



Board Election, Finance Update Set for Congregational Meeting Jan. 25

The first congregational meeting of 2026 will take place at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 25, in the social hall. The agenda will include:

- a bylaws revision that calls for the creation of a new vice president position to oversee religious practices at TI;
- The election of the new vice president (if the bylaws change is adopted) and five members to the board of directors;
- A final report from Lis Schwartz, chair of the Transition Visioning Team, on the findings of her team's survey of congregants about TI's future staffing needs;
- A state of synagogue finances report by the treasurer midway through the FY '26 fiscal year; and
- A preview by event co-chairs Bob and Roni Silverstein of the spring concert featuring the *a capella* group Six13.

Information about the meeting will be sent to members in advance.

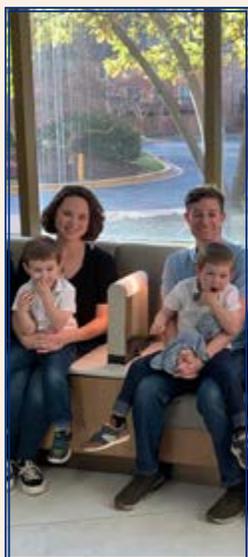
The five board incumbents whose terms expire on June 30 are Felicia R. Black, Debbie Levine, Monica Meyer, Jason Schwartz and Jay P. Goldman. Schwartz has been nominated for the proposed new vice presidential post, and Judi Fleitman is a first-time nominee for a board seat.

The co-presidents, fellow officers and other board members are midway through terms that do not end for another year.

Help guide the future of Tikvat Israel with your voice and your vote. A congregational quorum is required.

Our Newest Arrivals

With six families joining Tikvat Israel in recent months, we want everyone to match names with faces of our newcomers. To do so, turn to **pages 5-6**, where you'll also discover what motivated all of them to become members of our congregation and what they say are their first impressions of congregants and congregational life.



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

<i>Shabbat & Yom Tov</i> Date	Candle Lighting	<i>Havdalah</i>
1/2-3	4:39 p.m.	5:40 p.m.
1/9-10	4:46 p.m.	5:47 p.m.
1/16-17	4:53 p.m.	5:54 p.m.
1/23-24	5:01 p.m.	6:02 p.m.
1/30-31	5:09 p.m.	6:10 p.m.
2/6-7	5:17 p.m.	6:19 p.m.
2/13-17	5:25 p.m.	6:27 p.m.
2/20-21	5:33 p.m.	6:35 p.m.
2/27-28	5:41 p.m.	6:42 p.m.

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Nine-Member Search Panel to Fill Vacancy

A cross-section of Tikvat Israel's membership will serve on a search committee to fill the staff vacancy created by the retirement last June of Cantor Rochelle Helzner.

With the completion of the Transition Visioning Team's work (see story below), the nine-member committee will review candidates, conduct interviews and make a recommendation to the synagogue's board of directors. The board hopes to make an offer to the top candidate by Passover, with the newcomer in place for High Holidays this fall, according to Co-Presidents Sally Kram and Beth Smith.

The committee also will design and carry out a plan to engage the congregation in the process.

The committee's voting members are Deb Amchin (chair), Jim Perlmutter, Cliff Fishman, Judy Fleitman, Jason Schwartz, Lis Schwartz, Melissa Kutner and Drew Grossman. One other congregant is expected to be named. Ex-officio members are Rabbi Marc Israel, Aaron Chusid, Rachel Laveer and the two co-presidents.

Our Shared Priorities: What We Learned from You

BY LIS SCHWARTZ, TRANSITION VISIONING TEAM CHAIR

What have we learned from the community visioning survey during the six months since Cantor Rochelle Helzner's retirement? A clear picture is emerging that is rooted in your hopes, values and lived community.

Tikvat Israel members have engaged in an open and far-reaching visioning process to understand what our community needs most as we plan for the next chapter of spiritual, musical and educational leadership. More than 200 members participated through surveys, listening sessions and small-group conversations. The feedback was remarkably consistent—and deeply encouraging. Four core priorities emerged.

The survey measured congregational values across four areas: Spiritual and Musical Leadership, Pastoral Care, Education and Lifelong Learning, and Community Life. Respondents of all ages affirmed that all four are essential, but one stood out as our strongest shared need: Pastoral care—a warm, steady presence during life's transitions. That was the common denominator across generations.

Education and spiritual/musical leadership follow closely, with community involvement also valued across all age groups.

During the conversations—from *Shabbat* table discussions to listening circles—the message was clear that the TI community values participatory prayer, meaningful music, genuine pastoral presence, and strong educational leadership. Many congregants spoke about wanting a leader who connects relationally, supports families across all stages of life, and helps weave together community.

Key themes included these:

- Prayer that feels participatory, not performance-oriented;
- Music that blends tradition with accessibility;
- A steady pastoral presence for illness, loss and life transitions;
- Lifelong learning for children, teens, and adults; and
- Leaders who are warm, approachable, and collaborative.

These themes echo what we heard in earlier meetings, focus groups and strategic-plan discussions.

So what comes next?

The Transition Visioning Team now is preparing a summary of findings, rooted in your voices, to share with the synagogue board in the coming weeks. This step ensures our communal priorities guide whatever decisions come afterward. No staffing or role recommendations have been finalized. This stage is about clarity, alignment and listening.

Thank you to every member who offered feedback, hopes and lived experience throughout this process. Our collective wisdom is shaping the foundation for Tikvat Israel's next chapter, and we look forward to continuing this journey with transparency and care.

Doubling Down on My American and Jewish Identities

BY RABBI MARC D. ISRAEL



In March 2023, Professor Arnold Eisen, chancellor emeritus of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, gave a lecture titled “Jewish-American, American-Jew: The Complexities and Joys of Living a Hyphenated Identity.” The debate over whether we call ourselves American Jews or Jewish Americans is more than a matter of semantics. More deeply, it asks what is the noun (the primary identity) and what is the adjective (the modifier of the primary identity).

Eisen asks: “What does the American signify to us? What does the Jewish signify? What is the nature of the relationship between the two? Is it a synthesis? Is it a tension? Is it a contradiction? Is it a blurring of the boundaries such you can't tell where one ends and the other begins?”

Growing up in Michigan in the 1970s, I would have said it was a synthesis: the values and mores that I learned from *Torah* reinforced the values and mores that I learned in public school and vice versa. There were important differences between the two educations, but no significant contradictions. I grew up as a deeply patriotic American and as a proud and unabashed Jew. I never felt the need to distinguish between these two identities.

Over most of my adult life, I maintained that feeling of balance, celebrating my American freedoms and liberties on the Fourth of July with similar enthusiasm that I celebrate the freedom of the Jewish people on *Pesach*. My American identity and Jewish identity were different, but not contradictory.

I still believe this is true, but the foundation of my beliefs has been shaken over the past decade. The increasing threats to American democracy and simultaneous rise of antisemitism (on the right and the left) have forced me to reconsider how the Jewish community fits into America. And regardless of how we self-identify, there are an increasing number of people who view the Jewish community as “other.” Historically, this was the norm for Jews around the world, but many believed America’s unique history would lead to a different result.

Facing these new circumstances and the increased sense of danger, we have three choices: Run, Hide or Fight. We can leave America, but for those not ready to make *aliya*, where would we go? We can hide our identity, change our names and disassociate from the Jewish community. This strategy has a poor success rate over the past two millennium. Or we can stay and fight, doubling down on both our Jewish and American identity. I am choosing to fight.

I will continue to wear my *kippah* in public, to attend Jewish events, to use my last name, to identify with Israel and to celebrate Jewish life. I will continue to teach others about the beauty of Judaism and encourage everyone to live proudly as Jews. And I am deepening my engagement with America and encourage you to do likewise.

Following the 2020 elections, I realized that the attacks on our democracy were not going to disappear and decided that I needed to do something to protect it. The nature of being a congregational rabbi prevents me from taking on many time-bound ongoing responsibilities. I decided to become an election judge so that I could contribute to protecting our free and fair elections. I have worked the last two cycles and found it to be incredibly rewarding, bolstering my faith in America each time.

More recently, I learned that Brooke Lierman, our state comptroller, created a faith leaders advisory council and was seeking new members to begin a two-year term in January 2026. My application was accepted. I was appointed and look forward to representing the Jewish community. I also have increased my level of regular communication with our elected officials on the county, state and federal levels.

I do not view these roles as ancillary to my responsibilities as the rabbi of Tikvat Israel, but the type of public engagement that we need from every Jewish communal leader in America today. Most Jews are not going to run from America, and I pray no one will decide to hide their Jewish identity or disengage from our Jewish community. Therefore, the only choice is to fight by living proudly and joyously as Jews and by protecting and rebuilding the America that we need. I encourage you to be a part of this fight: volunteer in the community, take care of the needy, attend protests, write letters, articles and op-eds advocating for your beliefs, work on a campaign on behalf of a political candidates you support, or run for office yourself. A myriad of options exist.

One thing I can say with certainty: We will not defeat anti-semitism by debating whether we are American Jews or Jewish Americans nor will that debate help rebuild American democracy. If we care about being Jewish and about being American, we all need to join the fight to ensure that America will be the *golden medina* for future generations of Jews.

GUEST PRAYER LEADER SET FOR JAN. 17



Rochelle Berman

Tikvat Israel will host Rochelle Berman as guest *sh'lichat tzibbur* during *Shabbat* services on Jan. 17, as part of the cantor transition year.

Berman is an undergraduate student in the double degree program at the Jewish Theological Seminary and Barnard College. A Washington, D.C., native, she is a regular *ba'alat koreh* (Torah reader) and *sh'lichat tzibur* (prayer leader) at the Columbia/Barnard Hillel and other synagogues, including an engagement as a High Holiday prayer leader in

Gothenburg, Sweden.

Berman has taught trope, prayer-leading skills and Judaics to tweens, teens, adults and even a cantorial student. She serves as the music director of *Pizmon*, the Columbia/Barnard/JTS Jewish *a capella* group.

Tikvat Israel Hires Bethesda-Based Accounting Firm

BY BARRY LIPSY, TREASURER

After a thorough search, Tikvat Israel has hired a new accounting firm, Councilor, Buchanan & Mitchell, which has extensive expertise in nonprofit accounting, notably including religious congregations.

Effective Jan. 1, the firm will replace Kesef, which has handled the synagogue's accounting for the past 4½ years. Councilor, Buchanan & Mitchell, founded in 1921, is a full-service tax, accounting and advisory business based in Bethesda.

This change will enable TI to improve our accounting system, the evaluation of our spending, and the monitoring of TI's financial goals and its overall mission.

All check payments that had been made to Kesef should now be mailed to the synagogue office.

The processing of online electronic payments (ACH, credit/debit card payments) will not change for congregants.

Tax preparation letters regarding 2025 donations will be processed soon. Per the Internal Revenue Service, if a donation or payment has been sent to TI, but no specific purpose or fund has been designated for any/all of the money, those funds cannot be included on your 2025 donation letter.

If you have any specific questions about donations and tax statements, contact the TI office.

Plans for the 2026 Annual Concert Finalized

BY BOB AND RONI SILVERSTEIN, 2026 CONCERT CO-CHAIRS



We are very excited to bring Six13, a renowned *a capella* group, to the Tikvat Israel community in concert on Sunday, May 31, at Richard Montgomery High School in Rockville.

The band will perform twice. The first concert will focus on music for children under age 8, followed later in the day by a full concert for people of all ages. Tickets for the children's program will be \$18, with tickets priced at \$36 for the second show.

The theme for the concert is "Sustaining and Enhancing Jewish Education." The proceeds of this annual concert will be used to improve the Jewish education of children by expanding our curriculum and programming while also being a major source of revenue for Tikvat Israel. Support for the concert is provided through a sustainability grant to TI by the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

Juxtaposing the traditional and the contemporary, Six13 is anchored by a strong Jewish identity, fueled by soulful harmonies, intricate arrangements and their signature dynamic, full-band-like sound.

How You Can Help

Event planning subcommittees have been established with responsibility for the numerous tasks to be addressed. Each subcommittee is chaired by a member of the core concert team. These committees are:

- Ticket sales for individuals and groups;
- Sponsorships to work with members who wish to provide additional financial support;

- Publicity/marketing (social media, community outreach);
- Ushers and will-call desk staffers on the day of the concert;
- Security;
- Hospitality, to provide beverages and kosher food for the performers.

To help with any of these subcommittees or to learn more about what each one will be doing, e-mail rsilverstein301@gmail.com. All help will be greatly appreciated.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at several different levels of giving. Sponsors will be seated in a premium area of the auditorium, and each level of support will include a number of concert tickets and special recognition in the concert program.

Sponsorship Level	Financial Commitment
Sustainer	\$15,000
Visionary	\$10,000
Benefactor	\$ 5,000
Patron	\$ 2,500
Supporter	\$ 1,200
Friend	\$ 600

We have received one sponsorship at the Sustainer Level thanks to a generous grant, given to Tikvat Israel by the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, in support of our Jewish education programs for children and their families. To discuss your interest in being a sponsor, reach out to the sponsorship chairs Larry Gorban (larrygorban@gmail.com) or Bruce Goldin (bgoldin1950@gmail.com).

Information about sponsorships can be found at www.tikvatisrael.org/2026-annual-concert-featuring-Six13. Individual tickets will be available Feb. 1 at tikvatisrael.ludus.com.

Half Dozen Newcomers Join *Shul's* Member Ranks

BY JAY P. GOLDMAN, TIKVAT ISRAEL BULLETIN EDITOR

Tikvat Israel is pleased to have added six new family units during the past six months to the synagogue's membership rolls.

Several of the newbies had previous exposure to our synagogue through other family members' longtime involvement at Tikvat Israel.

Also, another new joiner actually is returning to TI after a break of several years.

To introduce all of them to our congregation, the *Tikvat Israel Bulletin* invited the new members to share some details about themselves, what motivated them to join and what stands out as first impressions of our congregation.

Bob Barnett

Family: Benjamin (15), Remy (12), Joel (9)

Residence: Twinbrook

Occupation: STEM leader with Department of Defense

Why affiliate: My family joined many years ago and were very happy with the overwhelmingly inclusive attitudes and the strong representation of local members from the neighborhood. We were pulled away from TI due to unrelated issues but always intended to return when circumstances permitted.

First impressions of TI: It is nice to be at a synagogue that is warm and friendly to all members, new and recently renewed.



Maurice and Betty Pearl

Family: 3 children, 8 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren.

Residence: Bedford Court in Olney

Occupations (before retirement): Maurice was a professional trumpet player and an accountant in private practice. Betty was active in the Jewish community, helped in Maurice's office and then went on to become a bridge champion and bridge teacher.

Why affiliate: Our daughter Nancy and son-in-law Jonathan Solomon, granddaughter Rachel Solomon and grandson and his family (Adam, Sarah, Cameron and T.J. Pearl) are members, and we are happy to be able to belong to the same synagogue.

First impressions of TI: People are very friendly and welcoming. We've enjoyed meeting new people.

Anything else: We have lived at a Baltimore address for our entire lives. We moved to this area to be closer to Nancy and Jonathan.



Evan and China Crystal

Residence: Rockville near Twinbrook

Occupations: China is a 3rd grade teacher at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. Evan is a government contractor.

Why affiliate: After we were married last April, we finally started looking for a synagogue in earnest.

First impressions of TI: The first time we went to TI was in the summer on a *Shabbat* where the synagogue was discussing its path forward following the cantor's retirement. Everyone was so welcoming and actively sought our opinions despite us having never been to the synagogue before. It was clearly an engaging and thoughtful community and the type of community we'd want to be a part of.



Brandon Sherr and Meaghan Ward

Family: Gavin (12), Gabe (9)

Residence: Olney

Occupations: Brandon is an operations management analyst and Meaghan is a program analyst, both with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Why affiliate: TI is non-pretentious and very welcoming. We've been associated since Gabe went through the pre-school. He was also one of the first enrollees of the new Sunday school. Rabbi Israel is very friendly, down to earth and accessible! Also, the couch in the lobby is the most comfortable piece of furniture we've ever sat on.

First impressions of TI: How warm the environment is. Sheri Brown first set the vibe when we were looking for a preschool for Gabe back in 2019. Also, our favorite *morah* from Gavin's preschool, Laurie Dorfman, had moved to TI.

Anything else: Brandon grew up in the Pikesville area, where Judaism surrounds you. In Montgomery County, Judaism is around, but you have to seek it out and work for it. With two kids, both involved with weekend and afterschool activities, and with us working full time (office is an hour away), extra time is very limited. We hope to be involved, but fear it won't be as much we'd like at this point.



Adam Pearl and Sarah Clark

Family: Cameron (6, student in *Netivot*), TJ (4)

Residence: Rockville

Occupations: Sarah is a preschool teacher at Rockville Presbyterian Cooperative Nursery School in Rockville. Adam is a reliability engineer for Department of Defense.

Why affiliate: We have relatives at the synagogue, and we're excited to start our children's Jewish education.

First impressions of TI: It feels good to be a part of the local Jewish community. TI is a beautiful building, and Cam is loving learning about Judaism.



Continued on page 6

PRESIDENTS' CORNER

Your Board at Work

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



Beth Smith

Now that the High Holidays and Thanksgiving are behind us and the next congregational meeting is in our future, we thought we'd share some of the latest accomplishments by Tikvat Israel's board.

Leadership Development

We have taken advantage of the many training opportunities offered by USCJ (United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism) and learned how to make our board more effective and run our board meetings in a more efficient manner to get synagogue business done in the best interest of the congregation.

Since February 2022, when we (Beth and Sally) were only nominees as co-presidents to the board, we held a series of workshops. Our initial workshop was open to both board members and committee chairs. We invited an expert from USCJ who worked with the entire board to help it develop a board *Brit*. The *Brit* is the board's covenant with the congregation and pledges us to do the following:

COMMIT TO PROFESSIONALISM

- Publicly support all board votes (even if you don't agree)
- Treat each board member with respect
- Review and adhere to the TI strategic plan
- Fulfill your fiduciary responsibilities
- Take issues of confidentiality seriously
- Treat the TI professional staff with courtesy

COMMIT TO TRANSPARENCY

- Participate fully in TI religious services and events
- Encourage members to learn about board activities

COMMIT TO INCLUSIVENESS

- Welcome new members and talk to members you don't know
- Listen and report issues to the appropriate board officer
- Promote and identify new leaders (and potential leaders)

At our November 2025 board meeting, the entire board voted to recommit to this *Brit* and further defined specific traits of a board member.

At our Feb. 24, meeting, we will have another board workshop, with Linda Sussman of USCJ, to further develop our leadership skills and explore expanding our volunteer recruitment effort.

Establishing Congregational Policy

The board is constantly working on fine-tuning policies to guide our congregation. A great deal of time was spent over the past 18 months developing a strong *Policy to Guide the Naming of Spaces, Positions, Programs, or Initiatives at Tikvat Israel Congregation*. Thanks to former board member Carol Chelemer and her committee, we now have strong guidelines that will assist in meeting the long-term needs of the congregation when anyone steps up to make major contributions that include naming rights to the donor.

This year we also passed a new staff hiring policy and are working on other operational standards.

Fiduciary Responsibilities

Fiduciary responsibility is a legal obligation to act in the best interest of another person or entity. It requires a high degree of trust and requires the fiduciary to act with loyalty, care, and good faith, prioritizing the other party's interests above their own. The board takes its fiduciary responsibility to the congregation very seriously.

For example, one of the most difficult things the board has had to do relating to its fiduciary duty to TI's sound fiscal operation occurred this past spring, when we had to convene a special meeting of the board in order to balance the TI budget for fiscal year 2025-2026. We were obliged to present a balanced budget at the congregational meeting on June 29, 2025, but we were also aware, with two months to go in the fiscal year, that we would not be able to raise enough money to cover all the year's anticipated expenses. The entire board worked together to decide what to cut from the budget after some difficult deliberations. Decisions on what to cut were not easy.

Continued on page 8



Sally Kram

NEW MEMBERS, continued from page 5

Shirley Stein

Family: 3 adult children (including daughter Lynne Stein Benzion and her husband Ira who are TI members), 7 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren.



Residence: Bedford Court in Olney

Occupation: Retired community volunteer in Newport News, Va. (my previous home until moving to Olney in 2022). Active at Temple Sinai in Newport News as Sisterhood board member and president.

Why affiliate: I wish to support the Jewish community here.

First impressions of TI: The music is wonderful. That's what first drew me in, especially the *Shabbat* with Instruments services.

Anything else: I hope to make friends and feel as though I belong to this community.

ISRAEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A Vision for Zionist Renewal at Tikvat Israel

BY RICHARD LEDERMAN, COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR



Even with a Gaza ceasefire in place and a broad peace plan proposed, I can only imagine that members of Tikvat Israel are reacting to the war in Gaza with painful mixed emotions.

My sense is that the overwhelming majority of us — though not all — still love and support Israel.

Moreover, we feel a deep emotional and spiritual connection to our ancestral homeland and the idea of a Jewish State. To say it succinctly, many of us are committed Zionists.

At the same time, many of us are deeply troubled by the images that have come out of Gaza and the West Bank/Judea and Samaria. What they portray is not the Zionism that attracted me nor, I suspect, what attracted many of you. My Zionism is the Zionism of Israel's Declaration of Independence that Israel

must be “based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel.”

Throughout much of its history, Israel has been a project of worldwide Jewry. It is our duty, therefore, to help Israel return to its core values. During the summer and early fall, Rabbi Israel, Sam Gilston and I have met with a group of active members of TI, including two past presidents, to draft a Statement of Principles for what we are calling “Zionist Renewal.” You can read our Statement of Principles below.

Our hope is that this statement will be embraced by other members of TI and Jews outside our congregation. To that end, we are anxious to receive feedback from members of the congregation with regard to the statement. Feel free to email us with your comments. Our email addresses are in the TI directory.

We will collate these comments and keep the congregation informed as to how members of the congregation are reacting to the statement.

Hitchadshut Tsiyyonit (התחדשות ציונית)

Zionist Renewal

A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Zionist Renewal is a movement intended to unite American Jews, Diaspora Jewry and citizens of Israel in a reaffirmation of the founding dream of Zionism, and particularly the vision proclaimed in Israel's Declaration of Independence. Zionist Renewal calls for a renewed commitment to that vision in word and deed.

As stated in that Declaration, Israel must be “based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or gender; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.”

For most of its existence, Israel has been a project of worldwide Jewry. A majority of Diaspora Jews remain deeply connected to Israel and support and defend it. Israel to them represents a renaissance of Jewish religion and culture; where the language spoken in homes, shops and on the streets is Hebrew, our ancestral language, the language of the Bible. It is the only place in the world where daily life pulsates with Jewish life. Thus, Diaspora Jewry has



a legitimate stake and voice in what happens in Israel because Israeli actions have an impact on our core values as Jews and Zionists.

Zionist Renewal believes Israel has the right to defend itself from forces that seek its destruction. Yet if Israel fails to find a new, balanced and humane relationship with the Palestinian people and its Arab neighbors, it will risk losing Diaspora Jewry's loyalty, friendship and devotion. This could cause a widening schism and irreparable breach within the world Jewish community.

Moreover, the government's actions have threatened the goodwill and support it has received since Israel's inception from allied countries around the world. Israel will not be able to exist as a just and democratic nation if it becomes a pariah in the eyes of the civilized world.

Only by living up to its founding Declaration, core Zionist ideals and ancient Jewish values can Israel find meaningful and lasting peace and security with the Palestinian people, the Arab world and the community of nations.

Our Restarted Israel Affairs Committee Seeks More Participants

BY SAM GILSTON, ISRAEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR



After several dormant years, Tikvat Israel's Israel Affairs Committee is back in action. Co-presidents Sally Kram and Beth Smith have named Richard Lederman and me to co-chair the committee, which already has met several times. Nearly two dozen members are involved in the committee's work, and we invite more to participate.

Our committee's mission statement reads as follows: "The Israel Affairs Committee of Tikvat Israel Congregation aims to deepen our members' understanding of the history, politics, culture, land and people of the State of Israel and to encourage our members to advocate for an Israel that embodies the values of freedom, justice, equality, religious pluralism and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel and as stated in Israel's Declaration of Independence."

The tragedy of Oct. 7, 2023, shocked Jews around the world and certainly in our own community. The recent ceasefire in Gaza, the return of the last living hostages and a major peace plan for the future have given many Jews a feeling of hope that had been missing during this time.

Given these dramatic developments, the committee will be working on several programs to connect our congregation to current events in Israel as well as the history of the state and Zionism. One initial program will be the return of the Israeli Film Festival. Plans are being made for the showing of two movies in late January and early February. Ron Rabin is again chairing this activity and is looking for volunteers to help.

Tikvat Israel members are invited to sign up for the committee. We recognize that some people may want to participate in only selected activities. With more people involved, however, there is a greater chance of success for these programs.

CO-PRESIDENTS, continued from page 6

Professional Management of TI's Resources

Tikvat Israel is like a huge Jewish family. We do a lot of different things and have a vast variety of opinions. Like any family, we care about each other in our own unique ways. And like any family, there has to be someone looking out for the best financial interests of the whole extended "*mishpocha*." For TI, that "someone" would be the board.

We continue to be a warm and caring *kehillah* because the board takes care of the business side of things. We take our responsibilities seriously and are happy to do our part to keep the lights on, the building warm or cool according to the season, and everything "rolling along."

Focus on Inclusiveness

The board meets every month except August. It remains involved in synagogue life in many different ways. Some board members hold elected positions with special responsibilities. Some chair committees, while others are active committee members. All of us have chosen to be involved.

If you find that your lifestyle will allow you to volunteer a small amount of time, please reach out to either Beth or Sally or to another board member (see below), and let us know in what way you would like to support our family. Helping the family is like eating an elephant (if it were kosher!). We would eat it one bite at a time. After eating enough bites, it will be gone. After enough hands each do a little bit, everything that needs to be done will be done.

Planning for the Future

Upon Cantor Helzner's retirement earlier this year, we created a transition visioning team to explore what the congregation wants for the future. The team surveyed the membership and reported its findings to the co-presidents. Based on those findings, the co-presidents created a search committee to identify a person who meets the parameters of the survey results. Deb Amchin will lead a new team to find this person. (See story, page 2.) Her team is comprised of representatives from all aspects of our shul—young families, older empty nesters, new members, and long-time congregants. We will report on the team's activities in the next *Bulletin*.

Meet the Board

In addition to your co-presidents, our board is comprised of Vice Presidents Keith Brooks, Rachel Laveer and Roni Silverstein, Treasurer Barry Lipsy, Financial Secretary Ira Benzion, Recording Secretary Janaki Kuruppu, Immediate Past President Warren Berger and nine representatives: Deb Amchin, Debbie Levine, Felicia Black, Jay Goldman, Jason Schwartz, Mark Diamond, Monica Meyer, Paul Kutner, and Spencer Lane, plus Susan Apter and Brenda Brooks who share a seat representing the Women's Network. In addition, both Rabbi Israel and Aaron Chusid are non-voting members of the board.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, we wish you all a Happy, Healthy Secular New Year as we enter 2026.

MEN'S CLUB

Sports Broadcaster, Veteran Journalist on Deck for Men's Club

BY SHEP ROEY, MEN'S CLUB CO-CHAIR

The revitalized Men's Club, though less than a year old, is providing synagogue members with diverse, informative programs replete with food, coffee and appealing speakers.



Next up, on Sunday, Jan. 11, the synagogue will be treated to a sports media personality, Dan Kolko, voice of the Washington Nationals. Following breakfast fare starting at 10 a.m. in the social hall, Kolko will share insights about the professional baseball team that he has covered for more than 15 years. Member Jay P. Goldman will moderate.

Kolko serves as the on-air co-host of Nats' pre-game and post-game coverage on MASN, and he occasionally fills in on TV play-by-play coverage. A Silver Spring native, he is a 2025 inductee into the D.C. Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

To participate, you must register with Joe Miller at Joe51Miller@gmail.com by Jan. 8. The cost is \$18 per person to cover the expense of bagels and smears and other breakfast items.

A future Men's Club speaker, with the date to be set, is journalist and book author Tom Dunkel. He was a contributor to *The Washington Post Magazine* for more than 20 years and also has written for *The New York Times Magazine*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Smithsonian*, and *Travel & Leisure*.

His most recent book, *White Knights in the Black Orchestra*, is narrative nonfiction about a group of German government/military/civilian conspirators who actively opposed Nazism before and during World War II.

Another future Men's Club speaker is George Rebok, a lifespan developmental psychologist who develops community-based interventions to prevent age-related cognitive decline and reduce dementia risk. He is a professor at Johns Hopkins University.

An additional event in the planning stages is a visit to a kosher winery.

Looking backwards, on Dec. 2, 18 Men's Club members enjoyed a delicious meal and camaraderie at Al Ha'esh Israeli Grill, a kosher eatery in Rockville.



The Men's Club outing to Al Ha'esh Israeli Grill drew 18 hungry diners.



Shachar Gilad described Hamas' attack on Kibbutz Gevim, where she lived for many years, at a Men's Club event on Nov. 16.

On Nov. 16, more than 45 men and women heard remarks by Shachar Gilad, whose presentation about the Oct. 7 attack on Israel described the heroism coming from Kibbutz Gevim, her birthplace and home for many years. Her parents and family still live there.

Gilad detailed how when Hamas attackers came to Gevim, they looked for an easy entrance but were stymied, thanks to the heroism of one man: the head of Gevim security. His efforts kept them from entering the *kibbutz* for 30 minutes, giving the 12-man *kibbutz* security force time to arm and effectively counter the attack. That forced the terrorists to turn and search for easier targets. The *kibbutz* wasn't unscathed, however. Two members were killed and two were injured.

Mazel Tov

... to **Sue and Jay Plafker**, upon the birth of baby grandson, Raymond Joseph Blanche, born to daughter Jennifer and son-in-law Justin on Oct. 5.

... to **Paul Schwartz**, upon receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Accessible Medicines, the generic drug industry trade association. He was recognized for his 35 years at the Food and Drug Administration.

... to **Rabbi Marc Israel**, appointed to two-year term on state Comptroller Brooke Lierman's faith leaders advisory council

... to **Cantor Emeritus Rochelle Helzner**, whose son Jonah Agus has published a new novel *Danger in Jerusalem* (Attila Books)

... to **Cliff Fishman** for contributing the *D'var Torah* column to the Dec. 18 issue of *Washington Jewish Week*

WOMEN'S NETWORK

A New Calendar Year, a New Array of Activities

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

We will hold two events in January. On Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 8 p.m., a book group meeting on Zoom led by Elaine Weinstein will focus on *I Seek a Kind Person: My Father, Seven Children, and the Adverts that Helped Them Escape the Holocaust* by Julian Borger. It's the third in our series of five book discussions in 2025-26.

This memoir explores the experiences of children who escaped the Holocaust through advertisements placed in the *Manchester Guardian* by Jewish families in Vienna in 1938. The book follows journalist Julian Borger as he investigates the story of his father, Robert, who was one of the children saved by such an ad. Decades later, Borger uncovers the hidden histories of his father and other children who were displaced during World War II.

The second event this month is at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 26. The evening program on Zoom will be led by art and architectural historian Samuel Gruber. His presentation is titled "Where Did the Women Worship? The History of Architecture of Spaces for Women in American Synagogues." In this illustrated talk, Gruber will discuss the types of physical spaces available to women in European and American synagogue architecture from the 18th century until today.

Adas Israel Sisterhood is the host for this collaborative program. Our Women's Network group and the Sisterhood from Beth Shalom Congregation in Columbia, Md., are co-sponsors. Please refer to the weekly Women's Network email newsletters for a registration link to receive the Zoom address.

In January and February, Women's Network will be busy preparing for our annual *Mishloach Manot Purim* project as *Purim* begins at sundown on Monday, March 2. We will be preparing and distributing *Mishloach Manot* for the entire congregation. Volunteers to help with our preparation and distribution will be appreciated, and contributions are strongly encouraged. Further information about ordering the *Mishloach Manot* and other details will be circulated through the Women's Network newsletter emails and *B'Keshet*.

On Sunday, Feb. 22 and Thursday, Feb. 26, from 1-3 p.m., we will gather with long-time congregant and glass-making artist extraordinaire Tamah Graber for glass workshops in her home studio. Each participant will be able to create a personal decorative 6-inch glass. She can accommodate up to eight individuals per session.

Registration for these workshops (for which there will be a materials fee) will be open to all women of our congregation, though Women's Network members will be given priority. Look for further information about this event in future Women's Network e-newsletters.

We want to thank all those who participated in and volunteered for Women's Network events in November and December. The most recent, on Dec. 7, was a workshop on Gentle Yoga, conducted by instructors Monya Cohen and Charlene Marie Muhammad. Both teach at the Happy Yogi Cooperative, located

on the upper level of our synagogue. Our session involved seated yoga, and focused on yoga as a transformative practice.

On Nov. 9, we hosted member Debby Berlyne's presentation of "My Mother: A Child Survivor of the Holocaust." Her talk and slide show about her mother's experiences and their lasting effects individually and on a family level were fascinating and poignant. The level of participation for this event was impressive, with about 60 people in attendance.

In addition, the Women's Network book group met in the synagogue on Nov. 16 and enthusiastically discussed *The Hebrew Teacher* by Maya Arad. Maddy Barris did an excellent job as the discussion facilitator. There were approximately 16 participants.

As we enter 2026, we are off a great start, thanks to my co-president Susan Apter and other members of our leadership team, as well as our fabulous members, who have been so supportive. If you have any questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to contact me at bbrooksx@gmail.com.



The Women's Network, including Marsha Lyons (left) and Ellen Diamond, gathered on Nov. 16 to discuss Maya Arad's *The Hebrew Teacher*.

Embroidery Artist Dazzles Women's Network

Over 40 members of TI's Women's Network attended the year's opening program on Oct. 26. The women were treated to soup and salad and an ice cream sundae bar.

Guest speaker Rachel Braun displayed some of her embroidered tapestries, which include Jewish and Biblical texts in original needlecraft designs. Her works are elegant and inspiring, and many have graced the walls of libraries and places of worship.

Her talents – artistic, spiritual, and mathematical – come together in her work and her enthusiasm for combining the three could be heard in her presentation.

Practical Chesed

BY HOPE LEVY KOTT, *CHESED CHAIR*

Chesed (“kindness”) is defined in *Pirkei Avot* as one of the “three pillars upon which the world stands.” *Chesed* stems from the responsibility of each individual to help others in need.

The acts in which Tikvat Israel’s *Chesed Chavurah* is most involved are loving and practical. Visiting the sick includes making phone calls to cheer up and chat, offering caregivers a few hours of respite, providing meals or arranging meal trains, driving congregants to doctors’ appointments, or doing some grocery shopping. Our other focus is arranging home hospitality for High Holidays and Passover.

A request we often hear is the sudden need to obtain a wheelchair or other equipment, and what to do with these items after a loved one has died. There are medical supply companies where one can purchase or rent equipment. We can recommend the ones we have found to be the most reliable.

But did you know that the Maryland Department of Aging provides free durable medical equipment to Marylanders with any illness, injury or disability, regardless of age, at no cost? All the equipment is donated, and then sanitized, repaired and redistributed to Marylanders in need. Equipment availability varies, but the following types are usually available:

- Canes, crutches, walkers, rollators
- Shower chairs and tub transfer benches
- Bedside commodes and toilet safety rails

Complex equipment can be harder to get and includes:

- Manual wheelchairs and transport wheelchairs
- Power wheelchairs and scooters
- Home hospital beds
- Mechanical lifts

A friend of mine called recently about a relative who had suffered a stroke and was paralyzed on one side. He lived alone and had few resources. She contacted the state agency using the link below and was delightfully surprised when a technician came to the house to assess the needs of her loved one. He ensured the provided equipment would be a good fit and even adjusted the controls as needed.

Here is the link: <https://aging.maryland.gov/pages/DME.aspx>.

Another great local organization is Danny’s Closet. Named for the man who created ways and means to help amputees, diabetics and others with chronic conditions, Danny’s Closet is run by volunteers from the Rockville Amputee Support Group who collect and distribute durable medical equipment, as well as power-lift recliner chairs and unopened wound care supplies (when available). Call Hope Levy Kott at 301-404-2098 to request or donate equipment.

Chesed is available when you need it. You can also perform an act of practical kindness by joining the *Chesed Chavurah* or by donating used medical equipment to one of these organizations.

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EDUCATION AND YOUTH

A Finishing Flourish for First Half of School Year

BY RONI SILVERSTEIN, VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATION



The first half of the school year brought exciting opportunities for our Tikvat Israel children. Our Early Family Network young family dinner, generously supported by the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, held in the *sukkah*, was a resounding success with more than 80 participants.

The next family dinner, on Feb. 6, will carry a pajama party theme, with a dairy dinner, pre-meal *Shabbat* service, Auntie A, a read-aloud and milk and cookies.

The ECC has been providing a wonderful, safe, and stimulating place for our youngest children to learn and play. This fall, *tzedakah* has been a theme throughout the ECC.

Registration is open for the rest of 2026 and for 2026-2027. Families interested in learning more about our award-winning early childhood program or setting up a tour can contact Debbie@Tikvatisrael.org.

Our *Netivot* program's *Gan*, *Alef* and *Bet* students have engaged all their senses as they learn about our holidays, prayers and Jewish values. All classes have explored the Jewish value of *tzedakah* and

have begun collecting money in each classroom to give to a charity. When the children learned about *Sukkot*, they had the chance to think about shelter and those not lucky enough to have permanent homes. They decorated and filled snack bags for children at a local shelter.

All three *Netivot* classes have explored the meaning and history of *Chanukah*. Each child made a menorah and a holiday card for their family. Classes have focused on the story of *Chanukah*, the blessings and holiday's Hebrew words. Parents and students enjoyed a *Chanukah* party complete with latkes and applesauce. The *Bet* class has studied *Shabbat* and created *Shabbat* placemats to bring home. The students also explored the 39 *melachot*, or categories of prohibited actions on *Shabbat*, and held an Olympics to complete their learning.

As we close out 2025, I want to send a huge *todah* (thank you) and Happy New Year to our four excellent and hard-working teachers, as well as our ECC staff. The children's huge smiles each week tell me how much our students love attending *Netivot*.

If you know any families with students who will be in kindergarten through 3rd grade next fall, and who are seeking an outstanding Hebrew School, please recommend our *Netivot*. If they have questions, they can contact Roni Silverstein at Roni.silverstein@gmail.com.

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CONGREGATION TO HOST YEAR'S

1ST BAT MITZVAH



Avi Rabinovitch

Avigail (Avi) Rabinovitch, daughter of Fania Yangarber and Ido Rabinovitch, will be called to the *Torah* at TI on Feb. 14.

She attends the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School as a 7th grader. She says her personal interests include ballet, robotics, hockey and performing.

Her tutors are Yael Schwartz and Rabbi Derek Rosenbaum. Avi has one brother, Ethan Rabinovitch, 15.

Avi's *bat mitzvah* project involves volunteering to help younger members of a robotics club.

COWAN ADDRESSES RABBINICAL PURSUIT

During *Shabbat* services on Jan. 10, congregant Micah Cowan will speak about the Jewish Theological Seminary's rabbinical program from which he will graduate this spring. Through members' backing of the annual Torah Fund campaign, the Women's Network supports the JTS program.

BROADMAN-KAPLAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

ECC Staff Update Skills Through the Raucher Trust

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



With winter's arrival, the ECC continues its important work of providing a safe, stimulating and fun place for children to thrive each day.

Our staff remains well-trained, thanks to the Helen P. Raucher Memorial ECC Development Trust, which exists as part of Tikvat Israel's Fund for the Future. A full day of training took place on Nov. 3.

The morning workshop, Conversations That Connect, was informative and engaging, focusing on how to build strong family partnerships, which require empathy, clarity and intentionality. Our staff learned how to navigate difficult discussions, conduct purposeful parent-teacher conferences, and communicate effectively across cultural and emotional differences.

The afternoon workshop focused on reducing stress in both children and adults. The ECC team learned the meditative art of Zentangle, a fun, engaging and relaxing experience. The entire ECC staff are extremely appreciative to the Helen P. Raucher Memorial ECC Development Trust for making this day possible.

In the lead-up to Thanksgiving, we conducted a schoolwide *tzedakah* project to collect foods for Interfaith Works, a non-profit organization that distributes food to families in need. The pre-kindergarten class took a field trip to visit Interfaith Works, where the pupils placed food items we collected into donation bins. We toured the facility and learned from a tour guide that clients are

able to 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 Nov. 25. Each class contributed a dish for our feast. The menu included fruit salad, tuna, stuffing, cranberry orange muffins and pumpkin bread. We sang songs and danced together. It was a wonderful way to start our Thanksgiving holiday.

As the ECC heads into 2026, we are thinking about registration for the 2026-27 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.



ECC students helped in making the stuffing for their Thanksgiving meal. (Photo by Debbie Ungar)



Going All Electronic

The inaugural online-only TI *Bulletin* was recently published. As with most things, there are pros and cons to this change.

A clear advantage is that a major cost of publication (notably the printing and mailing of about 300 copies) has been eliminated. For me, though, the disadvantages outweigh the benefit. I can read this version on a screen, but I lose its utility as a handy reference. Like many other congregants, I receive many emails daily, so the probability of losing track of the *Bulletin* when it is sent to us is not negligible.

During my time on the synagogue's board, we used to speak about the benefits of membership in a congregation. Receiving a printed copy of a bi-monthly newsletter (one of our most important means of communications) is a benefit. It promotes a sense of community. Having congregants bear the burden of printing out their own copy (if they desire) is a burden.

Our *Bulletin* has an attractive layout, but I'm wondering if it is aimed more at an external audience? Would it be possible to mail a stripped-down printed version (text only) to members to convey

the important message that Tikvat Israel wants to connect with each of us?

Carol Chelemer

Investing in Kids' Futures

On behalf of our entire school community, I want to extend our deepest gratitude to the Tikvat Israel community for its generous donation of school supplies to our school. Your support could not have come at a better time, and it has made an immediate and meaningful impact on our students.

Because of your kindness, our children started the school year equipped with the tools they need to learn confidently and fully participate in their classrooms. Your generosity not only lightens the load for many families, but it also reminds our students that their community believes in their potential and cares about their success.

Thank you for investing in the futures of our young learners. We are truly grateful for your partnership and the spirit of compassion you continue to show.

Carole Rawlison-Williams, Principal
Harmony Hills Elementary School
Rockville, Md.

TIKVAT ISRAEL SEA CHANGE

Each of Our Voices Is Powerful

BY ANNA LEVY, TI SEA CHANGE CO-CHAIR

When the Maryland General Assembly session opens on Jan. 14, legislators will take up critical bills that impact immigrants, tenants, youth justice, climate, education and more. At Tikvat Israel, we continue learning about and discussing some of these issues during SEA Change programs.

Our SEA Change partner, Action in Montgomery, now a member of the statewide Just Power Alliance, has been conducting listening sessions within a cross-section of member congregations across Montgomery County. These conversations help us understand what people think is needed for individuals and our communities to thrive. Along with partners Jews United for Justice and Interfaith Power and Light, we have been working to identify the legislative priorities that can improve the lives of all Marylanders.

The Maryland legislature has a short session of only 90 days, during which time thousands of bills are introduced and hundreds are enacted. Constituents' voices are crucial. When we do not show up, legislators may hear only one perspective and may pass laws that don't support our needs or values.

In the September-October issue of the *Tikvat Israel Bulletin*, Cantor Emeritus Helzner shared her experiences visiting with our legislators in Annapolis. She highlighted the importance of shar-



ing our personal stories with lawmakers and the personal satisfaction of contributing to the democratic process.

How can you begin? Start by finding your legislative district and your elected representatives at the Maryland General Assembly's website <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/members/district>. Watch for TI SEA Change updates to get involved in the issues important to you. We will meet with legislators both

on Zoom and in person and there will be opportunities to learn about the legislative process as well as the issues behind the bills.

Some of us may be motivated to write testimony, delivered orally or in writing, to support or oppose specific bills as they are considered in their assigned House or Senate committees. We will have opportunities to reach out to our friends and neighbors to share what we care about.

We also will celebrate together. Celebrate *Purim* with JUFJ on Feb. 22 at Tikvat Israel. We will pack *mishloach manot* for our legislators and those who are able can help deliver them to Annapolis and Rockville.

We look forward to advocating with you. Contact Anna Levy (anna_levy@verizon.net) or Debbie Amster (debbieamster@comcast.net). To join the TI SEA Change e-mail list, contact Bob Silverstein (r_silverstein@msn.com).

CONGREGANT SHARES PERSONAL KRISTALLNACHT TALE



Debby Berlyne described her mother's survival during the Holocaust in the shul's Flax Library.

Nearly 70 Tikvat Israel congregants marked the 87th anniversary of *Kristallnacht* on Nov. 9 by attending a presentation by congregant Debby Berlyne, whose mother was a Holocaust survivor.

In an engaging PowerPoint presentation that included video clips from her mother's interview at Yad Vashem and many family photos, Berlyne described her mother's experiences of antisemitism in Germany, wartime deprivations in Nazi-occupied Belgium, and how she avoided arrest by the Nazis.

GREEK HISTORY UP CLOSE



Several congregants participated in a Jewish heritage tour of Greece last fall which included a visit to the ark at *Etz Hayim*, the oldest synagogue in Athens, built in 1904. Shown, from left, are tour leader Robyn Helzner, Anita Brenner, Mel Brenner, Cantor Rochelle Helzner, Felicia Black and Dan Black.

TI Pulls Its Weight in Manna Food Drive

Manna Food Center said members of Tikvat Israel contributed over a pound per family (288 pounds total) as part of its Harvest Against Hunger Drive in 2025.

TI, with 280 members according to the Manna report, ranked 14th among the 17 synagogues in Montgomery County that participated in the nonprofit's annual food drive. Manna calculated each shul's contributions based on number of members, total food collected, change in donations from the previous year and the average donation per family unit.

Temple Beth Ami was the pacesetter with its 750 members collecting 16,300 lbs. of donated food throughout the year.

The total donations from local synagogues increased by 36 percent over the previous year. The congregations ranged in size from B'nai Israel's 1,150 members to Beth Chai's 85 members. TI ranks among the six smallest county shuls participating in the Manna Food Center initiative.

Congregational Condolences

Tikvat Israel Congregation shares its condolences for member families that experienced the following deaths in September through mid-December.

... to congregants **Jeffrey and Jim Perlmutter** on the loss of their brother Jerry Perlmutter, Dec. 20 (30 Kislev 5786).

... to congregant **Elliot Cowan**, on the loss of his mother Lorraine Cowan, Nov. 13 (22 Cheshvan 5786).

... to congregant **Phyllis Ermann**, on the loss of her husband Danny Ermann, Nov. 12 (22 Cheshvan 5786).

... to congregant **Stephen Sherrod**, on the loss of his wife Rhonda Sherrod, Nov. 9 (18 Cheshvan 5786).

... to congregant **Phyllis Schwartz**, on the loss her mother Marcia Gruss Levinsohn, Oct. 5 (13 Tishrei 5786).

... to friends of longtime congregant and former executive director Susan Newman, Sept. 28 (6 Tishrei 5786).

... to congregant **David Hockstein**, on the loss of his wife Carolyn Hockstein, Sept. 18 (25 Elul, 5785).

... to Ilene Rome, Ellen Walker and Ed Lowenfeld, on the loss of their father Mortimer Lowenfeld, Sept. 17 (24 Elul, 5785).

... to congregant **Peggy Zelenka**, on the loss of her husband Robert Zelenka, Sept. 8 (15 Elul 5785).

... to congregant **Matthew Mintz**, on the loss of his grandfather Frederick Mintz, Sept. 6 (13 Elul, 5785).

TI Singers Join Church in Thanksgiving



Among those at the Thanksgiving Sing were (from left) Cantor Emeritus Rochelle Helzner, Beth Smith, Jonathan and Nancy Solomon, Anna Levy, Joanna Rubin, Judy Davis and Aaron and Alex Chusid. (Photo by Sue Urban)

Rockville United Church invited Tikvat Israel members to join them for their annual interfaith Community Thanksgiving Sing on the evening before the holiday. Nearly a dozen TI members, including Rabbi Marc Israel and Cantor Emeritus Rochelle Helzner, did so.

Both the TI guests and their hosts agreed that singing together with people of different faiths was a great way to usher in the holiday, and tentative plans were made to repeat the event next November.

For many years, Tikvat Israel enjoyed a Thanksgiving Sing tradition with members of the Silver Spring Presbyterian Church. That tradition ended several years before the pandemic.

Showing Off Reading Skills



Carol Chelemer, who organizes the story reader program in which congregants read to the ECC children on Wednesday mornings, took a turn in demonstrating her reading skills on her birthday in December. She also provided Sunflower Bakery cookies for her attentive listeners. (Photo by Debbie Ungar)

Flax Library Catalog Sees High Usage

BY JANICE ROSENBERG, LIBRARY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Tikvat Israel's Flax Library catalog has been searchable online for 18 months. Based on usage statistics, searches have remained consistently high during this time, reflecting strong interest and engagement from the Tikvat Israel community.

Since its inception, the online catalog has recorded 716 total visits, including 480 from computers or tablets and 236 from mobile devices.

You can search the Flax Library's online catalog to discover fiction, non-fiction, short stories and biographies in TI's collection. Open TI's website and, under "Study," click on "Flax Library Catalog." You can search by keyword, author, title or subject.

You also can reserve books while searching the online catalog. First, conduct a search and click on the book title to view the full record. Then click on "Reserve" on the left-hand side. Fill in your name and email address and hit "Send." You will be notified when the books you reserved are available for pickup.

Another way to borrow books from the Flax library or the pop-up library in TI's lobby is by sending an email to TikvatIsraelLibrary@gmail.com. Be sure to include the book title, your name and your contact information.

Books borrowed from the Flax Library or pop-up library can be borrowed for three weeks. Return books in the box marked "Returns" in the Flax Library or the one below the pop-up library in TI's lobby.

Books Recently Added

Titles marked with an asterisk are among the current Women's Network Book Group selections.



Some of the new Flax Library holdings that are available for borrowing. (Photo by Janice Rosenberg)

The Hebrew Teacher by Maya Arad.* Three Israeli women have their lives altered by immigration to the United States.

I Seek a Kind Person: My Father, Seven Children, and the Adverts that Helped Them Escape the Holocaust by Julian Borger.* A memoir tells the hidden stories of children who escaped the Holocaust.

The Last Kings of Shanghai: The Rival Jewish Dynasties That Helped Create Modern China by Jonathan Kaufman. A multigenerational story of two rival dynasties that flourished in Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Songs For the Brokenhearted by Ayelet Tsabari.* A young Yemeni Israeli woman learns of her mother's secret romance.

The Third Daughter by Talia Carner.* A powerful story of finding courage in the face of danger, and hope in the face of despair.

Shul Shorts

Sign Up for the Next Blood Drive

The next blood drive at Tikvat Israel will occur on Thursday, Jan. 22, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the social hall. Register at this American Red Cross site: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=TikvatIsraelRockville>

Additional TI blood drives will take place on June 9 and Nov. 10. Robbi Cohen serves as the Tikvat Israel blood drive coordinator.

Babka Baking Workshop

Co-president Beth Smith will teach congregants how to make pumpkin babka and apple cinnamon babka at a kitchen workshop from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 11. There is a \$10 participation fee, and bakers will take home mini babkas. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/babka-bake>.

Advertising Sales Leads

Bob Silverstein, who serves as advertising sales coordinator for the *Tikvat Israel Bulletin*, wants to contact area service providers or retail merchants who might find a potential audience in our synagogue members.

If you are aware of a business that ought to be contacted as a prospective advertiser, send Silverstein a contact name at r_silverstein@msn.com so he can follow up with a sales pitch and advertising rates. Non-dues revenue is important to the synagogue's fiscal health.

Tikvat Israel Remembers With Respect Those Whose *Yahrzeits* Occur From from 12 Tevet - 13 Shevat — January 2026

JANUARY 1 12 TEVET

Geraldine Linden
Jennie Strassman

JANUARY 2 13 TEVET

Samuel Berly
Rose Blackstone
Eli Dannemann
Anna Krooler
Nathan Nachamkin
Lois Renee Nisenson
Miriam Sarah Roey

JANUARY 3 14 TEVET

Elaine Feinberg
Irving Joseph Kaplan
Moshe Kritz
Jacob B. Levin
Julius Rom
Rebecca Rosenberg
Norman Shapiro

JANUARY 4 15 TEVET

Harry Brafman
Ilsa Cutler
Melvin Dick
Benjamin Feinman
Henrietta Shantz Levine
Jennie Schnitzer
Lillian Walder

JANUARY 5 16 TEVET

Benjamin Kay
Judith Lipofsky
Roslyn Mollen
Milton Thaler

JANUARY 6 17 TEVET

Mildred Brook
Rachel Cohen
Hyman Goodman
Adele Mainen
Harriet Miller
Samuel Nadel
Mildred Schreiber

JANUARY 7 18 TEVET

Tamara Chidakel
Blanche Cohen
Irwin Fishman
Max Hershbaum
Paul Jaffe
Pauline Katz
Lillian Liss
Marjorie Nash
Abe Silkoff
Joseph Sully

JANUARY 8 19 TEVET

Sam Fermon
Fanny Kline
Abraham Pelish
Gertrude Rosenwald
Joseph Scolnik
Lesley Teitelbaum
Caren Janet Thaler
Henrietta Zebooker

JANUARY 9 20 TEVET

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

JANUARY 10 21 TEVET

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

JANUARY 11 22 TEVET

George Ray Davis
Anne Hoffman
Anne Kristal
Maurice Levinsohn
Abraham Peck

JANUARY 12 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 13 24 TEVET

Stanley Bergstein
Harry H. Cohen
Mollie Jacobs
Solomon Meltzer

JANUARY 14 25 TEVET

Sarah Cohen
William Davis
Hilda Diamond
Rose Finster
Mollie Flax
Bernard Gross
Jacob Kanner
Davida Kline
Norman F. Kline
Rebecca Lipofsky
Leonard Miller
Nathan Plafker
Eleanor O. Stillman
Louis Waxler

JANUARY 15 26 TEVET

Benjamin Robert Bliss
Ida Cavall
Moishe Chaim Chait
Bert Herman Chatlynne
Benjamin Futrovsky
Sam Gorin
Marcus Jacobs
Charles Kessler
Rose Podolsky
Morris Silverman
Maurice Solomon

JANUARY 16 27 TEVET

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

JANUARY 17 28 TEVET

Richard Alan Goodman
Meyer Kensky
Florence Lentchner
Max Levine
Joyce Blumberg Schwartz
Dora Stutz

JANUARY 18 29 TEVET

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

JANUARY 19 1 SHEVAT

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

JANUARY 20 2 SHEVAT

Sarah G. Kravitz
Frances Nadel
Sylvia Seiler
Esther Blake Wilchins

JANUARY 21 3 SHEVAT

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

JANUARY 22 4 SHEVAT

Sheldon Caplan
Edith Chefer
Isaac Zipin

JANUARY 23 5 SHEVAT

Eva Brooke
Dorothy Caplan
Gutman David Cohen
Mordechai Costa
Belle Krasner Fabel
Samuel Helzner
Ben Kalman
Anna Linsenberg
Rachel Mandel

JANUARY 24 6 SHEVAT

Constance Brooks
Robert L. Gellman
Jackie Greene Fisher
Martin Hershenhorn
Marion Salon

JANUARY 25 7 SHEVAT

Frances Kanner
Jennie Lerner
Stanley Nasoff
Jack Zoltrow

JANUARY 26 8 SHEVAT

Ludwig Klein
Phyllis Leise
Harry Levinstein
Elsa Neuwirth
Joseph Steinberg

JANUARY 27 9 SHEVAT

Jacqueline Barnett
Mildred Brafman
David Caplan
Goldie Chelmer
Jerome Danoff
Molly Levinson
Max Mendelson
Harry Miller
Hans Moses
Zanvel Nisenson
Edith Plesset
Rose Schwartz
Elliot S. Steinberg
Sheldon Wagner
Rose Weinstein

JANUARY 28 10 SHEVAT

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

JANUARY 29 11 SHEVAT

Paul Berman
Libby Gordon
Jonathan Lapkoff

JANUARY 30 12 SHEVAT

Jacob Finster
Lillian Gorinson
Jules Liss
John Gordon Phillips
Bernice Zimlin

JANUARY 31 13 SHEVAT

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

Tikvat Israel Remembers With Respect Those Whose *Yahrzeits* Occur From from 14 *Shevat* - 11 *Adar* — February 2026

FEBRUARY 1

14 *SHEVAT*

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

FEBRUARY 2

15 *SHEVAT*

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

FEBRUARY 3

16 *SHEVAT*

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

FEBRUARY 4

17 *SHEVAT*

Alex M. Kravitz
Benjamin Newman
Beatrice Venetsky
Charles Walder

FEBRUARY 5

18 *SHEVAT*

Judith Flax Elustondo
Abe Goldstein
Laura Hoffman
William Mazaroff
Beverly Pasternak
Ruth Rosen
Kate Schefter

FEBRUARY 6

19 *SHEVAT*

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

FEBRUARY 7

20 *SHEVAT*

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

FEBRUARY 8

21 *SHEVAT*

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

FEBRUARY 9

22 *SHEVAT*

Martha Barrish
Goldie Goldman
Les Lampert
Arlene Minott

FEBRUARY 10

23 *SHEVAT*

William Edlowitz
William Gershowitz
Samuel Helfant
Norman Kanner
Lori Schwartz
Jay L. Zebooker

FEBRUARY 11

24 *SHEVAT*

Doris Lillian Asher
William Berly
Fay Gardner
Deborah Lynn Kron
Ruth Yudkoff Love
Freda Stutz
Emanuel Thaler

FEBRUARY 12

25 *SHEVAT*

Jerie Cohen
Ruth Fogel
Charlotte Helzner
Lois Klion
Stanley Zelman Marder
Vera Meyerson
Rose Rosenthal
Fannie Sills

FEBRUARY 13

26 *SHEVAT*

Richard Barsky
Howard M. Berman
Adele Cohen
Elizabeth Davis
Sidney Katz

FEBRUARY 14

27 *SHEVAT*

Haskel Chigorsky
Benjamin Cohen
Leslie Fineman
Hase Marie Hershbaum
Yetta Horowitz
Eli Miller
William Renfrew
June Warhoftig

FEBRUARY 15

28 *SHEVAT*

Shoshana Natovich Ben-Ami
Harry Cohen
Edward Davis
Bruce Glauberg
Doris Kanner
Mae Mukasey
Beina Schwartz

FEBRUARY 16

29 *SHEVAT*

Isador Bilsky
Rosalie Cohen
Leonore Piser
Edward Rosenbloom

FEBRUARY 17

30 *ADAR*

Leonard E. Cohen
Hyman Gilston
Edward Schwartz
Jacob Teitelbaum

FEBRUARY 18

1 *ADAR*

Florence Eber
Sylvia Goldin
Simi Goodman
Freda Kahn
Freda Lankin
Faigi Levine
Irwin David Olin
Samuel Rosenhaft
Judy Rosenthal
Gertrude Schuchman
Arthur J. Schwartz
Max Weingross
Sidney Weiss

FEBRUARY 19

2 *ADAR*

Edith Baron
Hilda Frank
Morris Hein
Sarah Jarcho
Norman H. Levy
Minnie Rubinstein
Norbert Schimmel
Leon E. Smith

FEBRUARY 20

3 *ADAR*

Harry S. Field
Tillie Gaspin
Esther Kaminsky
Betty Klein
Lillian Rosen
Baruch Schwarz
Morris Shapiro
Nancy Strong

FEBRUARY 21

4 *ADAR*

Lillian Feingold
Annie Goldstein
Alan Kaufman
Jamila Dweck Marcus
David Scucimarra
Sandra Segal
David Siskind
Alan Jay Smith
Yetta Steiner
Rose Walder

FEBRUARY 22

5 *ADAR*

Shirlye Berman
Esther Bloom
Robert Bredt
Saul Diamond
George Goldstein
Mike Gross
Alan Grossmann
Arlene Kahn
Charles Kandalis
Carl Lang
Helen Lantz
Laura Raucher
Irving Schwartz
Esther Simon
Norman Yudkoff

FEBRUARY 23

6 *ADAR*

Alvin Bernstein
Jacob Blafkin
Annie Colodne
Ann Gilman Miller
Samuel Podgor
William Wells Adams

FEBRUARY 24

7 *ADAR*

James Gorelick
Lillian Kensky
Bessie Marco
Samuel J. Romm
Elizabeth Zusman

FEBRUARY 25

8 *ADAR*

Dorothy Ashery
Shulamit Sporen Breit
Stephen Cohen
Mary Fine
Adelle Lapin

FEBRUARY 26

9 *ADAR*

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

FEBRUARY 27

10 *ADAR*

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

FEBRUARY 28

11 *ADAR*

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

January 2026

Tevet – Shevat 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	All events subject to change. Please read B'Keshet for the latest status.			1 12 Tevet ECC Closed - Winter Break 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	2 13 Tevet 8:00 A Minyan 4:39 P Candlelighting 🕯️🕯️ 6:00 P Kabbalat Shabbat	3 14 Tevet 9:30 A Prelim 📖 9:45 A Shabbat Services (Vayechi) 5:40 P Havdalah
4 15 Tevet 9:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	5 16 Tevet 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P Biblical Hebrew Class	6 17 Tevet 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Study Group - The New Jewish Canon 7:30 P Minyan	7 18 Tevet 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	8 19 Tevet 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	9 20 Tevet 8:00 A Minyan 4:46 P Candlelighting 🕯️🕯️ 6:00 P Kabbalat Shabbat	10 21 Tevet 9:30 A Prelim 📖 9:45 A Shabbat Services (Shemot) 11:15 A Auntie A's Family Jam 5:47 P Havdalah
11 22 Tevet 9:00 A Minyan 9:30 A Netivot 10 A Men's Club 12 P Babka Bake 7:30 P Minyan	12 23 Tevet 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	13 24 Tevet 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Study Group - The New Jewish Canon 7:30 P Minyan	14 25 Tevet 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P Women's Network Book Group	15 26 Tevet 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	16 27 Tevet 8:00 A Minyan 4:53 P Candlelighting 🕯️🕯️ 6:00 P Kabbalat Shabbat	17 28 Tevet 9:30 A Prelim 📖 9:45 A Shabbat Services (Vaera) - Guest Sh'l'ichat Tzibbur: Rochelle Berman 5:54 P Havdalah
18 29 Tevet 9:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	19 1 Shevat MLK Jr Day 🌱 Rosh Chodesh ECC Closed 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P Biblical Hebrew Class	20 2 Shevat 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Study Group - The New Jewish Canon 7:30 P Minyan	21 3 Shevat 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	22 4 Shevat 7:15 A Minyan 10 A - 3:30 P Blood Drive 7:30 P Minyan	23 5 Shevat 8:00 A Minyan 5:01 P Candlelighting 🕯️🕯️ 6:00 P Kabbalat Shabbat	24 6 Shevat 9:30 A Prelim 📖 9:45 A Shabbat Services (Bo) 10:30 A Torah Club 11:15 A Auntie A's Family Jam 6:02 P Havdalah
25 7 Shevat 9:00 A Minyan 9:30 A Netivot 10 A Mid-Year Congregational Meeting 7:30 P Minyan	26 8 Shevat 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	27 9 Shevat 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Study Group - The New Jewish Canon 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P TI Board Meeting	28 10 Shevat 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	29 11 Shevat 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	30 12 Shevat 8:00 A Minyan 5:09 P Candlelighting 🕯️🕯️ 6:00 P Kabbalat Shabbat	31 13 Shevat 9:30 A Prelim 📖 9:45 A Shabbat Services (Beshalach) 6:10 P Havdalah 7:00 P Israeli Film Festival

February 2026

Shevat - Adar 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 14 Shevat 9:00 A Minyan 9:30 A Netivot 7:30 P Minyan	2 15 Shevat Tu B'Shvat 🌱 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P Biblical Hebrew Class	3 16 Shevat 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Study Group - The New Jewish Canon 7:30 P Minyan	4 17 Shevat 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	5 18 Shevat 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	6 19 Shevat 8:00 A Minyan 5:00 P ECC Family Dinner 5:17 P Candlelighting 🕯️🕯️ 6:00 P Kabbalat Shabbat	7 20 Shevat 9:30 A Prelim 📖 9:45 A Shabbat Services (Yitro) 6:19 P Havdalah 7:00 P Israeli Film Festival
8 21 Shevat 9:00 A Minyan 9:30 A Netivot 3 P Purim Puppet Show Practice 7:30 P Minyan	9 22 Shevat 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	10 23 Shevat 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Study Group - The New Jewish Canon 7:30 P Minyan	11 24 Shevat 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	12 25 Shevat 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	13 26 Shevat 8:00 A Minyan 5:25 P Candlelighting 🕯️🕯️ 6:00 P Kabbalat Shabbat	14 27 Shevat 9:30 A Prelim 📖 9:45 A Shabbat Services (Mishpatim) 11:15 A Auntie A's Family Jam 6:27 P Havdalah
15 28 Shevat 9:00 A Minyan 3 P Purim Puppet Show Practice 7:30 P Minyan	16 29 Shevat President's Day ECC Closed 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P Biblical Hebrew Class	17 30 Shevat 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	18 1 Adar 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	19 2 Adar 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	20 3 Adar 8:00 A Minyan 5:33 P Candlelighting 🕯️🕯️ 6:00 P Kabbalat Shabbat	21 4 Adar 9:30 A Prelim 📖 9:45 A Shabbat Services (Terumah) 6:35 P Havdalah 7:00 P Israeli Film (Snow Date)
22 5 Adar 9:00 A Minyan 1:00 P WN Glassmaking 3 P Purim Puppet Show Practice 7:30 P Minyan	23 6 Adar 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	24 7 Adar 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P TI Board Meeting	25 8 Adar 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	26 9 Adar 7:15 A Minyan 1:00 P WN Glassmaking 7:30 P Minyan	27 10 Adar 8:00 A Minyan 5:41 P Candlelighting 🕯️🕯️ 6:00 P Kabbalat Shabbat	28 11 Adar 9:30 A Prelim 📖 9:45 A Shabbat Services (Tetzaveh) 10:30 A Torah Club 6:42 P Havdalah
	All events subject to change. Please read B'Keshet for the latest status.					

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 - 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.

Yahrzeits

in memory of...

Evelyn Berlin by Sandra and Larry Levine
Harry Berlin by Sandra and Larry Levine
David Chefer by Aaron Fineman
Louis Chernoff by Rosemarie and Howard Chernoff
David Fineman by Aaron Fineman

Saul B. Friedman by Sheila Myers
Lewis Godfrey by Roslyn Levy Godfrey
Evelyn Goldberg by Natalie Berman
Charles Goldman by Rebecca Salon and Jay Goldman

Noach Hoffman by Sharon Spanier
Herman Iskow by Sheldon Iskow
Melvin and Selma Jackson by Ellen and Mark Diamond

Naomi Kaplan by Mimi and Allan Meltzer
Benson B. Kessler by Susan and Alan Apter
Jane Kessler by Susan and Alan Apter

Janice Kirschenbaum by Joel Bressler and Shirley Waxman
Elliott Kleinman by Nancy and Rodney Matheson
Selma Kubitz by Nancy and Rodney Matheson
Alice Levin by Lawrence Levin
Ruth Levinstein by Jane and Stephen Raucher

Mildred Meltzer by Mimi and Allan Meltzer
Rae Caplan Mensh by Elliot and Helene Lerner
Dorothy Pearl by Denise Kanuck
David Pearl by Denise Kanuck

Benjamin Raucher by Jane and Stephen Raucher
Fannie Raucher by Jane and Stephen Raucher
Harold Saldinger by Ellen and Richard Lederman
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Arthur Spanier by Sharon Spanier
Alfred Steiner by Roberta Steiner
Benny Waxman by Joel Bressler and Shirley Waxman

Bereavement Committee

In memory of Lorraine Cowan
by Betty and Clifford Fishman
by Naomi and Harvey Kaplan
by Susannah Challis and Richard Nisenson

In memory of Betty Grunbaum by Marilyn and Michael Greenwood
In memory of Abraham Krugman by Marilyn and Michael Greenwood
In memory of Marcia Gruss Levinsohn by Susan and Jay Plafker
In memory of Reuben Maron by Marilyn and Michael Greenwood

Education Fund

In memory of Marcia Gruss Levinsohn by Marcia Bronstein

General Fund

In appreciation of Tikvat Israel's wonderful High Holiday Services by Eleanor Goldman
In honor of Linda Schwartz for chanting *Ashrei on Rosh Hashanah* by Ellen Singer and Richard Gelula
In honor of Jeff Smith, *Chattan Torah*, by Matthew and Sheri Brown
In honor of Jeff Smith, *Chattan Torah*, by Jane and Stephen Raucher
In honor of Judith Waldman's birthday by Aaron Fineman
In memory of Dan Ermann by David Gorman and Janice Rosenberg

In memory of Lorraine Cowan by Alan and Susan Apter
by Daniel Bachman and Debby Berlyne
by Diane Gardsbane and Paul Sully
by Paula and Marvin Kasper
by Dona and Eric Malter
by Nancy and Rodney Matheson
by Marc Schneider and Martie Adelman

In memory of Marcia Gruss Levinsohn by Joel Bressler and Shirley Waxman
by Rosemarie and Howard Chernoff
by Aaron Fineman
by Nancy and Rodney Matheson
by Ela Pelish

In memory of Moshe Gordon and Tzipa Gordon by Susan and Jay Plafker
In memory of Sharon Jacobs by Ted and Roz Kram
In memory of Susan Newman by Aaron Fineman
In memory of Susan Newman by Rebecca Salon and Jay Goldman
In memory of Carolyn Hockstein by Phylis Ermann
In memory of Mortimer Lowenfeld by Linda Lapkoff

Kiddush Fund

In honor of Jeff Smith, *Chattan Torah*, by Rianne and John Melmed
In honor of Shirley Waxman and Jeff Smith by Susan and Alan Apter

Library Fund

In memory of Libby and Joseph Gordon, Ruth and Nathan Plafker, and Gloria and Fred Wishengrad by Susan and Jay Plafker

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Dan Ermann
by Robert and Janice Balin
by Bruce Goldin
by Sara Harris

In memory of Lorraine Cowan
by Robert and Janice Balin
by Wendy Bauman
by Ellen and Mark Diamond
by Sara Harris
by Sandra and Larry Levine

In memory of Mortimer Lowenfeld by Robert and Ellen Walker
In memory of my mom on her *yahrzeit* by Matthew and Sheri Brown

Shelly Goldin Memorial Fund

In honor of the birth of Jay and Sue Plafker's grandson by Bruce Goldin
In memory of Lorraine Cowan by Bruce Goldin
In memory of Lorraine Cowan by Suzy and Sol Levy
In memory of Marcia Gruss Levinsohn by Bruce Goldin

Torah Fund

In memory of Lorraine Cowan
by Amy and Daniel Matathias
by Susan and Jay Plafker
by Linda, Phyllis and Ken Schwartz
by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon

Tzedakah Fund

In honor of Gary Count by Marilyn and Michael Greenwood
In memory of Joseph Hertzberg by Marilyn and Michael Greenwood
In memory of Eedo Samuel Kernus by Emily Jarmuth
In memory of Marcia Gruss Levinsohn by Amy and Daniel Matathias
In memory of Susan Newman by Roberta and Larry Cohen

Two Israeli Films Set for Saturday Night Viewings

The Israeli Affairs Committee will host Tikvat Israel's 2026 Israeli Film Festival with showings at 7 p.m. on two Saturdays, Jan. 31 and Feb. 7. Admission per film is \$20.

Refreshments will be provided during the post-viewing discussions in the synagogue's social hall.

The showing on Jan. 31 is "Seven Blessings," an Israeli drama/comedy produced in 2023 about a Moroccan-Jewish family in early '90s Jerusalem whose joyous week of wedding celebrations unearths long-buried family secrets.

The film on Feb. 7 is "The Property," an Israeli drama released in 2025 based on Rutu Modan's graphic novel, following a grandmother and granddaughter's fraught trip to Poland to reclaim wartime property, confronting hidden trauma and new romance amidst Holocaust history.

The discussion moderator will be Erik Zakim, associate professor in the Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Program and Center for Jewish Studies, Cinema and Media Studies at University of Maryland.

Ron Rabin is serving as the coordinator of this year's Israeli Film Fest.

In other film news, the Israeli Affairs Committee expects to screen the Academy Awards' 2024 Oscar-winning best documentary "No Other Land" on Sunday, March 15.



Essential Grant Funding Supports Our Shul

BY AARON CHUSID, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Aaron Chusid

Tikvat Israel has been fortunate to receive several grants in this past year that have helped us strengthen our educational programs and improve the security of our facility.

We are grateful to the organizations that provided these opportunities and wanted to make sure our members knew who was supporting our congregation and how we are using the funds:

- **Department of Homeland Security/FEMA:** \$149,795 for facility improvements. Awarded in 2024, we have three years to complete the projects included in this grant. The first, replacement of security cameras with an updated, more secure system, was completed just before the High Holidays. The next, adding essential doors to our access control system, was set to begin in December.
- **Jewish Federation of Greater Washington:** \$5,750 to assist with increases in security costs, and \$6,000 to support

the Early Family Network's Young Family *Shabbat* Dinners. The federation was so impressed with the outcomes from these dinners that it awarded another \$15,000 to sustain our educational programs.

- **Montgomery County NSGP:** \$12,000 for security personnel.
- **Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention:** \$95,310 for security personnel from the FY '26 Protecting against Hate Crimes program.

The last two grants pay for the security officers we hire for *Shabbat*, holiday services and major events. The amount we receive from the latter program increased enough this year that we were able to hire Kim Parekh to extend our coverage in the main lobby into the afternoons.

We are already at work applying for new grants for the coming year. I am also looking for "Old Building" grants we can apply for that would help address other infrastructure concerns around our *shul*. If you find out about any such grant opportunities, please forward them to me.