

# TIKVAH TOPICS

SHEVAT

ADAR



# January at Beth Tikvah



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## Words from Rabbi Karen Martin

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, I was invited to speak at the annual B.R.E.A.D. (Building Responsibility Equity and Dignity) network and clergy retreat in honor of the holiday and Dr. King's legacy. They invited four people who were new to the organization and represented the broad reach of B.R.E.A.D.'s network: Rev. Raymond Austin of New Faith Baptist Church, myself, Fadi Suleiman of Noor Islamic Cultural Center, and Paisha Thomas, a ministry student at First Unitarian Universalist.

We were all asked to discuss our denomination's spiritual and historic commitment to the work of social justice, and how our denomination's connection to the broader interfaith community has helped inspire our fight for justice and efforts to build and use the power of people in that fight.

With social justice already at the forefront of many of our minds, please find below some of the remarks I shared with our B.R.E.A.D. community about Reform Judaism's historic commitment to civil rights and social justice:

The Reform Movement is a progressive Jewish denomination that believes we are bound by the moral and ethical strictures of our scripture. Torah tells us 36 times in various ways that we must protect the rights of the stranger, the widow, and the orphan - metonyms for those who are most vulnerable in our society. We see ourselves as inheritors of the prophetic tradition of calling both ourselves and those in power to do what is right. The words of Isaiah 58 reverberate through our tradition:

*"...Then, when you call, Adonai will answer. If you remove the chains of oppression, the menacing hand, the malicious word. If you offer compassion to the hungry, and satisfy the suffering, then shall your light shine through the darkness."*

We believe that to bring light, we must be light. Reform Judaism thus has been invested in the work of Social Justice since our first platform, written in 1885, where we declare: "we deem it our duty to participate in the great task of modern times, to solve, on the basis of justice and righteousness, the problems presented by the contrasts and evils of the present organization of society." As a denomination of Judaism founded in the United States, our roots here in Ohio, we have always seen this call as outward facing, a call to be partners in creating a more just society for all.

We created the Commission on Social Action for Reform Judaism, which later became the Religious Action Center (or RAC for short) to help coordinate and guide our efforts. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was drafted in the conference room of their Washington DC office. So was the Voting Rights Act of 1965.



## Words from Rabbi Karen Martin

Many Reform rabbis were deeply involved in the fight for Civil Rights, but Dr. King called on them to move from words to action, when, in 1964, Dr. King approached the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Reform Rabbinic professional leadership organization, and asked them to join with him as creative witnesses to their joint convictions of equality and racial justice in St. Augustine, Florida. Seventeen rabbis from all over the country heeded his call and were arrested for praying and eating with integrated groups.

In their letter written from jail on June 19, 1964 they explain why they came to St. Augustine in this way:

*[...] We came to St. Augustine mainly because we could not stay away. We could not say no to Martin Luther King, whom we always respected and admired and whose loyal friends we hope we shall be in the days to come. We could not pass by the opportunity to achieve a moral goal by moral means - a rare modern privilege - which has been the glory of the non-violent struggle for civil rights.*

*We came because we could not stand quietly by our brother's blood. We had done that too many times before. We have been vocal in our exhortation of others but the idleness of our hands too often revealed an inner silence; silence at a time when silence has become the unpardonable sin of our time. We came in the hope that the God of us all would accept our small involvement as partial atonement for the many things we wish we had done before and often.*

*We came as Jews who remember the millions of faceless people who stood quietly, watching the smoke rise from Hitler's crematoria. We came because we know that, second only to silence, the greatest danger to man is loss of faith in man's capacity to act.*

"The greatest danger to man is loss of faith in man's capacity to act." These words are ringing through history, through time and space, to us today. We cannot lose faith in our ability to act, even when it's hard, when it's scary, and when it's dangerous; we must rise.

Two days after the rabbis in St. Augustine wrote their letter, James Charney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, volunteers and activists taking part in Mississippi's Freedom summer, were abducted and brutally killed by the Klu Klux Klan. James Charney was a black man, an activist with the Congress of Racial Equality. Michael Schwerner was a coordinator for the same organization. Andrew Goodman was a volunteer. He and Michael Schwerner were Jewish, like half of the volunteers who came to support the Freedom Summer from across the nation.

It is not always safe or easy to do what is right in the face of thuggish injustice. We must do it anyway.

## Words from Rabbi Karen Martin

Three years later, in 1967, the Klan firebombed the synagogue in Jackson, Mississippi, because of the work they and their rabbi were doing to support civil rights. At three in the morning on Shabbat, January 9, 2026, that synagogue was destroyed again by an antisemitic act of arson.

Acts like this seek to scare us and isolate us, but I have faith. I have faith that we are God's partners in the work of healing what is broken in our world, in our nation, in our state, and in our city. I have faith that this is holy work. Not only are we God's partners, but we are also yours too. We will not be scared into silence because we know that when we work together, we bend the arc of the universe toward justice.

Earlier, I mentioned the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism. For decades, they have helped to shape and coordinate the justice work of the Reform Movement across the United States because collective action is powerful. As a result, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1982, the Voting Rights Extension, the Japanese American Redress Act, the Civil Rights Restoration Act, the Fair Housing Act Amendments of 1988, and the Civil Rights Act of 1991 were all drafted in their conference room.

In 2015, the Reform rabbis of Ohio came together to form the second state-based branch of the Religious Action center here in Ohio. With RAC-OH, Reform Jewish congregations across the state have partnered with allies to contact 250,000 voters to encourage them to vote for fair voting districts. We mobilized more than 436,000 voters to enshrine and expand reproductive freedom. We were part of a coalition to help pass the Targeted Community Alternatives to Prison Program; we lobbied for a fairer probation system, helping to pass Senate Bill 66. Our participation in each of these campaigns has been guided and informed by our Jewish values.

Here in Columbus, Congregation Beth Tikvah has been part of B.R.E.A.D. for several years, and together, we have accomplished meaningful change. As Jews, we know we cannot do this alone. We're a tiny percentage of the population, and we know too well that injustice impacts us all but does not impact us all equally. As we continue together in this holy work, may we continue to be inspired by Dr. King, by each other, and by the words of our prophets:

*You have been told, Mortal, what is good,  
And what God requires of you:  
Only to do justice,  
Love kindness,  
And walk humbly with your God  
(Micah 6:8).*

# Pause for Poetry - Rabbi Rick Kellner

## "From Open Closed Open"

Originally written in Hebrew, by Yehuda Amichai and translated by Chana Block and Chana Kronfeld

**Moses saw the face of God just once and then forgot. He didn't want to see the desert, not even the Promised Land, only the face of God. In the fury of his longing he struck the rock, climbed Mount Sinai and came down again, broke the Tablets of Law, made a golden calf, searched through fire and smoke, but he could remember only the strong hand of God and His outstretched arm, not His face. Moses was like a man who tries to recall**

**the face of someone he loved, but tries in vain. He composed a police sketch of God's face And the face of the burning bush and the face of Pharaoh's daughter Leaning over him, a baby in the ark of bulrushes. He sent that picture to all the tribes of Israel, Up and down the desert, but no one had seen, No one knew. Only at the end of his life, On Mount Nebo, did Moses see and die, kissing the face of God.**

Seeing God's face is an eternal yearning expressed throughout our sacred texts. The Psalmist cries out, "Don't hide your face from me," on numerous occasions. We might begin to ask ourselves, what does it actually mean to see God's face? We read in Exodus 33:11, "Adonai would speak to Moses face to face as one person speaks to another." Several verses later, Moses asks God to behold God's presence, but God responds, "You cannot see my face, for a human being may not see me and live." At the end of the Torah, in Deuteronomy, we learn there would never be another prophet who would know God face to face like Moses did. In the book of Numbers, the words the Priests use to bless people hope that God would lift God's face as part of the blessing. These words are quite paradoxical. They reflect God's mystery but behold the desire we each have to feel accepted by God and to ultimately feel God's blessing.

In Amichai's poem, I am drawn to the metaphor of the police sketch. In this contemporary metaphor, Moses is trying to reach out to others to see if anyone had the experience he had. Would anyone recognize the blessing he felt? He draws in some of the most sacred moments in his life. He felt the blessing of love by Pharaoh's daughter as a baby floating in the Nile. He beheld the flames of the burning bush, a moment when he felt the intimacy of God's call to him. After sending the sketches to every tribe, we might feel Moses is disheartened when no one recognizes God's face. Why would that be? Is it because no one had actually seen God's face before? Is it because no one had a relationship with God? Perhaps it is because every person might see the face of God differently. When God introduces Godself to Moses and asks God's name, God responds, Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh. While we do not typically translate these words, it can be loosely translated as, "I will be what I will be."

So many of us struggle with a belief in God or with creating a relationship with God. We wonder what God looks like, and if we cannot see God, then we might question God's existence. We do know that love exists, and the wind exists. Perhaps, then, the relationship we create with God is unique to each of us and changes based on how we feel or what we need on a given day or in a given moment. If we need God to teach us, God teaches. If we need God to guide us, God guides. If we need God to comfort us, God comforts.

Each of us is a sketch artist. Sometimes we sketch with paper and pencil; other times, we paint pictures with our words. What is the face of God you would sketch? Perhaps it is staring back at you in the mirror.

# 10th Grade Takes on D.C. at L'Taken



## A Message from Debbie Vinocur

There is a concept I value deeply: *The Art of Invisible Leadership*. It is the idea that when you walk into the sanctuary on a Friday evening, you are not thinking about the lighting, the temperature, or the countless logistics behind the scenes. Instead, you are free to enter into a profound spiritual experience. When everything works seamlessly, it allows the sacred to take center stage.

### The Sacred Business of Community

It can be easy to view the business of a synagogue as budgets, maintenance, setups, resets, and endless logistics—“just business.” At Beth Tikvah, there is no such thing. Every decision we make reflects our values. This is what I call the Sacred Business of Community.

When we maintain and invest in HVAC systems, we are not simply purchasing machinery; we are ensuring that every congregant—young and young at heart—can sit comfortably during services and gatherings. When we meet regularly to balance our funds, we are not just doing math; we are practicing *tzedakah*, ensuring that there is never a financial barrier to belonging at Beth Tikvah. When we support and oversee our staff, we are living the value of *kavod* (respect), creating a workplace grounded in dignity, teamwork, and a shared purpose to serve our Beth Tikvah community.

Last month, we said goodbye to Enos as he began a new chapter in his life (he shared with me that he is happily holding his chair down), and we welcomed Obaidullah, a new Afghan SIV (someone arriving with a Special Immigrant Visa), whom Beth Tikvah has helped support, sponsor, and resettle in the United States. Obaidullah recently began custodial work at Beth Tikvah part-time. This is a win for Beth Tikvah and a win for Obaidullah as he continues his search for a position that takes advantage of his academic training. Obaidullah holds a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and an MBA with a specialization in finance. These moments reflect who we are—a community guided by compassion, responsibility, and care for one another.

Much of my work as Executive Director, and the work of our entire staff, lives in what I call the “quiet experiences.” These are the moments that feel seamless: the technology that allows a grandparent 3,000 miles away to watch a grandchild’s B’nai Mitzvah, or the security measures that let you breathe a sigh of relief as you walk through our doors.

This month, we are grateful for a generous donation from JewishColumbus, which provided the new

Verkada Security System for synagogues and Jewish institutions throughout the Columbus area. The system offers enhanced camera coverage and a new access control feature, allowing congregants who download the app to enter the building securely. If you have not received your invitation to the app, please contact me. As we continue to strengthen and refine our security, we remain in close partnership with the Worthington Police, as well as the Perry and Sharon Township departments.

Each month, Beth Tikvah is filled with services, classes, programs, and community gatherings. These moments do not happen by accident. They are the result of a dedicated team working at the intersection of logistics and love. My role is to manage the “gears” of this institution so that you can focus on its soul.

We also have much to celebrate. Our Mishpacha Appeal, our largest annual fundraiser supporting Beth Tikvah’s operating budget, has been a tremendous success. Thanks to the generosity of all of you, we reached our goal of \$60,000. Your giving allows us to think creatively and expansively as we develop programs and services for all ages. Every contribution matters, and every gift is meaningful. For those still considering donating, it is not too late. Gifts made in our current fiscal year (25–26) will continue to enhance our services, events, and programs.

Looking ahead, I invite you to join us on February 7 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM for the **2026 Souper Bowl**, now in its 18th year, a chai year. This beloved event raises funds to help send Beth Tikvah children to Jewish overnight camp. Each year, the Souper Bowl helps create opportunities for Jewish connection, growth, and lifelong memories. The Souper Bowl is made possible through months of planning by our Brotherhood and the dedication of both professional and amateur chefs. Applications for summer 2026 camp **[scholarships are available by clicking here](#)** or in our weekly emails.

As we move into this next season, I am deeply grateful for your partnership in this sacred work. While much of what I do happens behind the scenes, its impact is only possible because of the vibrant, engaged community you create every day.

Beth Tikvah is built by each member—new and not so new—who show up, form relationships, and strengthen our shared future. We are truly grateful that you are part of our community.

# 2026 Souper Bowl Cookoff

**FEBRUARY 7, 2026 | 5:00 - 7:00 PM**

Be part of the excitement at the 18th Annual Columbus Souper Bowl Cook-Off! Your ticket gives you access to unlimited tastings of incredible soups, the chance to vote for Best Soup, and an evening filled with community energy and delicious fun.

## Parking & Shuttle Information:

The Souper Bowl Cookoff draws large crowds every year - and this year is shaping up to be the same! **A shuttle will drive to and from the parking lot of the Church of the Nazarene** at 5707 Olentangy River Rd. It will run before, during, and after the Souper Bowl for your convenience. Once our Beth Tikvah parking lot fills up, park at the Church of the Nazarene and take our free shuttle to the Souper bowl!

## **RESTAURANT ENTRANTS:**

**Katzinger's**

**Catering by Scott**

**Flavor 91**

**Barry Bagels**

**Fresh Start Cafe & Bakery**

**Creative Cuisine**

## **AMATEUR ENTRANTS:**

**Yulia Bar**

**The Crane Family**

**David & Margie Fleischer**

**Jeffrey Folkerth**

**Beth Walter**

**Avi Swissa, Aidan Martinez,  
Oliver Moore, & Evey Thomas**

**Please purchase your tickets ahead of the event to streamline the entry security process.**

**BUY TICKETS TO ATTEND!**



# A Souper Bowl Love Story...

Some love stories are marked by anniversaries, milestones, and photographs. Erin and Patrick can trace theirs by something a little more unexpected: the Columbus Souper Bowl Cook-Off at Congregation Beth Tikvah.

Their first Souper Bowl was 11 years ago, on their third date in 2015. “We thought it was such a fun and unique event,” Erin shared. What they didn’t know then was that the Souper Bowl would quietly become a yearly marker of their life together. Their engagement year. Their newlywed year. The year their child was born. And now, as a family of five, the Souper Bowl is still there—waiting, warm, and familiar.

“Over the years we seemed to mark our life milestones at the Souper Bowl,” Erin said. “Now we come for the community spirit, the memories, and of course, the great food.”

When asked how the Souper Bowl has changed over the years, their answer was simple and powerful: it hasn’t. “It’s a classic community event, one that sparks nostalgia even if it’s your first time attending.” In a world that feels constantly in motion, that consistency matters.

That’s the magic of the Souper Bowl. Walk into the building and you’re greeted by warmth, not just from simmering soups, but from people. Folks of all ages gather around tables, while “official-looking people in aprons bustle around making magic happen,” Erin joked. It’s joyful, welcoming, and unmistakably Beth Tikvah. (Pro tip from a seasoned attendee: arrive early because parking and seats fill up fast!)

The annual Souper Bowl isn’t just about trying delicious soups; it’s about what you are supporting by attending. All proceeds benefit the Beth Tikvah Jewish Camp Fund, which has raised over \$143,000 and sent more than 265 children to Jewish summer camp over the past 17 years.

“Camp is such a powerfully formative experience for any young person,” Erin reflected.

“Connecting more kids with positive camp experiences can only bring more goodness to the world.”

And then there are the moments that turn into stories retold year after year. Erin and Patrick still laugh thinking about their first Souper Bowl, when a “wonderfully goofy giant ladle trophy” was presented to the winning soup. And they haven’t forgotten the Hungarian goulash from years ago either. “I still dream about it,” Erin said. “It got my vote, hands down.”

On Saturday, February 7, 2026 starting at 5:00 PM, the 18th Annual Columbus Souper Bowl Cook-Off returns, and Erin and Patrick’s story is just one of many woven into this beloved tradition. Whether it’s your first Souper Bowl or your 18th, whether you come for the soup, the cause, or the sense of belonging, you’ll be part of something bigger: a community that shows up, year after year, to nourish both body and soul.

Tickets are now on sale. Come hungry. Come early. And who knows, this might just become part of your story too. Buy your tickets at

<https://bit.ly/26souperbowl>



**Erin & Patrick at the 2019 Souper Bowl Cook-Off**

Written by Hannah Karr



# FAMILY

## Events

21

FEB

Sign-Up

### PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN HAVDALAH & PJS

Join us at 5:30 PM for a Havdalah service that engages your senses, along with a story, craft activities, and a chance to connect with your Pre-K and Kindergarten friends. We'll have a milk and cereal bar for snack. Siblings of all ages are welcome. Don't forget to wear your favorite pajamas and bring along a stuffed animal friend!

28

FEB

### TIKVAH TOTS SHABBAT

Designed for families with young children (ages 0-8), join our joyful and engaging Shabbat experience! Enjoy songs, stories, movement, and age-appropriate Jewish learning led by our dedicated clergy and educators.



# THE 2026 ALLISON SENSER

## community

# PURIM FESTIVAL

March 1, 2026 from 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

LOCATION DISCLOSED UPON REGISTRATION

CELEBRATE WITH THE ENTIRE FAMILY & COMMUNITY AT A FUN-FILLED AFTERNOON

- ★ CARNIVAL GAMES FOR ALL
- ★ GIANT SLIDE
- ★ DELECTABLE HAMANTASCHEN
- ★ PHOTO BOOTH MEMORIES
- ★ FACE PAINTING

- ★ KOSHER MIDWAY TREATS
- ★ SILENT DISCO
- ★ PRIZES
- ★ MUSIC & ISRAELI DANCING
- ★ SURPRISE ENTERTAINMENT

Tickets on sale NOW!

An event for everyone! Join us in the Chill Zone for **sensory friendly** Purim activities

TICKET PRICES (INCLUDES PARKING) \$50 FAMILY - MAX OF 5 \$10 PER CHILD \$5 PER ADULT

REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR FREE PARKING

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFO



### IN PARTNERSHIP:



### THE COLUMBUS BOARD OF RABBIS



# THE CAROB TREE PROJECT

**Milly has lived a life shaped by observations gathered over decades about people, justice, and the ways we choose to move through the world. Her story is one of attention, and of a steady commitment to noticing what matters.**

That commitment to noticing has consequences. **“All of these people are my brothers and sisters,”** she said. **“That’s what makes it so hard.”** Living through the present moment feels heavy for her, not because injustice is new, but because it is all too familiar. She has been paying attention for most of her life. **“I’m 86 years old and still swimming in the swamp,”** she said. **“It’s hard.”**

That awareness began early. At eight years old, Milly was taken to Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore for treatment related to hearing loss caused by childhood illness. Even then, she noticed what others might have learned to ignore. **“I saw the signs on the restrooms and the drinking fountains that said, ‘white only,’”** she recalled with a shaky voice and tears in her eyes. **“And I just said, that’s not fair.”** She did not say it aloud at the time, but the moment stayed with her. **“I have been ‘othered’ because of my disability and when I saw that other people were not being treated fairly, it mattered.”**

Milly went on to study science and law, earning a doctorate in biochemistry and a law degree, and clerking in federal court. She speaks of her family’s immigrant roots with both pride and clarity. **“All four of my grandparents were immigrants,”** she said. **“On my father’s side from Lithuania, on my mother’s side from what is now Ukraine.”** Their success did not distance her from the struggles of others; it deepened her sense of responsibility.

Movement has also shaped her life, not as competition, but as connection. She bicycled through Southeast Ohio and parts of Appalachia, stopping to talk with people in their yards and forming friendships that have lasted decades. **“I still have friends that I made by**

**stopping in their yards and talking to them.”** Over time, those rides broadened her perspective. **“My interest expanded from racial justice to economic justice,”** she explained.

Family, for Milly, has never been limited by blood or structure. **“I just go through the world collecting people.”** She speaks of children, grandchildren, former spouses, in-laws, and friends with the same care and affection. **“When I say I find joy in family, it’s both the immediate family and the very extended family.”** That way of living came naturally. **“It wasn’t something that somebody taught me,”** she said. **“It was how I felt.”**

Judaism lives in her not as doctrine, but as ethical grounding. **“The high point is always Mi Shebeirach,”** she shared. **“Help me find the courage, not the strength, but the courage, to make my life a blessing.”** That line continues to guide her. She gives generously to causes rooted in justice, immigration support, and local care, seeking ways to show acceptance to people across her community.

Milly names her imperfections, impatience, and regrets honestly. She accepts loss. She adapts. When bicycling became unsafe, she delighted in hiking at the Scioto River and learned to row. When crowds became challenging, she found other ways to show up. **“I’m able. I’m blessed with the full use of my mind and body at this age.”**

Her life, like a carob tree, has grown slowly and deliberately. The seeds she has planted through courage, attention, and care continue to nourish others. She moves through the world the same way she once moved through Southeast Ohio on her bicycle: paying attention and stopping when something matters, willing to linger. Milly has always understood that change happens in small, human moments. She may not sit in the shade of all she has planted, but the fruit is already there.

# ONLINE MEDITATION

February 11 | 10:30 AM

[JOIN ON ZOOM HERE](#)

Join Morissa R. Freiberg-Vance, RJE in a guided meditation to rejuvenate your soul and calm your mind. Beginners are welcome!

**This meditation session is on Zoom only.**

# Adult Learning

Thurs, Feb. 19 at 7:15 PM

*Located at Beth Tikvah*

[SIGN-UP HERE](#)



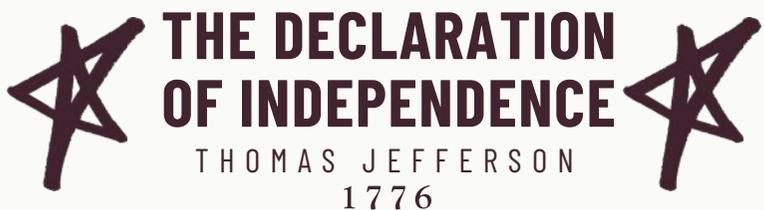
**Ori Yehudai**

OSU Associate Professor of History

Ori will use evidence and research to examine the turbulent period following the Yom Kippur War of 1973 to explore broader themes in Israeli-Palestinian history.



The Worthington interfaith community is proud to host Faith250, a four-session learning series connected to a national, multifaith initiative inviting communities to reflect on shared civic values through historical texts. As the U.S. approaches its 250th anniversary, Faith250 creates space for conversations about belonging, responsibility, and the moral ideals that shape lives.



Thursday, February 26 | 7:00 PM

Join us for our second Faith250 session as we explore The Declaration of Independence, reflect on who we want to be today, and the challenges that stand in the way of living into those ideals.

[SIGN-UP](#)

Worthington Presbyterian Church  
6773 High St. Worthington, OH  
Make sure to RSVP!



SUNDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

## Chat with the Author

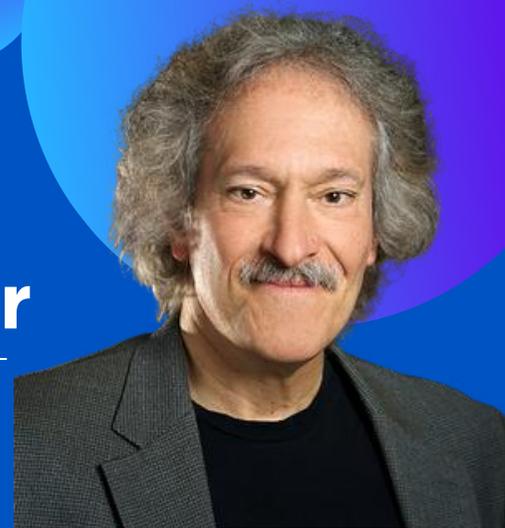
Join us on Zoom for a session with **Ori Soltes**, the author of our latest read: **"The Ashen Rainbow"**

SUNDAY

March 1, 2026

Start at 7 PM

[JOIN ON ZOOM](#)



SPEAKER

**ORI SOLTES**

A historian and educator who teaches theology, art history, philosophy, and political history at Georgetown University. He is the former Director and Chief Curator of the B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum and the author of numerous books and essays on art, history, and Jewish culture.

# ZIONISM CONGREGATION Beth Tikvah

## BETWEEN CRISIS & ASPIRATION

**An Adult Learning series guided by the experts of the Hartman Institute and facilitated by Rabbi Rick Kellner.** We will explore the core tensions, values, and aspirations of Zionism in a post-October 7 reality. Participants will engage questions of Jewish peoplehood, sovereignty, and moral responsibility in this challenging moment.

### SERIES SESSIONS

*Located at Beth Tikvah at 7:30 PM*

<b>March 4, 2026</b>	<b>April 15, 2026</b>
<b>March 11, 2026</b>	<b>April 29, 2026</b>
<b>March 25, 2026</b>	<b>May 7, 2026</b>

*This series will be offered in-person and on Zoom. Before each session, participants will be asked to listen to a 40-minute podcast, which will be sent in advance by Rabbi Rick Kellner.*

**DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 24, 2026**

**SIGN UP**



# RESLER SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

# MY HEART IS IN THE EAST

**FRIDAY, MARCH 13 | 7:15 PM**

**“AM YISRAEL: THE IMPORTANCE OF GATHERING”**

Rabbi Barkin will offer a sermon during Shabbat services rooted in the Torah portion *Vayakhel-Pekudei*, reflecting on the central role of gathering as one people.

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**SATURDAY, MARCH 14 | 11:00 AM**

**“A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME: REFORM JUDAISM IN ISRAEL”**

Following Library Minyan at 10:00 AM, explore the Jewish journey and the enduring necessity of a strong, meaningful Reform Judaism in Israel. Followed by a luncheon at noon.

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[SIGN-UP HERE](#)

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14 | 4:30 PM**

**“TWO YEARS OF WAR”**

We will use the blog Rabbi Barkin started after October 7<sup>th</sup> to reflect on Jewish life, leadership, faith, and resilience during an extraordinary period, concluding with Havdalah.

[SIGN-UP HERE](#)

**RABBI  
NIR BARKIN**

**Kehillat YOZMA  
Modi'in, Israel**



# EMPOWERING TEEN VOICES

## The Heiser's Vision for Justice

Members since 1978, **Karen and Steve Heiser** have watched their children grow up at Beth Tikvah, participating in youth programs and developing strong Jewish identities rooted in compassion and civic responsibility.

Now, with the creation of their **Teen Allies for Justice Endowment** through the Beth Tikvah Legacy Program, the Heiser's are supporting the next generation of Jewish leaders.

"For both of us, social justice has been a passion since adolescence," Karen explained. For Steve, the connection between Jewish values and this work is deeply personal. "One of the things I love about Judaism is how it looks at the world," he said. "Tikkun Olam [repairing the world] has always been one of my guideposts."

From witnessing racial injustice as a high school senior in Columbus to mentoring medical professionals on equity and advocacy at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Karen has spent decades helping others use their voices to create change. "Everyone knows the value of advocacy, but not everyone knows how to be a strong advocate," she said. "Whatever your passion is, you need to learn about that issue and have the skillset to enable your voice to be heard."

The Teen Allies for Justice Endowment is meant to support programming that provides Beth Tikvah teens with both educational grounding and real-life practice in advocacy through mentorship, community engagement, and skill-building opportunities.

"Think about how powerful it is for an 18-year-old to start advocating for older adults in their community," Karen shared.



"I have faith in the teens and youth who want to be involved. If we give them the tools, they will exceed our wildest expectations."

The Heiser's hope the initiative fosters a culture of leadership that is both diverse and authentic. "We would be most proud if it looks different year to year," Karen said, reflecting on the lasting impact they envision. "That means we're finding people who are passionate and understand that there isn't one cookie-cutter way."

The fund also allows Beth Tikvah to dream bigger, offering seed money for innovative ideas that might otherwise be financially out of reach. "We hope to encourage innovation and risk-taking," Karen shared. "Here's a little bit of money that's not part of the regular budget, and you can try something. If it works, terrific. If it doesn't work, we'll still learn from it."

As humble as they are visionary, Steve and Karen are excited to watch the impact unfold. Their hope is that the Teen Allies for Justice Endowment not only equips teens with skills to advocate for justice but also inspires them to take initiative, try new things, and lead in ways that are authentic to them. The Heisers are helping Beth Tikvah build a future shaped by empowered young voices and compassionate action.

CONGREGATION BETH TIKVAH  
**FOUNDATION**

At Beth Tikvah, our Legacy endowments are established by our congregants and serve as permanent sources of funding that support our synagogue's programs, education, and community initiatives for generations to come. Each one reflects the generosity and vision of congregants who want to ensure a vibrant Jewish future. You have the ability to contribute to any of these funds at any point in time to help strengthen the foundation of Congregation Beth Tikvah. Reach out to Executive Director, [Debbie Vinocur](#) or Life & Legacy co-chairs [Carol Folkerth](#) and [Andy Shafran](#) for more information.

**Ruth & Herbert Abrams Endowment**

**Michael Alexander & Jane Mitchell Endowment  
for the Education of all Jewish Children**

**Davidoff Family Camp Scholarship Fund**

**Arthur W. Davidson Endowment**

**Daniel Engler Memorial Legacy Fund**

**Flamm Family Endowment for  
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**Flesch Family Fund for Security at  
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**Forman Pay-It-Forward Fund**

**Dr. Gail E. Herman Endowment in Celebration  
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**Patti & Sid Price Beth Tikvah Religious School  
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**Martin & Marian Rosenthal Legacy Fund for  
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**Weisberg Endowment for Music at Beth Tikvah**

**Stu & Rochelle Zweben Endowment for  
Technology**

# BROTHERHOOD NEWSLETTER

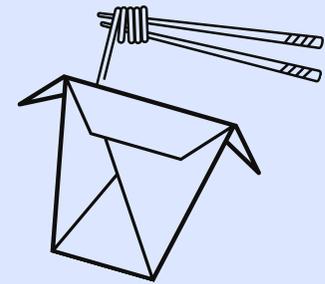


## FEBRUARY LUNCH

February 17 | 11:30 AM

*Located at Hunan Lion off Bethel*

**Contact Larry Romanoff to RSVP**



## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**Tuesday, March 10, 2026 from 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

Brotherhood is proud to sponsor a Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, from 12:00-6:00pm at Congregation Beth Tikvah. Donating blood is a simple yet powerful way to save lives and support our wider community. Whether you're a first-time donor or a regular, we invite you to roll up your sleeve and help make a difference.

## ED SCHECTER AWARD PRESENTATION

**Friday, March 20, 2026 at 7:15 PM**

Join us on Friday, March 20, 2026, during Shabbat evening services at 7:15pm, for the presentation of the Ed Schechter Award. This meaningful honor recognizes an individual who exemplifies dedication, leadership, and service within our Beth Tikvah community. All are welcome to attend this special moment of gratitude and celebration.

AGES 60+

# SHISHIM

## FEB. PROGRAM

### FEBRUARY 12, 2026

#### 11 AM - Birding Basics

**Catie Hyatt**, a naturalist from Glacier Ridge and Homestead Metro Park, will share tips about identification, using binoculars, and understanding bird behavior.

#### 12 PM - Lunch

We will be catering City BBQ with a variety of main courses, side dishes, and dessert.

\$15 for Beth Tikvah members, \$18 for non-members. Indicate your dietary needs in the "Notes" section of the ShulCloud form.

#### 1 PM - Americans & The Holocaust

The Columbus Metropolitan Library will host the Americans and the Holocaust exhibit from February 5 - March 19, 2026. **Angela O'Neal**, Local History & Genealogy Manager at the Columbus Metropolitan Library, will provide a preview of the exhibit and discuss ways in which you can get involved.

**This program is available in-person and on Zoom.**

The Zoom link can be found in the Shishim program message. If you do not receive the Shishim program message, send a message to David at [dbinkovitz2@aol.com](mailto:dbinkovitz2@aol.com)



**ORDER LUNCH**



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Newsletter



 **Women**  
OF BETH TIKVAH

### SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

Sunday, Feb. 22 | 4:00 - 5:00 PM

This class, taught by Sarah Stevens, will teach situational awareness, verbal de-escalation, and skills from Krav Maga & combative kickboxing to provide the tools to deal with the unexpected.

[SIGN-UP](#)

### BOOK CLUB

February 10, 2026 | 12:30 PM

Join us to discuss *Miss Morgan's Book Brigade* by Janet Skeslien Charles. A historical fiction based on the true story of an American librarian establishing children's libraries in war-torn France.

### MAHJONGG

Feb 17 | March 4 | March 17 | April 1

Located at Congregation Beth Tikvah at 1:30 PM.

Newbies are always welcome!

[SIGN-UP](#)

### WRJ DAY OF ACTION

April 12, 2026

Choose a project of interest to you or your group, or in alignment with WRJ's high priority issues, and take action in your own community.

[SIGN-UP HERE](#)

## 2026 WRJ Heartland Convention

March 13-15, 2026 | Indianapolis, IN

Join the Women of Reform Judaism in Indianapolis for a celebration of sisterhood, spirituality, and social justice.

You'll experience dynamic programming, meaningful worship, and nonstop schmoozing with Heartland sisters from across our district. A special treat during the weekend will be a visit to Camp GUCI for a day of connection, nature, and nostalgia.

[REGISTER FOR HEARTLAND](#)



Mazel Tov  
Marci Delson!

We are so proud to celebrate our very own Marci Delson as she is installed as **WRJ Heartland District Co-President** at the WRJ Heartland District Convention on March 14. Marci will also be honored with the **WRJ Lev Tov ("Good Heart") Award**, recognizing her leadership, care, and dedication to Jewish community. This is a well-deserved honor, and we are grateful to have Marci as part of our Beth Tikvah family!

# Central Ohio WRJ Tzedakah Collective

The Central Ohio Women of Reform Judaism Tzedakah Collective is in its 12<sup>th</sup> year working toward social justice in Central Ohio. By pooling funds, members make a difference through grantmaking. All Jewish women in Central Ohio are encouraged to join.

The Hebrew word “Tzedakah” means righteousness and justice. The Tzedakah Collective seeks to lift all people up by learning about the needs in our community and supporting the non-profits that address those needs in the populations they serve. The Tzedakah Collective focus is to help restore human dignity in underserved populations.

## Featured Non-Profit: Jewish Family Services

**DATE:** SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026

**TIME:** 3:30-5:00 PM on Zoom

**SPEAKER:** Karen Mozenter, CEO of JFS

**Karen will speak about JFS history, mission, services, achievements, partners, leadership, plans for the future, and volunteer opportunities.**

**She will explain the vast outreach JFS has to serve populations in need, including refugees, immigrants, older adults, Holocaust survivors, victims of domestic violence, those seeking employment counseling or emergency financial assistance. JFS has zero restrictions on race, nationality or religion.**

*Meetings are held six times a year, mostly by zoom. You do not have to be a member to attend the meetings to hear the presentations. Everyone is welcome to benefit from this education about our community. An annual tax-exempt donation of just \$60 (or more if one wishes) brings membership and the right to vote to allocate grants. Tzedakah Collective Steering Committee members: Jan Alloy, Pamela Feldman-Hill, Bobbie Garber, Stacy Levin, Lori Sachs, Laurel Zulliger, and Coordinator, Marsha Pond ([marshapond@msn.com](mailto:marshapond@msn.com)). All inquiries are welcome!*

# THE LAUNCH OF CHAI 614

---

**Dear Beth Tikvah Community,**

We are excited to share news of a meaningful new initiative taking shape in our Jewish community. **Chai 614 is a faith-based “village” designed to support older adults as they age in place, grounded in Jewish values and community care.**

Planning for Chai 614 began three years ago with a steering committee initiated by Congregation Beth Tikvah and has grown into a collaborative effort including liaisons from six Reform, Conservative, and Reconstructionist synagogues in central Ohio, along with JewishColumbus, Jewish Family Services (JFS), the JCC, and Wexner Heritage Village.

Chai 614 is not a residential community, but a virtual village—a model well established nationally. What makes Chai 614 unique is that it is faith-based, rooted in Jewish values, and specifically designed to meet the needs of aging Jewish adults.

Research shows that many seniors face challenges such as loneliness, isolation, financial concerns, and loss of independence. While some older adults choose senior living communities, most prefer to remain in their own homes. Chai 614’s goal is to help seniors do just that by providing services, resources, and connections that promote independence and belonging.

The village will operate through a central information hub, staffed by an office manager at Jewish Family Services and guided by a board of directors. Planned services include transportation, in-home visits and buddy systems, patient advocacy, referrals to social services, caregiver support, and access to vetted contractors. Membership dues will support the village, with services provided by volunteers and community partners.

Chai 614 is envisioned as a community-wide organization, serving both affiliated and unaffiliated Jews throughout the Columbus area. While start-up funding will be needed in the first year, the long-term goal is sustainability through membership dues, public funding, and donor support.

We are inspired by the collaboration that has brought this vision to life and are excited to share that Chai 614 with you all!

Best Regards,

*The Chai 614 Team*

**The Chai 614 Team**

# Save-the-Dates

**21  
FEB**

## **Shabbat Meditation In-Person**

*RSVP [HERE!](#) Begins at 10:30 AM with Morissa Freiberg-Vance RJE*

**27  
FEB**

## **Shabbat Neshama - A Shabbat for the Soul**

*Begins at 7:15 PM*

**2  
MAR**

## **Purim Dinner & Spiel**

*More information coming soon...*

**10  
MAR**

## **Red Cross Blood Drive**

*12:00 PM - 6:00 PM at Beth Tikvah*

**22  
MAR**

## **Passover Sale - Women of BT**

*9:00 AM - 12:00 PM at Beth Tikvah*

**1  
APRIL**

## **Beth Tikvah Passover Seder**

*More information coming soon...*

**11  
APRIL**

## **Women's Shabbaton**

*Targeted towards women and non-binary people*



# Torah Trailblazers: Celebrating Remarkable Jewish Women

## NINA MORAIS COHEN

Nina Morais Cohen was a writer, teacher, and suffragist at a time when women's rights were contested. She used her pen and her presence to challenge prejudice, build community, and expand what it meant for Jewish women to participate fully in civic life.

Born in Philadelphia on December 6, 1855, Nina was raised in a household rooted in Jewish learning and civic engagement. Her father, Sabato Morais, was a rabbi and an abolitionist, and his work shaped Nina's own sense that religious identity and moral responsibility are inseparable. In her early twenties, she began to establish herself as a popular teacher of English literature and an advocate for women's intellectual and social participation in society. She contributed essays to Jewish and secular publications, using her voice to confront inequality in both areas.

One of her most notable moments came in 1882, when Nina wrote a piece titled: **"A Reply to Miss Hardaker on the Woman Question" for *Popular Science Monthly***. In it, she challenged the misapplication of science to argue that women were intellectually inferior because of physical differences in brain size. She turned the argument on its head and asserted that excluding women from equal education and intellectual work was not rooted in evidence but in prejudice.



In 1886, she moved to Minneapolis with her husband and continued her activism. There, Nina worked with the Minnesota Women's Suffrage Association and the College Women's Club. When the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) was founded at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, she became a founding member. When she returned to Minneapolis, she led the Minneapolis NCJW Section as president, devoting much of her life to community service, advocacy, and leadership within her own Jewish communities (**Jewish Women's Archive**).

In a time when gender and religious prejudice were accepted as the norm, she loudly insisted otherwise. Her leadership reminds us that our efforts for inclusion and justice must be intentional. As we continue to cultivate community at Beth Tikvah, may her legacy inspire each of us to lift our voices for wisdom, equality, and shared responsibility.

### Sources

- [\*Jewish Women's Archive\*. "Nina Morais Cohen"](#)
- [\*Popular Science Monthly\*. "A Reply to Miss Hardaker on the Woman Question"](#)

Written by Hannah Karr

# THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS...

## Adult Learning

- Paul Feder & Marjorie Gaffin in memory of Bob Feldman and in sympathy with Toba Feldman on the loss of her brother
- Scott & Terri Gordon in memory of James Fons

## Brotherhood Donations

- Cameron & Lauren Crane
- Anne & Don Sylvan
- Debbie & Doug King in memory of Bob Feldman
- Robin Brenneman in memory of Bob Feldman
- Scott & Terri Gordon in memory of Bob Feldman
- Sue Wright in memory of Bob Feldman

## Caring Community Dedicated

- Robyn Howard in loving memory of Bob Feldman
- Stuart & Rochelle Zweben in memory of Bob Feldman

## Garden Buds Donation

- Nada & Robert Mazurek in memory of Joel Suna, beloved father of Nada Mazurek
- Marsha Pond in loving memory of James Fons, father of Ted Fons

## General Endowment Donation

- Earl Goldhammer in memory of his mother, Ruth Goldhammer
- Maria & Steven Rosenthal in memory of Richard Forman
- Evie & Harvey Freeman in memory of James Fons, father of Ted Fons

## Library Dedicated

- Susan & Tim Hedges in memory of Susan's father, Jerry M. Friedman

## Mandell Family Fund

- Cheryl Mandell in loving memory of Ernie Mandell

## Meditation Dedicated

- Nada & Robert Mazurek
- Constance Cantor
- Marsha Pond in honor of Morissa & George's wedding
- Wendy & Ernie Grindstaff in memory of Bernard Vance, father of George Vance
- Wendy & Ernie Grindstaff in honor of Morissa & George's wedding

## Michael Alexander & Jane Mitchell Endowment for the Education of all Jewish Children

- Lynne & Daniel Allen in memory of Caleb Mittelman, grandson of Blanche & Rico Mittelman
- Bette Feist in memory of the loss of a grandchild

## Music Fund Dedicated

- Debbie & Doug King in memory of James Fons
- Wendy & Ernie Grindstaff in memory of James Fons, father of Ted Fons
- George Vance & Morissa Freiberg-Vance in honor of Julie Sapper for providing the beautiful music for their wedding ceremony

## Rabbi Martin Discretionary Fund

- Bruce & Julie Weinberg

## Rabbi Kellner Discretionary Fund

- Ellen Leidner & Richard Goldberg in loving memory of June Ethel Ondo

## Rabbi Kellner Discretionary Fund Continued...

- Bruce & Julie Weinberg
- Gail Gandal
- Scott & Shelley Meyers in memory of Natalie Rosenbloom, sister and sister-in-law
- Scott & Shelley Meyers in memory of Jeff Krueger, son-in-law
- Leslie Kellner in memory of the father of Ted Fons
- George Vance & Morissa Freiberg-Vance in appreciation for the officiation of their wedding service

## Religious School Dedicated

- Bruce Chapman & Lois Winnick-Chapman in loving memory of Bill VanHorne, husband of Linda VanHorne
- Dora & Ed Sterling in memory of Rico & Blanche Mittelman's loss of an anticipated new family member
- Bette Feist in memory of Bill VanHorne
- Debbie & Doug King in memory of William VanHorne
- Jane Mitchell & Michael Alexander in memory of Bill VanHorne
- Evie & Harvey Freeman in honor of Morissa & George's wedding
- Evie & Harvey Freeman in memory of Bill VanHorne
- Darla Abraham in memory of Bill VanHorne, husband of Linda and father of Meredith and Jeremy

## Shishim Donations

- Susan Sitler & Tim Ahrens
- Lynne & Daniel Allen in memory of Richard Forman
- Jane Mitchell & Michael Alexander in memory of Rick Forman
- Jane Mitchell & Michael Alexander in memory of Bob Feldman
- Donald & Anne Sylvan in memory of Richard Forman
- Barbara Sanderow in loving memory of Howard Sanderow
- Cynthia Pfening
- Reid & Ellen Romer

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- Mary Lou Davis in loving memory of Bob Feldman
- Margery Hollander in loving memory of Bob Feldman
- Nancy Schwartz in loving memory of her mother, Susan G. Loviso
- Nancy Schwartz in honor of her sisters
- Sheldon & Jacqueline Chizever in honor of Michael & Barbara Taxier's granddaughter, Talia Rose

## Stu & Rochelle Zweben Endowment for Technology

- Stu & Rochelle Zweben in memory of their parents

## The Forman Pay-It-Forward Fund

- Evie & Harvey Freeman in memory of Rick Forman
- Nada & Robert Mazurek in memory of Rick Forman, beloved husband of Marcey Goulder Forman
- Stu & Rochelle Zweben in memory of Richard Forman
- Barbara Mindel in memory of Rick Forman
- Barry & Shelly Igdaloff in memory of Rick Forman
- Michelle and Kathryn Yost in memory of Rick Forman
- Marcey Forman in loving memory of Bill VanHorne

## Wish List Dedicated

- Bruce Chapman & Lois Winnick-Chapman in loving memory of Ken Tecklenburg
- Bruce Chapman & Lois Winnick-Chapman in loving memory of James Fons, father of Ted Fons

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# TIKVAH TOPICS

## Editor's Note:

It is my privilege to design, write, and publish Tikvah Topics each month. This newsletter is a reflection of the heart and spirit of our community.

If you have content ideas, information to share, or suggestions for upcoming editions, please feel free to reach out to me at [comms@bethtikvahcolumbus.org](mailto:comms@bethtikvahcolumbus.org).

Your input helps ensure Tikvah Topics continues to represent and celebrate our vibrant congregation.

## Hannah Karr

Director of Marketing & Community Engagement

[comms@bethtikvahcolumbus.org](mailto:comms@bethtikvahcolumbus.org)



Scan QR Code OR [Click Here](#) for the Calendar.

*If you do not have the passcode to the calendar, reach out to Hannah Karr*



Our mission at Congregation Beth Tikvah is to empower individuals to live and learn Jewishly, and to make the world a better place.