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Tikvat Israel BULLETIN

RABBI'S CORNER

The Sound of Silence

BY RABBI MARC D. ISRAEL

One of my earlier memories was a car trip with my grandparents, who were driving my brother, sister and me from our home in Southfield, Michigan, to spend time with them in Cleveland, Ohio. I was about 5 years old and have two distinct memories from that trip: First, in order to prevent us from fighting in the back seat, I sat in the middle of the front seat between my grandparents. (I don't remember clearly, but I suspect there was no seatbelt.) The second memory was my grandpa offering me a quarter if I could stop talking for 15 minutes. I know I tried, but I'm pretty sure I did not earn that quarter.

I'm guessing this is not a surprise to most people who read this. Every personality test I have taken confirms that I am an extreme extrovert. My energy comes from being around other people. Like most personality traits, it has both positive and negative features. As a rabbi, it serves me well – I enjoy *schmoozing* and collaborating with others. And it also means that sitting by myself doesn't come easily, as my grandparents learned, nor does being quiet.

So it may be a surprise for you to learn that I am using a portion of my Sabbatical to participate in a 4-day silent retreat with the Institute of Jewish Spirituality (IJS). Honestly, I am a bit surprised also, or more accurately, quite nervous. I've engaged in meditation previously and always found it meaningful, but never for more than an hour at a time. Four days is a long time not to speak to people, especially when gathered as a group of like-minded individuals. Technically, it's a nearly silent retreat: the facilitators will speak and there is one hour each day when participants can speak and process with one of them. I don't think this retreat will be easy for me, and I'm not sure it will be fun. But I have had a growing feeling over the last few years that it is something that I need.

For most of the seven years that I have served at Tikvat Israel, our society has seemed to be in crises of biblical proportions, or at least unlike anything I experienced previously in my

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A Welcome to the Many

About a dozen families have joined Tikvat Israel as members in recent months, and we want to help our congregants match names with faces of our newcomers. To do so, turn to pages **4-5**, where you'll learn about many of our newbies, including what motivated each of them to choose membership in our congregation.

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.**	
Kabbalat Shabbat		**6:00 p.m.**
Shabbat	**9:45 a.m.**	
Sunday	**9:00 a.m.**	**7:30 p.m.**

All services are both online and in person.

CANDLE LIGHTING & *HAVDALAH* TIMES

Shabbat & Holiday Date	Candle Lighting	*Havdalah*
11/6-7	4:44 PM	5:43 PM
11/13-14	4:37 PM	5:37 PM
11/20-21	4:32 PM	5:32 PM
11/27-28	4:29 PM	5:29 PM
12/4 *	4:27 PM	
(light before *Shabbat* candles)		
12/4-5	4:27 PM	5:28 PM
12/5 *	5:28 PM	
(light after *Havdalah*)		
12/6 *	5:08 PM	
12/7 *	5:08 PM	
12/8 *	5:08 PM	
12/9 *	5:08 PM	
12/10 *	5:08 PM	
12/11 *	4:28 PM	
(light before *Shabbat* candles)		
12/11-12	4:28 PM	5:28 PM
12/18-19	4:29 PM	5:30 PM
12/25-26	4:33 PM	5:34 PM

* *Chanukkah* Candle Lighting Time

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Synagogue Elections on the Horizon

Members of Tikvat Israel will have the chance to elect new leadership for the next two years at a congregational meeting at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 31, in the social hall.

All eight officer positions will be on the ballot, including the presidency, four vice presidencies (including the newly added post of vice president for religious affairs), treasurer, financial secretary and recording secretary. In addition, six board positions must be filled.

Those who are elected or reelected will begin their two-year terms on July 1.

If you'd like to be considered for one of the elected posts, contact Warren Berger at *warren.berger@gmail.com*. As immediate past president, he serves as chair of the nominating committee.

RABBI'S MESSAGE, continued from page 1

rabbinate: the global pandemic, the January 6 assault on the Capitol, October 7, inflation, war with Iran, ICE targeting immigrants, growing antisemitism … and the list goes on and on.

The organizers of the retreat note that "When the seas of our lives are especially chaotic, it can be healthy to take temporary refuge in a sheltered place." This rings true for me at this moment. Chaos often challenges our ability to act, and I am proud that Tikvat Israel has fought against that urge. If anything, we have leaned into the chaos, especially through the work of our SEA Change Committee and our Israel Affairs Committee. We've had speakers and programs that challenge us and inform us. We have found ways to do our small part to take care of our neighbors. We have built interfaith programming with local churches to celebrate all the best that America has been for the past 250 years.

Honestly, most of the time, this work energizes me. But it is also exhausting, both mentally and physically. The goal of the 4 days of silence is not to become a monk or a recluse, but to find a calmness that will help me return with a new energy and be strengthened. I expect it will also give me tools to help bring some of the practices back to Tikvat Israel to use to help others cope with the crazy storms that surround us.

For most of my sabbatical, I will be busy with a combination of trips to see family and participating in a mission to Israel and the Palestinian territories. I look forward to these trips and know these experiences will be meaningful. The Israel trip, especially, will be emotionally exhausting. The fact that the IJS retreat begins the day I return from Israel, made it feel *b'shert* – as if it was meant to be. I hope it will provide the perfect transition from chaos to tranquility, and allow me to return to you refreshed and ready to take on whatever challenges may lay ahead.

Silence is not always a positive, as Paul Simon noted in "The Sound of Silence": People talking without speaking, people hearing without listening, people writing songs that voices never share: No one dared disturb the sound of silence.

This is not the silence I seek. Rather, I pray to experience the silence that David Henry Thoreau describes in his essay "Sound and Silence":

> I wish to hear the silence of the night, for the silence is something positive to be heard. I cannot walk with my ears covered. I must stand still and listen with open ears, far from the noises of the village, that night may make its impression on me. A fertile and eloquent silence…The silence rings; it is musical and thrills me. A night in which the silence was audible, I hear the unspeakable.

The IJS describes the retreat as follows:

> When the seas of our lives are especially chaotic, it can be helpful to take temporary refuge in a sheltered place—like Noah did in the biblical ark. Once removed from the storm, we can connect deeply with a sense of newness and hope, feeling restored and strengthened. After this kind of retreat, we're able to return to our lives with greater clarity and wisdom to respond to the realities of the world around us.

I deeply appreciate the Tikvat Israel community and our Board for affording me this opportunity. And I can't wait to get back and talk all about it!

Netivot Off to Great Start with Enrollment Gains

BY CANTOR HINDA LABOVITZ, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND
RONI SILVERSTEIN, VICE PRESIDENT OF YOUTH AND FAMILY

Cantor Hinda Labovitz

Roni Silverstein

Excitement was palpable on Sunday morning, Oct. 11, when the *Netivot* religious school held its first classes of the year. Families braved the rainy weather to be at Tikvat Israel on time to finally have Hebrew school start and for friends to see each other again!

Our enrollment is off to a great start, registering 31 students and counting. We have enrolled several new families, and several of our *Netivot Gan* class are ECC alumni. Of the 31 students, we are pleased to welcome 15 first-time *Netivot* students.

We are excited to expand our Hebrew school to grade 5 this year.

The students have been divided into their four classrooms, where they will experience weekly themed hands-on learning, Hebrew group learning and all-school *t'filah* in the sanctuary with Cantor Labovitz. Students in grades K-2 will attend school on Sundays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Students entering 3rd through 5th grade will attend school twice each week — on Sundays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and on Wednesdays (with a pizza dinner) from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

This year, we're engaged in themed learning with our students. Themed learning takes lessons from project-based learning, where students are asked to study only a few subjects in depth, but from many angles. Each class has been given one subject to focus on in the categories of *Tanakh* (Bible), Jewish Living, Values in Action, Peoplehood & Israel, and Holy Days.

You might ask: How will they learn all of what they need to learn if each class has only five topics for the whole year?

Here's an example from Cantor Labovitz:

My Wednesday night *Beit Midrash* class is spending the first few weeks of the year talking about pizza. (Yes, pizza.) The first day of class, we engaged in a rabbinic debate about "What's the blessing on pizza?" and discussed that in rabbinic logic you have to know the question behind the question behind the question in order to get to some sort of answer: What's it made out of? What if it's not kosher? What if the crust is cooked first?

In the coming weeks, the class will design a page of *Talmud* about pizza. We're going to look at Conservative *responsa* on the implications of eating pizza from a non-kosher establishment. We're going to talk about blessings and liturgy, do some Hebrew reading and engage in truly rabbinic discourse while keeping it light. Out of this one topic, we're going to study *kashrut*, rabbinic logic, *Talmud*, Jewish history and practical skills for Jewish living in a secular world.

We're also adding serious Hebrew reading, decoding and even translation skills into our curriculum. This is a work in progress, which starts with a new game called *Ivrimon*. Tune in next time to learn more about that!

The 31 students in kindergarten through 5th grade meet in four classrooms at TI on Sundays.

Students in Netivot are using pizza as the basis of some early lessons.

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK PUBLISHED BY CANTOR LABOVITZ

Cantor Hinda Labovitz has now added to her array of creative talents that of published book author.

Her 31-page children's book, *Story Stones: A Book for Children Navigating the Death of a Loved One*, is drawn from personal experience as a bereaved parent, and inspired by her own children's journey after the death of their brother.

She's been working on the book since the death of her newborn son Ronen in 2019. It's connected to her Torah of Bereaved Parenting: Ronen's Torah project, alongside the memoir/Torah commentary she has considered publishing.

"With all the transitions this year, I promised myself I'd finish one of these by Ronen's *yahrzeit* [in mid-September], and here it is," she said.

Story Stones: A Book for Children Navigating the Death of a Loved One is available now on Kindle and Kindle Unlimited. It also is available as a softcover title from online book sellers.

Profiles of Our Newest Synagogue Members

BY JAY P. GOLDMAN, EDITOR, TIKVAT ISRAEL BULLETIN

Tikvat Israel has benefitted from the addition of a bevy of new members in recent months.

Twelve family units joined the TI membership ranks between April and early October, according to Rachel Metz, who serves as the congregation's membership committee chair.

Her committee provides each new family with a welcome bag that typically includes a TI-branded reusable tote bag, a copy of the most recent *Tikvat Israel Bulletin*, a handwritten note, a *challah*, grape juice, candlesticks, a Jewish calendar and a copy of the High Holidays booklet listing the synagogue's various activities and upcoming events.

"More important than the specific content, though, Ellie Diamond has been great about trying to have a short conversation with folks, so they get a personal welcome," Metz said.

The Tikvat Israel Bulletin reached out to each of the new members for the purpose of introducing them to our congregation. Mini-profiles of the respondents are included here.

Jordan Fields

Residence: Burtonsville

Occupation: Retired

Other family members: two children in Durham, N.C., and Marriottsville, Md., and five grandchildren

Why affiliate with TI: Previously, I attended services at another synagogue for many years but was never a member there. I decided it was time to consider a change, staying within Conservative Judaism. TI sounded like a congregation where I could feel comfortable and where I could actually become a member for an affordable amount. I attended a couple of services and was impressed by how friendly and warm everyone seemed to be. That's why I joined.

Early impressions: I do really find there is a different kind of feel here, and I like it. I'm not a regular at nightly services, but I'll want to attend and participate, in person or online.

Ayelet Weiss and Benjamin Epstein

Residence: Aspen Hill

Occupations: Ayelet, attorney at Disability Law United; and Benjamin, scientist at Precigen

Why affiliate with TI: We were looking for an egalitarian community within walking distance of our new home in Aspen Hill. We visited TI, met Rabbi Israel and some more people, and we were delighted to join.

Early impressions: People who come to services at TI so clearly love being a part of this *shul*. We love the vibrant davening and community here.

Cheryl and Mitchell Parker

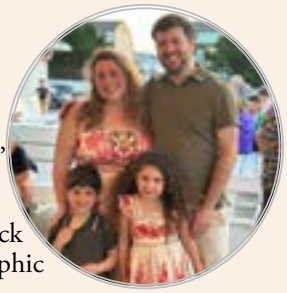
Residence: Rockville

Occupations: Both retired. Cheryl was a pharmacist. Mitch was a child psychologist and Jewish educator.

Why affiliate with TI: We were looking for a traditional, egalitarian, participatory and welcoming small Conservative congregation. TI fit the bill.

Anything else to share: We are very happy to be here and are enjoying our time meeting the members of the congregation and learning our way around the area. We moved here in early July from the Detroit area.

Madeline and Alex Berger



Residence: Kemp Mill

Other family members: Briana, 6, and Gabriel, 4

Occupations: Alex is a full stack engineer, and Madeline is a graphic designer and marketing manager.

Why affiliate with TI: TI has been an important part of Alex's life for as long as he can remember. (His parents are Rabbah Arlene and Warren Berger.) He grew up at TI with his parents deeply involved in the congregation, and the connection goes back even further—both his grandfather and father served as presidents of the congregation. Madeline began attending TI when she was 17, and from the beginning of their relationship, Jewish life and community were important to both of them. "Returning to and building their life within a community that has such deep roots for our family felt very meaningful to us," Madeline said.

Continued on page 5

NEW MEMBERS, continued

Early impressions: A warm, welcoming and genuinely engaged community. We appreciate how much the congregation does to reach out, bring people in and create opportunities for involvement, while offering a truly holistic synagogue experience for individuals and families at every stage of life.

Anything else to share: The two of us met through USY and started dating when 17. Jewish community has continued to be an important part of our lives ever since. We both were deeply involved in leadership at our university Hillels and later became active in our synagogue communities, serving on a variety of committees and helping create meaningful Jewish experiences for others.

Pelia Werth and Jacob Stoil

Residence: Aspen Hill

Other family member: Ezriel, 2

Occupations: Jacob is a research professor of Middle East security at the U.S. Army War College. Pelia is a Ph.D. candidate in history at Johns Hopkins University and adjunct instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Why affiliate with TI: Since moving to the area in February 2025, we have been involved with two synagogues, TI and Kehilat Pardes, and really appreciate both communities. With TI, it is very important to us to be part of a traditional egalitarian community, particularly as we raise our son.

Early impressions: Everyone we have met, from Rabbi Marc and Abbey to community members, has been incredibly welcoming and supportive. People have reacted very positively to Ezriel's presence in *shul* and have encouraged Pelia to get and stay involved in *leyning* and leading services. (She also served as a *Netivot* teacher in 2025-26.)

Rebecca Singer and Ian Dubin

Residence: Rockville

Other family members: Alana,13

Occupations: Rebecca is an educator at the Hillwood Museum, and Ian is director of fellowship affairs with the Council on Foreign Relations.

Why affiliate with TI: Community-based synagogue in the neighborhood

Early impressions: Warm, welcoming, community- based

Anything else to share: Nice to return as we were members until Alana ended religious school

Lexi and Andrew Sidney

Residence: Rockville

Other family member: daughters Lilah,8, Sloane, 5, Kendall, 3, and Josie, 1

Occupations: Andrew oversees ticketing for the Washington Commanders. Lexi does corporate consulting for sports sponsorships.

Why affiliate with TI: We are not natives of Maryland, but it is important for us to raise our daughters in a welcoming, community-oriented congregation.

Early impressions: Warm and welcoming

Anything else to share: We look forward to meeting you all.

Allyson Freedman and Steven Stern

Residence: Bethesda

Occupations: Allie is a fourth-generation writer and works as a communication manager for a non-profit. Steven is a project manager focused on information technology.

Why affiliate with TI: Allie grew up at Tikvat Israel (daughter of Jamie and Tony Freedman), beginning with the 3rd-grade religious school program, celebrating her *bat mitzvah* here and graduating with her 10th-grade confirmation class. "When it came time to get married last year, I was thrilled to ask Rabbi Israel to officiate the ceremony, making it a true full-circle moment. After such a meaningful experience working with him on the wedding, we decided to become members of the congregation the following year," Allie said.

Early impressions: "Coming back to Tikvat Israel is like coming home. I spent so many years attending the Hebrew school that coming back as an adult feels surreal," Allie said. "For Steven, he is thrilled to join my childhood synagogue and make new memories together. As my parents are members of one of the synagogue's longstanding *havurahs*, Steven has already been welcomed in and we attended *Yom Kippur* break fast with the tight-knit group. As a married couple, we are thrilled to join the synagogue and begin our joint Jewish lives at Tikvat Israel."

Anything else to share: It truly meant a lot to us to have members of our Tikvat Israel *havurah* at our wedding. Additionally, we were so happy that Rabbi Israel performed a meaningful ceremony and played such a special role in our big day.

Others who have joined Tikvat Israel in the past year include: Susan and Steven Eisen, Shoshana Kahana and David Shurtleff, Karen and José Singer-Freeman and Ellen Solomon. Upon receiving their biographical details, we hope to feature them in a future issue of the synagogue newsletter.

New Burial Plots at Judean Memorial Gardens

One of the benefits of congregtaion membership is the opportunity to purchase burial plots from Tikvat Israel at prices much lower than making an individual purchase, because TI buys multiple plots at one time. With its inventory running low, TI recently purchased 25 additional plots in its section at Judean Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Olney, Md.

Though prices have gone up, the synagogue is holding the TI member price for these new sites at the current rate of $3,200, but only through the end of 2026. Starting January 1, the member price will increase to $3,500, reflecting the substantially higher cost of these added sites.

This new pricing plan will also apply to TI burial sites at Garden of Remembrance in Clarksburg, Md.

For more details, contact Aaron Chusid, TI's executive director, at 301-762-7338 ext. 111 or *aaron@tikvatisrael.org*.

A Revival of True Stories Show Set for TI

John Melmed

Those who were members of Tikvat Israel in the pre-COVID years may remember fondly the annual storytelling show, True Stories, conducted in the social hall by the *shul's* Toastmasters club. The storytelling event ran annually for 10 years.

Plans are in motion to revive the series beginning on Sunday, March 28, commencing at 4 p.m.

The latest storytelling show is expected to consist of up to 10 storytellers, each spinning a true story from life experiences that were so impactful they never forgot what happened.

True Stories event organizer John Melmed said: "These stories may make you laugh, leave you aghast, inform you or teach you something about life. What is unique about this show is that all the storytellers will be congregants of Tikvat Israel."

Already lined up to share a story are Melmed himself and Cantor Hinda Labovitz. Melmed invites members of the congregation who have an interesting tale to tell about themselves to contact him for consideration at *jrmelmed@comcast.net*.

It's too early to book your tickets, but it's not too early to mark your calendar for March 28, 2027!

TI Engaged in Training to Promote Dialogue

Tikvat Israel has been invited to participate in a new train-the-trainer program on addressing widening political and cultural differences for Greater Washington synagogues.

The program, Listening and Building Allies with People We Strongly Disagree With, is being run by the National Coalition Building Institute,with financial and operational support from the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

Led by Cherie Brown, founder and executive director of the National Coalition Building Institute, the training program is designed to help congregations strengthen their capacity for listening, dialogue and bridge-building around difficult and often divisive issues, including Israel-Palestine, electoral politics, immigration, and other topics that may arise within congregational life.

A likely six-member contingent from TI will probably include at least one clergy member. The members will take part in the training and then bring a three-session listening-skills series back to our own synagogue community.

The program entails a Zoom information session for interested lay leaders, staff and clergy; a full-day, in-person training for each congregation's team; three follow-up sessions offering coaching, support and additional skill-building; and a wrap-up session.

Lisa Handelman, director of inclusion and belonging for the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, coordinates the program.

WOMEN'S NETWORK

Museum Visit and SEA Change Collaborations Slated in Fall

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

Women's Network is offering unique and collaborative events in November and December that are sure to please as we wrap up 2026. Refer to the Women's Network e-newsletter and *B'Kesher* for further information, as event dates get closer.

The first is a collaborative event with SEA Change, a group visit to the Josiah Henson Museum and Park on Sunday, Nov. 8.

This museum focuses on the life of Rev. Josiah Henson, including his challenges and accomplishments. It is located on the grounds of the former plantation where Henson was enslaved. The site includes an historic house with an attached log kitchen dating to 1850, and a four-acre landscaped park. The museum also features exhibits on slavery in Maryland and the ongoing struggle for racial equality. Visitors can explore the museum and grounds through a self-guided tour.

On Sunday, Nov. 15 at 10:30 a.m., there will be an in-person group discussion at the synagogue of *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristen Harmel, which is a historical novel inspired by true events during WWII. It follows a young Jewish woman in France who becomes a forger, creating fake identity documents to help Jewish children escape the Nazis. The author conveys a powerful and compelling narrative, which includes historical details about the resistance and the lives of those fleeing persecution.

A second collaboration with SEA Change will be held on Sunday, Dec. 6, during *Chanukkah*. It will be an activity-based "Soup-er *Tzedakah*" program, where participants will be assembling soup kits for delivery to a food pantry. The time and other details will be announced through the Women's Network e-newsletters and *B'Kesher*.

To recap some recent events, we held a well-attended membership event on Sunday, Oct. 11, featuring art historian Nancy Kotz. She gave an interesting talk and slide presentation about Jewish women artists. Also during this event, our members were treated to some delicious food and enjoyed the opportunity to schmooze with one another. Women's Network especially wants to thank Janice Balin for chairing this event, Roz Kram for planning and coordinating the food, and our many volunteers who helped make this event so successful.

Looking back to September, Women's Network held a Zoom book group meeting to analyze *Have A Little Faith, A True Story* by author Mitch Albom. The story is based upon his long-time kinships with a rabbi and pastor. The book was compelling and engaging, and the active discussion drew 20 participants.

Standing from left, Women's Network Co-Presidents Susan Apter and Brenda Brooks with Seaboard Region President Ellen Weiss and, seated, Seaboard Membership Vice President Jerilynn Payn. (*Photo by Amy Matathias*)

This year's opening Women's Network program on Oct. 4 drew an enthusiastic group of participants to the social hall. (*Photo by Amy Matathias*)

Thank you to my co-president Susan Apter and other members of our leadership team who are so important for Women's Network successes. *Todah rabah* as well to our members for their support, contributions and generous volunteerism. If you have any suggestions, don't hesitate to contact me at *bbrooksx@gmail.com*.

VETERANS *SHABBAT*

On *Shabbat Chayei Sara* on Nov. 7, TI will honor members who served in the armed services of all nations. If you are a veteran and plan to attend services that day, let Rabbi Israel know. Our guest speaker will be Sam Gilston, who served three years with the U.S. Army Signal Corps during the Vietnam War.

MONTHLY *SIMCHA* SHOUTOUT

The new monthly *Simcha Kiddush* is a shared luncheon where multiple families come together to co-sponsor and celebrate their *simchas* as one community. If you'd like to include your *simcha* in an upcoming month, reach out to Aaron Chusid in the *shul* office.

If you don't have a *simcha* coming up, the kitchen team can pair you with someone else who would just like to co-sponsor a *kiddush*.

MEN'S CLUB

Marching On with Sundry Activities in Mind

BY SHEP ROEY, MEN'S CLUB CO-CHAIR

The Men's Club is proud to have celebrated a successful first year, and we are continuing our programming this new year. We have fully integrated into synagogue life with outstanding speaker programs, dinner events, hands-on activities and strong partnerships across the community.

As we look ahead, our goals remain clear: continue offering high-quality speakers and activities, deepen collaboration with the Women's Network and Membership Committee, and support the evolving needs of our synagogue. Our speaker programs and brunches will continue on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Our mission is simple: to build strong friendships, support our synagogue and share engaging experiences. Whether you want to catch a ballgame, dive into fascinating lectures or taste local food or spirits, there is a place for you here.

The Men's Club invites you to become a member of our vibrant community. Membership is free, though we accept donations for operating expenses. Contact Joe Miller (*joe51miller@gmail.com*) or Shep Roey (*sheproey@gmail.com*) to become a member.

What's Next?

The Men's Club will sponsor a group dinner outing on Nov. 16 at Al Ha'Esh Israeli Grill (4860 Boiling Brook Parkway, Rockville). Watch *B'kesher* for signup details.

Likely events (dates to be announced) over the next few years include:

- Tour of a kosher bourbon distillery and a kosher winery;
- Presentation by George Rebok, a professor and a life-span developmental psychologist at Johns Hopkins University, on cognition, memory and healthy aging;
- Presentation by Tom Dunkel, journalist and author, sharing social issues and stories from his work with the *Baltimore Sun, Washington Pos*t and *George Magazine*;
- Presentation by Dena Hirsh and Genie Glucksman on "The Generations After"— stories of children of Holocaust survivors; and
- Presentations by prominent medical professionals and education leaders from our own congregation and community.

A Visitor's Renewed Gratitude

I am a former, long-time (1982-2012) member of Beth Tikva/ Tikvat Israel. My children, Esther and Daniel, grew up here. I recently moved to Collington, a beautiful retirement community in Mitchellville, Md. My daughter and son-in-law live in Columbia. Thanks to Cliff Fishman's generosity, we were all guests at Tikvat Israel for *Rosh Hashanah*.

So much for background. I am writing to tell you what a wonderful experience we had. Being greeted so warmly was heart-warming. The inclusion of people with physical handicaps (like me) throughout the congregation and of children was thrilling. All the personal touches – ice water, tissues, apples and honey, flowers in the ladies rooms, *Aleinu* blankets – were heart-warming. I deeply appreciated the kindness and concern of the ushers, greeters and everyone else.

The transformation of the lobby is terrific; it's a wonderful, welcoming place. Even the social hall looks good. And the outside of the building – the flower beds, the whiteness (has it been power-washed? painted?), the hand-rails, all look great.

And on a personal note, I was thrilled, truly, to see the five *Megillot* needlepoints and especially the sanctuary wall-hanging, look so terrific – like new, bright and beautiful. Coordinating the production of those pieces remains one of the highlights of my life.

And the singing! Cantor Labovitz is wonderful; the *Keter Meluka*, new to me, was transformative. I really liked the things Rabbi Israel said (and he spoke them in a loud, clear voice – thank you).

As you can tell, we had a wonderful experience. I have been following the development of TI, and have been very pleased – the resurgence of the Religious School, the hiring of Cantor Labovitz and her development of programs for children, the increased involvement of Jason Schwartz, the resurgence of the Men's group (and the continued thriving of the Women's group), the excellence of the publications, all point to growth toward the excellence the Rabbi wishes.

Madeleine Cohen Oakley

Moved by an Honor

I can't tell you how touched I was when Rabbi Israel called to ask me to be this year's *Simchat Torah Kallat Bereshit*. I thought of many other people who deserved this honor more, but he persuaded me that I was the one.

Then, as the news leaked out, many lovely notes and phone calls with wishes for *mazel* and congratulations began to arrive. Each message really made my day. And as the days added up, anyone could see this was a very special thing that happened to me. Thank you all for making it so special.

As many know, this has been a rough year for us. Thank you so much to those who called or offered to make a meal or who checked in on Phil and me. After prayers and festivities on *Simchat Torah*, I think 5787 is starting to look like a really great year.

Speaking of being a great year, there will be some new programming from *Chesed*. We seek additional ways to perform acts of loving-kindness when they are most needed. You can help by letting us know when you will have surgery, when you need a little help, or when you can help others. Thank you all for helping us be there when needed.

When Phil and I considered retirement and possible places for relocating, Tikvat Israel was much on our minds. As members of TI for about 42 years, we did not think we could find another community as *gemutlich* as ours, and we didn't even want to try. So here we stayed, and how glad I am that we did. Thank you for being a part of our lives.

Hope Kott

PRESIDENTS' CORNER

Relationships and Engagement

BY BETH SMITH, TIKVAT ISRAEL CO-PRESIDENT

Beth Smith

On *Yom Kippur*, when we are closest to G-d and to the essence of our souls, we pray for forgiveness and to be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life. But why do we value life? What makes life worth living?

Life is all about relationships, and relationships require engagement. Ron Wolfson, author of *Relational Judaism*, has described the nine levels of relationship. The two that I have found most fitting for purposes of this year's *Yom Kippur* appeal are these relationships:

- those between you and your friends and
- those between you and Jewish living and learning.

When people find their place and establish relationships, they feel connected and engaged in a community that offers them a path to meaning, purpose, belonging and blessing.

Engagement is about creating relationships and deep connections that inspire personal growth and cultivate meaning so we can transform ourselves, our communities and our world. Engagement is about small groups of people who are learning together, praying together, acting together and playing together. It's about caring for each other by valuing and supporting one another in times of joy and sorrow. It's also about being accountable to each other in ways that serve the individuals' and the community's best interest.

Engagement also has a personal component. We must each decide what our engagement with our congregation will be like—whether it's a deep involvement, an occasional place to come to for services, or something in between.

You may choose to engage with Tikvat Israel as part of your many identities—your individual identity, your identity with family, friends, Jewish living and/or learning. You choose how you connect with community, the Jewish people, Israel, the world and G-d.

The Tikvat Israel board is committed to making our congregation as engaging and caring a community as possible. To that end, we as a board have committed to personally meet with every TI member household. We're allowing plenty of time to accomplish those personal meetings and plan to finish the campaign by *Purim* on March 23.

This is a listening campaign to make sure no one remains unheard. We hope to identify your interests, talents and passions, and find ways to encourage their use in our community. That does not mean we plan to push you to do more than you are inclined to do. It does mean we will do our best to help you find like-minded people with whom you will enjoy spending time.

Another way to look at this is that we want to be sure that no one comes to Tikvat Israel and sits alone. Our goal is to connect you to our congregational leaders and to each other.

When we are better at anticipating your needs, we can be proactive about providing answers and solutions to questions or problems as well as the needs you have, even before you realize you have them. Only through a concentrated effort to engage each individual in our community can we have a true sense of belonging. Creating a deep connection with you can lead to pride of ownership that will sustain engagement and continuous support of this congregation.

In sum, a major goal of the One-to-One Campaign is for every member to know that we care about every person in our community, our *kehillah*. By connecting people to each other we can build meaningful relationships. Please don't expect us to do all the talking. We will be meeting with you to truly listen to you and understand you.

Some possible topics for discussion:

- How did you come to Tikvat Israel?
- If you were born Jewish, what has your path been like?
- If you came to Judaism later in life or are not Jewish, tell us about your journey.
- Do you know how to navigate within the TI community?
- How do we care for each other?
- How do you fit in?
- Do you see yourself volunteering and getting involved? If so, how?

We will compile this information to generate a profile of our congregation and a better understanding of all of our members.

No one should be a stranger at Tikvat Israel. We're great at welcoming people, but we would like to improve the TI experience by giving people the opportunity to really know each other. For some of us, it's easy to chat and share, but for others it's not as easy. We're proud of being a warm congregation, but how much warmer could we be by strengthening the relationships we already have and building new ones? Let's find out.

Meeting face-to-face will give us the opportunity to truly connect with all of you and really hear you. It also will enable us to make your place in our community feel more secure by making even the quietest among us heard.

I look forward to seeing all the information we collect and getting to know everyone better than I know you today.

TIKVAT ISRAEL SEA CHANGE

Community Engagement Matters

BY ANNA LEVY AND DEBBIE AMSTER, TI SEA CHANGE CO-CHAIRS

U.S. citizens will have the opportunity to vote on Nov. 3 to select local and state legislators and Congress members, and to weigh in on local and state ballot questions. Most of the offices and questions on the ballot are local, not national.

Why should we care about local and statewide elections? And why should we continue to follow and be engaged in the work of our county councils, boards of education and state legislatures? In many ways, their work significantly affects us in our daily lives. For example, local and state taxes pay for our schools, police and first responders, community safety, many social services and infrastructure such as public parks and recreation, flood control, traffic control, and road maintenance.

This past spring, the Montgomery County Council had to balance the budget, and made some hard decisions that impacted all homeowners by eliminating the $692 Income Tax Offset Credit, while leaving corporate tax rates unchanged.

In the coming months, our county councils and state legislators will be considering proposals to make changes in how to more fairly tax individuals and businesses and how to generate the revenue to pay the bills. They will make proposals for how to spend those funds where they are most needed and can best serve the interests of our community, and ideally not put the burden on lower- and middle-income households.

Watch SEA Change Updates for upcoming opportunities to learn about the issues and how each of us can let our legislators know what is important to us. And mark your calendars for the annual Maryland state legislative update from Del. Anne Kaiser, a longtime TI member, on Sunday, Dec. 13.

For more information on TI SEA Change, contact Anna Levy (*anna_levy@verizon.net*) or Debbie Amster (*debbieamster@comcast.net*). If you do not currently receive the SEA Change Update emails and would like to subscribe, contact Bob Silverstein (*r_silverstein@msn.com*).

WJW Features Young Congregant's Disability Advocacy

Jacob Schwartz

A product of Tikvat Israel, Jacob Schwartz, was the subject of a full-length feature article in the Oct. 2 issue of *Washington Jewish Week*.

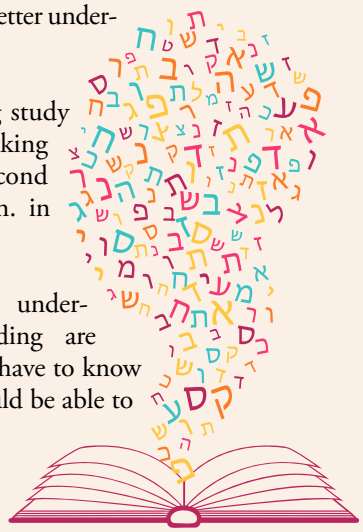
The article describes his passion for disability advocacy, which began as a camper at Camp Ramah in New England, where he did camp activities alongside peers with developmental disabilities.

The son of congregants Lis and Jason Schwartz, he works as the community programs coordinator for Makom, a local nonprofit empowering people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

You can read the full story about Jacob Schwartz, titled "Rockville's Jacob Schwartz Turns Jewish Values Into Disability Inclusion," at *bit.ly/WJW_Schwartz.*

Bachman Hosting Biblical Hebrew Sessions

Would you like to be able to better understand the *Torah* reading?



Danny Bachman is running study sessions in Biblical Hebrew taking place twice a month, on the second and fourth Mondays, at 8 p.m. in Room A.

Torah readers interested in understanding what they are reading are particularly welcome. You don't have to know how to read *Torah*, but you should be able to read Hebrew.

Bachman will teach a lesson in Biblical Hebrew grammar as part of each session.

If you have questions about your level of Hebrew, you are welcome to reach out to him at *danieldbachman@gmail.com*.

EXECUTIVE PERSPECTIVE

Just Enough

BY AARON CHUSID, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Aaron Chusid

As Tropical Storm Isaias advanced toward Maryland in mid-October, I helped congregants race to put TI's *sukkah* away— or at least to take in the canvas walls before they got soaked.

While doing so, I got a good look at its structure: strong and solid, held together by such small, delicate means—bungee cords and zip ties—decorated with paper and small, fragile lights. It's strong enough to block a breeze when we gather inside the *sukkah* for a meal, but it would be easily overcome by a tropical storm. It's a structure that never falls down, but always needs to be rebuilt.

That, of course, is the point. A *sukkah* isn't built to be indestructible. It's built to be sufficient.

That's what I got from *Sukkot* this year: a reminder that the goal was never to build something permanent in our congregation. We put up the *sukkah* knowing full well it's coming down in a couple of weeks. We have to check it regularly, if not every day, and then any time a stiff wind blows. A *sukkah* isn't a one-time project, it's a daily practice of observing and rebuilding.

That's close to the truth about building and sustaining our congregation, too. TI isn't held together because someone built it right once, decades ago, and left it to coast ever since. It's held up by people continuously checking and reinforcing it. Sometimes sudden storms shake our congregation—COVID, federal layoffs, friends and important volunteers moving away—and even the parts we thought were permanent need to be rebuilt. Board members renew a permit. Volunteers add new parking lot signage. Staff catch a gap in the holiday schedule before it goes to print. None of that is dramatic. All of it is the daily walk around the *sukkah*, putting our hands on the frame and asking: Is this still standing the way it needs to?

There's another way it parallels congregational life for me. We are commanded to "dwell in the *sukkah* as you would in your permanent home." Not halfway. Not provisionally. You're asked to bring your actual life into a structure you built yesterday and will take apart in another week. That's what we're actually asking of each other here, isn't it? Not to make a commitment once and call it permanent, but to show up fully for something that has to be rebuilt and rededicated, year after year.

That's precisely what keeps it real. Signing up again for *Netivot*. Registering again for *Shabbat* dinner. Volunteering for a role you've done before because it needs to be done again. Our congregation is strong and stable because it is maintained and renewed by our commitment to each other. I believe that is ultimately the only way to build something that lasts—not by treating it like it's permanent, but by loving it enough to keep rebuilding it.

Congregational Condolences

Tikvat Israel Congregation shares its condolences with member families who experienced the following deaths between early August and Oct. 1:

… to **Nicole Glover** on the death of her mother Sheila Bolton, on Sept. 30 (20 *Tishrei* 5787).

… to **Ed Silverstein** on the death of his sister Ina Silverstein, on Sept. 24 (13 *Tishrei* 5787).

… to **Dan Matathias** on the death of his brother Asher Matathias, on Sept. 13 (2 *Tishrei* 5787).

… to **Ava Small and Shira Lantner** on the death of their sister and aunt Gail Osina, on Sept. 3 (22 *Elul* 5786).

… to **Mary Meyerson**, a former member, on the death of her husband Neal Meyerson, on Sept. 7 (26 *Elul* 5786).

… to **Leon Green and Rianne Melmed** on the death of their brother-in-law Robert Copaken, a longtime TI member, on Aug. 10 (27 *Av* 5786).

Mazel Tov

… to **Molly and Stuart Turkewitz**, upon the birth of granddaughter Rosalie Grace Unger on Oct. 11, to Ellen Turkewitz and husband Evan Unger in Brooklyn, N.Y. She's their third grandchild.

… to **Debby Berlyne and Danny Bachman**, on daughter Hannah Bachman being honored as *Kallat Bereshit* during *Simchat Torah* at B'nai Jeshurun, a Conservative congregation in Manhattan. She was recognized for her community service as a *gabbai* during High Holy Day services and as an event planner at *Hanukkah*, *Purim* and Pride *Shabbat* celebrations.

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.

Non-dues revenue is important to the synagogue's fiscal health. 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.

BROADMAN-KAPLAN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Holiday Festivities Grab Youngsters' Fancy

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

Debbie Ungar

The fall is a vibrant and busy season in the ECC. Between adjusting to new classrooms and settling into daily routines, the children have been immersed in celebrating the holidays and autumn activities.

In preparation for *Rosh Hashanah*, Cantor Labovitz demonstrated various musical instruments, culminating with the blowing of the *shofar*. Rabbi Israel joined with his own *shofar* so the children could compare sizes and sounds. It was a fun and educational program.

Many of the classes enjoyed sampling different apple varieties, while others made delicious honey cake and homemade applesauce.

To deepen our learning, we welcomed beekeeper Fred, father of Danielle Hirrlinger, a teacher in the *Yanshufim* (Owls) class. He walked the children through the process of how bees make honey, and everyone got to taste honey from a real honeycomb.

The children prepared for *Sukko*t by creating colorful decorations to brighten the Tikvat Israel *sukkah*, where they enjoyed eating snacks and lunch throughout the holiday. For *Simchat Torah*, Cantor Labovitz gave the children a special up-close look inside the *aron kodesh* (ark). They explored the parchment of the *Torah* scroll, examined a traditional quill, and ended the celebration singing and dancing together with the *Torah*.

The ECC is fortunate to partner with neighboring Rockville High School and its early childhood educator program. This year we welcome three interns working toward their Child Development Associate credentials. They are assisting in various ECC classrooms, providing a wonderful, mutually rewarding experience for both the interns and students.

We still have a few full-time and part-time spaces open for children 12 months through 5 years old. Please share this opportunity with friends, family and neighbors. For more information or to schedule a tour, contact Debbie Ungar at *debbie@tikvatisrael.org*.

ECC youngsters enjoyed a meal and a snack in the synagogue's *sukkah*.

Ms. Ellie, the ECC music teacher, gave her pupils a chance to shake the *lulav* during *Sukkot*.

Shul Shorts

A Call for Instrumentalists

Eine Kleine Tikva, the shul's house band of two decades, is seeking additional musicians. No experience is necessary, just a desire to make music, learn and have a good time. All instruments are welcome. The band meets twice a month.

For more details, contact band leader Mike Cohen at *mncohenster@gmail.com*.

Blood Drive

You can donate your blood, all types welcome, at Tikvat Israel's social hall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 10. To sign up with the Red Cross, use this registration link: *rcblood.org/3RPMHT1*.

Or contact coordinator Robbi Cohen at *peezer200@yahoo.com*.

Jewish Book Drive

The 2026 Jewish Book Drive begins Nov. 1. All Jewish-themed books are welcome for donation, and you also can deposit materials that require *genizah*. Books in good condition will be sold for $1 each.

The book drive will take place at Berman Hebrew Academy at 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. on weekdays and 9-11 a.m. on Sundays.

Flax Library Collection Benefits from Book Donors

BY JANICE ROSENBERG, LIBRARY COMMITTEE CHAIR

A huge thank you to all the congregants who donated books to the Flax Library this year. Your generosity added more than 75 books to our collection in 2026. Every donation helps share knowledge, inspire reading and give published works a second life.

This is the process for donating titles to our synagogue's library:

- Search the "Flax Library Catalog" under "Study" on TI's website to see whether the books you want to donate are already in the collection.
- Send a list of the titles to *TikvatIsraelLibrary@gmail.com* if donating more than 10 books.
- Leave donated books in the box marked "Returns" in the Flax Library or the one below the pop-up library in TI's lobby.
- Include a slip with your donation with your name and contact information.
- Donated books should be in good condition, published since the year 2000, Jewish classics or books of historical significance.

Here are a few books available to borrow from the Flax Library that were added to the collection in 2026:

Fiction

Behind Every Good Man by Sara Goodman Confino.
A woman upends her cheating husband's Maryland senatorial campaign.

The Book of Lost Names by Kristen Harmel.*
A woman forger helps hundreds of Jewish children flee the Nazis during World War II.

Isabela's Way by Barbara Stack-Nemon.*
A young girl escapes from Portugal's early seventeenth-century Inquisition.

A small selection of titles available for borrowing from TI's Flax Library. (*Photo by Janice Rosenberg*)

The Lost Shtetl by Max Gross.
A small Jewish village in the Polish forest is so secluded that no one knows it exists.

Non-Fiction

A Daughter's Kaddish: My Year of Grief, Devotion, and Healing by Sarah Birnbach.
The author undertakes the year-long Jewish mourning ritual.

The Heart of a Stranger by Rabbi Angela Buchdahl.*
A woman's journey to become the first Asian American to be ordained a rabbi.

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

Playmakers: the Jewish Entrepreneurs Who Created the Toy Industry in America by Michael Kimmel.
The history of Jewish American toymakers in the United States.

(*indicates titles included in the 2026-27 Women's Network Book Group selections)

FOOD PREPARERS STEP UP FOR STEPPING STONES

Congregants provided a hot dinner for the residents of the Stepping Stones family shelter in Rockville on Oct. 14.

Four times a year, Tikvat Israel provides meal support. Congregants drop off food contributions to coordinators Ellen and Sherman Eisner in the TI parking lot for delivery to the site.

Some of the TI members who contributed to the Stepping Stones dinner collection on Oct. 14. (*Photo by Bob Silverstein*)

The kid-friendly menu in October included baked cornflake-coated chicken, rice, carrots, individual apple sauce cups, brownies and bottled water.

If you would like to help with the next dinner delivery, which will be announced in *B'kesher*, contact Ellen Eisner at *eeisner@comcast.net*.

TI BECOMES A TOP 10 DONOR TO MANNA

As part of the congregation's High Holidays and *Sukkot* celebrations this year, Executive Director Aaron Chusid encouraged all members to give generously to the Manna food collection.

The need is great, with the highest demand time of the year just a turn of the calendar away.

Manna picked up TI's collection bin from the front patio right after *Simchat Torah*, "and I am proud to share that our congregation came in 7th out of the 19 congregations participating, based on pounds per household," Chusid said.

Last year, Tikvat Israel ranked 14th out of 17 among participating synagogues in the county in the amount of food donated to Manna Food Center. "So this growth wasn't just a slight improvement; this was our neighbors calling for assistance and TI responding with strength," he said.

Thank you to everyone who donated food products and other items.

"I look forward to cracking the top 5 next year," Chusid announced.

Board Workshop Focuses on Rules for Engaging Others

Ten members of the synagogue's board of directors spent about a half-day on Sunday, Oct. 18, at a retreat in the Flax Library to improve their skills.

Executive Director Aaron Chusid led a morning session that examined the role of a governing board, the legal and fiduciary responsibilities of board service and expectations for serving in these elected positions. He laid out three differing leadership styles through the Biblical figures of Noah, Abraham and Moses.

Chusid also discussed ways for board members to invite others to help with various committee tasks that are necessary to run the *shul*.

Cantor Hinda Labovitz led an afternoon session focused on engagement strategies, as a way to prepare the board members for their one-on-one interviews that are taking place with each congregant now through *Purim*. Each board member will be meeting in person with about 10 congregants during this time frame.

Cantor Hinda Labovitz detailed the rules of engagement during the board of directors' training workshop on Oct. 18. (*Photo by Jay P. Goldman*)

SIDDURIM ON LOAN TO *MINYAN* ATTENDEES

Tikvat Israel has begun to retire the blue-covered *Sim Shalom* prayer books that have been widely used by congregants on Zoom during daily *minyanim* since the COVID-19 pandemic.

In its stead, the synagogue is establishing a loaner program for congregants to borrow copies of the red-covered *Siddur Shalom for Weekdays.* Once copies are in the hands of many daily *minyan* participants, service leaders will discontinue the practice of announcing corresponding page numbers in the blue *siddur* as a courtesy measure, perhaps as soon as early December.

Jason Schwartz, vice president for religious affairs, has created a form for congregants to request a loaner copy. Watch for the link in synagogue communications.

TI will donate the majority of its copies of the blue *Sim Shalom* to the Kehilat Pardes Jewish Book Drive.

Call Andy
(301) 526-8930
and specifically ask for
the "Tikvat Israel"
Package

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NOVEMBER 2026

Cheshvan - Kislev 5787

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 21 Cheshvan 9:00 A Minyan 9:30 A Netivot K-5 10:30 A Planned Giving Seminar 7:30 P Minyan 7:30 P Israeli Dancing	2 22 Cheshvan 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	3 23 Cheshvan **ECC Closed - Prof Day** **8:00 A Minyan** **10:00 A Tuesday Book Group** **7:30 P Minyan**	4 24 Cheshvan 8:00 A Minyan 5:30 P Netivot 3-5 6:00 P SEA Change Core Team 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P Chai Dynamics	5 26 Cheshvan 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	6 28 Cheshvan 8:00 A Minyan 4:44 P Candlelighting 6:00 P Kabbalat Shabbat	7 27 Cheshvan Veteran Shabbat 9:30 A Preliminary Service 9:45 A Shabbat Service Parashah: Chayei Sara 5:43 P Havdalah
8 28 Cheshvan 9:00 A Minyan 9:00 A Netivot K-5 1:00 P SEA Change: Museum Trip 4:00 P Well Circle - Kislev 7:00 P Minyan	9 29 Cheshvan Sigd 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P Biblical Hebrew Class	10 30 Cheshvan Rosh Chodesh Kislev 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Tuesday Book Group 10:00 A Tikvat Israel Blood Drive	11 1 Kislev Rosh Chodesh Kislev 8:00 A Minyan 5:30 P Netivot 3-5 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P Chai Dynamics	12 2 Kislev 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	13 3 Kislev 8:00 A Minyan 4:37 P Candlelighting 6:00 P Kabbalat Shabbat	14 4 Kislev 9:30 A Preliminary Service 9:45 A Shabbat Service Parashah: Toldot 11:15 A Auntie A 5:37 P Havdalah
15 5 Kislev 9:00 A Minyan 9:30 A Netivot K-5 10:30 A WN Book Group #2 7:30 P Israeli Dancing 7:30 P Minyan	16 6 Kislev 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	17 7 Kislev 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Tuesday Book Group 7:30 P Minyan	18 8 Kislev 8:00 A Minyan 5:30 P Netivot 3-5 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P Chai Dynamics	19 9 Kislev 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	20 10 Kislev 8:00 A Minyan 4:32 P Candlelighting 6:00 P Kabbalat Shabbat	21 11 Kislev 9:30 A Preliminary Service 9:45 A Shabbat Service Parashah: Vayetzei 5:32 P Havdalah
22 12 Kislev 9:00 A Minyan 9:30 A Netivot K-5 3:00 P Makom Chanukkah Event 6:00 P Millenials Trip 7:30 P Israeli Dancing 7:30 P Minyan	23 13 Kislev 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P Biblical Hebrew Class	24 14 Kislev 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Tuesday Book Group 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P TI Board Meeting	25 15 Kislev **ECC Closed - Thanksgiving Break** 8:00 A Minyan 7:00 P Community Sing 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P Chai Dynamics	26 16 Kislev Thanksgiving Day 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	27 17 Kislev 8:00 A Minyan 4:29 P Candlelighting 6:00 P Kabbalat Shabbat	28 18 Kislev 9:30 A Preliminary Service 9:45 A Shabbat Service Parashah: Vayishlach 5:29 P Havdalah
29 19 Kislev 9:00 A Minyan 9:30 A Netivot K-5 7:30 P Israeli Dancing 7:30 P Minyan	30 20 Kislev 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan					

All events subject to change. Please read B'Kesher for the latest status.

DECEMBER 2026

Kislev - Tevet 5787

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 30 Kislev		1 21 Kislev 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Tuesday Book Group 7:30 P Minyan	2 22 Kislev 8:00 A Minyan 5:30 P Netivot 3-5 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P Chai Dynamics	3 23 Kislev 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	4 24 Kislev 8:00 A Minyan 8:45 A Mishnah Study 4:27 P 1 Candle 4:27 P Candlelighting 6:00 Kabbalat Shabbat	5 25 Kislev Chanukkah Day 1 9:30 A Preliminary Service 9:45 A Shabbat Service Parashah: Vayeshev 5:28 P Havdalah 5:28 P 2 Candles
6 26 Kislev Chanukkah Day 2 Chanukkah HaBayit 9:00 A Minyan 9:30 A Netivot K-5 11:30 A Chanukkah Craft Day 4:00 P Chanukkah Program 5:08 P 3 Candles 7:30 P Minyan	7 27 Kislev Chanukkah Day 3 7:15 A Minyan 5:08 4 Candles 6:00 P Chanukkah in the Hood 7:30 P Minyan	8 28 Kislev Chanukkah Day 4 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Tuesday Book Group 5:08 5 Candles 7:30 P Minyan	9 29 Kislev Chanukkah Day 5 8:00 A Minyan 5:30 P Netivot 3-5 5:08 P 6 Candles 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P Chai Dynamics	10 30 Kislev Chanukkah Day 6 Rosh Chodesh Tevet 7:15 A Minyan 5:08 7 Candles 7:30 P Minyan	11 1 Tevet Chanukkah Day 7 Rosh Chodesh 8:00 A Minyan 8:45 A Mishnah Study 4:28 P 8 Candles 4:28 P Candlelighting 6:00 Kabbalat Shabbat	12 2 Tevet Chanukkah Day 8 9:30 A Preliminary Service 9:45 A Shabbat Service Parashah: Miketz 11:15 A Auntie A 5:28 P Havdalah
13 3 Tevet 9:30 A Netivot K-5 10:00 A MD Legislative Update 4:30 P Well Circle - Tevet 7:30 P Minyan 7:30 P Israeli Dancing	14 4 Tevet 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P Biblical Hebrew Class	15 5 Tevet 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Tuesday Book Group 7:30 P Minyan	16 6 Tevet Chanukkah Day 5 8:00 A Minyan 5:30 P Netivot 3-5 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P Chai Dynamics	17 7 Tevet 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	18 8 Tevet 8:00 A Minyan 8:45 A Mishnah Study 4:29 P Candlelighting 6:00 Kabbalat Shabbat	19 9 Tevet 9:30 A Preliminary Service 9:45 A Shabbat Service Parashah: Vayigash 5:30 P Havdalah
20 Asara B'Tevet 5:57 A Fast begins 9:30 A Netivot K-5 5:25 P Fast Ends 7:30 P Minyan 7:30 P Israeli Dancing	21 11 Tevet 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	22 12 Tevet 8:00 A Minyan 10:00 A Tuesday Book Group 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P TI Board Meeting	23 13 Tevet **ECC Closed - Winter Break** 8:00 A Minyan 5:30 P Netivot 3-5 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P Chai Dynamics	24 14 Tevet 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	25 15 Tevet 8:00 A Minyan 8:45 A Mishnah Study 4:33 P Candlelighting 6:00 Kabbalat Shabbat	26 16 Tevet 9:30 A Preliminary Service 9:45 A Shabbat Service Parashah: Vayechi
27 17 Tevet 9:30 A Netivot K-5 7:30 P Minyan 7:30 P Israeli Dancing	28 18 Tevet **ECC Closed - Winter Break** 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P Biblical Hebrew Class	29 19 Tevet 8:00 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	30 20 Tevet 8:00 A Minyan 5:30 P Netivot 3-5 7:30 P Minyan 8:00 P Chai Dynamics	31 21 Tevet 7:15 A Minyan 7:30 P Minyan	All events subject to change. Please read B'Kesher for the latest status.	

Tikvat Israel Remembers With Respect Those Whose *Yahrzeits* Occur From from 21 *Cheshvan*- 20 *Kislev* — November 2026

November 1
21 *Cheshvan*
David Joseph First
Bertha Greenfield
Max Klein
Martha Lohwasser
Esther Sax
Sidney Teitelbaum
Paula Weiser
Mollie Wexler

November 2
22 *Cheshvan*
Rachel Armoza
Lorraine Cowan
Danny Ermann
Kurt Hering
Joey Pearl
Ann Rubin
Stefan Zweig

November 3
23 *Cheshvan*
Bessie Bachman
Samuel Chonin
Robert Coblitz
Sadje Grand
Ronald Hamburg
Sarah Labovich
Rabbi Oscar Lifshutz
Clara Osofsky
Amy Strong
Kurt Tuchler

November 4
24 *Cheshvan*
Joshua Bass
Abraham Bernstein
Joseph Bernstein
Joshua Borushok
Ruth Felcher
Hyman Gardsbane
Ellen Halpern
Herbert Kammerman
Rose Schmetterling
Samuel Steinberg

November 5
25 *Cheshvan*
David Barrish
Elaine Brown

November 6
26 *Cheshvan*
Howard Blafkin
Helen Jaffe
Sam Krick
Eleanor Miller
Samuel J. Mollen
Jack Rosen

November 7
27 *Cheshvan*
Sol Baron
Samuel Braunstein
Nathan Cohen
Louise Deutchman
Meyer David Green
Philip Grossmann
Anna Lichterman
Rachel Maran
Ron Meyers
Howard Schwartz
Resel Zeidman

November 8
28 *Cheshvan*
Selma Kubitz

November 9
29 *Cheshvan*
Herb Curchack
Harold Davis
Jeanne Hale
Rhonda Sherrod

November 10
30 *Cheshvan*
Pearl Fink
Lucille Kram
Rosalie Taylor

November 11
1 *Kislev*
Robert Agus
Marvin Apter
Zenita Berman
Edward Hallen
Rose Kopp
Philip Warren

November 12
2 *Kislev*
Alick Abramson
Rose Chonin
Manuel Cohen
Myra Pasternak
Sam Schuchman
Jean Zalevsky

November 13
3 *Kislev*
Rosalind Bloom
June Caplan Rabin
Florence Cohen
Jesse Curchack
Leonard Hardis
June Rabin
Miriam Stein

November 14
4 *Kislev*
Ida Hamburg
Arnold Springer
Faye Williams
Tom Zusman

November 15
5 *Kislev*
Jacob Bernstein
Jerome Feingold
Morris Pachenker
Louis Pelish
Henrietta Roth

November 16
6 *Kislev*
Rosemary Birrell
Rose Fischer
Paul Flacks
Barbara Herman
Gordon Miller
Herbert H. Miller
Jack Sheskin
Harry Weil

November 17
7 *Kislev*
Rita Amchin
Bernard Cohen
Melford Cohen
David Fleitman
Nathan Halpern
Robert Kandalis
Ernest Nash
Harry Ohr

November 18
8 *Kislev*
Ellen Berman
Shirley Blau
Joseph Cohen
Sophye Cohen
Samuel Rosenberg
Theodore L. Tetenbaum
Lewis Weinbrom

November 19
9 *Kislev*
Doris Amster
Sidney Brittner
Fred Curchack
Shirley Fishman
Reuben Lapin
Rose Oppenheim Levin
Ezra Menachem Marcus
Moe A. Robinson
David Solomon

November 20
10 *Kislev*
Arthur Amster
Minnie Jorban
Muriel Sandler
Ada Taylor

November 21
11 *Kislev*
Max Blum
Zelda Bowen
Herbert Brotman
Richard Copaken
Isaac Eiserike
Harry Selinger
Aaron Weinstein

November 22
12 *Kislev*
George Baroff
Beverly Ceresnie
Louise Chatlynne
Fannie Fleitman
Max Goldberg
Hilary Goldmann
Fredalyn Pleet
Alfons Reich
Sam Spiegel

November 23
13 *Kislev*
Henry Aronson
Toby Baum
Louis Kensky
Beryl Newman
William W. Radin
Melvyn Spector
George Waltzer

November 24
14 *Kislev*
Samuel Altschuler
Jeremy Copaken
Daniel Kaiser
Kieve C. Marquis
David Podolsky

November 25
15 *Kislev*
Isidor Schechter

November 26
16 *Kislev*
Ronald Eisler
Dorothy Goldstein
Joseph Goldstein
Elizabeth Jennes
Irvin Lerner
Florence Nachamkin
Nicky Papageorge
Samuel Salit
Doris Schlessinger
Meyer Taubman

November 27
17 *Kislev*
Irving Baron
Harry Brittner
Harry Brodofsky
Sonya Dunie
Max Feinsilber
Rebecca Gershowitz
Max Glick
Samuel Kier
Abe Lavine
Charlotte Lowenfeld
Lilian Lowenfeld
Saul Reiter
Celia Schuchman
Sharon Silberberg
Solomon Zimmerman

November 28
18 *Kislev*
Louis Amchin
Khana Klig
Bobbie Leman
Anna Levin
Suzanne Lifschitz
Louis Piser

November 29
19 *Kislev*
Paula Beck
Leon Cohen
Heinz Eric Gerstle
Bernard Prosnit
Samuel Rosenthal
Jeanette Sohn
Joseph Spiegelberg

November 30
20 *Kislev*
Avrum Ashery
Celia Blum
Riva Fishman
Regina Grossmann
Sam Hendler
Herschel Herscovitz
Sarah Kensky

Tikvat Israel Remembers With Respect Those Whose *Yahrzeits* Occur From from 21 *Kislev* - 21 *Tevet* — December 2026

December 1
21 *Kislev*
Jacob George Bloom
Norman Franklin Jacob
Elliott Kleinman
Ellyn Polonsky
Carl Solomon
Daniel Witt

December 2
22 *Kislev*
Philip Abramowitz
Maurice Binder
Gisela Glaser
Morris Katz
Joseph Levy
Bertha Phillips
Alice Sachs

December 3
23 *Kislev*
Esther Adelson
Louis Blum
Ann Brotman
Marilyn Burdett
Robert Eisner
Alana E. Fishman
Leslie Green
Miriam Hershbaum
Judge Jair Kaplan
Abraham Kensky
Nettie Koeppel
Joseph Milenky
Abraham Schuchman
Herman Sheskin
Lazar Volin

December 4
24 *Kislev*
Lena Burdett
Donna Faye Frank
Margaret Gerstle
Jean Katz
Morton Lerner
Alice Regensteiner
Fannie Stein

December 5
25 *Kislev*
Fay Avery
Bonnie Brafman
Edna Cohen Goldstein
Gilda Greene
Julia Gruenfeld
Herman Linsenberg
Charles Prince
Ellen Ungerleider

December 6
26 *Kislev*
Fannie Burdoo
Leon Louis Cohen
Maurice R. Dunie
Glenda Goodman
Samuel E. Herman
Ruth Katzen
Cheryl Lang
Alexander Lewis
Kate Selinger

December 7
27 *Kislev*
Irene Barris
Irwin Chornock
Otto Lohwasser
Freda Willander

December 8
28 *Kislev*
Irma Pazo
Steven Prince
Arnold Schwartz
Selma Shapiro
Jacob Sperling

December 9
29 *Kislev*
Mildred Baron
Jerome Boden
Morris Kagan
Milton Rodes [Rodeskovski]
Fannie Selwyn
Arlene Simon
Henrietta Zoltrow

December 10
30 *Kislev*
Rose Feinman
Max Keusch
Jerry Perlmutter
Dorothy Wolfe

December 11
1 *Tevet*
Bernard Fattman
Frank Feinsilber
Jacob Golding
David Greenberg
Doris Kalman
Joshua Krepchin
Sidney Sandler
Mark Stern
Irwin Jan Stolovy

December 12
2 *Tevet*
Kenneth Burck
Louis Burdoo
Peter Schwartzman
Judith Sue Sussman

December 13
3 *Tevet*
Louis Broadman
Jacob Dall
Sol Danoff
Max Douma
Jay Stefan Gorban
Pauline Greene
Miriam Hoffman
Miriam Matathias
Julius Novack
Theresa Romm

December 14
4 *Tevet*
David Cohen
Samuel Grossman
Ida Levitan
Ethel Pear
Ruth Seide
Gary Shuken
Max Teitel
Freda Weiss
Tamara Yangarber

December 15
5 *Tevet*
Hilda Cohen
Ida Fattman
Louis "Luck" Goldberg
Max Klein
Lewis Levy
Sarah Margolies
Nina Matathias
Carol Meiselman
Alvin Reiner

December 16
6 *Tevet*
Virginia Jeanne Andrews
John Larry Baer
Mauricio Battino
Salomon Battino
Anita Cowan
Irving Fischer
Philip L. Helman
Jackie Hoffman
Karen Goldstein Lipsy
Ben Perlmutter
Frances Saperstein
Fred Stryker

December 17
7 *Tevet*
Jack Bendett
Helen Berger
Ira Broadman
Eve Benesch Hoffman
Daniel Jeremias
Sol Leise
Anne Segal

December 18
8 *Tevet*
June Balin
Esther Berk
Morris Gaspin
David Glass
Joan Levin
Belle Schechter
Eva Kramer Weinshelbaum

December 19
9 *Tevet*
Max Bassin
Stephen Feigin
Jason Leif
Irving Reiner
Doris Klion Taylor
Philip Weinstein
Dora Zlotnick

December 20
10 *Tevet*
Lydia Black
Steven Bowen
Cantor Mark Levi
Henry Roth
Carl Seide

December 21
11 *Tevet*
Julia Auerbach
Irene Berger
Fred Buff
Morris Gorinson
Margaret Peisner

December 22
12 *Tevet*
Geraldine Linden
Ellen Rosenthal
Mollie Radin Schrager
Jennie Strassman

December 23
13 *Tevet*
Samuel Berly
Rose Blackstone
Eli Dannemann
Ellen Jacob
Allen Katz
Anna Krooler
Nathan Nachamkin
Lois Renee Nisenson
Miriam Sarah Roey

December 24
14 *Tevet*
Elaine Feinberg
Irving Joseph Kaplan
Moshe Kritz
Jacob B. Levin
Julius Rom
Anne Rosenberg
Rebecca Rosenberg
Norman Shapiro

December 25
15 *Tevet*
Harry Brafman
Ilsa Cutler
Melvin Dick
Benjamin Feinman
Bettie Hallen
Henrietta Shantz Levine
Jennie Schnitzer
Lillian Walder

December 26
16 *Tevet*
Benjamin Kay
Judith Lipofsky
Roslyn Mollen
Milton Thaler

December 27
17 *Tevet*
Mildred Brook
Rachel Cohen
Hyman Goodman
Adele Mainen
Harriet Miller
Samuel Nadel
Mildred Schreiber

December 28
18 *Tevet*
Tamara Chidakel
Blanche Cohen
Irwin Fishman
Max Hershbaum
Paul Jaffe
Pauline Katz
Lillian Liss
Marjorie Nash
Abe Silkoff
Joseph Sully

December 29
19 *Tevet*
Jules Bowen
Lotte Buff
Sam Fermon
Fanny Kline
Abraham Pelish
Gertrude Rosenwald
Joseph Scolnik
Lesley Teitelbaum
Caren Janet Thaler
Henrietta Zebooker

December 30
20 *Tevet*
Walter Blumberg
Beatrice Boroff
Louis Hecht
Sara Kaplan
Sadie Koeppel
Frieda Levin Cohen
Clement Ezra Marcus
Charles Nelson
Mildred Stein
Sol Tropp

December 31
21 *Tevet*
Elaine Bernstein
Fay Blum
Nimal Kuruppu
Julius Landy
Havivah Levy
Hilda Levy
Michael O. Miller
Ida M. Schiffman
Carolyn (Kitty) Strauss
Cila Weiss
Rabbi Richard W. Winograd
Richard Wottitzky

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 August and September. 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…

Abe Berlin by Sandra and Larry Levine
Jack Chelemer by Carol Chelemer
Estelle Feinmark by Elaine Krichevsky
Morris Fineman by Aaron Fineman
Isidora Goldberg by Nancy Goldberg and Bryan Benesch

Max Katz by Madeline and Jose Guzman
Benson B. Kessler by Susan and Alan Apter
Samantha Jane Kessler by Susan and Alan Apter
Dorothy Pearl and David Pearl by Denise Kanuck
Rose Schrier by Ann Ruth Volin

Alvin and Beatrice Solomon by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon
Dick Stein by Ronald Rabin
Pearl Zipin Tubiash by Anna Levy and Family
Rose Volin by Ann Ruth Volin
Robert S. Zelenka by Peggy Zelenka

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

In memory of Robert Copaken by Daniel Bachman and Debby Berlyne
In memory of Robert Copaken by Marilyn and Michael Greenwood
In memory of Asher Matathias by Susan and Jay Plafker
In memory of Asher Matathias by Susan Lovich-Siegel and Ralph Siegel

EDUCATION

In memory of Robert Copaken, a wonderful Religious School teacher and all-around human being, by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon

GENERAL FUND

In appreciation of Hope Kott, for the amazing positive impact she has on our congregation, by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon
In appreciation of our *Rosh Hoshanah aliyah* by Sue and Howard Wilchins
In honor of Jason Schwartz by Elissa Schwartz
In honor of *Simchat Torah* honorees Jason Schwartz and Hope Kott by Susan and Alan Apter

GENERAL FUND (continued)

In memory of Batya and Pesach Band by Susan and Jay Plafker
In memory of Eugene Brooks by Brenda and Keith Brooks
In memory of Robert Copaken
by David Krantz and Lynn Feinberg
by Nancy and Rodney Matheson
by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon

In memory of Lewis (Lew) Godfrey by Roslyn Levy Godfrey
In memory of my parents by Tom Gross
In memory of Rita Kleinman by Nancy and Rodney Matheson
In memory of Sadie Polikoff Levy by Roslyn Levy Godfrey

In memory of Asher Matathias
by Robert and Janice Balin
by Brenda and Keith Brooks
by Marcy and Michael Ralph
by Nancy and Rodney Matheson

In memory of Gail Osina, sister of Ava Small and aunt of Shira Latner, by Amy and Daniel Matathias
In memory of Ruth Plafker by Susan and Jay Plafker
In memory of Bessie Strauss, Harry Strauss, Belle Fagot, Saul Fagot, and Ester Kasiarz by Jordan Fields

KIDDUSH FUND

In appreciation of Rabbi Israel for overseeing my father's funeral by Joel Copaken
In honor of Monica Meyer and Rob Podolsky, wishing you well in all your new adventures, by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon
In memory of Asher Matathias by Ted and Roz Kram
Mazel tov to Dan Black by Felicia Black

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Marion Bauman by Wendy Bauman
In memory of Asher Matathias by Susannah Challis and Richard Nisenson
In memory of our parents' *yahrzeits* by Ellen and Mark Diamond

TZEDAKAH FUND

In memory of Robert Copaken by Wendy Bauman
In memory of Robert Copaken by Marilyn and Michael Greenwood
In memory of Asher Matathias by Daniel Bachman and Debby Berlyne
In memory of Asher Matathias by Susan and Jay Plafker
In memory of Asher Matathias by Susan Lovich-Siegel and Ralph Siegel

In memory of Gordon, Ruth and Nathan Plafker and Gloria and Fred Wishenrad by Susan and Jay Plafker

CONGREGANTS SUB DURING RABBI'S SABBATICAL

Rabbi Marc Israel is using the final part of his contracted sabbatical from Oct. 23 to Nov. 23.

During this period, Cantor Hinda Labovitz will be on call for pastoral or life-cycle emergencies. If she is not available, Rabbah Arlene Berger and Rabbi David Abramson will serve as backups. Contact Executive Director Aaron Chusid if you need clergy support during this period.

Several congregants are filling in for the rabbi's duties on the *bima*. During the *Shabbatot* that he's away, Cantor Labovitz, Jason Schwartz and Cliff Fishman will provide coverage on Friday nights. For *Shabbat* mornings, the following individuals agreed to serve in his stead: Oct. 24, Jason Schwartz (officiant) and Rob Amchin (*D'var Torah*); Oct. 31, Warren Berger (officiant) and Rabbah Arlene Berger (*D'var Torah*); Nov. 7, Sam Gilston (officiant and *D'var Torah*); Nov. 14, Cliff Fishman (officiant and *D'var Torah*); and Nov. 21, Jeff Bernstein (officiant) and Paul Kutner (*D'var Torah*).

The rabbi is using his sabbatical for restorative purposes. He will spend Nov. 4-14 in Israel and will participate in a silent retreat Nov. 15-19. (See his column on pages 1-2 for more details about his time away.)

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Back to *Shul* Marks Our Seasonal Transition

Tikvat Israel's annual Back to *Shul* affair signals a changing of the season. This year's activities on Sept. 6 included an information fair on various opportunities for year-round involvement, music and snacks, plus the erection of the *sukkah* on the back patio by volunteers, with Spencer Lane as lead architect. These photos capture some of the activity during the day, both inside the social hall and outdoors.

(Photos by Bob Silverstein)