

Edward Chait  
Mary Kessler  
Neil Newman  
Hyman Pachenker  
Arthur H. Yedwab

## SEPTEMBER 16

### 23 *ELUL*

Leon Altschuler  
Beverly Caplan  
Chasse Freda Chait  
Bess Lavine  
Clara Phillips  
Minnie Polansky  
Naomi J. Rappaport  
Scott J. Rappaport  
Aaron Segal  
Robert Solomon

## SEPTEMBER 17

### 24 *ELUL*

Alice Abramson  
George Becker  
Jennie Derene  
Sara Goldman  
Tillye Weintraub

## SEPTEMBER 18

### 25 *ELUL*

Lillian Berman  
Jack Feigin  
Eva Mae Futrovsky  
Paul Herman  
Hilda Hoffman  
Clara Lichter  
Fred Meyers  
Diane Soldano  
Rosemary Stoll

## SEPTEMBER 19

### 26 *ELUL*

Donald Andrews  
Rebecca Harrison  
Pearl Kaplan  
Sadie Polikoff Levy  
David Sakoff  
Arnold Shaw  
Sheldon Small

## SEPTEMBER 20

### 27 *ELUL*

Barbara Cohen  
Chaim Mandel  
Gerda Tuchler

## SEPTEMBER 21

### 28 *ELUL*

Sidney Berman  
Bette Bronstein  
Dorothy Marder  
David Morris  
Ida Tamor Wiltchik  
Raymon

## SEPTEMBER 22

### 29 *ELUL*

James W. Church  
Rose Hein  
Anne Steinberg

## SEPTEMBER 23

### 1 *TISHREI*

Rae Axelrod  
Melvin Banks  
Janet Kabik  
Lena Leise  
Ruth Plafker  
Margaret Schreiber

## SEPTEMBER 24

### 2 *TISHREI*

Michael P. Rappaport

## SEPTEMBER 25

### 3 *TISHREI*

Gertrude Appel  
Samuel Gorelick  
Anna Georgia Schneider  
Solomon Shapiro  
Jeffrey Weiss

## SEPTEMBER 26

### 4 *TISHREI*

Max Apt  
Irwin Krakaur  
Samuel Meyers  
Isadore Parzow  
Charles Rom  
George Simball  
Esther Stanhill  
Estelle Waxman

## SEPTEMBER 27

### 5 *TISHREI*

Abraham Amchin  
William Horwitz  
Ernest Jennes  
Sanford Starobin  
Isaac Meir Sterling

## SEPTEMBER 28

### 6 *TISHREI*

Sidney Adler  
Michael Berman  
Lena Cohen  
Seymour Greene  
Fay Halpern  
Morris Ridberg  
George Sharlot

## SEPTEMBER 29

### 7 *TISHREI*

Sidney Bender  
Fanny Chelemer  
Steve Eisenberg  
Sarah Goldstein  
Jennie Lavine  
Harold Saldinger

## SEPTEMBER 30

### 8 *TISHREI*

Carl Berger  
Libby Cohen  
Alvin Feinsilber  
Joseph David Fertel  
Louise Goldstein  
Leo David Kronzek  
Ray Shapiro



# Tikvat Israel Remembers With Respect Those Whose *Yahrzeits* Occur From from 9 *Tishrei* - 9 *Cheshvan* — October 2025

## OCTOBER 1

### 9 *TISHREI*

Rose Friedman  
Robert Grossman  
Melvin Jackson  
Mildred Meltzer  
Albert Mukasey  
Bernard Newman  
Gertrude Hirsch Reiner  
Kalman Roey  
David Shetzlich  
Renee Tropp  
Tobie Waxler

## OCTOBER 2

### 10 *TISHREI*

Leila Dunsmore  
Michael Goldstein  
Selma Jackson  
Tov Yehuda Jaffe  
Robert Katz  
Claire Lellouche  
Moise Lellouche  
David Lieberman  
Miriam Ludwinowitz  
Maurice Pressman  
Ethel Schneider

## OCTOBER 3

### 11 *TISHREI*

Shirley Allen  
David Chefer  
Michele Eisenberg

## OCTOBER 4

### 12 *TISHREI*

Marion Bauman  
Lena Brittner  
Tillie Jarcho  
Alex Kreisman  
Doris Warren

## OCTOBER 5

### 13 *TISHREI*

Laurel Anchors  
Rose Freedman  
Lewis Godfrey  
Irene Kline  
Fred S. Zusman

## OCTOBER 6

### 14 *TISHREI*

Stanley First  
Edward Fishman  
Albert Freed  
Saul B. Friedman  
Ada Jacobs  
Marie Lebowitz  
Manny Senzer

## OCTOBER 7

### 15 *TISHREI*

Arthur Finstein  
Charles Goldman  
Maurice Kahn  
Paul Kerman  
Hannah Dinah Scolnik

## OCTOBER 8

### 16 *TISHREI*

Alexander Beck  
Eleanor Berman  
Pauline Kram  
Ita Vainer  
Carl Zebooker

## OCTOBER 9

### 17 *TISHREI*

Belle Beck  
Edith Raphelson Botkin  
Felix Eichtersheimer  
William H. Glater  
Noach Hoffman  
Lawrence Morrison  
Robert Oakley  
Avshalom Saadian  
Aaron Stein  
Harry West

## OCTOBER 10

### 18 *TISHREI*

Herman Iskow  
Dena Leep  
Barbara Ann Schecter

## OCTOBER 11

### 19 *TISHREI*

Lillian Bloom  
Ruth Gordon  
John Mandel  
Irene Saltzburg  
Stan Smith  
Ivan Tempchin

## OCTOBER 12

### 20 *TISHREI*

Samuel Danoff  
Muriel Joy Horowitz  
Celia Kornhauser  
Edward John Urban

## OCTOBER 13

### 21 *TISHREI*

David Fineman  
Charles Futrovsky  
Lena Moskowitz  
Rosalie Peck  
Bea Solomon  
Benny Waxman

## OCTOBER 14

### 22 *TISHREI*

Julius Auerbach  
Sidney Bannor  
Harry Berlin  
Rose Fragin  
Moshe Gordon  
Tzipa Gordon  
Robert M. Grossmann  
Rae Caplan Mensh  
Alvin Solomon

## OCTOBER 15

### 23 *TISHREI*

Miriam Lichter Block  
Albert Copaken  
Lilly Greifinger  
Gerald Kaiz  
Janice Kirschenbaum  
Philip Marco  
Sylvia Rosenhaft

## OCTOBER 16

### 24 *TISHREI*

Benson B. Kessler  
Henry Meyers  
Clinton Newman  
Leonard Teitelbaum  
Max Winter

## OCTOBER 17

### 25 *TISHREI*

Adolph Berger  
Marcelle Copaken  
Samuel J. Feldman  
Benjamin Gorfine  
Esther Kabot  
Harry Koepfel  
Max Seiler

## OCTOBER 18

### 26 *TISHREI*

Jeanne Bowen  
Adel Erdman  
Muriel Mickey Goldstein  
Max Shulman  
Linda Yun

## OCTOBER 19

### 27 *TISHREI*

Maurice Becker  
Ruth Caplan  
Abraham Kaplan  
Carole Klein  
Adair Lederman  
Marjorie Shulman  
Yetta Yanoff

## OCTOBER 20

### 28 *TISHREI*

Lorraine Aronson  
Cille Ridberg  
Alex Silbert  
Grace Turkewitz

## OCTOBER 21

### 29 *TISHREI*

Norbert Eckstein  
Benito Pazo  
Nestor Ratesh

## OCTOBER 22

### 30 *TISHREI*

Maurice Berk  
Naomi Cohen Berman  
Alan Eisenberg  
Pearl Krepchin  
Jerome Seiler  
Sandra Beverly Shore  
Phillip Edward Sokol  
Ida Spector  
Israel H. Steinberg  
Kenneth Bradley Urban  
Alexander S. Zelenka

## OCTOBER 23

### 1 *CHESHVAN*

Evelyn Berlin  
Robert W. Birrell  
Esther Feller  
Karen Hirsch-Harari

## OCTOBER 24

### 2 *CHESHVAN*

Claire Licht  
Fanny Raucher  
Jacob Shedroff  
Louis Steiner  
Abraham Tempchin  
Rhea Weinbrom

## OCTOBER 25

### 3 *CHESHVAN*

Nathan Beck  
Morris Fine  
Alice Levin  
Dorothy Low  
William Nussbaum  
Eugene Schwartz  
Franklin Yasmer

## OCTOBER 26

### 4 *CHESHVAN*

Jerry J. Brown  
Paul Kasper  
Marvin Podgor  
Louis Sandler

## OCTOBER 27

### 5 *CHESHVAN*

Jacob Armoza  
Stephen Shulman

## OCTOBER 28

### 6 *CHESHVAN*

Samuel Einbinder  
Samantha Jane Kessler  
Jeanette Meyers  
Naomi Rothstein  
Arthur Spanier

## OCTOBER 29

### 7 *CHESHVAN*

Geraldine Braunstein  
Philip Bress  
Louis Burck  
Robert Jarcho  
Philip Phillips

## OCTOBER 30

### 8 *CHESHVAN*

Michael Bailey  
Alexander Ben Ami  
Phyllis Berger  
Lena Gantz  
Dorothy Glaser  
Jacques Kahn  
Mary Seslan

## OCTOBER 31


### 9 *CHESHVAN*

Daniel E. Berlyne  
Mae Bernstein  
Lester Earl Cohen  
Sylvia Gorbun  
Carol Krakaur  
Judy Lerman  
Leon Morrison  
Lee Rosen  
Julia Rosenlicht  
David Norman Shedroff  
Dora A. Thaler



# SEPTEMBER 2025

# Elul 5785 – Tishrei 5786

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <b>BACK to SCHOOL</b> 1 ECC CLOSED 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	8 Elul 2 8 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	9 Elul 3 8 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	10 Elul 4 8 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	11 Elul 5 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	12 Elul 6 8 AM Minyan 6 PM Kabbalat Shabbat 7:14 PM	13 Elul 9:30 AM Prelim 9:45 AM Shabbat Services (Parashat Ki Teitzei) 11:15 AM Auntie A 8:11 PM Havdalah
7 14 Elul 8 9 AM Minyan 10 AM Apple Picking 7:30 PM Minyan	15 Elul 9 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	16 Elul 10 8 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	17 Elul 11 8 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	18 Elul 12 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan 8 PM MaagalMid Song Circle	19 Elul 13 8 AM Minyan 6 PM Kabbalat Shabbat 7:03 PM	20 Elul <b>Leil Selichot</b> 9:30 AM Prelim 9:45 AM Shabbat Services (Parashat Ki Tavo) 8:00 PM Havdalah 8:30 PM Selichot Program
21 28 Elul 9 AM Minyan 10 AM WN Book Group 10 AM Men's Club 11:30 AM Stretching into Elul 7:30 PM Minyan	22 Elul 16 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	23 Elul 17 8 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	24 Elul 18 8 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	25 Elul 19 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	26 Elul 20 8 AM Minyan 6 PM Kabbalat Shabbat 6:51 PM	27 Elul 9:30 AM Prelim 9:45 AM Shabbat Services (Parashat Nitzavim) 11:15 AM Auntie A 7:48 PM Havdalah
28 6 Tishrei 9 AM Minyan 10 AM Ti Ruach Day 10:30 AM Judean Gardens Memorial 2 PM Garden of Remembrance Memorial 7:30 PM Minyan	29 7 Tishrei 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	30 8 Tishrei <b>Rosh Hashanah 5786</b> For service times, refer to your ticket, or B'Keshet	1 Tishrei <b>Rosh Hashanah 5786</b> For service times, refer to your ticket, or B'Keshet	2 Tishrei <b>Tzom Gedaliah</b> 5:40 AM Fast begins 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan 7:32 PM Fast ends	3 Tishrei 8 AM Minyan 6 PM Kabbalat Shabbat 6:40 PM	4 Tishrei <b>Shabbat Shuvah</b> 9:30 AM Prelim 9:45 AM Shabbat Services (Parashat Vayelech) 10:30 AM Torah Club 7:39 PM Havdalah

All events subjects to change.  
Please read B'Keshet for the latest status.

# OCTOBER 2025

# Tishrei - Cheshvan 5786

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>All events subjects to change.</b> <b>Please read B'Keshet for the latest status.</b>						
5 13 Tishrei	6 14 Tishrei 🍎 Erev Sukkot	7 15 Tishrei 🍎 Sukkot I	8 16 Tishrei 🍎 Sukkot II	9 17 Tishrei 🍎 Sukkot III	10 18 Tishrei 🍎 Sukkot IV	11 19 Tishrei 🍎 Sukkot V
9 AM Minyan	7:15 AM Minyan	ECC CLOSED	ECC CLOSED	7:15 AM Services	7:15 AM Services	9:30 AM Prelim
7:30 PM Minyan	7:30 PM Minyan	8 AM Minyan	8 AM Minyan	7:30 PM Minyan	6 PM Kabbalat	9:45 AM Shabbat
12 20 Tishrei 🍎 Sukkot VI	13 21 Tishrei 🍎 Sukkot VII	14 22 Tishrei 🍎 Shmini Atzeret	15 23 Tishrei 🍎 Simchat Torah ECC CLOSED	16 24 Tishrei Song Circle	17 25 Tishrei Congregational Dinner	Services (Parashat Ki Tavo)
9 AM Minyan	9:15 AM Prelim	9:15 AM Prelim	9:15 AM Prelim	8 AM Minyan	8 AM Minyan	9:30 AM Prelim
11 AM Justice in the	9:30 AM Services	9:30 AM Services	9:30 AM Services	6 PM Kabbalat	6 PM Kabbalat	Services (Parashat Nitzavim)
Sukkah Brunch	7:15 AM Minyan	7:15 AM Minyan	7:11 PM Havdalah	7:15 AM Minyan	Shabbat	11:15 AM Auntie A
7:30 PM Minyan	7:30 PM Minyan	7:30 PM Minyan	7:30 PM Minyan	7:30 PM Minyan	6:08 PM	7:07 PM Havdalah
19 27 Tishrei	20 28 Tishrei	21 29 Tishrei	22 30 Tishrei	23 1 Cheshvan	24 2 Cheshvan	25 3 Cheshvan
9 AM Minyan	7:15 AM Minyan	7:15 AM Minyan	7:15 AM Minyan	7:15 AM Minyan	8 AM Minyan	9:30 AM Prelim
10 AM Board Retreat	7:30 PM Minyan	7:30 PM Minyan	7:30 PM Minyan	7:30 PM Minyan	6 PM Kabbalat	9:45 AM Shabbat
2 PM Sukkah take down	27 5 Cheshvan	28 6 Cheshvan	29 7 Cheshvan	30 8 Cheshvan	31 9 Cheshvan	Services (Parashat Vayeilech)
7:30 PM Minyan	7:15 AM Minyan	7:15 AM Minyan	7:15 AM Minyan	7:15 AM Minyan	Shabbat	10:30 AM Torah Club
26 4 Cheshvan	27 5 Cheshvan	28 6 Cheshvan	29 7 Cheshvan	30 8 Cheshvan	31 9 Cheshvan	6:58 PM Havdalah
9 AM Minyan	7:15 AM Minyan	7:30 PM Minyan	7:30 PM Minyan	7:30 PM Minyan	8 AM Minyan	
1:30 PM WN	7:15 AM Minyan	7:30 PM Minyan	7:30 PM Minyan	7:15 AM Minyan	6 PM Kabbalat	
Program	7:30 PM Minyan	7:30 PM Minyan	7:30 PM Minyan	7:30 PM Minyan	Shabbat	
7:30 PM Minyan	7:30 PM Minyan	7:30 PM Minyan	7:30 PM Minyan	7:30 PM Minyan	5:50 PM	





***Tikvat Israel Congregation***

2200 Baltimore Road

Rockville, MD 20851

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## **Annual Pledge Progress on Track**

The second year of voluntary financial pledges by Tikvat Israel members has opened with some promising numbers.

Executive Director Aaron Chusid told the synagogue board that about 51 percent of the synagogue's 250 households had submitted their pledge commitments by early August toward the FY '26 goal of \$675,534.

The synagogue's operating budget is based on congregants raising their pledge amounts by at least 7 percent over the first year of voluntary pledging. Early returns suggest about 39 percent have pledged more than the suggested per-person amount for this year, while 7.5 percent committed to smaller amounts than the past year.

Historically, Chusid said, the top 20 percent of synagogue donors contribute about 50 percent of the congregation's dues revenue. He said this is typical of most fundraising campaigns. "However, our long-term success depends more on growing our average gift than our largest gift," he noted.

