



You can now click on this link to [register for the Atid Learning Center](#) options listed below.

Dear Families,

I am excited to share with you Tikvat Israel's plans for education and youth programming for the upcoming year. We have been working diligently throughout the summer – unfortunately, building something new and exciting in such a short period of time has its challenges. Having said that, I believe the plan below provides a stronger program with more flexibility for all of our youth. I hope you will agree and enroll your student in one of the options below.

First, I'd like to introduce the Interim Director of Youth and Educational Programs and then I will describe our new partnership and new options for our Atid Religious School.

Interim Director of Youth And Educational Programs: Elissa Malter Schwartz

I am very pleased to announce that Elissa Malter Schwartz has agreed to be our interim director of youth and educational programs. Elissa and her husband Jason have been active members of Tikvat Israel for over 20 years and all four of their children are graduates of our ECC. Elissa has vast experience in USY and as a youth director, including 2 years as Tikvat Israel's youth director. For over a decade, she led, guided and helped expand the reach of the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse, helping to raise the profile of this important issue within our community. Elissa has already been organizing our Shabarbecue and is working closely with me to develop the new educational options for our Atid program. I hope you will join me in welcoming Elissa and being her partner as together we strengthen our youth programs. She will be in touch with you shortly to introduce herself more formally, in the meantime you can email her at YouthEd@tikvatisrael.org.

Atid Learning Center Partnership with B'nai Shalom Of Olney

In speaking with families over the summer, I received a great deal of feedback about our past programs and ideas for the future. In considering all of this information, it became clear to me that we needed to create a set of options to meet the diverse needs of our community. We determined that the best way to do this was to partner with another Conservative congregation in the area. We spoke with many others and determined that B'nai Shalom of Olney was the best fit for our educational goals. We also heard a desire to try and maintain an option here, but not classroom-based in the traditional style. Therefore, we developed the following choices:

OPTION 1: Sundays at B'nai Shalom of Olney

We have worked out an agreement with B'nai Shalom of Olney to have our students in K – 7 join together with their students in one program. This will be a traditional religious school program, where students will learn about the holidays, study Torah, do projects related to tzedakah and other Jewish values, etc. It will meet at B'nai Shalom of Olney from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

If you chose to attend school on Sundays at B'nai Shalom of Olney, here is a link to the [calendar](#).

OPTION 2: Shabbat School at Tikvat Israel

We will also be offering a Shabbat School option for students in K – 5. Families who choose this option will bring their students at 10:00 AM on Saturday mornings. Students will take part in an age-appropriate Shabbat morning service, study and have activities related to the Torah, and learn about the holidays and Jewish values. At various times, students will also come in to the sanctuary to participate and help lead portions of the service. Students in Grades 3 – 5 will also have an option to participate in the Torah Club, learning to read Torah. Students who attend Jewish day schools will also be invited to join for the age-appropriate (Jr. Congregation) service portion of the morning. All activities will adhere to our Shabbat policies.

MID-WEEK OPTIONS: You Decide

Regardless of which program a student attends on the weekend, children in Grades 3 – 5 (from both congregations) will have options for mid-week, based on what's most convenient for your family:

Tuesday at B'nai Shalom

Wednesday at B'nai Shalom

Wednesday at Tikvat Israel with Limor Dahan

Families will register for all programs on our website. Please note that B'nai Shalom of Olney's Sunday program began, September 8. They understand that you are only receiving this information late.

The Shabbat school program will begin on Saturday, September 14. Our mid-week program will begin at the end of October, after the holidays.

In addition to the religious school, we are also partnering with B'nai Shalom to have one chapter for our Machar, Bonima and Kadima programs. Machar and Bonim will be coordinated at B'nai Shalom; Kadima will take place here and we will maintain separate USY chapters at this time (but have lots of joint events!).

As always, I welcome your feedback and look forward to being in touch shortly.

L'shalom,
Rabbi Marc Israel