



Inside This Issue ...

- **A show you don't want to miss.** That would be the amazing *a cappella* group Six13, which Tikvat Israel is bringing to Richard Montgomery HS for two shows on the afternoon of Sunday, May 31. Let's fill the auditorium seats. Get your tickets now. See [page 5](#).
- **Be in the know.** The shul's finance chiefs will brief us all at a congregational meeting in the social hall on Sunday, June 28, on the state of fiscal affairs at Tikvat Israel. Learn how your pledge dollars will be spent during the next 12 months and where the greatest needs exist. Turn to [page 2](#).
- **Whose side are you on?** If you're a born and bred New Yorker, you're probably going to root for the Yankees when synagogue members attend a mid-summer baseball outing to Nationals Park on Sunday, July 12, for the 1:35 p.m. opening pitch. Don't get left out of the fun in the sun above 1st base. Only a few tickets remain as you'll read on [page 2](#).
- **The stream is steady and flowing.** But in this instance, it's the livestreaming capacity of the synagogue. Read about the new streaming software, installed in early April, which now reliably delivers all religious services conducted in the sanctuary. Get the scoop on [page 8](#).
- **We're diving into artificial intelligence.** At least our executive director admits to having made the deep dive. Aaron Chusid's article about how synagogues will benefit soon from AI applications was written by AI. See what he's unleashed on [page 13](#).



Hiring Imminent for New Staff Position

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

Before the end of June, Tikvat Israel expects to complete a hiring process that will add significant administrative and programming strength to the congregation.

The two finalists for a position that combines coordination of education and community engagement and worship leadership joined congregants at *Shabbat* services on April 11 and April 25, giving TI members a chance to observe and meet the two contenders for the new comprehensive staff role.

The search committee, chaired by Deb Amchin, wants congregants now to weigh in with their feedback on the candidates.

The two finalists are:

- **Rabbi Emily Howard Meyer**, owner of [oySongs.com](#), a Jewish music distribution website and ComposerGirl Publications, a boutique music publication company, and a former cantorial soloist and music educator at Temple Shalom in Chevy Chase; and
- **Cantor Hinda Eisen Labovitz**, cantor and religious school director at Ohr Kodesh Congregation in Chevy Chase.

The search committee interviewed multiple candidates for what originally was envisioned as two part-time posts – (1) an education director and community engagement

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>	May 6:00 p.m.	June 6:30 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>
5/1-2	7:43 p.m.	8:40 p.m.
5/8-9	7:50 p.m.	8:51 p.m.
5/15-16	7:56 p.m.	8:58 p.m.
5/21*	8:02 p.m.	
5/22-23*	8:02 p.m.	9:04 p.m.
5/29-30	8:08 p.m.	9:09 p.m.
6/5-6	8:13 p.m.	9:14 p.m.
6/12-13	8:16 p.m.	9:17 p.m.
6/19-20	8:19 p.m.	9:20 p.m.
6/26-27	8:20 p.m.	9:21 p.m.

**Shavuot*

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Tickets Remain for Now for TI's Summer Baseball Outing

Fewer than half of the ticket allotment for this summer's synagogue baseball outing, co-sponsored by the Women's Network and the Men's Club, are still available. The Sunday, July 12, game features the Washington Nationals and New York Yankees. Game time is 1:35 p.m.



Seats are in Section 320 located above 1st base, including five seats that are wheelchair accessible.

Tickets can be purchased for \$44 each by contacting Rebecca Salon at rsalon@verizon.net. The deadline for placing your order is June 12, after which unsold tickets must be returned to the Nats.

New Operating Budget Seeks Congregational Approval June 28



The second of this year's two congregational meetings will take place at 10 a.m. on Sunday, June 28, in the Tikvat Israel social hall.

The agenda will include a report on the state of synagogue finances by the treasurer and financial secretary, including discussion of the synagogue's proposed operating budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

Co-Presidents Sally Kram and Beth Smith will report on other key issues facing the congregation. In addition, the newest member of the synagogue's professional staff is expected to be introduced.

A report on TI's Fund for the Future also will be delivered.

The five synagogue board members elected at the year's first congregational meeting on Jan. 25—Felicia R. Black, Judi Fleitman, Debbie Levine, Monica Meyer and Jay P. Goldman, as well as the newly elected Vice President for Religious Affairs, Jason Schwartz—will formally assume their roles on July 1. The installation will take place at *Shabbat* services on July 11.

HIRING IMMINENT, continued from page 1

coordinator to attract new members and deepen the programming and relationships with current early childhood center and *Netivot* families, and (2) a *shaliach tzibur* (worship leader) for High Holy Days, festivals and occasional *Shabbat* services.

Amchin said the 13-member committee advertised for two separate positions, neither full-time, recognizing that they require different skill sets, while encouraging candidates with both sets of competencies to apply for both roles. "To our delight, we have two candidates who are well-qualified for the combined position," she said.

Congregants who were unable to attend one or both of the *Shabbat* services featuring the finalists in April will have an opportunity to view video recordings of the two services. Check *B'keshet* for video access details or contact the synagogue office for instructions.

In addition, the search committee is distributing feedback surveys that ask TI members to consider "the full spectrum of the position as you complete it," Amchin said. The online questionnaires will remain open to congregants until mid-May.

The committee hopes to conclude its work with a hiring recommendation by the end of May with the new staff member coming on board on or around July 1.

TIKVAT ISRAEL MAY-JUNE 2026

The Season for Honoring Our Parents

BY RABBI MARC D. ISRAEL



The months of May and June have different meanings depending on the calendar you are using.

For teachers and students, these months mark the end of the academic year, together with the end-of-school projects and performances, proms and graduations. For sports fans, it's a time when all baseball teams still stand a chance of a winning season and non-stop playoffs begin for ice hockey and professional basketball.

On the Jewish calendar, it is a mixture of celebrations and commemorations, where we observe the restrictions of the *Omer* season and the celebrations of *Lag BaOmer* and *Shavuot*. Americans have Memorial Day, Juneteenth and the buildup to July 4th, which takes on special meaning this year as we mark our 250th anniversary of freedom. Meanwhile, in more than 50 countries around the world, May marks the month of Mother's Day, and June is for celebrating Fathers.

While Mother's and Father's Day are not technically part of the Jewish calendar, they express an important Jewish value – honoring our father and mother. And, in an interesting confluence of the American and Jewish calendars, *Shavuot* never occurs before May 15 or after June 14, meaning it always occurs between Mother's Day and Father's Day. Thus, the holiday in which we celebrate receiving the Torah, with its command to honor our parents, occurs at the same time of year that our modern culture tells us to do likewise.

In Jewish tradition, honoring our parents is an unusual *mitzvah*. It is included in the *Talmud's* list of the 10 *mitzvot* for which there is no specific measure to tell us when we have done "enough." However, the *Talmud* does include a list of behaviors that one should do to fulfill it, which includes "offering food and drink to one's parents, helping them get dressed and helping them to be mobile." We are also forbidden from doing certain things, like complaining about the way our parents choose to spend their money or by occupying the place where they usually sit.

This particular *mitzvah* has been on my mind recently, as both Abbey and I have been spending time with our parents as they deal with challenges of aging. We are incredibly fortunate and grateful that all four of our parents are alive and continue to be active participants in our lives and the lives of our children. Their love and support always has made it easy for us to honor and revere them. Naturally, our relationship with them has shifted as our various needs and abilities have changed over time. After a lifetime of leaning on them for help, we now need to remind them that they can lean on us.

As I have contemplated this change, I have come to understand the *Talmud's* teaching that honoring our parents is a *mitzvah* that

"has no measure" in a new light. Previously, I understood the measure to indicate there is no specific quantity, but now I think the reason it can't be measured is that what it requires from us changes over time.

When we are young, honoring our parents might mean abiding by the rules of their house and doing our best to make the most of our lives with the opportunities they have provided us. As we enter adulthood, we honor them when we hear their voices in our head, still guiding us, but often now without the need for them to put it in words. And as our parents age, I believe honoring them is no longer about listening to their instructions, but about hearing their needs.

We bestow honor on them when we pay attention to their concerns, rather than impose our solutions onto them. We bestow honor when we patiently listen to them give us driving instructions, even though we know we are just going to put the destination address in Waze. We show them respect by not getting annoyed when they ask us to "fix" the printer again each time we visit them.

We demonstrate our love for our parents each time we show up for them without judgement. And, for those whose parents are deceased, we honor them each time we recite *Yizkor*, observe *Yahrzeit* or, perhaps most importantly, recall their memory and think of the lessons they taught us.

As we prepare to mark Mother's Day and Father's Day in the coming weeks, I hope that in addition to cards, flowers, brunches and barbecues, you will take a few minutes to think about what it means to honor your parents, knowing that this is a job we can never complete.

A WELCOMING PRESENCE ON SHABBAT

Would you consider being an official greeter to welcome those coming to *Shabbat* services at Tikvat Israel?

The assignment is simple but meaningful: Opening the shul's front door as worshippers arrive and welcoming them with a warm *Shabbat shalom*. If someone is new to our synagogue, you direct them to the sanctuary (or point them to the coat room if they have a garment to hang).

A walkie-talkie should be ready and waiting on the supply table outside the sanctuary entrance for you to use in an emergency. It is connected to the county police officer in the parking lot and should be used to alert them of any trouble.

Greeter coordinator Felicia Black provides on-site support. Contact her with your interest at feliciarblack@msn.com. Or use the sign-up site for greeter volunteers at: bit.ly/TIGreeter.

PRESIDENTS' CORNER

How Well Do You Know Those Staffing Our Office?

BY BETH SMITH, TIKVAT ISRAEL CO-PRESIDENT



Beth Smith

Sometimes, the people who help us the most in our lives are a bit anonymous. This month co-president Sally Kram and I have chosen to share information about some of these “anonymous” people.

Our office staff, whose roles have changed from previous staffers, work as a team. But each individual has different responsibilities. This column focuses on two of those individuals, Susan Davis and Nadia Palacios.

Susan has been our office manager for 4½ years. She started at Tikvat Israel on Aug. 15, 2022. Her job is mostly administrative. She deals with the contractors whom we depend on to keep the many mechanical and operational aspects of our building in good working condition. She also oversees our facilities, providing guidance to Iber, our custodian, as well as working with Joe, our kitchen manager, to make sure our kitchen billings are posted on Shulcloud.

Susan’s biggest responsibility, which takes up to an estimated 90 percent of her time, is processing paper checks. She has said to me many times that the last thing she wants is to mess up members’ Shulcloud accounts, which track their payments to the synagogue. She takes her job seriously.

Aside from managing our office, who is she? Susan’s family is from both Guyana, a small country on the northern coast of South America, and from Portugal. Although born in Syracuse, N.Y., she was raised in Guyana and Montgomery County, Md. She went to high school at the Academy of the Holy Cross in North Bethesda, then Corcoran College of Art & Design in Washington, D.C., and the American Intercontinental University at both the London and Georgia campuses.

Susan’s hobbies are baking, cooking, painting and being a basketball mom to her son, London. This year she’s dealing with college visits and applications. She’s a proud mother who has done an outstanding job raising an intelligent, well-mannered and considerate young man on her own.

Susan says what she likes best about working at TI is the professionalism, respect and integrity of the administrative staff.

Nadia started working at TI in March 2023. She is our administrative and communications assistant. She is responsible for putting together *B’Keshet* twice each week as well as the weekly *Shabbat* Sheet. Her other duties include processing invoices and assisting with *Shabbat* preparations each Friday.

Nadia is also an instrumental part of TI’s High Holidays team, working with Susan, Executive Director Aaron Chusid and other TI staff to help distribute tickets and to staff the front patio security tent ahead of the religious services.

Nadia was born in Washington, D.C., and was raised in Gaithersburg. Her family is from Colombia and El Salvador. She went to Montgomery College. Her hobbies are acting, going to the gym, singing and studying and reading plays. She is an accomplished actress. I’ve had the pleasure of seeing several of her performances, and she’s really quite talented — so talented that Nadia has been nominated by the regional theater association for its Helen Hayes Award for Best Supporting Actress. Just being nominated is a big deal. Here’s hoping she wins this prestigious award.

Both Susan and Nadia are essential parts of the operations of Tikvat Israel. They may not have known much about Judaism when they joined our staff, but they have open minds and have learned more than they, or we, could have imagined.

If you happen to stop by the office on a Friday, don’t be surprised if you hear “*Shabbat Shalom*” when you leave.

We are lucky to have them both. Please remember they are very busy doing the congregation’s business. Also, remember to treat them with a thank you and a smile every time you see them at Tikvat Israel. *Yasher Koach* to Susan and Nadia.

(Expect a future column on other staff members: kitchen manager Joe Atkin, head custodian Iber Gonzales, custodian Jimena Moya Diaz, receptionist Tali Kobil-Moav and receptionist Kim Parekh.)

Donations Welcome for Enhanced Kiddushim

Regularly scheduled *freilichen kiddushim* – what congregants consider sit-down lunches following *Shabbat* morning services – will become more common at TI through member support of a dedicated funding stream created earlier this year by the synagogue’s board of directors.

The purpose of the fund is to increase the frequency of more substantive *kiddush* lunches in addition to those sponsored on occasion by congregants for special *simchas*. The frequency of these *kiddushim* will depend on the amount of funds raised.

Tikvat Israel members are invited to voluntarily contribute to the non-fungible Enhanced *Kiddush* account once a year at whatever level they are comfortable. Their contributions will be recognized on the *Bulletin’s* donations page.

Backers of the fund suggest an annual donation of \$180 from a plurality of TI families would make this initiative successful, though any amount will be appreciated and useful.

In addition, TI needs more congregants to participate voluntarily in lunch setup and cleanup on *Shabbat* mornings a few times per year.

Meet the A Cappella Group Six13, Our Concert Performers on May 31

BY BOB SILVERSTEIN, CONCERT COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

As the date of our annual synagogue concert approaches, we want to tell you more about the performing group Six13 and the fun and exciting music you can expect to hear.

Two shows are being offered: a young family concert at 1 p.m. and a concert for all at 4 p.m. The early show will be focused on music appropriate for children. At this concert, Tikvat Israel will honor Debbie Ungar for her years of dedicated service leading the Broadman-Kaplan Early Childhood Center and her lifetime commitment to Jewish education. The second show is a full concert.

Both concerts will be held in the auditorium of Richard Montgomery High School in Rockville. Tickets for both concerts are available at <https://tikvatisrael.ludus.com>.

Combining traditional and contemporary music, Six13 is anchored by a strong Jewish identity, fueled by soulful harmonies, intricate arrangements and their signature dynamic, full-band-like sound all created by human voices. The group is uniquely composed of members from varied Jewish denominations and upbringings, creating an entertainment experience that has been universally acclaimed across the globe by Jewish organizations and individuals from equally varied backgrounds and generations.

The New York City-based group is an international phenomenon, both online, where their videos have been viewed over 20 million times, and in traditional media, having been featured on national television such as *The Today Show* and *The View* and in major news media, such as CBS, CNN, *Huffington Post* and *Time*. The group performed at the White House for a private audience of President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama and three Supreme Court justices. Both Billy Joel and Bruno Mars liked Six13's Passover adaptations of their songs enough to post them on their own Facebook pages.

Much of Six13's music is cleverly based on contemporary artists and their music. "Bohemian *Channukah*," based on Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody," is filled with unique lyrics perfectly



Six13 will perform two shows on May 31 in Rockville, which serves as TI's major fundraiser of the year.

blended into the hit melody. "A Billy Joel Passover" takes several numbers from his songbook, including "Piano Man," and uses them to tell the story of Passover. Popular music from several Broadway shows have been adapted to Jewish themes and a *cappella* voices, including music from *The Lion King*, *Mamma Mia* and *West Side Story*.

Eight award-winning albums have landed Six13 among the top Jewish music artists on iTunes and Spotify.

Six13 has made appearances around the world, having traversed New York's Fifth Avenue in the "Salute to Israel" Parade, headlined the North American Jewish Choral Festival, and sung for professional sports events at Shea Stadium, Citi Field, Madison Square Garden and Dolphin Stadium.

To view samples of the full range of music performed by Six13, click here: [Videos | Six13](#).

We are excited to be bringing this unique group of talented voices to Montgomery County, and look forward to sharing this experience with everyone.



ECC Director Debbie Ungar will be the guest of honor at Six13's first of two TI concerts on May 31. (Photo by Bob Silverstein)

YOUR KEY CONCERT LINKS

Order concert tickets:

<https://tikvatisrael.ludus.com>

View Six13's videos:

<https://six13.com/videos>

MEN'S CLUB

Inaugural Year Programming Brings Food, Fun, Baseball (Two Times)

BY SHEP ROEY, MEN'S CLUB CO-CHAIR

As we look back on our inaugural year, it's clear that the Men's Club has become a vibrant and essential part of synagogue life. Participation has exceeded every expectation, and our members have stepped up again and again—supporting other synagogue groups while building a strong, welcoming community of our own.

To keep that momentum going, membership will continue to be free. Donations are always appreciated, and our speaker programs and brunches will remain pay-as-you-go. To help us communicate more effectively, we're now formalizing membership. Please contact Shep Roey at sheproey@gmail.com for membership details.

Recent Events

Our pre-Passover dinner at Siena's was a terrific evening of good food and even better company. We plan to explore additional kosher venues, and we welcome your suggestions. Share recommendations with Joe Miller at joe51miller@gmail.com.

Other Men's Club activities in 2026 have included:

- A conversation with Washington Nationals' newly named television play-by-play announcer Dan Kolko, moderated by Jay Goldman. Kolko's humility, insight and storytelling captivated the 50 attendees who joined us.
- A community service project. In partnership with the Women's Network, the Men's Club helped assemble and deliver this year's *Purim Mishloach Manot*. Thank you to all who volunteered—your turnout and enthusiasm made a real impact.
- A story of courage and conviction. Our April 19 speaker, Bill Apter, shared the powerful story of his father, David Apter, a

respected public relations professional who lost his job after choosing to stand with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the March on Washington.

Upcoming Attraction

- A mid-summer baseball outing. The Men's Club and Women's Network are teaming up for this special outing to Nationals Park on Sunday, July 12, when the Nats take on the New York Yankees. (See ticket order details, **page 2**.) Bring the kids, grandkids and spouses for a fun day at the ballpark.

In the Works

Dates and times are still to be settled, but we expect the next two brunch presentations to take place in the fall.

- Bourbon distillery tour
- Kosher winery tour
- Featured speaker George Rebok, a professor at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, is a life-span developmental psychologist dedicated to protecting cognitive health. He specializes in creating community-based interventions to prevent age-related decline and to proactively reduce the risk of dementia.
- Author and journalist Tom Dunkel, an acclaimed journalist and author, is known for his ability to transform complex historical narratives into gripping narrative nonfiction. His works, including the celebrated *Color Blind* and *White Knights in the Black Orchestra*, offer a rare, human-centric look at the pivotal figures who shaped our history, politics and culture.



Siena's served as a popular dining venue just before Passover for members of the Men's Club. (Photo by Shep Roey)



The Men's Club joined the Women's Network in preparing and delivering *Mishloach Manot* to congregants at Purim. (Photo by Shep Roey)

WOMEN'S NETWORK

Spring Activities Ahead and Behind for Our Busy Chapter

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

Women's Network has many activities planned for the coming months. Co-president Susan Apter and I are excited to share that information with you.

First off, our annual Shelly Goldin Women's Network *Shabbat* will be on May 2. In keeping with our custom, this service will be officiated by our members and other female congregants.

We are pleased that Julia Loeb, who is the international president of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, will give a special talk during the service. She will speak about the WLCJ organization and her leadership role. As Shelly's legacy with WLCJ is very strong, we are honored to have Loeb as our speaker.

Following the service, Women's Network will host a delicious *Shabbat kiddush* lunch, planned and cooked by our members. Thank you to all our Women's Network volunteers contributing to that day, including our service participants and kitchen helpers, as well as those who made donations toward this event.

On May 31, Women's Network will hold its final book discussion of 2025-26. The book to be discussed is *Songs for the Brokenhearted* by Ayalet Tsabari. Marsha Lyons will be our facilitator for this in-person meeting at 10 a.m. at TI. In this book, a young Yemeni Israeli woman learns of her mother's secret romance in a dramatic journey through lost family stories, which reveals the unbreakable bond between a mother and a daughter.

Looking toward the summer, we will schedule a planning meeting to discuss events for our next program year. The meeting date will be announced through the Women's Network e-newsletters.

We also encourage everyone to join Women's Network at the annual Take Me Out to the Ballgame at Nationals Park. This year's outing will be to the 1:35 p.m. game on July 12 between the Nationals and the New York Yankees. (See details on [page 2](#).)

Also, on July 12-15, WLCJ is holding its convention at the Hilton in Alexandria, Va. The convention's program will focus on education, leadership development and fundraising. There will be many interesting speakers, including Julia Loeb, as well as presenters from various regions. Our own Bobbi Gorban will be



The Women's Network spearheaded the annual *Mishloach Manot* project on Purim for TI members. (Photo by Shep Roey)

the presenter for the Seaboard Region. At the convention's award ceremony, our Women's Network is a contender for the "Jewels of the Crown" honor, which celebrates WLCJ affiliates for their outstanding accomplishments in education, cultural programming, social action and organizational engagement.

Finally, to recap a few recent events, we were pleased with the level of participation for our *Purim Mishloach Manot* project in March. We again want to thank everyone involved, especially our volunteers and donors, for making this event so successful.



Janice Balin pitched in as the moderator of the March book discussion. (Photo by Bob Balin)

Our March 18 Zoom-based book group discussion of *The Third Daughter* by Talia Carner had 18 participants with an excellent exchange of ideas and opinions. We owe a special thanks to Janice Balin, who filled in as the facilitator when a last-minute change was needed.

Lastly, on April 29, several members of Women's Network were set to volunteer at the Rockville-based organization Nourish Now. This organization is a nonprofit food bank that specializes in food recovery from various sources, including restaurants, groceries and big box stores, sporting venues, caterers and farms. The food donations are distributed directly to children, families, seniors and veterans in need throughout the area. As volunteers, we packed "Family Relief Bags" with non-perishable items, bagged bulk items and performed other tasks.

As the end of our program year is approaching soon, Susan and I as co-presidents want to express our appreciation to our members who have enthusiastically supported our programming. We are appreciative for all that you've done to make our group so successful!



Tamah Graber (left) led Women's Network members through the creation of fused glass projects in her home studio. (Photo by Amy Matathias)

New Shabbat Service Livestreaming in Place

The synagogue has purchased an improved livestreaming program to broadcast religious services.

The new provider, Boxcast, promises to be a reliable way for congregants to participate even if they are unable to attend services in person in the sanctuary. The viewer has been installed on the TI website on the page already being used for livestreaming, so congregants will be able to use the same links to access the live services. You also can view *Shabbat* and holiday services on *Rabbi Israel's YouTube channel* or through the new *Tikvat Israel YouTube channel*.

Executive Director Aaron Chusid thanks congregants for their patience as staff dealt with the technology. "It is exciting to see that streaming has become such an ingrained part of our community, increasing the accessibility of our services and helping reach new people," he said.

Anyone experiencing trouble viewing the livestreamed services should let office staff know.

TEFILLAH LEADERSHIP COHORT

Growing Our Community of Prayer Leaders

BY JASON SCHWARTZ

This spring, our synagogue launched the *Tefillah* Leadership Cohort, a new initiative designed to strengthen and expand our community's capacity for leading prayer.

The cohort brings together a group of congregants—ranging from first-time service leaders to experienced *shlichei tzibbur*—who share a common goal: to deepen their skills, confidence and connection to *tefillah*.

Meeting regularly over the course of the year, participants engage in a structured, supportive learning environment. Each session combines three elements: focused exploration of key leadership skills (such as pacing, presence and musical decision-making), in-depth study of *nusach* for specific services, and opportunities for hands-on practice with constructive feedback. This consistent rhythm allows participants not only to build technical proficiency but also to reflect on the deeper role of the prayer leader in shaping communal experience.

One of the distinguishing features of the cohort is its collaborative nature. Participants learn not only from the facilitator, but also from one another—sharing insights, experimenting with new approaches and developing a shared language around leading prayer. The result is a learning community that continues to grow between sessions, as relationships form and confidence builds.

As the program progresses, participants will take on more visible roles in our services, bringing both new energy and greater intentionality to the *bimah*. The cohort also will broaden the circle of those who feel empowered to lead, enriching our communal prayer life in meaningful and lasting ways.



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EDUCATION AND YOUTH

Religious School Expanding to 5th Grade in Fall

BY RONI SILVERSTEIN, VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH



Netivot

Our *Netivot* religious school program has been bustling this spring. Students have had lessons and explored crafts about *Shabbat*, *Purim* and Passover and the *milah Iverit*, our Hebrew word of the week.

Netivot students had a “field trip” to our sanctuary, where they were able to see firsthand the unscrolled *Torah* and *Megillah*. They even found Hamen’s name in the *Megillah* scroll. *Netivot* also

had a beautiful Passover *seder* led by Rabbi Marc Israel. Parents and grandparents joined our group in prayer, storytelling, song and ritual foods prepared by our students and teachers. Earlier this year, the students decorated *Purim* bags for Jews United for Justice to bring to our legislators.

We are most excited to announce that our *Netivot* Religious School will be expanding by several grade levels, operating kindergarten through 5th grade classes beginning this fall.

Rabbi Israel, Roni Silverstein and the *Netivot* parents met in March to discuss next steps for *Netivot* students. Parents and staff agreed that students K-2 will continue to attend Sunday mornings, and students entering grades 3-5 will meet an additional mid-week early evening (schedules to be determined) to concentrate on Hebrew and prayer studies. Please pass this information along to friends and neighbors who may be interested in registering for Hebrew School.

Registration for all *Netivot* classes, kindergarten through 5th grade, will begin on May 19 through our website. For more



Rabbi Marc Israel led a model seder in advance of Passover for youngsters enrolled in *Netivot*.

information, contact the TI office or Roni Silverstein at Roni.silverstein@gmail.com.

ECC

The ECC Family Network will hold the third of its four Young Family Dinners on May 1, co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Washington.

Early registration for our Broadman-Kaplan Early Childhood Center for the summer session and for the 2026-27 school year began in February. We are confident we will have a full enrollment next year.

Appreciation

Thank you to our TI teens who were a huge help at the *Purim* Puppet Show in March. They organized games, served cotton candy and popcorn, did beautiful face painting, created balloon animals and helped with crafts. Thank you for supporting our special events.

A huge thank you to our wonderful rabbi, Marc Israel, and our amazing *Netivot* teachers Limor Dahan, Celia Skulnik, Pelia Werth and Gale Pressman, who have led our *Netivot* religious school, and our incredible ECC staff and Debbie Ungar, who make all our education programs a success.



Cliff Fishman introduced *Netivot* students to the touch and sight of the Torah scroll, as well as a *Megillah* scroll.

BLOOD DRIVE REGISTRATION

The next blood drive at Tikvat Israel will take place on Monday, June 8, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Note: This is a different date than was first publicized, according to Robbi Cohen, the Tikvat Israel blood drive coordinator.

You can use this link to register for the drive:
bit.ly/TI-bl_drive

ISRAEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Tikvat Israel Views 'No Other Land' With Program Followups

BY SAM GILSTON, CO-CHAIR, ISRAEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



An audience of nearly 50 people watched the 2024 Academy Award-winning documentary "No Other Land" on March 22 in the social hall at Tikvat Israel. Afterward, we heard from a panel led by Rabbi Marc Israel and featuring Adina Vogel-Ayalon, vice president of strategy and programs at J Street, Jenna Fisher of Protective Presence and Arie Dubnov, professor of international studies at George Washington University.

The viewing was sponsored by the congregation's Israel Affairs Committee. The documentary depicted the friendship between the film's directors —Yuval Avraham, an Israeli of Ashkenazi and Mizrahi descent, and Basel Adra, a Palestinian film director, lawyer and journalist — amidst the destruction of a Palestinian community in the West Bank after Israel declared the area a "firing zone."

The film showed the Israeli army's forceful removal of Palestinians from the village and the bulldozing of their homes, a school and playground. Some of those who were driven from their homes moved into nearby caves to live. In addition to the Israeli soldiers, the Palestinians faced violent attacks by Jewish settlers.

The film left a sobering impression on the audience, which found the army's actions disturbing. While many had been upset by previous reporting on Israeli actions on the West Bank, the documentary presented a vivid picture of what is actually happening and how it is causing suffering among the Palestinian people.

During the panel program, Fisher reported on other incidents where the army and settlers attacked another Palestinian village, cut down olive trees and filled in water wells. She noted that the Israeli government has deported or banned American Jewish activists who have tried to help the Palestinians. It is "a desperate situation now," she said.

Dubnov pointed out that current actions against Palestinians on the West Bank are part of a plan that goes back to the 1980s. He said the Jewish settlers have the army on their side. The actions on the West Bank are not fully known by many Israelis, Dubnov suggested. He also said the film was not well-received by some Palestinians who oppose efforts to normalize relations between Israelis and Palestinians.

Vogel-Ayalon spoke about the efforts of some Jewish groups to stop the showing of the film and their criticism of Jews who talk about the dark and painful side of Israel. She cautioned, however,

against drawing generalizations about Israelis and Palestinians. In the meantime, "things are getting worse," she said.

Vogel-Ayalon urged the audience to contact their members of Congress to press them to oppose the demolition of Palestinians' homes on the West Bank.

The Israel Affairs Committee of Tikvat Israel planned to follow up the showing of "No Other Land" with other programs that demonstrate the congregation's continued support for Israel despite current events and to show the country's positive facets. It sponsored a congregation dinner on Friday, April 24, to celebrate *Yom Ha Atzmaut*, Israel Independence Day.

In the fall, our committee plans to hold a program on Start Up Nation, featuring Israel's success and innovation in science, medicine and technology.

An advertisement for Judean Memorial Gardens. The background is a photograph of a large, mature tree with vibrant yellow and orange autumn foliage. In the center, there is a logo for Judean Memorial Gardens, which features a stylized tree inside a blue and white geometric shape. Below the logo, the text "Judean MEMORIAL GARDENS" is written in blue. At the bottom of the advertisement, there is a white sign with black text that reads: "Your expressions of love and respect are forever enhanced by the beauty of Nature and our commitment to quality and care. Call 301-384-1000 for your no-obligation consultation today. Come visit and discover the beauty and convenience of Judean." Below the sign, the address "16225 BACHELORS FOREST RD, OLNEY MD, 20832" and the website "JUDEANGARDENS.COM" are listed.

TIKVAT ISRAEL SEA CHANGE



Exercising Our Responsibility to Preserve Our Democracy: Vote!

BY ANNA LEVY, TI SEA CHANGE CO-CHAIR

When we celebrated *Pesach*, we told the story of our liberation from slavery to freedom. We were reminded that our freedom did not come easily, that none of us can be free if all of us are not free, and that freedoms gained can also be lost.

In doing so, we realize that with freedom comes the responsibility to make sure that everyone can share the freedoms that some, but not all, of us enjoy, and the responsibility to protect and preserve our democracy for those who come after us.

What can we do as individuals? There are multiple ways to secure and preserve our freedoms. We can exercise our freedom to vote to determine who governs our communities and the greater regions where we live.

In Washington, D.C., and Maryland, we will have primary elections in June — only a few weeks from now. Elections help to build our collective efforts to secure freedom for all, and in our local elections, the primary election often determines the ultimate winner.

If you are 18 or over and a U.S. citizen, first be sure you have registered to vote. Check with the [Maryland State Board of Elections \(https://elections.maryland.gov\)](https://elections.maryland.gov). Then be sure that your family and friends and neighbors register. Our vote is our voice, and each vote really does count. A few votes can truly make a difference. The last primary race for Montgomery County executive was decided by 32 votes!

Take advantage of opportunities to hear the candidates, to ask them questions, and to let them know what is important to you for our communities. Be informed and help inform others so everyone knows what is at stake in this election. Then, be sure to cast your ballot, by mail or in person, and remind eligible voters in your community to do the same.

What else can you do? Volunteer at your local election board to ensure voting access; volunteer with your favorite candidate's campaign; donate your time or money to an organization fighting for democracy; practice humility and listening within and across your circles of connection. Together we can overcome the plagues that are keeping us from being truly free.

Immigrant Families Need Our Support

Donate to families identified by MoCo Immigrant Rights Collective who are impacted by detention or deportation.

<https://sites.google.com/view/mocoirc/in%C3%ADcio-home>



Tikvat Baby Supply Drive

Sunday, June 7

Drop off at TI, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Watch *B'Keshar* for more information
DONATE and **VOLUNTEER**

(any questions or to volunteer contact:

yehuditfleit@gmail.com)



Drive-Up! Baby Supply Drive for Immigrant Families

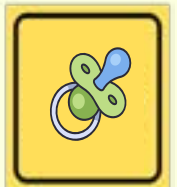


Please come by to deliver donations of new and gently used baby supply items to support our immigrant community. The event will proceed rain or shine. Everything collected will be distributed by the Montgomery County Immigrant Rights Collective.

Date: June, 7, 2026
Time: 9AM to 1PM
Location: Tikvat Israel Synagogue
2200 Baltimore Rd,
Rockville, MD 20851



Acceptable Items for Donation



New and Gently-Used Clean Items:

- Bibs
- Burp Cloths
- Bottles and Nipples
- Bottle Drying Rack
- Bottle Brushes

New items:

- Packages of Diapers (Especially sizes 5, 6, 7, 8, 3T-6T)
- Diaper Rash Cream
- Unscented Baby Wipes
- Pacifiers

Gift Cards:

- Grocery Stores
- Gas
- Uber/Lyft
- Amazon
- Target/Walmart
- Visa/Mastercard

Questions? Interested in volunteering? Please contact Judi Fleitman at yehuditfleit@gmail.com

Why We're Planning for Next Year in May

BY AARON CHUSID, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Every spring, someone looks at the calendar draft in my office and says, "Wait ... why are you working on next year already? We haven't even finished this one!"

It's a fair question.

Our program year doesn't begin until July. We're still deep in the current school year. We're busy getting ready for *Shavuot*, there are committee meetings to attend, and plenty of programs still to come. So why are we already mapping out next year all the way through June 2027?

The short answer is this: Because strong communities don't happen by accident.

Just like our religious calendar, our planning calendar is built on a cycle. Every year in January, we begin building the framework for the following program year so that when July arrives we aren't scrambling to finalize things. We're ready. Committees can reserve dates before the calendar fills up. Major programs avoid stepping on one another. And families — especially those juggling school schedules, busy jobs, afterschool sports and more — can plan ahead with confidence.

In other words, early planning creates calm.

To be sure, as we plan through June 2027, we are not under the illusion that every detail is written in stone. We know schedules change. Guest speakers reschedule. School calendars shift. A snowstorm appears at the worst possible moment. Flexibility is built into our process.

Think of what we're doing now as drawing the outline of next year in pencil. It gives us structure, direction and balance. The details — the color and shading — get filled in as we move closer.

Planning so far ahead also allows us to think strategically rather than reactively. By mapping out a year in advance, we can ensure

that major events are spaced evenly throughout the calendar. We can coordinate capital improvements or major repairs to avoid the busy seasons. We can support strategic changes, committee leadership transitions and educational opportunities, and let our staff take vacations (but only short ones!) without creating unnecessary stress.

There is also a practical side. Planning the calendar is the first step in building our annual operating budget, because we can't know how much cash we need on hand until we know what events are coming up. Beyond that, securing outside speakers or performers often requires booking many months in advance. Building rental agreements, security coordination and vendor contracts all benefit from early scheduling, often in the form of discounted rates. The earlier we plan, the more options we have, and the more cost-effective those options are.

Most importantly, though, planning ahead honors your time. Our congregation is filled with busy families, working professionals, world travelers and volunteers who generously give their energy. When we publish dates early, you can make informed decisions about your own schedules.

Of course, if experience has taught us anything, it's that something unexpected always will happen. That's the only sure part of synagogue life. But when our foundation is strong, it's much easier to make minor adjustments.

So yes, while we're still enjoying this program year, the draft calendar for next year already is taking shape. It may seem early. It may even seem ambitious. But it's one of the quiet ways we ensure our synagogue remains organized, thoughtful and prepared.

And if by June something changes? Don't worry. We've already purchased a crate of Wite-Out.

It is truly a privilege to help build the framework every year that allows TI to flourish. Not just for this year but into our future as well.

Mazel Tov

... to **Sue and Jay Plafker** on the engagement of their daughter Rachel Plafker to Alex Epner.

... to **Roni and Bob Silverstein** on the *bat mitzvah* of their granddaughter, Yael Jontof-Hutter, in Pleasanton, Calif.

... to **Molly and Stuart Turkewitz** on the birth of granddaughter Eleonora Grace Ortiz-Turkewitz, born to their daughter Julie and her husband Simon, and on the birth of granddaughter Olive Liora Turkewitz, born to their son Noah and his wife Lindsey.

... to **Debbie and Michel Amster**, on the 2026 WAMMIE Award given to their son Harris Amster and his band "Burt the Dirt" for best country/Americana album.

Congregational Condolences

Tikvat Israel Congregation shares its condolences with member families who experienced the following deaths in mid-February through early April.

... to **Edna Breit**, on the death of her mother Ziona Tuchler, on April 3, 2026 (16 *Nisan*, 5786)

... to **Fortuna Scheige**, on the death of her sister Linda Rachel Gorelick Topel, on March 27, 2026 (10 *Nisan* 5786)

... to friend of the congregation **Rabbi Uri Topolosky**, on the death of his brother Elik Topolosky, on March 12, 2026 (23 *Adar* 5786)

... to **Sherman Eisner**, on the death of his brother Averell Eisner, on Feb. 20, 2026 (3 *Adar* 5786)

... to **Nancy Matheson**, on the death of her father Morris Kubitz, on Feb. 17, 2026 (30 *Sh'vat* 5786)

This Article Was Written by AI

BY AARON CHUSID, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Aaron Chusid

Yes, really. This article was drafted with the assistance of artificial intelligence.

(Note from Aaron: It is true that AI entirely wrote this article based on my prompts and feedback. To ensure quality and accuracy, I checked the facts and included notes as needed.)

Before anyone adjusts their reading glasses in alarm, let me reassure you: No robots have joined the synagogue board, no algorithms are leading services, and no sermon will ever be delivered by a chatbot. *(Note: Rabbi Israel notably delivered a well-received sermon written by AI a year back, but to my knowledge, it was still presented by a human.)* What AI is doing—and will increasingly do—is assist us behind the scenes in the administrative and communication work that keeps our synagogue strong.

In February, I attended a national conference for synagogue professionals. A clear theme emerged across sessions and vendor booths alike: Artificial intelligence is rapidly being integrated into the tools synagogues already use. Most of the companies serving our community, including ShulCloud, are actively building AI features into their platforms. These tools promise to help draft communications, analyze membership trends, streamline data entry, and support more responsive engagement with congregants.

Beyond What's in Hand

The important word here is “integrated.” We are not talking about replacing our systems or our staff. We are talking about enhancements to the systems we already rely on.

In fact, AI is already present in many of the tools we use every day. When you join a meeting on Zoom and see automatic captions appear at the bottom of the screen, that is AI. When you search on Google and receive a summarized answer at the top of the results page, that is AI. When you draft a document in Microsoft Word and the grammar checker suggests a clearer sentence structure, that is AI. *(Note: For some reason it decided to include a plug for a software company here. I have removed it.)*

So what does this mean specifically for Tikvat Israel?

It means we can better live our mission: to engage, embrace, inspire and empower.

Engage. AI can help us communicate more consistently and personally. For example, when a new family joins Tikvat Israel, the welcome process involves multiple steps: confirmation emails, clergy introductions, committee outreach, preschool or religious school connections, and invitations to upcoming programs. AI tools integrated into our membership system can automate portions of that sequence, ensuring no one falls through the cracks, and that each family receives timely, tailored communication. That allows our staff and lay leaders to focus less on tracking spreadsheets and more on making genuine personal connections.

Embrace. Caring for one another requires attention to detail. Our congregation maintains records of *yahrzeit* dates, life cycle events and family relationships. AI-assisted data tools can help identify inconsistencies, flag missing information, and make it easier for members to review and confirm their family's *yahrzeit* listings. Rather than discovering an error at an emotional moment, we can proactively ensure accuracy. That is not about efficiency for its own sake. It is about *kavod*—honoring memory and honoring one another.

Inspire. Clear communication inspires participation. AI can assist in drafting program descriptions, summarizing board discussions for the newsletter, or generating clearer explanations of complex initiatives. Instead of spending hours polishing first drafts, staff can refine and personalize content more quickly. The result is more transparent communication about our vision, our programs and our impact.

Empower. With a limited staff and the need for responsible budget management, every hour matters. If AI can help prepare routine correspondence, organize volunteer lists or analyze participation trends, it gives our professional team and volunteer leaders more capacity to develop meaningful programming, support our preschool families, and respond thoughtfully during moments of crisis. Empowerment, in this sense, means freeing human energy for human work.

It also is important to name the reality plainly: AI systems are powerful, but they are not infallible. There may be occasions when a communication contains an error because a draft was generated quickly and not fully proofread by a human. That risk exists. Our commitment will be to maintain human oversight and correct mistakes promptly. The tradeoff is that we will be able to accomplish significantly more with the same dedicated team and the same careful stewardship of resources.

An Evolving Picture

For many long-time members of Tikvat Israel, this may feel like another chapter in a long story of change. You remember when RSVP meant calling the synagogue office during limited hours and hoping someone picked up. You remember hand-addressed High Holy Day tickets, and bulletin boards covered with overlapping flyers secured by an impressive number of thumb tacks. Some of you may even remember when “cloud storage” referred only to the weather forecast. *(Note: I told it to include a joke. That was AI's attempt.)* Each transition required adaptation. Each time, we adopted new tools while preserving our core values.

Artificial intelligence is simply the next tool. It is not a substitute for relationships, clergy judgment, or lay leadership. It will not decide who we are. It will help us do our work more effectively.

And artificial intelligence is not going away. It will become increasingly embedded in the software ecosystems that power nonprofit and synagogue operations. The question is not whether we will encounter it, but how we will use it.

Our commitment is simple: we will use these tools deliberately, ethically, and in alignment with our Jewish values. We will maintain human oversight. We will prioritize accuracy and dignity. And we will remember that technology serves community—not the other way around.

(Note: It is important to remember that there are serious concerns we must consider as AI tools continue to expand. Most notably for TI, the security of our data and the impact of AI on the environment. I will work with our board to make sure that our use of AI—as with other software and computer technology—is in line with our congregation's values.)

If this article feels clear, organized and perhaps even a bit thoughtful, take comfort in knowing that AI helped draft it—but human judgment shaped it.

As we learn to use these tools wisely, our synagogue will not become less personal. It will become stronger, more responsive and better equipped to thrive for the next generation.

BROADMAN-KAPLAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER Holiday Activities Consume ECC's Schedule

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



The ECC is full of excitement celebrating Jewish holidays. In anticipation of *Purim*, we had several theme days such as pajama day, favorite color day and crazy hair and hat day. The final dress-up day was on *Purim*, the celebration culminating with a costume parade and carnival.

Families brought different foods appropriate for each of the theme days, for donation to Manna Food. The Pre-K in their JSTEM class sorted all of the foods into the different categories, graphed their results and counted all of the items. The ECC collected 176 cans of vegetables, fruit, pasta, sauce and breakfast items. A special thank you to Dan Matathias for delivering all of the food to Manna.

To prepare for Passover, the children learned songs in music class with Ms. Ellie. The classes also made Passover projects and ritual items to use at their *seder*. The entire school came together for a model *seder*. The Pre-K class acted out the story in costume, and then Rabbi Israel led us in the prayers. Everyone enjoyed the *seder* foods, especially the macaroons.

Registration for the summer session and the 2026-27 school year is underway. Please contact the ECC office at 301-251-0455 or by emailing me at debbie@tikvatisrael.org if you would like more information or to schedule a tour.



Children in the ECC's Pre-K class acted out the story of Passover in the social hall.

BULLETIN'S PRINT OPTION

Since the *Tikvat Israel Bulletin* moved from print to digital-only last fall, the synagogue office has been willing to mail congregants a photocopied version of the *Bulletin* within a few days of each new issue being made available. Once you learn via the listserv or *B'kesher* that a new issue has been produced, you may contact the office staff to request a copy.

Help Flax Library Fulfill Its Wish List of Titles!

BY JANICE ROSENBERG, LIBRARY COMMITTEE CHAIR



Books available to borrow in TI's Flax Library (Photo by Janice Rosenberg)

Looking for an easy way to support the Flax Library? Buying one or more of the following books on our wish list is a small gesture that can make a big difference. Each book would go a long way toward updating and refreshing our collection for the entire TI community to enjoy.

Hotel Cuba, Aaron Hamburger.

Explores the courage of two sisters displaced from their home who strive to create a new life in Havana, Cuba.

Inheritance, Dani Shapiro.

Depicts a staggering family secret uncovered by a genealogy test.

The Light of Days, Judy Batalion.

Showcases the extraordinary accomplishments of brave Jewish women who became resistance fighters.

The Little Liar, Mitch Albom.

Recounts a gripping family saga about truth and lies set during the Holocaust.

The Nightingale, Kristin Hannah.

Tells the stories of two sisters, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France.

The Only Woman in the Room, Marie Benedict.

Portrays the incredible true story of Hedy Lamarr, an actress and scientist whose groundbreaking invention revolutionized modern communication.

People Love Dead Jews, Dara Horn.

Examines the reasons why there is so much fascination with Jewish deaths, and so little respect for Jewish lives unfolding in the present.

The Postcard, Anne Berest.

Illustrates twentieth-century Parisian life, while also investigating family secrets, and a Jewish family devastated by the Holocaust.

Shanda by Letty Cottin Pogrebin.

Tells the story of three generations of twentieth-century Jews for whom the desire to fit in and the fear of public humiliation either drove their aspirations or crushed their spirit.

As a reminder, the library accepts donations in good condition published since the year 2000, as well as Jewish classics or books of historical significance. Leave donated items in the library. Be sure to include a slip with your name and contact information.



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www.northernvirginiajewishfunerals.com

Tikvat Israel Remembers With Respect Those Whose Yahrzeits Occur From from 14 Iyyar - 15 Sivan— May 2026

MAY 1

14 IYYAR

Bertha Feinberg Abramson
Bertha Apt
Edith Pressman
Liba Scheige
Dorit Schwartz
Bernard Yudkoff

MAY 2

15 IYYAR

Joseph Axelrod
Sandra Baruch
Shirley Bogage
Michael Chusid
Belle B. Cooper
Irving Goldman
Hugh Hochberg
Sidney Kramer
Myrna Matheson

MAY 3

16 IYYAR

Leonard Bachman
Sadie Bauman
Philip Danoff
Hannah Herscovitz
Lillian Horowitz
Joan Kaiser
Robert Lerner
Margaret Levine
Louis Saltzman

MAY 4

17 IYYAR

Janet Rutstein Barsky
Rae Danoff
Harry Eisler
Paul Grayson
Claire W. Grossmann
Anna Knopp
Rebecca Podgor
Eli Rubinstein
Nathan Saltzburg

MAY 5

18 IYYAR

Louis Grossman
Samuel Nathan Kaplan
Reba Leavitt
Alexander Levine
Andrew A. Levinrad
Irene Miller
Martin Miller
William Shapiro

MAY 6

19 IYYAR

Morris Gisser
Ethel Fox Gold
Bernard Grob
Bertha Luchs
Helen Zitter

MAY 7

20 IYYAR

Sheldon David Abrams
William Fessler
Adolph Fullenbaum
Frank Gantz
Robert Goldberg
Harriett V. Goldstein
Ida Kirschbaum
Micah Krichevsky
Thelma Shapiro
Philip Solowey

MAY 8

21 IYYAR

William Berk
David Bloom
Dorothy Krugman Engel
Richard Futrovsky
Melvin Goldstein
Mindl Mina Lustig
Sam Weiser

MAY 9

22 IYYAR

Lee Buchbinder
Gladys Pearlstein
Frieda Sneiderman

MAY 10

23 IYYAR

Dorothy Adelman
Jennie Fischer
Solomon Koricki
David Rubin
Sarah Shukotoff
Anne Slonin

MAY 11

24 IYYAR

Mina Blumberg Sweet
Lillian Boker
Evelyn Cutler Hersh
Robin Freedman
Ruth Grayson
Elizabeth Levin
Bernice Elvin Meiselman
Helen Raucher
Rose Seligman

MAY 12

25 IYYAR

Abraham Plesset

MAY 13

26 IYYAR

Frank Goldstein
William Hoffman
Herbert Saul Rubinstein
Abraham Schwartz
Alex Weiss

MAY 14

27 IYYAR

Maier Auerhahn
William R. Horowitz
Bella Kensky
Betty Lewis
Hersch Herman Lustig
Ida Plesset
Helen VanAalten
Rosenfeld

MAY 15

28 IYYAR

Phillip Brenner
Sylvia Grob
Eva Gross
Madeline Goldstein Haft
Hilde Joseph
Fred Rosenberg
Elaine Beth Silverman

MAY 16

29 IYYAR

Nissim Armoza
Esther Bernstein
Betty Braunstein
Elaine "Elly" Feder Alford
Simon Gottesman
Bernard Horowitz
Morton Pearlman
Marcy Yanoff

MAY 17

1 SIVAN

Miriam Ashery David
Jean Becker
Esther Leah Bernstein
Celia Braunstein
Lillie Brodofsky
Ruth Einbinder
Stanley Katz
Isaac Krick
Otilia Levi
Minnie Levine
Paul Spector
Pearl Teitelbaum

MAY 18

2 SIVAN

Rose E. Diamond
Yvette Weiss
Dora Witt

MAY 19

3 SIVAN

Toby Gorschman
Bertha Koricki
Jack Lebowitz
Samuel Miller
Marian Sheskin

MAY 20

4 SIVAN

Anna Battino
Philip Katz
Laurence Lerner
Jonathan Pollack
Beatrice Sandler

MAY 21

5 SIVAN

Esther Goldberg
Samuel Negrine
Anne Dena Rosenberg
Goldie Simon
Claire Weiser

MAY 22

6 SIVAN

Rachel Adisy Suson
Leon Benham
Paulette Buchbinder
Anna Deckelbaum
Joseph Greenfield
Albert Sirmai

MAY 23

7 SIVAN

Celia Arcus
Irving Baroff
Rosamond Count
Selma Danovitz
Lillian Friedman
Minnie H. Goldberg
Albert Helzner
Benjamin Sidney Miller
Joseph L. Rein
Nathan Weiner

MAY 24

8 SIVAN

Jacob Isaac Bass
David Edward Haft
Jacob Kirschbaum
Dave Lieberman

MAY 25

9 SIVAN

Wolf Benzion
Miriam Caplan
Rose Sigel Hallen
Gertrude Iskow
Sara Itzhaki Kaplan
Jennie Migdal
Tom Multz

MAY 26

10 SIVAN

Mattatia Battino
Jerome Finster
Anna Goldman
Philip Hershenhorn
Elizabeth Kensky
Gertrude Molodow
Leon Rosenberg
Esther Steinberg
Bertha Sunshine
Minna Williamowsky

MAY 27

11 SIVAN

Dorothy Berar
Sophie Binder
Mary Jeweler
Isadore E. Kahn
Julius Oppenheim
Adele Rein
Steven Ritch
Sol Schwartz
Dorothy J. Stanshine
Michael Tuchler
Frank Weiser
Ada Young

MAY 28

12 SIVAN

Frances Fierman
Florence Landy
Maurice Schottenfeld
Phyllis Ann Stathopoulos

MAY 29

13 SIVAN

Edith Eisenberg
Leslie Arthur Pike
Phyme Pitkin
Barbara Reiner

MAY 30

14 SIVAN

Rivkah Faierstein
Sander Goldberg
Ruth Katz
Dora Lang
Sarah Oken
Fannie Schaechter
Morris Stolzenberg

MAY 31

15 SIVAN

Harry Fierman
Sidney Harris
Sadie Klein
Florence Askow Loeb



Tikvat Israel Remembers With Respect Those Whose *Yahrzeits* Occur From from 16 *Sivan* - 15 *Tammuz* — June 2026

JUNE 1

16 SIVAN

Joshua Laken
Arthur Robert Landy
Eva B. Rochkind
David Joseph
Williamowsky

JUNE 2

17 SIVAN

Pearl P. Gantz
Ricki Jane Nachamkin
Morris Rosenblum

JUNE 3

18 SIVAN

Sol E. Cohen
Isaac Engelstein
Lewis Greenwood
Louis Jacob
Joan Riegel
Esther Taubman

JUNE 4

19 SIVAN

Jacob Caplon
Ellen Ehrlich
Linda Raye Ehrlich
Anna Friedman
Susan Grunewald
Diane Kammerman
Marion Sully
Masey Volk
Margaret Sirmai
Weinstein

JUNE 5

20 SIVAN

Arnold Litman
Rachel Leah Mandelblatt
Ethel Rothman

JUNE 6

21 SIVAN

Evelyn Benham
Hyman Cohen
Lillian Dorfman
Shirley Rosen Drucker
Gertrude Krick
Edwin Rosenblatt
Jerome Joseph Simon
Irvin White
Michael Yanoff

JUNE 7

22 SIVAN

Terry Cooper
Jack Israel
Rae Kessler
Halpern
Aaron David Kott
Beatrice Krantz
Milton Krauser
Jacob Kristal
Audrey Lankin
Robert Lerner
Muriel Lillian Schaffman
Sylvia Schottenfeld
Marvin Sohn
Renee Rosenblum Thaler

JUNE 8

23 SIVAN

Gustave Jacob Benzion
Gelu S. Greenbaum
David Harris
Freda Prince
Feiga Smolar

JUNE 9

24 SIVAN

Mollie Karlin
S. Barbara Katz
Evelyn R. Marquis
Philip Salon
Molly Silverstein

JUNE 10

25 SIVAN

Pearl Ackerman
William Berger
Ben Finkelstein
Sylvia Freedman
Lena Hockstein
Louis Kahn
Esther Silbert

JUNE 11

26 SIVAN

Betty Hirshon
Chava Krugman
Yitzhak Levy
Frederick J. Malkin
Ida Newman
Marian Schwartz
Rachel Sher

JUNE 12

27 SIVAN

Rose Abramson
Sophie Brenner
Milton Chorvinsky
Etta Krick
Samuel Pasternak
Selma Phillips
Joseph M. Rochkind
Charles D. Stoll

JUNE 13

28 SIVAN

Abraham Abramowitz
Nathan Adelman
Isadore Danovitz
Annette Hershenhorn
Jack Klass
Arnold Michael Kramer
Joseph Sandler
Maynard Ugol
Sarah Yudkoff

JUNE 14

29 SIVAN

Bert Gross
Ronald E. Kirschner
William A. Morrison
Rose Weinstein

JUNE 15

30 SIVAN

Lottie Finkelstein
Kenneth Goldin
Sidney Goodman
Celia Kaiser
Max Lacoretz
Renee Lustig
Edythe Miller
Solomon Shapiro
Charlotte R. Teller

JUNE 16

1 TAMMUZ

Jeannette Pearl Golden
Esther Leise
Sadie Rosenthal
Betty Senzer
Samuel Tranen

JUNE 17

2 TAMMUZ

Clara Benzion
Deborah Ingel Comstock
Louis Fishman
Ben Friedman
Grace Goldberg
Rose Harad
Seymour Kaiz
Emmy F. Keusch
Reuben Kramer
Mollie Pelish
Frances Shapiro
Helene Sugarman
Stuart Volin

JUNE 18

3 TAMMUZ

Jeanette Benzion
Clayre Blavett
Irving Edelman
Ellis Hyman
Rosalyn Licht
Marion L. Pike
Gussie Prince
Samuel Paul Puner
Ira L. Schiffman
Anne Burdett
Shapiro
Barbara Shulman

JUNE 19

4 TAMMUZ

Maurice Mainen
Harry Plesset
Arnold J. Rosenberg

JUNE 20

5 TAMMUZ

Siegfried Ermann
Bernard Finstein
Shelly Goldin
Norris Halpern
Maurice Hockstein
Frieda Mendelson
Sarah Weiser

JUNE 21

6 TAMMUZ

Harry Belson
Ruth K. Davis
Marvin
Hammerman

JUNE 22

7 TAMMUZ

Yetta Oppenheim
Murray Susswein
Minnie Waxman

JUNE 23

8 TAMMUZ

Dora Amchin
Esther Goldberg
Vicki Isler
Evelyn Lidoff
Ludwig Regensteiner
Sidney Starr

JUNE 24

9 TAMMUZ

Esther Danoff
Annie M. Ehrlich
Rubin Harris
Judith A. Kessler
Martha Sills
Sidney Wilchins

JUNE 25

10 TAMMUZ

Mark Chorvinsky
Ben Zion Cooper
Edith Kott
Zev Lidert
Michael Menzer
Marcus W. Rose

JUNE 26

11 TAMMUZ

Margot Casper
Beatrice Davis
Philip Fabel
Benjamin Reinhardt
Matthew Soldano
Rudolph Volin

JUNE 27

12 TAMMUZ

Lewis Altman
George H. Cohen
Rubin Cohen
Ann Fullenbaum
Jeanne Hanig
Norman Keleti
Sadie Perlman
Henry Schechter
Israel Schechter
Leonard Stein

JUNE 28

13 TAMMUZ

Irving Binder
Thelma Gorin
Israel Klig
Irwin Krick
Harold A. Saltzman
Harold Silverstein

JUNE 29

14 TAMMUZ

Etta D. Kessler
Harry Levin
Thelma Sbar
Rose Schwartz
Solomon Senzer
David Sommer
Solomon Stutz

JUNE 30


15 TAMMUZ

Barnett Bauman
Rebecca Bogage
Sarah Chernoff
Harold Gorin
Mary Hershbaum
Gaston Lellouche
Simon Mensh
Edward Milenky
Barbara Nena Rosenberg




May 2026

Iyyar - Sivan 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	All events subject to change. Please read B'Keshet for the latest status.					1 14 Iyyar Pesach Sheni 8:00 A Minyan 5:00 P Young Family Dinner 7:43 P Candlelighting 6:00 P Kabbalat Shabbat	2 15 Iyyar 9:30 A Prelim 9:45 A Shabbat Services (Emor) Shelly Goldin Annual WN Shabbat 8:44 P Havdalah
3 16 Iyyar 9:00 A Minyan 11:00 A Concert Committee 7:30 P Minyan	4 17 Iyyar 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	5 18 Iyyar Lag B'Omer 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Tuesday Study - KP 7:30 P Minyan	6 19 Iyyar 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	7 20 Iyyar 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	8 21 Iyyar 8:00 A Minyan 7:50 P Candlelighting 6:00 P Kabbalat Shabbat	9 22 Iyyar 9:30 A Prelim 9:45 A Shabbat Services (Behar-Bechukotai) 11:15 A Auntie A 8:51 P Havdalah	
10 23 Iyyar 9:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	11 24 Iyyar 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	12 25 Iyyar 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Tuesday Study - TI 7:30 P Minyan	13 26 Iyyar 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	14 27 Iyyar 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	15 28 Iyyar Yom Yerushalayim 8:00 A Minyan 7:56 P Candlelighting 6:00 P Kabbalat Shabbat	16 29 Iyyar 9:30 A Prelim 9:45 A Shabbat Services (Bamidbar) 8:58 P Havdalah	
17 1 Sivan Rosh Chodesh 9:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Hagbah Workshop 4:30 P Well Circle 7:30 P Minyan	18 2 Sivan 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	19 3 Sivan 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Tuesday Study - KP 7:30 P Minyan	20 4 Sivan 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	21 5 Sivan 7:15 A Minyan 5:00 P Shavuot Picnic 7:30 P Minyan 8:02 P Candlelighting 7:45 P Rabbi's Study Session 9:00 P Maariv 9:30 P Tikun Leyl Shavuot	22 6 Sivan Shavuot ECC/Office Closed 9:45 A Shavuot 8:02 P Candlelighting 6:00 P Kabbalat Shabbat	23 7 Sivan Shavuot 9:30 A Prelim 9:30 A Shavuot w/ Yizkor 9:04 P Havdalah	
24 8 Sivan 9:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	25 Memorial Day 9 Sivan ECC/Office Closed 9:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	26 10 Sivan 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Tuesday Study - TI 7:30 P Minyan	27 11 Sivan 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	28 12 Sivan 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	29 13 Sivan 8:00 A Minyan 8:08 P Candlelighting 6:00 P Kabbalat Shabbat	30 14 Sivan 9:30 A Prelim 9:45 A Shabbat Services (Nasso) 9:09 P Havdalah	
31 15 Sivan 9:00 A Minyan 10:00 A WN Book Group 1P & 4 P Six13 Concert 7:30 P Minyan							

June 2026

Sivan - Tammuz 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 16 Sivan 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	2 17 Sivan 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Tuesday Study - KP 7:30 P Minyan	3 18 Sivan 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	4 19 Sivan 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	5 20 Sivan 8:00 A Minyan 5:00 P EFN Young Families Shabbat 8:13 P Candlelighting 6:30 P Kabbalat Shabbat	6 21 Sivan 9:30 A Prelim 9:45 A Shabbat Services (Beha'alotcha) 9:14 P Havdalah
7 22 Sivan 9:00 A Minyan 9 A - 1 P Diaper Drive 9:30 A Coffee & Community 7:30 P Minyan	8 23 Sivan 7:15 A Minyan 10 A - 3:30 P Blood Drive 7:30 P Minyan	9 24 Sivan 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Tuesday Study - TI 7:30 P Minyan	10 25 Sivan 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	11 26 Sivan 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	12 27 Sivan 8:00 A Minyan 6:00 P KS with Instruments 8:16 P Candlelighting	13 28 Sivan 9:30 A Prelim 9:45 A Shabbat Services (Sh'lach) 11:15 A Auntie A 9:17 P Havdalah
14 29 Sivan 9:00 A Minyan 4:30 P Well Circle 7:30 P Minyan	15 30 Sivan Rosh Chodesh 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	16 1 Tammuz Rosh Chodesh 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Tuesday Study - KP 7:30 P Minyan	17 2 Tammuz 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	18 3 Tammuz 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	19 4 Tammuz 8:00 A Minyan 8:19 P Candlelighting 6:30 P Kabbalat Shabbat	20 5 Tammuz 9:30 A Prelim 9:45 A Shabbat Services (Korach) 9:20 P Havdalah
21 6 Tammuz 9:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	22 7 Tammuz 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	23 8 Tammuz 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Tuesday Study - TI 7:30 P Minyan	24 9 Tammuz 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	25 10 Tammuz 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	26 11 Tammuz 8:00 A Minyan 8:20 P Candlelighting 6:30 P Kabbalat Shabbat	27 12 Tammuz 9:30 A Prelim 9:45 A Shabbat Services (Chukat-Balak) 9:21 P Havdalah
28 13 Tammuz 9:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Congregation Meeting 7:30 P Minyan	29 14 Tammuz 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	30 15 Tammuz 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Tuesday Study - KP 7:30 P Minyan	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 February and March. 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.

Yahrzeit Donations

In memory of:

Harry Balin by Robert and Janice Balin
Charles Benesch by Nancy Goldberg and Bryan Benesch
Marcelle Copaken by Moira and Leon Green
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Joseph Gordon by Susan and Jay Plafker
David Meyer Green by Moira and Leon Green
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Alice Katz by Madeline and Jose Guzman
Dora Kishner by Elaine Krichevsky
Irwin Olin by Brenda Brooks
Michael Sanders by Amy Sanders
Reuven Shacham by Ziva and Gerald Schuchman
Philip Wilchins by Sue and Howard Wilchins
Selma Winson by Barbara Zweig
Gloria Wishengrad by Susan and Jay Plafker

Bereavement Committee

In memory of Hannah Barrack by Marilyn and Michael Greenwood
In memory of Averell Eisner by Naomi and Harvey Kaplan
In memory of Esther Engelstein by Marilyn and Michael Greenwood

General Fund

In honor of Irv Cohen by Leah Weisman
In honor of Irv Cohen's 85th birthday by Andrea Kirsch
In honor of Jim Perlmutter's special birthday by Robert and Janice Balin
In honor of the bar mitzvah of Larry and Bobbi Gorban's grandson, Isaac, by Robert and Janice Balin

General Fund (continued)

In memory of Lorraine Cowan by Moira and Leon Green
In memory of Averell Eisner, brother of Sherman Eisner, by Robert and Janice Balin
In memory of Edna Eisner by Ellen and Sherman Eisner
In memory of Bettie Hallen, sister of Linc Hallen, by Moira and Leon Green
In memory of Morris Kubitz by Daniel Bachman and Debby Berlyne
In memory of Morris Kubitz by Brenda and Keith Brooks
In memory of Morris Kubitz by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon
In memory of Nina Olin, mother of Brenda Brooks, by Elyse and Jeff Bernstein
In memory of Jerry Perlmutter, brother of Jimmy Perlmutter, by Robert and Janice Balin
In memory of Jerry Perlmutter by Moira and Leon Green
In memory of Sophie Schwartz by Judith and Paul Schwartz
In memory of Linda Rachel Gorelick Topel by Daniel Bachman and Debby Berlyne
Mazel tov to Ted and Roz Kram on Ted's 90th birthday and their anniversary by Moira and Leon Green
Mazel Tov to Martie Adelman and Marc Schneider, on the engagement of Molly Schneider to Robert Ost, by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon

Kiddush Fund

In honor of Neil Sbar by Sue and Howard Wilchins
In memory of Morris Kubitz by Susannah Challis and Richard Nisenson

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In honor of Irv Cohen's birthday celebration by Anita Kaplan
In honor of Abbey Frank, for receiving the 2026 Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School Alumni Leadership Award, by Sue and Howard Wilchins
In memory of Averell Eisner by Sara Harris
In memory of Salome Gardsbane by Diane Gardsbane and Paul Sully
In memory of Morris Kubitz by Sara Harris
In memory of Nina Olin, mother of Brenda Brooks, by Dale Weiss
In memory of Harry Weinstein by Sandra and Larry Levine

Shelly Goldin Memorial Fund

Mazel tov to Sue and Jay Plafker on their daughter Rachel's engagement by Bruce Goldin
In memory of Pearl Gottesman by Bruce Goldin

Tzedakah Fund

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In memory of Sylvia Levine by Sandra and Larry Levine
In memory of Morris Kubitz by Amy and Daniel Matathias
In memory of Nina Olin, mother of Brenda Brooks, by Roberta and Larry Cohen

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by Marilyn and Michael Greenwood
by Paula and Marvin Kasper
In honor of Women's Network and Men's Club by Moira and Leon Green
In memory of Nina Olin, mother of Brenda Brooks, by Sandra and Larry Levine
In memory of Nina Olin, mother of Brenda Brooks, by Ziva and Gerald Schuchman
In memory of Dudley Schwartz by Allison Schwartz



Outreach Appreciated

I want to acknowledge the support provided by the Tikvat Israel community after my father, Morris Kubitz's, death. Thanks to TI for providing dessert during our *shiva minyan* at *shul* and to everyone who offered their condolences, sent cards, and made donations. The outreach was truly appreciated.

Nancy Matheson

Tefillah Leadership Cohort

So great to hear of this amazing project that Jason Schwartz is leading. Wish I could participate but life has become much more difficult lately. I just want to indicate my gratitude and appreciation for his inspiring initiative.

Jim Perlmutter

A Cordial Contact

Susan Davis, who works in our office at Tikvat Israel, is always cordial and easy to talk with—both in person and on the phone.

Mimi Meltzer

Advertising Sales

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.

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THE DATE**



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CONCERT**

**CONCERTS TO SUPPORT TIKVAT ISRAEL'S PROGRAMS
TO SUSTAIN AND ENHANCE JEWISH EDUCATION**



**MAY 31, 2026
PURCHASE
TICKETS NOW!**



**Children's Concert at 1:00 pm.
Community Concert at 4:00 pm.**

Richard Montgomery High School Auditorium, Rockville, MD.
Purchase tickets at: tikvatisrael.ludus.com or use the QR Code, above.

**Sponsorship Opportunities Available
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