



# TIKVAH TOPICS

KISLEV

TEVET



Congregation Beth Tikvah • 6121 Olentangy River Road • Worthington, OH 43085  
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# November at Beth Tikvah





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# Words from Rabbi Karen Martin

Back in October, Congregation Beth Tikvah hosted its first Engagement Fair. It was a wonderful event, with representatives from the Women of Beth Tikvah, our Brotherhood, the Social Action Committee, the Adult Education Committee, and many more present to share the myriads of ways that people can connect, learn, and make a difference in our community and beyond. As part of the Engagement Fair, we also asked congregants to share their ideas with us – what other classes, groups, or activities are our members looking for? How else can we support our community?

In the weeks since, Miryam Chandler, our Membership Committee Chair who conceived of and spearheaded the fair, and I have taken the opportunity to sit down and reflect on the Engagement Fair and what we learned from it. We are excited to share both the event's impact and how we're moving forward with what we've learned.

There were two themes that we heard over and over from our committees, affinity group chairs, and those who attended the event. The first is that we have wonderful groups that appeal to different interests and stages of life, but we want more opportunities for collaboration between these groups. For example, some suggested that Kehillah Connect, a group that regularly meets on Sunday mornings for coffee or walks, could work with the Garden Buds from time to time to help them with fall clean up or planting in the spring. On December 3, we are inviting all our affinity group leaders to come together for training on new programming guidelines. As part of that meeting, we've built in time for collaborative planning in hopes of creating more of these opportunities for our community to come together.

We also heard the call for classes on Jewish life and practice, particularly around the end of life. We've approached this in two different ways. First, Rabbi Kellner and Hannah Karr had already conceived of a "How-To" series. The series launched in November with "[Understanding Death and Dying in Reform Judaism](#)." Watch for the second article in the series, about Hanukkah, coming out later this month! In the spring we're also going to host "[Death Over Dinner](#)," a guided conversation about death and dying through a Jewish lens.

Finally, at the Engagement Fair, the newly revamped Caring Community put out a call looking for volunteers who are willing to cook and deliver meals to congregants in need, as well as to help assemble and deliver Shabbat bags to families welcoming new babies or experiencing a loss. Our community's response has been beautiful and overwhelming. Following the fair and in the weeks since, we have had nearly 80 people step up and say that they would be able and willing to care for those in need in our community.

There were several other wonderful ideas we received at the Engagement Fair. We have been able to institute certain ideas quickly, such as offering Sensory Bags for services (thank you Morissa for creating the bags). Some ideas presented – like endowments that support various aspects of our community and programming – already exist ([see page 30 for a list of our endowments](#)). Others we have not (yet) been able to implement. Nevertheless, we so deeply appreciate the ideas and energy brought to the Engagement Fair and to the work we do together every day.



# Pause for Poetry - Rabbi Rick Kellner

## **“Chanukah Ended Weeks Ago”**

*by Rabbi Evan Schultz from Morning, Noon, and Night*

*a menorah still sits on my windowsill  
chanukah ended weeks ago, I know  
it holds no candles,  
nor does it emanate any light.  
every so often i turn my head.  
its empty spaces remind me  
that miracles have yet to occur,  
and as people die, hope does not.  
in war there is no light.  
it is like an empty menorah.  
waiting for someone to find a candle,  
and maybe too, a miracle.*

For most of the year, our Hanukkah menorahs sit on a shelf in the living room or tucked away in a dining room cabinet. As we wait for the eight days when we bring them out and light them, we thank God for the miracles that occurred long ago and pray for miracles in our own time. When I take the hanukkiah down from the shelf, I scrape off the old wax that carries the remnants of past celebrations. Those memories—formed on dark winter nights—hold both nostalgia and the hopeful tug of the miracle strings that we seek each year.

When Rabbi Schultz is reminded that miracles have yet to occur, I wonder if we need to ask ourselves: What can I do to make the miracle happen? That is the inherent debate of Hanukkah. Who makes the miracle? The song Maoz Tzur, Rock of Ages, teaches us that God is the source of the miracles, and Mi Yimalel teaches us that it was the Maccabees who brought about the miracle of redemption. We might ask ourselves why the miracle has to be brought on by either God or humanity. Perhaps it is both. Perhaps we need to pray for the miracles because, through those prayers, the strength of our spirit is awakened. When that happens, we act. We say to ourselves, we can do this. Rabbi Schultz acknowledges our role in bringing about the miracle by lighting the candle.

In looking back at history, we notice with wonder that God performed numerous miracles for us in the Torah. The skeptic might say that if God is no longer performing miracles, we might need to question our belief. Perhaps, as Rabbi Irving Greenberg suggests, the terms of the covenant were altered. He offers an alternate wisdom and wonders if God is now only performing hidden miracles and we “need to magnify [our] actions to enable the right results.”

Hanukkah is a time to recognize the miracles. But we cannot leave them solely to our prayers. In this season, may our prayers voice the hope of the miracles that lie in our hearts, and may we bring them to light through the might of our hands.





# CELEBRATING HANUKKAH

WITH BETH TIKVAH

DEC  
14

## COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Sunday, Dec. 14 at 5:30 PM

The celebration will include songs and a menorah lighting. Kids will enjoy Hanukkah activity stations, and everyone can indulge in delicious sufganyot. Afterward, join one of our Affinity Group restaurant meetups to keep the fun going. Locations of meetups coming soon...



DEC  
19

## MIKE FLIEGEL HANUKKAH LATKEFEST

Friday, Dec. 19 at 7:15 PM

Sponsored by our incredible Beth Tikvah Brotherhood—who also lovingly prepare every single latke—this festive evening is filled with delicious food, holiday spirit, music, and fun for all ages. We'll also take a special moment to offer a blessing for the new members who've joined our community this year. Featuring a special music presentation by our intergenerational Beth Tikvah singers! Don't forget to bring your own Hanukkah menorah!

*Dedicated to Mike Fliegel z"l and his impact on our congregation and the Beth Tikvah Brotherhood.*





# Latkes from Around the World



## Indian-Inspired Latkes: Masala Spice & Mint Yogurt

In India's Bene Israel and Cochin Jewish communities, spices are central. These latkes are infused with warm garam masala, turmeric, and cumin, echoing flavors found in Indian street snacks like pakoras. Serve with mint yogurt chutney for a cooling contrast.



## Korean Jeon-Style Latkes with a Kimchi Kick

Inspired by Korea's savory pancakes known as jeon, this version blends grated potato with chopped kimchi, scallions, and soy sauce. A gochujang-sesame drizzle gives it that perfect umami punch. While not traditionally Jewish, this fusion reflects modern Jewish-Asian kitchens and culinary creativity.



## Middle Eastern Latkes: Za'atar & Tahini

Middle Eastern Jewish communities often season with za'atar, a beloved herb blend, and drizzle everything with tahini. These latkes combine both, plus pops of fresh pomegranate for brightness. A celebration of Mizrahi and Israeli culinary heritage.



## Italian Polenta Latkes

Jews in Italy, especially around Venice and Rome, often incorporate polenta (cornmeal) into their cooking. These latkes are made with firm polenta rounds, pan-fried, and topped with rosemary, parmesan, and garlic aioli. A Mediterranean take that's perfect for a dairy Hanukkah meal.



## Latin American Yuca Latkes

Jewish communities in Latin America have long embraced local ingredients like yuca (cassava). These latkes swap out potatoes for yuca, bringing a nutty flavor and chewy-crisp texture. A lime-zesty crema brings it all together, nodding to Colombian and Puerto Rican Jewish kitchens.

[Click Here for more recipes.](#)



# 8 Nights of Uncommon Light!

## NIGHT 1 - Light a Legacy

Instead of just lighting candles, light stories. Each person shares a family tale or memory tied to resilience, faith, or humor. It's like passing down the flame.

## NIGHT 5 - Make Light Art

Grab string lights, tea candles, or even flashlights—then turn off the lights and create shapes, shadows, and stories. Bonus: photograph your designs and share them.

## NIGHT 2 - Flip the Feast

Host a reverse potluck: everyone brings a dish they've never made before. You can also experiment with Jewish Hanukkah food traditions from around the world.

## NIGHT 6 - Glow & Flow

Try a Hanukkah yoga session by candlelight or a guided meditation focused on inner light. Or take a candlelit walk and reflect quietly on the miracles in your life.

## NIGHT 3 - Give Loudly

Take tzedakah public. Let the kids choose a cause, make signs, and create a mini "Hanukkah for Change" lemonade stand or bake sale. Shine light in the streets.

## NIGHT 7 - Something New

Create a new tradition from scratch. Let each person at the table invent one symbolic ritual, blessing, or dish—something they wish Hanukkah had.

## NIGHT 4 - Be an Advocate

Channel the Maccabees' boldness. Write letters to a representative, advocate for someone in need, or sign up for a cause you've hesitated to join.

## NIGHT 8 - Mishpacha Gift!

[DONATE TO THE MISHPACHA APPEAL](#)

If Beth Tikvah has brought light into your life, we invite you to help keep that light shining for others.



# MISHPACHA APPEAL

## KEEP OUR LIGHT SHINING BRIGHT!

The Mishpacha Appeal is our single largest annual fundraiser. Your gift illuminates the spaces where we learn, pray, gather, and care for one another. It supports the people who show up for us in moments of joy and in moments of need. It keeps Beth Tikvah warm, welcoming, and able to meet the needs of every generation.

Hanukkah asks us to kindle light not only for ourselves, but for others. When you give to the Mishpacha Appeal, you are helping ensure that our sanctuary glows with song, our classrooms stay full of curiosity and laughter, and our community remains a place where no one stands alone.

Our goal this year is \$60,000 and broad participation from our households. It's not about how much each person gives—it's about the shared act of giving.

When many hands bring small flames, the light becomes strong. If Beth Tikvah has been a source of light in your life, we invite you to help keep that light shining for our whole community this Hanukkah season.

Thank you for being part of our mishpacha—our family.

**GIVE A MISHPACHA GIFT**





# Hanukkah Blessings

Candles are added to the *hanukkiyah* (menorah) from right to left but are kindled from left to right. The newest candle is lit first. On the Shabbat of Hanukkah, kindle the Hanukkah lights first and then the Shabbat candles.

Light the *shamash* (the helper candle) first, using it to kindle the rest of the Hanukkah lights. As you do, say or sing:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו וְצִוָּנוּ,  
לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ וְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ  
בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזֶמַן הַזֶּה

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, she-asah nisim laavoteinu v'imoteinu bayamim hahaeim baz'man hazeh.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in days of old at this season.

## For first night only:

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שֶׁהֵחָיָנוּ וְקִיָּמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לְזֶמַן  
הַזֶּה.

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higiyanu laz'man hazeh.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.

## Hanerot Halalu

We kindle these lights because of the wondrous deliverance You performed for our ancestors. During these eight days of Hanukkah, these lights are sacred; we are not to use them but only to behold them, so that their glow may rouse us to give thanks for Your wondrous acts of deliverance.



# Hanukkah in Past Years





# FAMILY Events



**5  
DEC.**

**Sign-Up**

## FAMILY SHABBAT DINNER & SERVICE

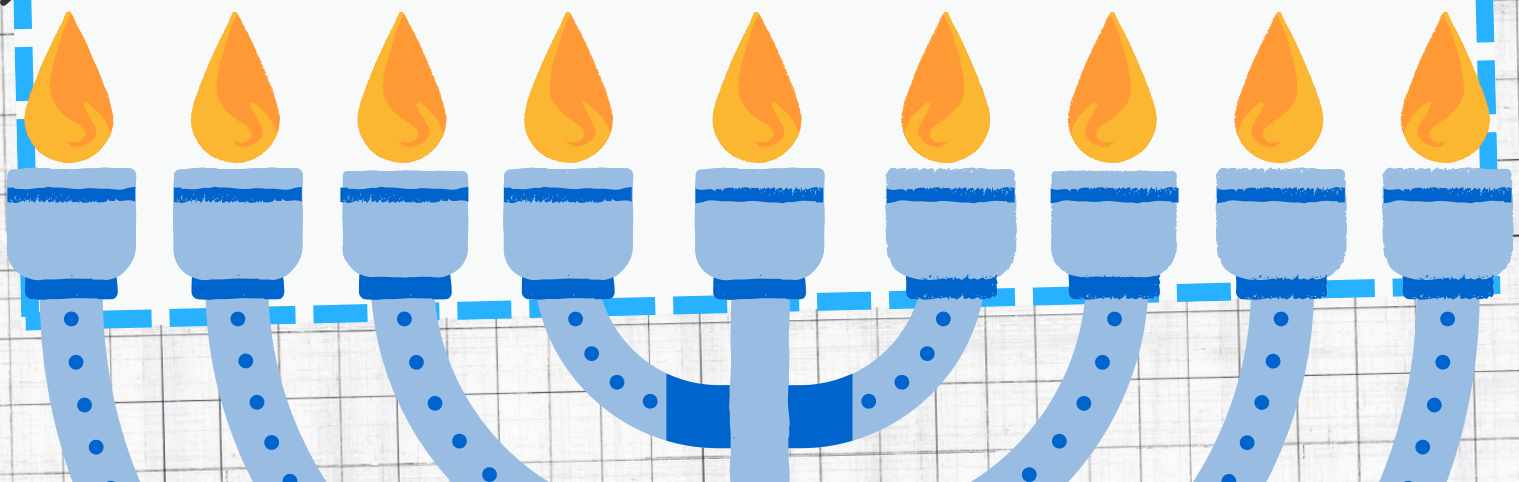
Join us at 6:15 PM on Friday, December 5 for a community dinner catered by Pitabilities followed by our Shabbat service featuring leadership by our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**6  
DEC.**

**Sign-Up**

## TIKVAH TOTS HANUKKAH SHABBAT

Tikvah Tots is geared towards families with children ages 0-8. Sing & celebrate Shabbat with us as our Rabbis lead us in song followed by crafts with Morissa. Donuts and nosh will be served for Hanukkah...make sure to wear your Hanukkah gear!





# MAZEL TOV

## *December B'nai Mitzvahs!*



### *Will B.*

Will is a 7th grader at Karrer Middle School in Dublin, Ohio. His favorite subjects are Science and Social Studies. Will recently finished his first season of KMS football and can't wait for next year! He loves playing sports - especially football, soccer and basketball - and is excited to try lacrosse or track in the spring. In his spare time, Will enjoys gaming on his computer and spending time with family and friends. For his mitzvah project, Will made blankets for an organization called My Very Own Blanket, whose mission is to provide kids and teens in the foster care system with their own handmade blankets.

DECEMBER 6, 2025



### *Sam M.*

Sam is a seventh grader at Grizzell Middle School in Dublin. He enjoys playing football and basketball. In his free time, he loves skiing, water skiing, and traveling with his family. Sam also enjoys spending time with his dog, Beau.

For his Mitzvah project, Sam assembled snack bags for a football team in Columbus to help provide meals for players who might not always have access to them. He is also volunteering at the Mid-Ohio Food Collective.

DECEMBER 13, 2025



### *Elias T.*

Elias is an 8th grader at Phoenix Middle School in Worthington. His favorite subject is Science.

Elias' favorite hobbies include playing video games, reading and urban exploration.

His Mitzvah Project was collecting new books to donate to a local foster and kinship care organization, Alicia's Closet.

DECEMBER 20, 2025



# First Semester Recap!



Our first semester was filled with joyful learning, Jewish exploration, and growing community connection across all grades. From diving into Torah stories to cooking Israeli treats, Hebrew learning to service projects, our students engaged deeply with Jewish life, ritual, and values.

## PRIMARY GRADES (PRE K – 2 GRADE)

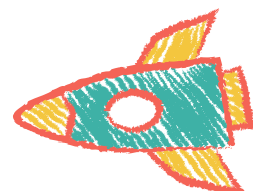
Our youngest learners spent the semester building foundational Jewish knowledge through hands-on experiences, music, stories, and creative projects.

- **Torah Stories:** Students explored Creation, Adam and Eve, and Noah's Ark. They retold these stories with felt boards, made Creation wheels and parfaits, decorated ark crafts, and followed movement trails representing each of the seven days.
- **Jewish Holidays:** Early grades learned about Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah through crafts, story time, and Hebrew Through Movement. Students visited the sanctuary to see a real Torah, watched videos about how Torah scrolls are made, and created their own mini Torahs.
- **Shabbat:** Classes practiced Shabbat blessings, learned the meaning behind candle lighting and Kiddush, and made candle holders, challah covers, and even "cookie candles."
- **Mitzvot & Kindness:** Students learned what mitzvot are and discovered that they were already doing many in their daily lives. They decorated mitzvah bags, played mitzvah bingo, made cards for loved ones, and discussed how to be good friends.
- **Specials:** PJ Library, Hebrew Through Movement, and Music: Monthly visits to the PJ library with Jen Cantor, Hebrew Through Movement with HaMoreh Daniel, and spirited music sessions with Cade and Ms. Julie enhanced their Jewish learning and added warmth to Sunday mornings.

## UPPER ELEMENTARY (3 – 5 GRADE)

Older elementary students built on their Jewish knowledge, diving deeper into values, Jewish history, and ritual practice.

- **Jewish Values:** A major theme across all grades was G'milut Chasadim—acts of loving-kindness. Students discussed being a mensch, recognizing the good (Hakarat HaTov), and explored tzedakah and tikkun olam. They made tzedakah cans, completed kindness challenges, and participated in class service projects.
- **Torah & Holidays:** Classes studied weekly Torah portions, including Lech Lecha and the story of Abraham and Sarah's journey. They explored Simchat Torah, the days of creation, and the meaning of Shabbat through discussion, prayer practice, cooking projects, and art.
- **4th grade Israel Exploration:** 4th graders engaged in a new curriculum from The Jewish Education Project, where they learned about major Israeli landmarks, the Israeli flag, and Jewish history. Activities included poster-making, Hebrew learning, and discussions of Theodor Herzl and the founding of Israel.





# First Semester Recap!

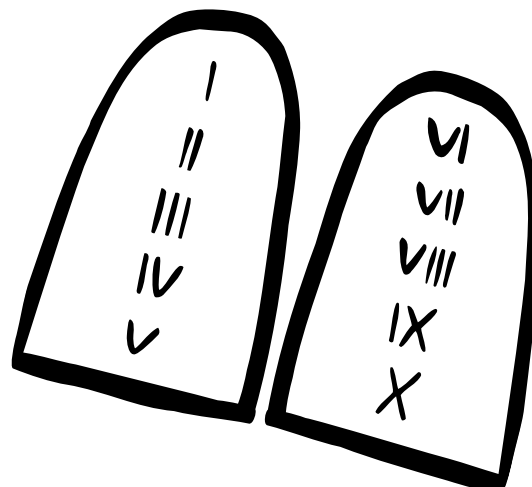


## TEEN PROGRAM (6 – 12 GRADE)

All Teen Program students continued exploring Jewish identity, history, and current issues through discussion, debate, and creative projects. We welcomed guest speakers from StandWithUs, Israeli Shinshinim, and a panel of former IDF soldiers. They also joined together to make Hanukkah cards for the National Jewish Braille Institute.

- 6th Grade with Hannah Movshin have been discovering Jewish Values & Prayer, examining how God appears in Torah and in their own lives, shared moments of spiritual connection, and learned the importance of community during life cycle moments. As Thanksgiving approached, students studied gratitude in Jewish texts, explored Hakarat HaTov, and wrote appreciation cards for people in their lives. In their Jewish Heroes lens with Leigh Zircher, 6th graders connected with Abraham, Sarah, and Joseph.
- 7th Grade with Bentley Adkins have been exploring the Jewish life cycle—birth, b'nai mitzvah, confirmation, marriage, and death through conversations, drawings, and reflections as part of the Moving Traditions B Mitzvah curriculum. They have also been deeply immersed in their Holocaust learning with Cameron Crane. Students read and discussed graphic novels and books about the Shoah, explored themes from White Bird, and reflected on the "Righteous Among the Nations." They also analyzed the short film Toyland.
- 8th grade with Alisa Swissa and David Knight have been studying Jewish values in connection with their service learning opportunities and made an impact during their Tikkun Olam Trips to Adaptive Sports Connection and National Veteran's Memorial.
- 9th Grade with Rabbi Karen is on a journey of discovering Israel & Zionism: Lessons covered the founding of Israel, political vs. religious Zionism, covenants between God and the Jewish people, and how these ideas shape modern Jewish identity. They have also had two special Israeli culture sessions with Morissa focusing on the stories that recipes tell.
- 10th Grade Confirmation students explored different theologies about God, studied traditional texts, and analyzed lyrics from Jewish music such as Matisyahu's One Day.
- 11th and 12th Grade Mitzvah Corps Teens engaged in two volunteer sessions at our new partner organization, Alicia's Closet.

Across all ages, our students engaged joyfully and thoughtfully with their Jewish learning this semester. We are proud of their curiosity, compassion, and creativity! We look forward to an exciting second semester filled with continued learning, community, and Jewish growth.





שבת קודש  
ליל חמשה עשר  
לחודש שבט

*Morissa & George*

WE INVITE THE  
COMMUNITY TO  
CELEBRATE WITH US

*at our Anshuf*

FRIDAY 12/19/25

7:15 PM

*During Shabbat Evening Services at Beth Tikvah*



# THE SEASON OF GIVING

BY TANYA SHATS, SOCIAL ACTION CHAIR



As we gather this holiday season, many of us are looking forward to seeing our family from near and far, eating delicious food, and building lifelong memories. Our kids, of course, are looking forward to a break from homework, snacking on special desserts, playing family games and getting holiday gifts. From little treats to the gifts that they will remember way into adulthood (I still have my Cabbage Patch doll), holiday memories are precious.

Although it is always fun to receive gifts, it is extremely important to help kids learn the value of giving back to others in the community. This year, Beth Tikvah has partnered with the local non-profit, **Alicia's Closet**, to help bring holiday joy to children and young adults across central Ohio. As a congregation, we have set our goal to sponsor 30 children, and I am excited to share that we exceeded our goal and have sponsored 51 children!

The following note was shared in the thank you card provided during the gift dropoff: "Thank you so much for your generous support of our Help for the Holidays Program! Your assistance with collecting gifts is making a meaningful difference for more than 1,000 kids right here in the Columbus area! Because of you, we are able to bring joy to even more children this holiday season".

Thank you for your generous donation, support and kind words during this drive. Wishing you and your family joy, laughter, and peace this holiday season.





# JewishColumbus Israel 614 Trip!





# Escaping Kabul: A Refugee Story

Earlier this year, Beth Tikvah began sponsoring Obaidullah Hotak, an Afghan refugee seeking safety in the U.S. from the Taliban. Through the dedication of our members, Obaidullah has begun building a new life here in Columbus, while his family remains in Afghanistan.

Join us as Rabbi Kellner offers opening remarks, followed by a conversation and Q&A with Obaidullah, facilitated by David Sapper. Coffee, cake, and refreshments served.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN-UP](#)

**December 4, 2025 at 7:30 PM**

*Located at Congregation Beth Tikvah*

## Support Columbus Jewish Day School Ohio Scholarship Tax Credit

CONVERT YOUR TAX DOLLARS INTO SCHOLARSHIP  
DOLLARS FOR CJDS!

### 3 things to know

- 1 Use the Ohio Tax Credit to fund CJDS Scholarships!
- 2 There is no net cost to you!
- 3 Any Ohio taxpayer can participate & use this tax credit!

[LEARN MORE!](#)

Contribute up to a maximum of:  
\$750/person or \$1500/couple

Deadline: April 15th, 2026  
Or when you file your 2025 taxes\*

## MOVIE NIGHT

**CROSSING  
DELANCEY**

JOIN MORRIS LEVY, ADULT EDUCATION CHAIR  
FOR MOVIE NIGHT AT BETH TIKVAH!

**DEC. 18 | 7:00 PM**

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN-UP](#)

*Crossing Delancey* (1988) is a charming romantic comedy about Isabelle, an independent New Yorker whose life is lovingly disrupted when her grandmother hires a local Jewish matchmaker to set her up with Sam, a Lower East Side pickle salesman. The film explores love, identity, and the pull between old and new.

Enjoy the film—and a delicious popcorn bar—as we explore its timeless themes!

## SUNDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

**“The Ashen Rainbow”  
by Ori Soltes**

[LEARN MORE](#)



# WOMEN'S TORAH STUDY

Morissa Freiberg, RJE



Join us in-person or on Zoom on  
**Monday, December 8 at 12 PM**

[JOIN ON ZOOM HERE](#)



## ONLINE DECEMBER MEDITATION

December 10, 2025 at 10:30 AM

[JOIN ON ZOOM HERE](#)







# A CONVERSATION WITH OHIO'S HILLEL DIRECTORS



ACCESS THE CONVERSATION

Our Legacy November gathering offered a meaningful look at Jewish life on campus today. Rabbi Rick Kellner was joined by Naomi Lamb, Director of Ohio State Hillel, and Juli Goodman, Director of Ohio University Hillel. Together, they led a thoughtful conversation about the experiences of Jewish students, the role of Hillel in supporting them, and the ways young adults are shaping their own Jewish identities in a changing world.

Naomi and Juli shared stories from their campuses — moments of Jewish joy and community-building, examples of student leadership, and reflections on what it means for students to feel connected and supported during their college years. They spoke about the importance of giving students space to celebrate their Judaism, ask questions, make mistakes, lead programs, and build relationships and identities that sustain them long after graduation. Their insights highlighted the deep sense of possibility present on campuses today.

The conversation reminded us that nurturing Jewish life is not only about the present moment but also about investing in the future, and in the students who will one day become leaders, parents, mentors, educators, and stewards of Jewish community.

We are grateful to Naomi and Juli for sharing their time and perspectives. Ohio State and Ohio University are truly fortunate to have such dedicated Hillel directors guiding and encouraging their students.

A special thank-you to the Life & Legacy Committee for planning and coordinating this event. Their commitment to strengthening Jewish continuity at Beth Tikvah ensures that our values and stories will be carried forward with care and purpose.







# Columbus Souper Bowl Cookoff



Mark your calendars for **February 7, 2026**, when Beth Tikvah's kitchen fills with the aroma of simmering pots and creative recipes at our 18th Annual Columbus Souper Bowl Cook-Off. This beloved community tradition brings together more than 200 tasters to sample, savor, and vote for the Best Soup in Columbus.

**Do you have a family recipe that always gets raving reviews? Are you a restaurant or chef with a signature soup that deserves the spotlight? Enter the competition in either the Amateur or Restaurant divisions and let your soup shine!**

Not a cook? You can still make a big impact—join us as a sponsor or contribute to our silent auction. Every bowl you taste and every bid you make supports the Beth Tikvah Jewish Camp Fund, giving children in our community the chance to build friendships, explore their Judaism, and experience the joy of summer camp.

For entry details, sponsor opportunities, or auction donations, fill out the forms below or reach out to Jeff Wasserstrom at [jeffwass@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffwass@yahoo.com).

Amateur Entry

Restaurant Entry

Sponsor Form

 wasserstrom

MILL RUN VISION CENTER



BRADY WARE  
& COMPANY



**Herb & Judy Weisberg**



AGES 60+

# SHISHIM

## DEC. PROGRAM

### DECEMBER 11, 2025

#### 11 AM - The Women in King David's Court

Rabbi Karen Martin will share the stories of King David's three most famous wives, Michal, Abigail, and Bathsheba. We will learn about the roles they had in both the Biblical narrative and how they likely served in Ancient Israel. Rabbi Martin joined Beth Tikvah in July 2025 as the new Assistant Rabbi.

#### 12 PM - Lunch

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

#### 1 PM - Light One Candle: From Darkness to the Light

Join Columbus musician Bill Cohen for an uplifting concert that looks ahead to the new year, its emerging sunlight, and its potential for joy and progress. Bill will sing popular songs from the 1940's, 50's, 60's, 70's and beyond that represent our Jewish and universal hopes, dreams, and prayers for 2025. There will be songs that symbolize positive values of peace, community, gratitude, love, courage, justice, friendship, activism, and struggle. Bill will also remind us of the Jewish links to powerful and action-inspiring music.

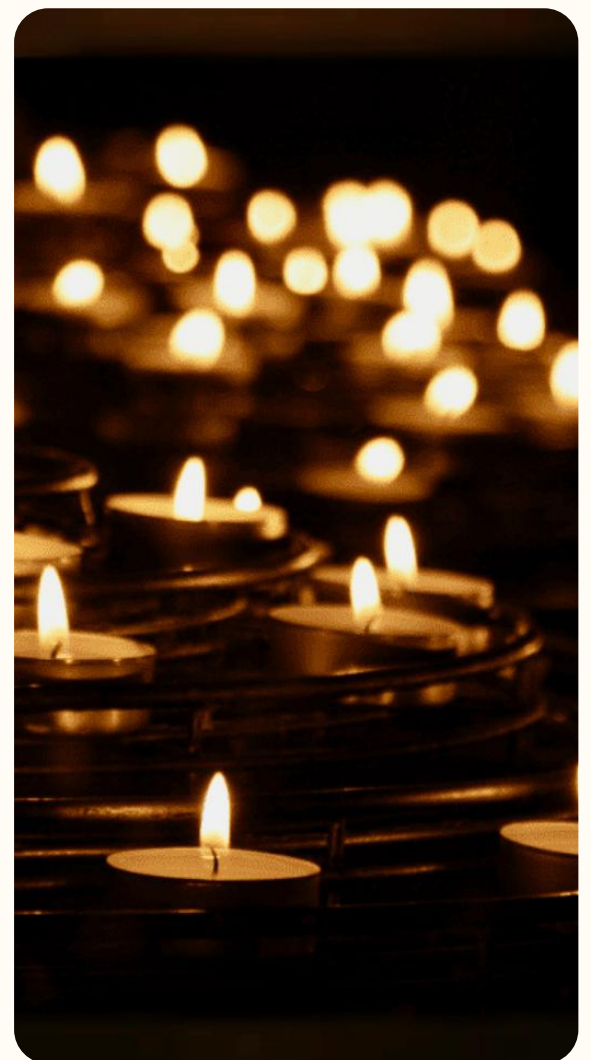
**The Women of Beth Tikvah Gift Shop will be open from 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM on December 11**

**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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Full WBT  
Newsletter



**Women**  
OF BETH TIKVAH

## GIFT SHOP TREASURES

If you need something for Jewish holidays or celebrations, Jewish jewelry, or a lovely piece of Judaica, the WBT Gift Shop has you covered! Rhonda is available to make sales during the week or call Jackie Kon at 614-832-8815.

## BOOK CLUB

**December 9, 2025 | 12:30 PM**

Join us to discuss the novel, *The Calculating Stars: All the Colors of the Dark* by Chris Whitaker. A missing person mystery, a serial killer thriller, love story, and a unique twist in Monta Clare, Missouri.

## WRJ HEARTLAND CONVENTION

Mark your calendars for the "Under One Tent" Women of Reform Judaism Heartland Convention on March 13-15, 2026.

Registration opens mid-December, so make sure to keep an eye out!

## 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](#)

## WOMEN OF BETH TIKVAH MAH JONGG

**DECEMBER 3 & 16 at 1:30 PM | Located at Beth Tikvah**

Women of Beth Tikvah is now collecting money for the 2026 Mah Jongg Cards. The price remains the same as last year: **Standard is \$14 and Large is \$15.**

[CLICK FOR ORDER FORM](#)

[SIGN-UP FOR MAHJ](#)

**There are 2 ways to order:**

1. At Beth Tikvah, drop off your information sheet with Rhonda Simon at the front desk with cash or a check.
2. Mail your information sheet and check no later than 01/20/26 to Lynne Allen (807 Crestway Dr Columbus, OH 43235)







**Women**  
OF BETH TIKVAH

## Missed the Hanukkah Sale? There's still time!

**You can still place special orders and receive them for Hanukkah!**

Special orders are also available for all your B'nai Mitzvah needs....tallit, kiddish cups, kippot, yads, jewelry, sterling silver chains and more. See the display case in the Temple foyer for more items or place a special order for your perfect gift. Contact Jackie Kon [womenofbtcol@gmail.com](mailto:womenofbtcol@gmail.com) or 614-832-8815 or see Rhonda.



### Star of David Pendant Gold or Silver

1/4" pendant on 16" chain with  
2" extender

**\$45.00**



### Opal Hamsa or Star of David

Blue/Pink - adjustable sterling  
silver chain 16"-18" chain

**\$24.00**



### Electric Menorah with Remote control

Multicolor and blue light  
options with USB/AC power

**\$60.00**



### Latke Server

Stainless steel, 10.5-inch blade,  
perfect for serving latkes

**\$8.00**



### Sterling Silver Bangle Bracelet

7" bracelet, available in  
silver, yellow, or rose gold

**\$65.00**



### Beaded Bracelets

Fun stackable styles with  
Hanukkah sayings

**\$4 each**



# BROTHERHOOD NEWSLETTER



## DECEMBER BLOOD DRIVE

We will host a Red Cross Blood Drive at Beth Tikvah on **December 18 from 12:00 to 6:00 PM**. Your donation could truly save a life.

There has been an increase in global need for blood donations; please consider spending just a few moments donating and living out our Jewish value of tikkun olam.

[SIGN-UP FOR THE BLOOD DRIVE](#)

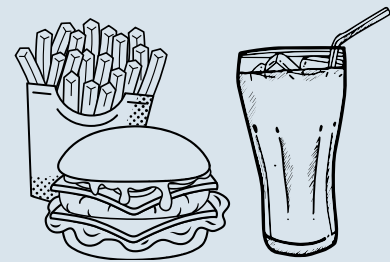
If you need assistance registering, reach out to Art Flesch at [artflesch@hotmail.com](mailto:artflesch@hotmail.com).

## DECEMBER LUNCH

December 10 | 11:30 AM

Located at Cap City Bridge Park

Contact **Jeff Albert** to RSVP



## NEXT BROTHERHOOD PROGRAM: DECEMBER 4

Earlier this year, Beth Tikvah supported & sponsored an Afghan seeking refuge in the U.S. from the Taliban. Obaidullah's story is one of tragedy, courage, and fortitude. We invite you to meet and hear from Obaidullah on December 4th at 7:30 PM at a program facilitated by David Sapper. Prior to the program, the Brotherhood will host a **dinner at 6:15 PM** for men of the congregation.

[REGISTER FOR DINNER](#)



# 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.

## General Information

Meetings are held six times a year, mostly by zoom. You do not have to be a member to attend the meetings and 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) provides you with membership and the right to vote to allocate grants.



## Grant Allocation

Every December, Tzedakah Collective members review the non-profit presentations that were made throughout the year, discuss and vote to allocate the available donated funds. The grant checks are mailed immediately. This practice is very gratifying as finally, we are tangibly able to help outstanding non-profits do their essential work.



*Tzedakah Collective Steering Committee members: Jan Alloy, Pamela Feldman-Hill, Bobbie Garber, Stacy Levin, Lori Sachs, Laurel Zulliger. For inquiries, contact Coordinator, Marsha Pond, [marshapond@msn.com](mailto:marshapond@msn.com)  
All inquiries are welcome!*



# The Heart of our Congregation



If you've ever stepped into Beth Tikvah on a Sunday morning, you've likely been greeted by a smile, a joke, or a helping hand from Enos Wisniewski. For ten years, Enos has been a constant presence behind the scenes, tending not just to our building but to the spirit of our community.

This January, Enos will retire after a decade of service as Beth Tikvah's beloved custodian — though for so many, he has been much more than that. Children know him as "Grandpa Enos," and generations of families have seen his care and kindness in every corner of our building.

"I try to make people laugh every day," Enos shared, "regardless of who they are." It's that simple joy and connection that has made him such a beloved part of our Beth Tikvah family.

Enos joined our staff in 2015 and has become part of countless moments of life at Beth Tikvah—setting up classrooms, fixing things before they're noticed, and sharing his signature humor and optimism. "Life's really short," he reflected. "I always say, try to treat people right, and try to enjoy it while you're here."

Over the years, Enos has seen our community through everything—High Holy Days and Hanukkah celebrations, Sunday mornings filled with laughter, late-night event cleanups, and the moments of quiet between it all. He has watched generations grow, cheering on students who once toddled through the halls. "I'm gonna miss everybody," he said softly. "I built great relationships with everyone... I hope everybody keeps me in their heart, because you will all be in my heart forever."

As we prepare to celebrate Enos's retirement in January, we also celebrate what he represents: the heart of Mishpacha—family. His care, humor, and humility remind us why this community matters.

"I always brag about this place," Enos shared. "This is one of the best jobs I've ever had in my life."

That gratitude runs both ways. Enos has left his fingerprints on every corner of our congregation, and his light will keep shining through every smile, every classroom, and every hallway he makes brighter. Let's honor Enos by carrying that light forward. Help us continue building the kind of community he helped create—one filled with laughter, kindness, and family.





# Torah Trailblazers: Celebrating Remarkable Jewish Women

## NECHAMA TEC

Born in 1931 in Lublin, Poland, Nechama was just eight when World War II began. She survived by hiding under a false identity, sheltered by her Polish neighbors. That early trauma shaped her sense of responsibility and commitment to bearing witness to suffering. She exemplified that even in despair, people can and should reach out to save others.

After the war and a journey that took her to Israel and eventually the United States, Tec earned a doctorate in sociology at Columbia University and spent decades teaching at the university level. But her classroom extended far beyond campus. Through her books and research, she carried stories of resistance and resilience to thousands. Her most widely known work, *Defiance: The Bielski Partisans*, tells the story of a group of Jews in Belorussia who saved over 1,200 Jewish lives during the Holocaust through armed resistance. That narrative challenged themes of despair and reclaimed dignity.

Throughout her career, Tec also emphasized how ethical action and compassion often transpire even in the worst circumstances. In a book detailing the Christian rescuers of Jews in occupied Poland, she showed how unlikely allies, driven by their conscience, risked everything to offer sanctuary. Her work honored not only the victims and survivors, but the hope that persisted through kindness during this dark era of history.



At Beth Tikvah, our values of *chesed* (kindness) and *tzedek* (justice) come alive through Tec's story. Her scholarship reminds us that Jewish identity demands action: to remember atrocities so we never repeat them, to protect the vulnerable, and to open our hearts and homes. As Hanukkah approaches, a season celebrating light, Tec's life offers a powerful metaphor. Just as the Maccabees brought light into darkness, Nechama Tec shed light on history's darkest chapters, reminding us that one person's courage can preserve thousands of lives.

As we light our Hanukkah candles this year, may we draw inspiration from Tec's example. May we let her voice guide us toward generosity and empathy. In her memory, and in our own lives, may we commit to being lights for others: to rescue, to remember, and to restore dignity today, and always.

### Sources

- [\*The New York Times\*: "Nechama Tec, Polish Holocaust Survivor and Scholar"](#)
- [\*Yad Vashem\*: "Nechama Tec"](#)
- [\*Jewish Telegraphic Agency\*: "Nechama Tec"](#)
- [\*Jewish Women's Archive\*: "Nechama Tec"](#)

Written by Hannah Karr



# Beth Tikvah Dedicated Funds & Endowments

At Beth Tikvah, our many endowments, dedicated funds, and special initiatives provide meaningful ways to strengthen our community today and for generations to come. These funds support everything from scholarships and camp experiences to adult learning, music, Holocaust education, social action, and the care of our building. Each one reflects the generosity and vision of congregants who want to ensure a vibrant Jewish future. If you would like to contribute, simply choose the fund that resonates most with you from the list below and click the button to make your donation.

[CLICK HERE TO MAKE A DONATION](#)

## **Dedications:**

Adult Education  
Arza-Israeli Dedicated  
B'nai Mitzvah Class Gift 2025-26  
Beth Tikvah Community Outreach Fund  
Beth Tikvah Mitzvah Community Outreach Endowment  
Board Training & Leadership Development  
Brotherhood Donations  
Caring Community Dedicated  
CBT Village  
Ceremonial Object Dedicated  
Craft Group Dedicated  
Development Fund Dedicated  
Exec. Dir. Discretionary Fund  
Facility Improvement Dedicated  
Garden Buds  
Holocaust Education Dedicated  
Innovation Fund Dedicated  
Jewish Camping Dedicated  
Jewish Youth Scholarships  
Library Dedicated  
Meditation Dedicated  
Memorial Scroll  
Mishpacha Appeal 25-26  
Music Fund Dedicated  
Next Gen Dedicated  
NFTY/JYG Kallah-Youth Activities Dedicated  
Operating Fund Donation  
Rabbi Kellner Discretionary Fund  
Rabbi Martin Discretionary Fund  
Religious School Dedicated  
Religious School Scholarship  
Security Dedicated  
Shishim Donations  
Sisterhood Donations  
Social Action Dedicated  
Special Events Dedicated  
Special Program Fund Dedicated  
Wish List Dedicated  
Worthington Food Pantry Donation (HHD)  
Youth Activities Donations

## **Endowments:**

Alan & Risa Lazaroff Endowment to Maintain Building & Grounds  
Arthur W. Davidson Endowment  
B. Myer Simon Endow. For Building Maintenance  
Davidoff Family Camp Scholarship Fund  
Dr. Gail E. Herman Endowment in Celebration of the Life of Her Son Drew P. Mendelbaum  
Flamm Family Endowment for Adult Learning  
Flesch Family Endowment for Safety and Security  
General Endowment Donation  
Jewish Women's Spiritual & Educational Studies Endowment  
Kon Family Fund for Holocaust Education  
Linda Kellner Camp Scholarship Fund Endowment  
Louis and Susan Pomerantz Endowment for the Beth Tikvah Senior (60+) Adult Community  
M&R Luttinger Endow. for Adult Learning + Social Action  
Mandell Family Fund  
Michael Alexander and Jane Mitchell Endowment for the Education of all Jewish Children  
Patti & Sid Price Religious & Sunday School Scholarship Fund in Memory of Lee Kinchee McGrath  
Rabbi Gary A. Huber Endowment for Education  
Stacy & Howard Levin Educator Professional Development Fund  
Stu & Rochelle Zweben Endowment for Technology  
Taxier Family Fund for Youth Engagement through Tikkun Olam  
The Forman Pay It Forward Fund  
The Martin & Marian Rosenthal Legacy Fund for Holocaust Education  
The Rabbi Richard M.C. Kellner Endowment for Jewish Life  
Weisberg Endowment for Music



# THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS...

## **Bima Flowers & Oneg**

- Matt & Megan Bailey in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Will
- Barbara & Jeffrey Robbins and Linda & Paul Monson in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Sam
- Erica Twersky in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of her son, Elias

## **Caring Community**

- Stuart & Rochelle Zweben in memory of Michael Schaeffer
- Zinaida Kreynin in loving memory of my father, Iosiph Spektor

## **Holocaust Education Dedicated**

- Paul Feder & Marjorie Gaffin in memory of the loss of George Vance's father, Bernard Vance
- Susan Rapoport in memory of Gertrude Kahn

## **Jewish Camping Dedicated**

- Martin & Illene Brodman in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Flora Dorman and in appreciation of her wonderful family

## **Meditation Dedicated**

- Nada & Robert Mazurek

## **Operating Fund Donation**

- Bob Fisher & Bobbie Garber in memory of David Fisher
- Clint Koenig

## **Rabbi Kellner Discretionary Fund**

- Ella Uretsky in honor of Rabbi Rick Kellner
- Stuart & Marilyn Cooper in loving memory of Stuart's sister, Phyllis Cooper Dinitz
- Paul Dauerman in loving memory of his mother and father

## **Rabbi Martin Discretionary Fund**

- Stuart & Marilyn Cooper in honor of Rabbi Karen Martin
- Daniel J. Hoffheimer in honor of Rabbi Karen Martin's Installation
- Scott & Terri Gordon in honor of Rabbi Karen Martin's Installation
- Rodney & Miriam Martin in honor of Rabbi Karen Martin's milestone year
- Marcey & Richard Forman
- Nada & Robert Mazurek
- Barbara Mindel in honor of Rabbi Karen Martin's Installation

## **Shishim Donations**

- Ronald & Barbara Rowland in loving memory of Michael Schaeffer
- Eileen & John Ames
- Life Enrichment for Elders Inc. in acknowledgment of Dora Sterling for being very instrumental in the Life Enrichment for Elders program

## **Social Action Dedicated**

- Susan Gass & Josh Ard in loving memory of Susan's father, H. Harvey Gass
- Sheldon & Jacqueline Chizever in loving memory of Michele Raby

## **Youth Activities Donations**

- Mark Klebanoff & Sarah Keim
- Bryan Hecht in honor of Avery Worthington's first Hanukkah!



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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)



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*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.