

# TIKVAH TOPICS

CHESHVAN

KISLEV







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# Words from Rabbi Rick Kellner

Life rarely affords opportunities to step back and think about the progression of how things change over time. Sometimes, one might have the opportunity to look through pages of history and see the origins of factors that shape who we are today. On November 21, we will celebrate the installation of Rabbi Karen Martin as Congregation Beth Tikvah's first ever Assistant Rabbi. I wonder if this is a moment to step back and look at the role of the rabbi, how it has changed, and the rabbi's role in our lives today.

In many ways, one could argue that the original rabbis saved Jewish life in the year 70 CE. There is a famous story of Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai, the rabbinic leader of the time, who faked his death and was carried from the city wrapped in a shroud with a dead animal. Knowing Jerusalem would be destroyed, he faked his death so he could approach the Roman emperor Vespasian to request that Jewish life be shifted to Yavne, where he would establish a school and Judaism would become a study-centered religion rather than a religion focused on Temple sacrifice. For centuries, rabbis would earn a living by day and study Torah by night. They created the sacred texts, the Mishnah, Midrash, and Talmud, among others that have endured for generations. These sacred texts capture our people's teachings throughout history; they serve as a window into rabbis' responses to life's essential questions.

As Jewish life has changed and evolved over time, I cannot help but imagine what life was like in the shtetl, when Rabbis like the Baal Shem Tov, Levi Yitzhak of Berdichev and other Hasidic masters would gather on Shabbat afternoons and expound Torah wisdom through the power of storytelling. Tradition teaches us that the Baal Shem Tov would listen to the people gathered around his table and weave what he heard into stories that spoke to their hearts and brought them comfort. Life in that time was incredibly challenging. Poverty was widespread and threats of pogroms shadowed over Jewish communities. The Hasidic masters beheld all these challenges and managed to bring light to the Jewish community.

In 1972, Rabbi Sally Priesand became the first female Rabbi ordained in the United States. History has now shown that Rabbi Regina Jonas (pronounced Yonas) was the first woman to receive rabbinic ordination in Europe. These two women were trailblazers in the rabbinate. Rabbi Priesand opened doors for generations of women to become rabbinic leaders. Though Rabbi Priesand and those who followed her faced many challenges, her leadership and impact on Jewish life is profound. At every CCAR Convention when she is introduced, she receives a standing ovation. In celebration of her fifty years as a rabbi, Rabbi Priesand shared that at her home synagogue, Monmouth Reform Temple, in Tinton Falls, NJ, she created a family. Her congregants would hear her say, "I have an idea," and they would work with her on making it come to life. She loved that they allowed her to be creative. Becoming a rabbi allowed Rabbi Priesand to be a teacher of Judaism.

Today's rabbinate is certainly different than the rabbinate I started in just 18 years ago, and as Rabbi Huber approaches 50 years since his own ordination, I would venture to guess he would say the same thing. Rabbis require a variety of skills including being visionaries, teaching, interpreting Torah, offering compassion to those who are sick, supporting the bereaved, making Judaism meaningful, engaging, and fun for people of all age demographics - just to name a few. Yes, being a rabbi is about getting creative with new programs or ideas and responding to the needs of the community. Perhaps the most important, and the most challenging thing for a rabbi is to be present for people in the times when they feel most vulnerable. It is a blessing and a privilege to help accompany people in those moments.

While there are more reflections I could share about the role of the rabbi, perhaps it is most important to say, join us on Friday evening, November 21 as we celebrate Rabbi Karen Martin and officially welcome her and her family, Stewart, Sam, and Joel into our Beth Tikvah family.



# October at Beth Tikvah





# Pause for Poetry - Rabbi Karen Martin

*Acheinu, Kol beit Yisrael, our family, the whole house of Israel  
We have dwelled in the shadows of captivity  
and poured out our hearts to you from the narrow places of despair.  
Like dew on the grass, the memories of those who could not return home sit on our hearts,  
heavy as the tears that still flow from our weary eyes.  
God, wipe away the tears from all faces;  
though we carry their memories forever.  
O, God, bring comfort to their families as "You bind up the brokenhearted  
and proclaim freedom to those held captive."*

*Lu Yehi, May it be that we hold fast to the cord that binds us,  
stitched together, one people, like the parchments of the Torah scroll  
our fate woven in shades of history and tradition,  
identity written in text, text embroidered on identity,  
united in pain, sorrow, and joy - one people, held through sacred time  
by the thread of eternal hope.*



*Lu Yehi, May it be that You, the Rock of Israel,  
inspire us to dream and will it to life -  
a dream in which the Jewish people can sit safely in their homes,  
where Israel is a light unto the nations,  
grounded in equality, ensuring the rights of all,  
safeguarding the Holy places and people of all faiths.*

*Lu Yehi, May it be that we come to know a time when we have  
traded weapons for plows and pruning hooks,  
when the elderly shall sit peacefully in the streets of Jerusalem,  
and children play in the square,  
and we dance in our fields and vineyards without fear.  
May we value the dignity of all people,  
may the strong protect the vulnerable,  
may the vulnerable teach the strong to bend, to listen,  
may the light of Torah shine in us and through us,  
and may Zion glow with peace for all her inhabitants.*



# Pause for Poetry - Rabbi Karen Martin

When the last living hostages taken on October 7, 2023, were finally released on October 13, 2025, Rabbi Kellner and I were overjoyed, but we also realized we were at a liturgical inflection point. Since October 7, we have recited *Acheinu*, a traditional prayer for the release of captives, and *Hatikvah*, the Israeli national anthem in solidarity with our Israeli brethren. However, it's customary to say *Acheinu* for living captives, and all those still living had been released. We are still deeply committed to Israel, but we also recognize that in this moment of change we have the opportunity to explore other liturgical means of expressing our bond.

Rabbi Kellner and I started looking for prayers for the state of Israel that acknowledge the continued pain of the families of hostages whose bodies have not yet been returned to Israel. We found several excellent examples, but none that did quite what we needed, so we wrote a prayer (found to the left of this page) together with the goal that we could use it as one of our congregational prayers for the state of Israel.

In writing this prayer, we wrote the first stanza as an expression of our continued sadness and solidarity with the hostage families who have not yet been able to bring their loved ones home. We leaned heavily on our sacred texts in this verse, alluding first to Psalm 118:5, one of the traditional psalms of *Hallel* (Praise) about God's faithful love, and then turning to Isaiah for words of consolation. It is our hope that we will soon come to a time when the remaining bodies have been returned, and the first stanza can be omitted.

The remaining stanzas each start with the words *Lu Yehi* (May it be), a petition that alludes to the song written by Naomi Shemer during the Yom Kippur War in 1973. In these verses, we pray that the Jewish people remain united in our shared identity, we pray for the state of Israel, and we pray for peace.

The second stanza makes use of the image of a cord. Hebrew wordplay is present below the surface: *קָו* (*kav*) in Hebrew is cord, thread, or line, which shares the same root as *תִּקְוָה* (*tikvah*), hope. When we first came together as a people, we created the Mishkan, the tabernacle in which Torah tells us that God's presence dwelt. The Mishkan was made of woven panels covered in intricate embroidery. The creation of the Mishkan was an act of audacious hope - hope in the covenant, for the presence of the Divine in our lives, and in the collective future of our people. That thread of hope has woven its way through our history and will carry us into the future.

Hope leads into the third stanza, an expression of our hopes and dreams for the state of Israel, drawing on language taken from the ***Israeli Declaration of Independence***, also called the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel. Like both *Hatikvah* and the Declaration, our vision for Israel is aspirational and encompassing all those who live in the land.

This hope is capped by a vision of peace, alluding to verses in Isaiah, Zachariah, and Jeremiah. In many ways, October 7 is a heartbeat under those allusions - the massacre of elders who dedicated their life to peace work, yellow tricycles that will never again be ridden, and the Nova festival that turned the shared joy of dance into horror. Our prayer is that we never again have cause to feel fear in times of simple joy because we have built a society that values all people. That is a true expression of our Jewish values.

Ps. 118:5. Jer. 31:13 referencing maidens dancing, as well as  
Isa. 25:8. Judg. 21:21-23.  
Isa. 61:1. The Declaration of the Establishment of the State of  
Isa. 2:4. Israel. <https://www.gov.il/en/pages/declaration-of-establishment-state-of-israel>  
Zach. 8:4.



# CHESHVAN RESET

## 5 Ways to Feel Rejuvenated this Month

### TAKE A GRATITUDE WALK

Fall is in full swing—step outside and walk with intention. Notice the beauty of nature, breathe deeply, and reflect on something you're grateful for.

### CREATE A MINI HAVDALAH RITUAL

Mark the week's transition in a personal way. A candle, some sweet wine or juice, and a blessing—start your own weekly tradition of separating the sacred from the everyday.

### UNPLUG FOR SHABBAT

Try a technology-free Shabbat! No phones, no emails, no TV. Replace it with board games, time spent in community, long talks, or naps.

### LEARN SOMETHING NEW

Choose a topic that you have always been curious about but have never had a chance to learn. Explore the topic for an hour and see how much you learn in a short time!

### PRIORITIZE KINDNESS

No big gestures needed. Drop off soup to someone sick, write a thank-you note to someone who has made an impact on you, or check in on a neighbor.



# The Heart of our Beth Tikvah Community

Words from Debbie Vinocur, Executive Director

When I think about Beth Tikvah, the first thing that comes to mind is our community — the people and the moments that make it so special. Just last weekend, during Shabbat services, our congregation gathered to share the joy with one of our newest families as they stood on the bimah while their daughter received her Hebrew name. We also blessed a group from our Beth Tikvah family as they prepared to travel to Israel, and together we were lifted by the beautiful music of our Shabbat Neshama service.

During the week, our children fill our classrooms with energy and laughter as they learn about Judaism through movement, art, music, and study. They learn to read Hebrew, prepare for their B'nai Mitzvot, and discover what it means to take their place as Jewish adults in our community.

And it doesn't stop there. Our adults give back in so many meaningful ways — through the Caring Community, the Security Committee, Garden Buds, Adult Learning, and countless other opportunities to connect and serve. Each of these moments reminds us of what truly matters: community. Our community.

As we approach the end of 2025, with Thanksgiving and Hanukkah around the corner, we are surrounded by the warmth of family, friends, and our Beth Tikvah community. It is a time to reflect on the moments we've shared and those yet to come, a time to feel deep gratitude for the blessings that fill our lives.

As you celebrate this season of light and thankfulness, we ask you to remember your



Beth Tikvah family with a gift to our annual Mishpacha Appeal. This appeal sustains and strengthens our congregation — helping us continue to be a place of learning, connection, prayer, and care for all generations.

When we light the Hanukkah candles in our homes, we bring light into the world. This year, we invite you to share that light with Beth Tikvah — to help ensure that our synagogue remains a vibrant Jewish home for all who enter.

The generosity of our members has always been a reflection of who we are — a community that gives, supports, and uplifts. Your gift to the Mishpacha Appeal allows us to continue creating those sacred moments that define Beth Tikvah — from our youngest learners to our most cherished elders. **Our Light Grows Brighter Together.** Every act of giving keeps our community glowing strong.

We are kicking off our annual Mishpacha Appeal. Every dollar you give helps sustain our congregation, support our community, and nurture our shared growth. Together, we make our light shine brighter. Thank you for keeping Beth Tikvah in your hearts and in your year-end giving.

## Dear Congregation Beth Tikvah,

Last month, the Beth Tikvah Board of Trustees was informed of my decision to retire as the Director of Musical Programming at the end of this Spring.

I am filled with emotion, acknowledging that I will miss so many aspects of this work. From teaching religious school music back in 2007 to moving into the larger role that I have now held since 2013, I have been fortunate to interact with a wide range of ages and many aspects of congregational life. The most precious part of it all has been my role in helping to create an engaged musical and spiritual community with my colleagues; it humbles me to think that I had a part in this.

For those of you who have made the decision to venture into the unknown world of retirement, you may be able to relate to this combination of excitement and trepidation. Nevertheless, I feel very good having taken this step and am at peace knowing that this is the right time for me.

I will always be grateful for the many opportunities to grow, develop and create that this “job” has afforded me and the relationships that it has fostered over the years.

My heart is full of love and gratitude for the support from this very special congregation.

**Julie Sapper**

*Director of Musical Programming*





# Sneak Peaks of the Israel 614 Trip!





# FAMILY Events

9  
NOV.

Sign-Up

## 4TH GRADE FAMILY LEARNING DAY

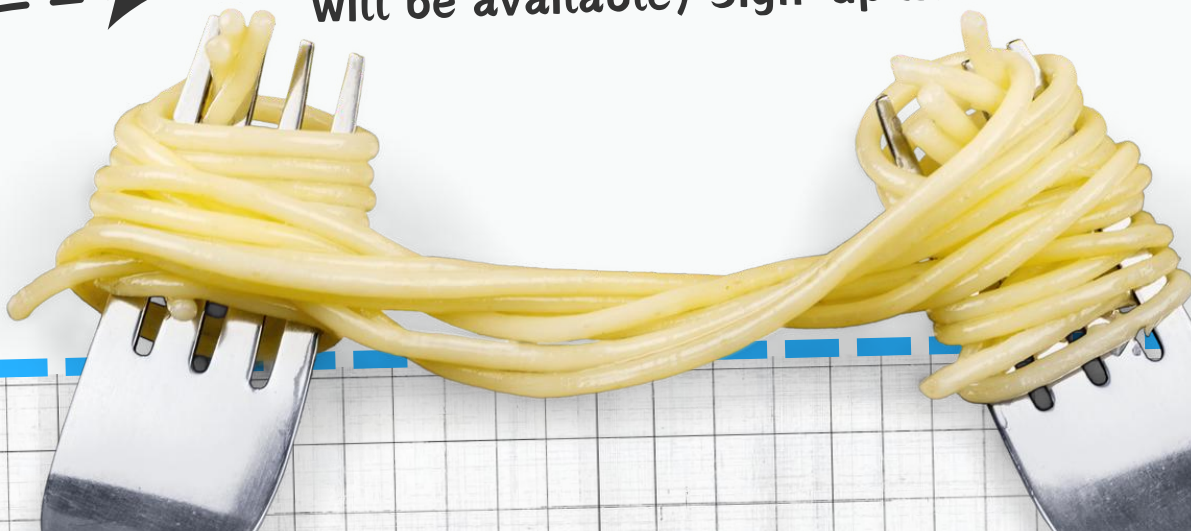
Join us as we discover intergenerational connections to the Land of Israel through engaging text study, music, and a hands-on creative project. 9:30 AM – Song Session  
9:45 AM – Learn with Rabbi Karen  
10:45 AM – Learn with Morissa

14  
NOV.

Sign-Up

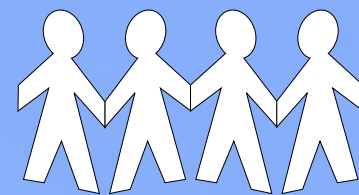
## FAMILY SHABBAT DINNER

Join us for an Olive Garden pasta bar at 6:15 PM prior to Shabbat services, featuring leadership from our 5<sup>th</sup> graders! The pasta dinner costs \$20 per family. (Gluten free will be available) Sign-up now!



# EVENT SCHEDULE

YOUTH & FAMILIES



**8**  
NOV.

## TIKVAH TOTS 9:30 AM

[SIGN-UP](#)

**For families with children ages 0-8.** Sing and celebrate Shabbat with other families! Free and open to the community.

**14**  
NOV.

## CHALUTZIM/JYG

[SIGN-UP](#)

Stay after Shabbat for a hands-on, captivating, sensory-Dough Program through a Jewish lens with guest educator Erin Beser of Ah-Dough-Ma! **Grades 3rd-7th**

**15**  
NOV.

## BETHTY BLUE JACKETS

[REGISTER](#)

All 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to a Blue Jackets game! **Meet at Beth Tikvah at 5:45 PM** for Havdalah & transportation. Pick-up at Nationwide arena after the game.

**22**  
NOV.

## HAVDALAH & PLAYTIME

[SIGN-UP](#)

**Keshet - families with young children.** Join us for playtime and Havdalah at Gym-Xtreme in Lewis Center! The event will run from **3:30 PM - 5:30 PM.**



*Mazel Tov*

# NOVEMBER B'NAI MITZVAH



**FLORA D.**

Flora Dorman is currently an 8th grader at Worthingway Middle School. Her favorite subjects are Math and French. She also enjoys playing the clarinet in the Worthingway Winds Band. Flora is a foodie who is always eager to try new cuisines. Her latest obsession is Indian food. In her free time, she spends a lot of time drawing (mostly anime), listening to music and watching YouTube shorts.

Flora's Mitzvah project is volunteering at the Franklin County Dog Shelter. Her role is to feed, walk, and play with the dogs at the shelter.

## Mazel Tov to Ari & Elizabeth Weinberg on their B'nai Mitzvah!





# Simchat Torah & Consecration







# THE POWER OF NAMES

**BY AARON TAYLOR**  
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CHAIR

For several years, I have taught the Holocaust in my 11th grade English classes. Whether we have read survivor memoirs, examined photographs, analyzed films, or visited museums, I have always felt like I missed something by the end. This past June, I hoped that my trip to Poland with the Ohio Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission would help my teaching feel more complete.

On my first day in Poland, our local guide and historian, Bartek, told us a story about a Polish non-Jew who supervised a building in the Krakow ghetto. Though this person was under the watch of Nazi occupiers, he one day helped Jews in the ghetto in some small way. Bartek began to say, "This man behaved humanely," but he stopped himself for a moment and said, "He did not behave humanely. He behaved properly in one moment."

I was struck by Bartek's need to correct himself. What difference did it make? Here was a story of someone disobeying the Nazis and helping the Jews. Why distinguish between humane and proper? My students simply need to know that despite the oppression and violence of the Nazis, people chose to be upstanders. With that example, my students can be upstanders, too.



BY AARON TAYLOR, RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CHAIR

# THE POWER OF NAMES

But Bartek's correction makes all the difference. The Holocaust cannot be generalized, nor should it be used as a morality lesson. Bartek later said, "we are using normal words to describe something abnormal." It is too simple to see the Holocaust as one twelve-year period of time that had perpetrators, bystanders, and victims. These words have been a place to start, but they cannot tell the true story of moment-by-moment history.

That's why I will tell Viktor's story. He is a 93-year-old Polish non-Jew who survived in his mountainside home village under Nazi occupation. His memories make clear that it isn't fair to call Viktor a perpetrator, a bystander, or a victim. He and his family would be considered righteous when they gave food to a Jewish family who came begging in the middle of the night. But would they no longer be righteous the next night when another Jewish family came knocking, but this time Viktor's family would not give food because they, too, had not eaten anything that day? Were they then bystanders? Perpetrators? Something else? Viktor's life under Nazi occupation spanned years. It is my responsibility to tell his story without reducing his life to a single word or choice. As I teach, I need to dull the edge of morally-charged labels in favor of accuracy. We need to see the Holocaust not as one long swath of murder and oppression but as an infinitely complex web of choices, tragedy, and memory.

Memory is where I stopped pondering over words and labels and sat with the power and heartache of names. On our last full day in Poland, we met historian Karolina Panz, a Polish non-Jew who completed the first "micro-history" of the Jews of Nowy Targ. She built a narrative of every Jewish life lost there. Karolina walked us to the local stadium where the Jews of Nowy Targ were forcibly gathered in the summer of 1942. Panz said, "The stadium was the last place they functioned as family and friends." There was no goodbye for anyone. There was only selection and departure. Some were deported to Plaszow for forced labor, most boarded trains to Belzec for execution. Those who boarded trains had to pay for their ticket to ride the train that brought them to their death. In Karolina's words: "The stadium is where Nowy Targ society vanished." On the 80th anniversary, she stood at the stadium and read all of the names of that vanished society. At the Jewish cemetery in Nowy Targ, her "People, Not Numbers" project presents the name and age of death of every Jewish resident murdered. Her work honors the memory of individuals. The Jews of Nowy Targ weren't only part of the six million murdered. They were families, friends, neighbors, and children; each a universe unto themselves.

My students come with little knowledge about the Holocaust. They don't know Warsaw or Auschwitz. They barely know Elie Wiesel or Anne Frank. Most don't even know that six million Jews were murdered. I will teach them all of that. But I will also share the places and names that aren't in history books or at museums. I will tell the stories of those who are not alive to tell it themselves. I will describe the vibrant Jewish life that existed. We will hold in our minds the murder of so many lives. We will consider author Jan Gross's words on that loss, "of thoughts unthought, of unfelt feelings, of works never accomplished, of lives unlived to their natural end." Most importantly, as we tell their stories, we will say their names.

Congregation Beth Tikvah Invites You to



# VETERANS

*Shabbat*



As Veterans Day approaches, we want to take a moment to honor our Veterans - their service, sacrifice, and the values they have helped protect.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7 AT 7:15 PM**





# *Rabbi Karen Martin's* INSTALLATION WEEKEND

Friday, Nov. 21 ————— ✦

- **5:45 PM - SHABBAT DINNER CATERED BY ALADDIN'S**

- \$18 per person

**SIGN-UP FOR SHABBAT DINNER**

- **7:15 PM - SHABBAT SERVICE & INSTALLATION**

- Rabbi Martin will be installed by Rabbi Meredith Kahan from Rockdale Temple in Cincinnati

- **8:30 PM - FESTIVE ONEG**

————— ✦ ————— Saturday, Nov. 22

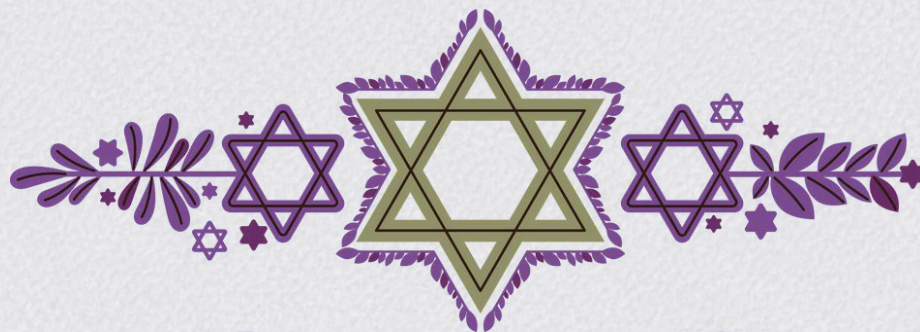
- **10:00 AM - LIBRARY MINYAN**

- **11:00 AM - TORAH LEARNING WITH RABBI KAHAN**

- **12:00 PM - LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF RABBI MARTIN**

- Free to attend

**SIGN-UP FOR THE LUNCHEON**





AGES 60+

# SHISHIM

## NOV. PROGRAM

### NOVEMBER 13, 2025

#### 11 AM - The Newark Earthworks

The Newark Earthworks, built by the ancient Indigenous Hopewell culture, are the largest set of geometric enclosures and mounds in the world.

**Brad Lepper**, Senior Archaeologist with the Ohio History Connection, will explain how the earthworks — built with simple tools — incorporate a sophisticated understanding of geometry and astronomy.

**12 PM - Blue Bow Tie Catering** (Pot Roast, Roasted Vegetables, Salad, Dessert. Vegetarian options available.)

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

#### 1 PM - Book Discussion with 3 Panelists

A panel discussion of books will be hosted by **Christopher Purdy**, who presents a weekly series "All Sides Weekend Books" on WOSU 89.7, with **Kassie Rose**, WOSU book critic, and **Kris Hickey**, Youth Services Manager for the Whetstone Library.

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

Contact [shishim@bethtikvahcolumbus.org](mailto:shishim@bethtikvahcolumbus.org) to receive access to the Zoom link.



**ORDER LUNCH**







*Women*  
OF BETH TIKVAH

# HANUKKAH SALE

SIGN-UP TO HELP VOLUNTEER AT THE SALE



## NOV. 9

9:30AM - 1PM

Bring the whole family!

Looking for Hanukkah gift ideas and decorations?  
Our Annual Hanukkah Sale will offer:

- Menorahs
- Dreidels
- Gelt
- Hanukkah Candles
- Mezuzahs
- Kippot
- Kiddush Cups
- Shabbat Candles
- Toys
- Jewelry
- Gift Wrap
- Home Goods



Click Here for  
Full WBT  
Newsletter



 **Women**  
OF BETH TIKVAH

## MAH JONGG

[SIGN-UP HERE](#)

11/5 12/3 12/16

Newbies are always welcome! Sign-up and indicate if you will be bringing snacks! For questions, email Shelley at [sgrievezerkel@gmail.com](mailto:sgrievezerkel@gmail.com)

## BOOK CLUB

November 11, 2025 | 12:30 PM

Join us to discuss the novel, *The Calculating Stars: A Lady Astronaut Novel* by Mary Robinette Kowal. In 1952, a meteorite causes a climate cataclysm that renders the earth inhospitable for humanity.

## TIKVAH TITLES

Have a book you'd like to share with your BT sisters? Add your book with a sticky note to the book's cover and leave it in the Tikvah Titles drop-box in the Beth Tikvah parking lot so others can enjoy the book you love.

## 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](#)

## MAZEL TOV TO MARCI DELSON!

We are pleased to honor Marci Delson with the Lev Tov ("Good Heart") Award! Marci embodies our mission and exemplifies leadership, care, and love every day.



## AUFRUF CELEBRATING THE MARRIAGE OF MORISSA FREIBERG & GEORGE VANCE

DECEMBER 19 | Located at Beth Tikvah

Join us as the entire congregation celebrates Morissa and George with an Aufruf on Dec 19, 2025 as part of a special Shabbat service and Oneg. An Aufruf is a Jewish pre-wedding custom to celebrate the couple's upcoming wedding!

Our congregation will offer blessings and support for a happy and healthy marriage. Please join us!



# CENTRAL OHIO WOMEN'S TZEDAKAH COLLECTIVE

## ***SUPPORT YOUNG ADULTS AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE.***

The Women of Beth Tikvah and the Central Ohio Women's Tzedakah Collective need your help to make this year's Coming Home event a success. For youth who have experienced foster care, the holidays can be a painful reminder of lost connections with family. Your generosity brings comfort, dignity, and celebration to these young adults—and reminds them that they are not forgotten.

This year, your support matters more than ever. It's been a challenging time, with many uncertainties that directly impact current and former foster youth. Among the growing concerns:

- Some foster youth face the risk of deportation.
- Recent federal and state actions regarding college diversity efforts have dismantled campus-based foster care support programs.
- Funding pauses have disrupted vital services like JobCorps and TRIO, programs that many vulnerable young adults relied on for career and educational stability.

**We are requesting two dozen pies, as well as raffle gift cards from Walmart, Kroger, Aldi, Target, and gas stations. Many of the young adults are parents and would greatly appreciate gently used baby and toddler clothes and toys. Additionally, we are seeking gift baskets, boxes, and bags filled with household items for their apartments, including cleaning supplies, bathroom necessities, laundry items, and bedding.**

Label your pie Thanksgiving Together Celebration and store the pies in the temple's refrigerator. Gift cards can be safely left with Everett Smith in the temple's business office. Used baby clothing and toys, as well as gift bags and baskets, can be put in a designed collection box in the vestibule. **Donations can be delivered to the temple between November 18 and November 22. Our goal is to collect more than 30 pies this year!**

If you have any questions, please contact Marsha Pond at [marshapond@msn.com](mailto:marshapond@msn.com) or 614-468-1728, or Dora Sterling at [dsterling3176@gmail.com](mailto:dsterling3176@gmail.com) or 614-937-1576.



# 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 links will be shared in the next edition of Tikvah Topics and via email.

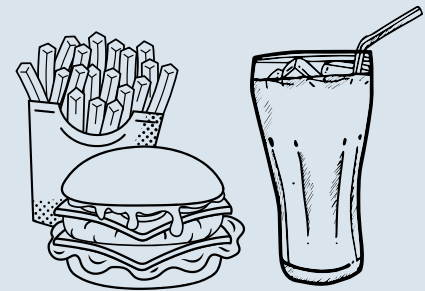
If you need assistance registering, reach out to Art Flesch at [artflesch@hotmail.com](mailto:artflesch@hotmail.com).

## NOVEMBER LUNCH

November 12 | 11:30 AM

Located at Rusty Bucket

Contact **Jeff Albert** to RSVP



## NEXT BROTHERHOOD PROGRAM: DECEMBER 4

Earlier this year, Beth Tikvah began to support and sponsor an Afghan seeking refuge in the U.S. from the Taliban. Through the dedication of our Beth Tikvah members, Obaidullah Hotak has been settling into Columbus. The story of Obaidullah and his family - who are still in Afghanistan - is a story of tragedy, courage, and fortitude. We invite you to meet and hear from Obaidullah on December 4th at 7:15 P.M. Please join us for a conversation led by David Sapper following Obaidullah's conversation.



# Brotherhood Update

## Art Flesch

The Fall Brotherhood-sponsored American Red Cross blood drive was held on October 21st. Collection across central Ohio has lagged behind this Fall, resulting in us coming up a few pints short of our goal. There has been an increase in global need; please consider spending just a few moments donating and living out our Jewish value of “tikkun olam” at our Winter Blood Drive on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Sign-up information can be found in weekly emails and Tikvah Topics. For help with registration, contact Art Flesch at [artflesch@hotmail.com](mailto:artflesch@hotmail.com) or (614) 530-7560.

Our monthly Brotherhood luncheons continue to be successful with between 14 and 18 individuals attending each month. The next two luncheons are scheduled for November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Rusty Bucket on Lane Ave. in Upper Arlington and December 10<sup>th</sup> at Cap City Diner in Bridge Park Dublin. Both lunches will begin at 11:30 AM.

Our annual “Paid-Up” membership dinner took place on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at Beth Tikvah. Almost three dozen paid-up Brotherhood members enjoyed a delicious meal at no cost. Our new Assistant Rabbi Karen Martin joined us as a guest and discussed her family’s unique journey to the rabbinate, culminating in her becoming part of our Beth Tikvah community. The evening concluded on a high note with a Q&A discussion including many expressions of joy and welcome to Rabbi Martin.



A number of Brotherhood members will participate in and be recognized at the Veterans Shabbat service on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 PM. We thank you for your sacrifice and service.

Our next program is scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup>. Earlier this year, Beth Tikvah began to support and sponsor an Afghan seeking refuge in the U.S. from the Taliban. Through the dedication of our members, Obaidullah Hotak has been settling into Columbus. The story of Obaidullah and his family - who are still in Afghanistan - is a story of tragedy, courage, and fortitude. We invite you to meet and hear from Obaidullah on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 P.M. Please join us for a coffee and cakes chat that will be led by David Sapper following Obaidullah’s conversation. Because of expected high interest and Beth Tikvah’s support for Obaidullah’s resettlement, we will open the program to the entire Congregation. Look for more information in your email.

Planning continues for other Brotherhood special events, luncheons, dinner programs, and future Red Cross blood drives. Events include possible informal golf outings, if there is interest. Additional discussions identified possible outings to the National Veterans Memorial and Museum or the U.S. Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson AFB in the Fall. Brotherhood representatives are working on a possible “Movie Night” in the future and another Game Night in the Spring.

*The Beth Tikvah Brotherhood is a vibrant, fun organization dedicated to providing the men of the congregation with opportunities to participate in a range of activities that reinforce shared Jewish values. We encourage any male member of Beth Tikvah interested in joining Brotherhood to contact Don Goldbaum, membership chair, at [dongoldbaum@gmail.com](mailto:dongoldbaum@gmail.com) or (614) 745-4754. First-year members of the congregation are provided with a free initial year’s membership in Brotherhood.*



# 2025 Involvement Fair





# NOVEMBER ADULT LEARNING:



**SIGN  
UP**

## 21st Century American Jewish Trends - Nov. 5

**Join us at 7:30 PM** as Dr. Windmueller, Emeritus Professor of Jewish Communal Studies at Hebrew Union College, will provide an analysis of the features and trends that define the 21st century. Join us as he examines the impact of AI, new Jewish platforms and expressions of thought, and the factors that will drive Jewish life over the next 75 years. This program will occur in-person and on Zoom. Contact [mfreiberg@bethtikvahcolumbus.org](mailto:mfreiberg@bethtikvahcolumbus.org) for the Zoom link.

## Women's Torah Study - Nov. 3 at 12:00 PM

Join Morissa Freiberg on the **first Monday of every month** for Women's Torah Study in-person or on Zoom! This group is for women & non-binary people. This session is a great way to dive into Torah learning in a safe environment. Meet on Zoom or in the Beth Tikvah Library at 12:00 PM. Contact [mfreiberg@bethtikvahcolumbus.org](mailto:mfreiberg@bethtikvahcolumbus.org) for the Zoom link!




**NOV  
3**



**SIGN  
UP**

## Embodying Light Meditation - Nov. 15 at 10:30 AM

Join Morissa Freiberg, RJE for this in-person meditation session. Start your month with reflection, rejuvenation, and community. You can bring your own yoga mats, but we have many available to borrow! This session is accessible for all bodies, but you are invited to move in ways that are comfortable for you. There is no charge for this program



## Sunday Evening Study Group - Nov. 2 & Nov. 16

Join Beth Tikvah's Sunday Study Group **on Zoom every other Sunday at 7:00 PM**. In November, we will continue to read "The Ashen Rainbow: Essays on the Arts and the Holocaust," by Ori Soltes, focusing on the diversity of Holocaust art. *Reach out to [ibapibap@gmail.com](mailto:ibapibap@gmail.com) to join the mailing list.*




**LEARN  
MORE**



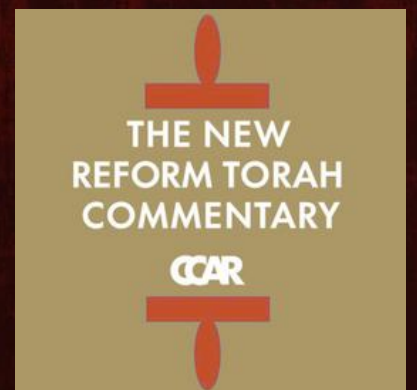
# PILOTING

## the New Reform Torah Commentary

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9  
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM**

**We're honored to take part in  
the second pilot phase of the  
new Reform Torah  
Commentary! Alongside  
communities across North  
America, we'll study *Vayera* and  
share feedback on this  
transformative resource—  
designed to make Torah study  
more meaningful, inclusive, and  
relevant for future generations.**

*Click or scan the QR code to join us in  
shaping the future of Reform Torah  
learning. Feedback will be shared online  
after the session.*





# TWO STORIES, ONE LAND

Join Rabbi Kellner to explore Israeli history through both Israeli and Palestinian narratives using the book *Side by Side: Parallel Histories of Israel-Palestine*.

We will explore key historical events through diverse perspectives, fostering deeper understanding, open dialogue, and a more nuanced view of our land, people, and history.

[SIGN-UP HERE](#)

Session Dates: **7:30 PM**

**Nov. 17 | Nov. 24 | Dec. 1 | Dec. 8 | Jan. 5**

*Please purchase Side by Side before the first session on Nov. 17.*

[Click Here to Purchase the Book.](#)

# SIDE **BY** SIDE

PARALLEL HISTORIES OF ISRAEL-PALESTINE

edited by Sami Adwan, Dan Bar-On,  
and Eyal Naveh and PRIME



LEGACY CIRCLE SPECIAL EVENT



CONGREGATION

Beth Tikvah

# BUILDING TOMORROW'S JEWISH LEADERS

**Sunday, November 16 at 4:00 PM**

On this special occasion, Rabbi Rick Kellner will be joined in conversation by two remarkable leaders in Jewish campus life: Naomi Lamb, Director of Ohio State Hillel, and Juli Goodman, Director of Ohio University Hillel.

They will share stories of Jewish life on campus today, from the ways Hillel nurtures Jewish joy and pride, to the challenges and triumphs of student-led leadership, to the powerful connections young adults are forging with the broader Jewish community.

**This event is hosted for congregants who have committed to leaving a legacy gift for the future of Beth Tikvah.**  
**We hope you'll join us!**

Light refreshments will be  
provided

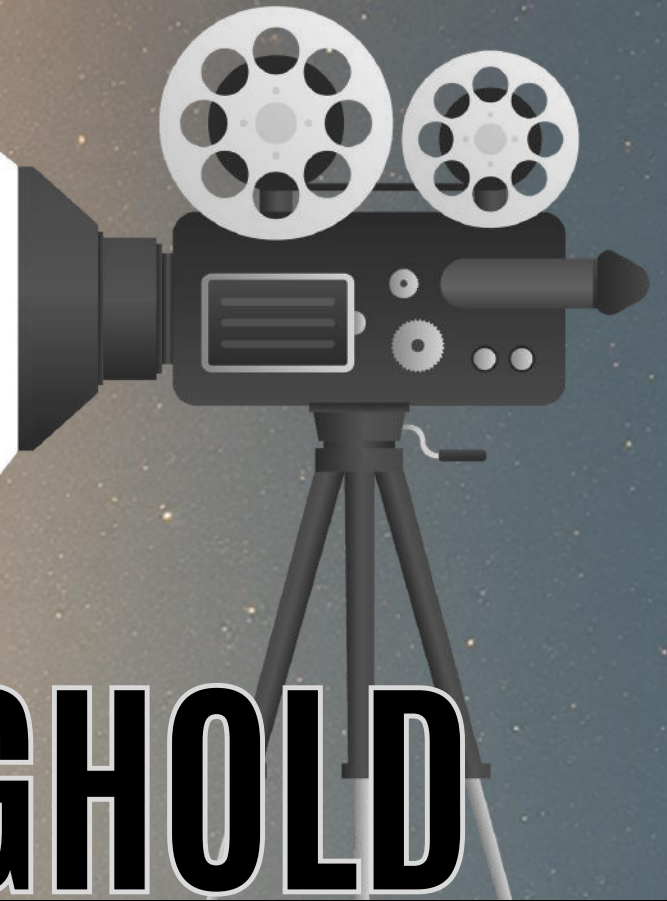
Located at Congregation  
Beth Tikvah





# JCC FILM *Festival*

Get ready for a cinematic experience  
like no other at the JCC Film Festival!



## THE STRONGHOLD



**NOVEMBER 19, 2025 | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM**

JCC Columbus | 1125 College Ave

*This film is based on real events that took place during the Yom Kippur War.*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PURCHASE TICKETS:**

**CLICK HERE**

[bit.ly/stronghold-film](https://bit.ly/stronghold-film)





# 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





# Save-the-Dates

**7  
NOV**

## **Veteran's Shabbat Service**

*7:15 PM at Beth Tikvah*

**12  
DEC**

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

*7:15 PM at Beth Tikvah*

**18  
DEC**

## **Red Cross Blood Drive**

*12 PM - 6 PM at Beth Tikvah - Sponsored by the Brotherhood*

**19  
DEC**

## **Hanukkah Latkefest & New Member Blessing**

**9-12  
JAN**

## **L'Taken D.C. Confirmation Trip**

**7  
FEB**

## **Columbus Souper Bowl Cookoff**





# How-To with Beth Tikvah

## UNDERSTANDING DEATH & DYING IN REFORM JUDAISM

Death and mourning are among the most sacred and emotionally charged experiences in Jewish life. Yet even in grief, Judaism offers guidance, ritual, and connection. Explore the customs and values surrounding death and mourning in Reform Judaism, helping us understand not just what we do, but why we do it.

### Cremation vs Burial

While Jewish law traditionally calls for burial, Reform Judaism recognizes that ways of honoring loved ones evolve. Cremation is permitted when chosen thoughtfully, though burial remains most common. What matters most is treating the body with dignity and balancing Jewish teaching, conscience, and compassion. Beth Tikvah partners with **Green Lawn Cemetery** for burial arrangements.



### Green Burials

Green burials reconnect us to the earth and our ecological values. They avoid embalming fluids and synthetic materials so the body returns naturally to the soil. “For dust you are, and to dust you shall return.” Locally, **Kokosing Nature Preserve** offers natural burial options.

### Prayers & Funerals

Judaism centers on life, not death. Services often include El Malei Rachamim, a prayer for the souls of the dead, as well as the Mourner’s Kaddish, affirming life even in sorrow. Funerals occur soon after death, reflecting respect for the body and the natural cycle. Beth Tikvah recommends contacting **Epstein Memorial Chapel** for arrangements. Services may take place at the synagogue, graveside, or at Epstein.

### Burial Traditions

At the graveside, mourners may shovel earth—a profound act of true kindness that cannot be repaid. Afterward, placing stones on the grave shows remembrance. Flowers fade, but stones endure.

### Tattoos & Burial

Many Jews grew up hearing that people with tattoos couldn’t be buried in a Jewish cemetery; that idea is a myth. Reform Judaism welcomes all Jews. Each of us is created *b’tzelem Elohim*—in God’s image—and no external mark changes that.



# How-To with Beth Tikvah

## UNDERSTANDING DEATH & DYING IN REFORM JUDAISM

### What is Shiva?

**Shiva** (seven) marks the first week of mourning after burial. Mourners remain at home surrounded by friends and family who bring food, offer comfort, and often join in prayer. A memorial candle burns throughout the week. When Shiva ends, sometimes mourners take a short walk, symbolizing a return to life.

### Stages of Mourning

After Shiva, mourners enter Shloshim—thirty days of gradual return to routine. Those mourning parents continue to recite Kaddish for eleven months. Yahrzeits are the annual remembrances of the loss of loved ones. These stages remind us that while loss is permanent, its intensity softens as memory and life intertwine.

### The Importance of Showing Up...

Comforting mourners is among Judaism's greatest mitzvot. You don't need perfect words; your presence is the prayer. Showing up for a funeral, shiva, or with a note reminds mourners they are not alone.

### Continuing Bonds & Memories

After shiva and shloshim, remembrance continues. Lighting a Yahrzeit candle on the anniversary of death, attending Yizkor services on special occasions (Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Passover, Shavuot), or giving tzedakah in a loved one's name keeps their light alive. In moments of loss, Judaism calls us to connect. Mourning becomes a bridge between love remembered and love renewed.

### ABOUT HOW-TO WITH BETH TIKVAH:

We're excited to introduce a new monthly feature called How-To with Beth Tikvah! Each month, we'll explore a different aspect of Jewish life, from celebrating holidays and hosting Shabbat Dinners, to navigating life's milestones and moments of loss; this series will help deepen your understanding of Jewish practice in a Reform context.

**Our goal is simple: to make Jewish living accessible, meaningful, and relevant for everyone in our Beth Tikvah community.**

### Sources & Further Reading:

*Union for Reform Judaism. "Death & Mourning."*  
*Union for Reform Judaism. "Preparing for a Jewish Funeral: A Guide."*  
*JCFS Chicago. "Traditional Jewish Ritual and Mourning Practices."*  
*Union for Reform Judaism. "Why We Offer Green Burial in Our Community."*  
*Union for Reform Judaism. "What is Reform Judaism's position on Cremation?"*  
*My Jewish Learning. "Why Jews Put Stones on Graves."*  
*Union for Reform Judaism. "Everything You Need to Know About the Jewish Custom of Shiva."*



## Torah Trailblazers: Celebrating Remarkable Jewish Women

### DEBBIE FRIEDMAN

Across the Reform Jewish world, few names evoke as much warmth and unity as Debbie Friedman. Her music bridges ancient words and modern voices with melodies that speak to every generation. In Reform congregations across North America, her songs have become a shared language that has allowed us to connect in sacred new ways with our Jewish communities.

Growing up in Utica and then Minnesota, Debbie taught herself guitar and began writing songs that brought Hebrew and English together in a unique way. She described her goal as “trying to make prayer user-friendly... so people are able to make the connection between the music and the text,” ([My Jewish Learning](#)). Over the decades, she released more than 20 albums containing 200 songs, and her versions of prayers like *Mi Shebeirach* and *V’ahavta* are now part of our collective Jewish prayers.

Debbie’s music captures a key Reform value: that our tradition invites creativity, that our prayers can evolve, and that each of us can be part of making them come alive. Her legacy resonates with our Beth Tikvah community because of her belief that Judaism is meant to be participatory. Friedman didn’t perform *for* people; she invited them in. She wanted every voice to join and every person to feel like they



are part of something bigger than themselves. Her approach mirrors the Beth Tikvah spirit that Judaism comes alive when we sing together, learn together, and see ourselves as co-creators of Jewish life.

When we gather in the sanctuary, or sing together on a Friday night, we tap into that legacy of belonging that she fostered. In her lifetime, she said that through song, “every voice will be heard,” ([Jewish Women’s Archive](#)).

As Autumn settles in and we move from the High Holy Days into a season of gratitude and connection, we can take a lesson from Friedman to pause and notice the beauty and awe of time spent in community, living Jewishly together. May her songs continue to guide us, and may our own voices add to the harmony she began.

#### Sources

- *Jewish Women’s Archive*: “Debbie Friedman”
- *My Jewish Learning*: “Debbie Friedman: Singing Unto God”
- *Milken Archive of Jewish Music*: “Debbie Friedman”

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**

- The Fernandez, Grasso, and Sveen families in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Flora Dorman
- Bruce & Julie Weinberg in honor of the B'nai Mitzvah of their children, Ari and Elizabeth Weinberg

### **Caring Community**

- Geniene Pernotto in loving memory of her father, Peter Pernotto
- Sandra Overstreet in loving memory of her brother, Ernie Mandell
- Sandra Overstreet in loving memory of her loved one, Jay Zolte Shoor

### **CBT Village Dedicated**

- Lisa Kalson & Jonathan Beck in memory of Norman Kalson, beloved father of Lisa Kalson

### **General Endowment Donation**

- Gary & Marsha Huber in memory of Michael Schaeffer

### **Meditation Dedicated**

- Mary Lance
- Wendy & Ernie Grindstaff
- Nada & Robert Mazurek in honor of the engagement of Morissa R. Freiberg

### **Music Fund Dedicated**

- Steve & Bridget Dritz in honor of Julie Sapper
- Tara & Bradley Rozen in honor of John Stefano for exactly the voice we needed to hear during the High Holy Days
- Robert & Karen Rosenberg in loving memory of Marsha Huber's mother, Ruth Schoenberg

### **Operating Fund Donation**

- Bob Fisher & Bobbie Garber
- Betty Goldberg

### **Rabbi Kellner Discretionary Fund**

- John & Stacie O'Connell
- Marla Moskowitz in honor of Rabbi Kellner
- Donald & Anne Sylvan in memory of Michael Schaeffer
- Stuart & Marilyn Cooper in loving memory of Stuart's father, Jacob Cooper
- Stuart & Marilyn Cooper in loving memory of Marilyn's mother, Goldie Portnoy
- David & Felice Oppenheim
- Rhoda & Bill Gilbert in loving memory of Arlene, a charter member - from the last charter members at Beth Tikvah

### **Rabbi Martin Discretionary Fund**

- Robin Brenneman

### **Religious School Dedicated**

- Cameron & Lauren Crane
- Jackie Morris Bell & David Bell in loving memory of Jackie's father, Allan Chabler

### **Shishim Donations**

- Myrna & Lisa Yashon in celebration of Jaclyn Callander's birthday
- Helena Schlam

### **Social Action Dedicated**

- Jackie Morris Bell & David Bell in loving memory of Alan Miller's mother, Hazel Keller
- Martha Gersman in memory of Alan Klein, brother of Marty Gersman

### **Women of Beth Tikvah Donation**

- Benjamin & Mary Beth Zacks
- Bruce & Ellen Sass



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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  
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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.