# JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2025 TEVET - SHEVAT 5785

Volume 18 • Number 1

# Tikvat Israel BULLETIN

Cantor Tribute May 18 to Feature Hadar Ensemble

A Time to Sing (עת הזמיר), a concert to celebrate the career of Cantor Rochelle Helzner at Tikvat Israel, will be held at 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 18, at the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center at Montgomery College in Rockville.

Information about purchasing tickets for the tribute event is forthcoming, but sponsorships are available now.

Parking at the campus venue will be free and plentiful.

The featured performer will be the Hadar Ensemble, led by Joey Weisenberg. The Hadar Ensemble is well-known for the same style of music that Cantor Helzner has brought for years into our community. Details about the musician, as well as performance videos, can be found at <a href="https://www.joeyweisenberg.com/hadar-ensemble">www.joeyweisenberg.com/hadar-ensemble</a>.

Weisenberg is the founder and director of Hadar's Rising Song Institute, and he is the author of *Building Singing Communities* and *The Torah of Music*, winner of a 2017 National Jewish Book Award. A dedicated teacher of traditional Jewish melodies, his courses in Jewish song and prayer have influenced students worldwide.

Weisenberg also composes new *niggunim* that have moved and inspired people around the world.

The Hadar Institute is a center of Jewish life, learning and practice that builds vibrant egalitarian communities in North America and Israel. Its vision for Jewish life is rooted in rigorous and nuanced Torah study, gender equality and meaningful Jewish practice.

Event chair Jeff Smith said his planning committee seeks volunteers. The next planning meeting will take place in mid-January. Contact jbrightfin@gmail.com.

# Members to Elect New Officers Feb. 2

Congregants will elect a set of seven officers and four members to the board of directors during a congregational meeting at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 2, at the synagogue.

Those elected by congregants will serve a two-year term running from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027.

Some incumbents expressed a willingness to continue in their positions, while other slots will be filled by newcomers, according to Warren Berger, who serves as chair of nominations in his capacity as immediate past president.

The officer posts are president, vice president for administration, vice president for programming, vice president for education, treasurer, financial secretary and recording secretary. In addition to the four board seats on the ballot, four additional board members were elected in 2024 and have another year to serve.

In announcing the call for candidates, Berger pointed to an important expectation: "Modeling the behavior we want everyone to be following, including participating in services and activities, volunteering and contributing according to financial ability."

Under a bylaws change, governance elections now take place at the beginning of the calendar year, giving any newcomers voted into office the benefit of a five-month shadowing and mentoring period.

# WEEKLY RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Monday 7:15 a.m. 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 8:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday 8:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 7:15 a.m. 7:30 p.m.

Friday 8:00 a.m.

Kabbalat 6:00 p.m.

Shabbat

Shabbat 9:45 a.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.

All services are both online and in person.

# CANDLE LIGHTING & HAVDALAH TIMES

Shabbat & Holiday Dates	Candle Lighting	Havdalah
1/3-1/4	4:40 p.m.	5:44 p.m.
1/10-1/11	4:47 p.m.	5:50 p.m.
1/17-1/18	4:54 p.m.	5:57 p.m.
1/24-1/25	5:02 p.m.	6:04 p.m.
1/31-2/1	5:10 p.m.	6:12 p.m.
2/7-2/8	5:19 p.m.	6:19 p.m.
2/14-2/15	5:27 p.m.	6:27 p.m.
2/21-2/22	5:34 p.m.	6:34 p.m.
2/28-3/1	5:42 p.m.	6:41 p.m.

### Chanukkah

1/1 5:20 p.m. (Night 8)



# TIKVAT ISRAEL DIRECTORY

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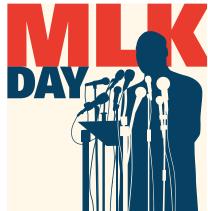
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# **Rabbi Israel Joining MLK Day Panel**

Rabbi Marc Israel will be one of the panelists at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Gathering run by the City of Rockville from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 19, at Beall Elementary School, 451 Beall Ave., Rockville.

The local community and faith leaders on the panel will explore the civil rights leader's legacy and discuss ways to promote justice, equality and unity in our community. Light refreshments will be served.

Joining our rabbi on the panel will be Kate Chance, faith community liaison for Montgomery County; the Rev. Alex Fraser of Unitarian



Universalist Church of Rockville; the Rev. Barry Moultrie of Mount Calvary Baptist Church; Adileh Sharieff of the Islamic Center of Maryland; and Aman Shergill of We Do Seva.

At the event, Tikvat Israel is expected to staff a publicity table to promote membership.

# **Shul Shorts**

# **Kabbalat Shabbat** with Instruments

"KS with I" will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 31, in the Flax Library. It will be preceded by a pre-service reception at 5:20 p.m., sponsored by Karen and Mike Cohen in the cantor's honor.

This spirited Friday evening service includes uplifting melodies both traditional and new, led by Cantor Rochelle Helzner and accompanied by instrumentalists. Although most impactful in person, the service also will be livestreamed.

Future dates are March 28 and June 13, 2025.

### Holocaust Presenter Jan. 26

In honor of International Holocaust Memorial Day, a docent from the Holocaust Museum, who is a survivor from Croatia and a friend of Cantor Rochelle Helzner, will give a presentation on Sunday, Jan. 26, at 10 a.m. in the Flax Library.

Dora Klayman was the only survivor of her immediate family in Croatia. She ultimately was raised there by her Catholic uncle who was recently inducted into the Yad Vashem memorial as a righteous gentile. Cantor Helzner had the honor of attending the induction ceremony in Zagreb during her trip in September.

"Our community knows little about the Holocaust that took place in the Balkans. We have a unique opportunity to learn about this important history through Dora's amazing personal experience," said Cantor Helzner.

# Niggun Circle on Shabbat

On *Shabbat Beshalach*, Feb. 8, services will include chanting from the Torah a song of praise for redemption after crossing the Red Sea to freedom. That *Shabbat* is known as *Shabbat Shira*, the *Shabbat* of Song. Following a *kiddush nosh*, participants will be invited to sing together in the social hall in a joyful *niggun* circle led by Cantor Rochelle Helzner, Jason Schwartz and others.

# **Gabbai** Training Sessions

One-hour training sessions to learn how to serve as a *gabbai* at TI will be offered three times — 10 a.m. on Jan. 19, 8 p.m. on Jan. 30 and 3 p.m. on Feb. 9 — for both experienced *gabbaim* and those interested in stepping into the role. Learn the practices around facilitating Torah readings, including new changes to promote gender inclusivity. To sign up, contact Jason Schwartz at jason@schwartzcentral.com.

# PRESIDENTS' CORNER

# The Invaluable Place of Kehillah at Tikvat Israel

BY SALLY KRAM, TIKVAT ISRAEL CO-PRESIDENT



**Sally Kram** 

People in the outside world (outside of TI, that is) often ask, when they hear I am the co-president of a synagogue, why religion matters today or, more specifically, why joining a house of worship is important in a time when life moves fast, and all the action appears to be online.

The answer is kehillah.

Tikvat Israel is an extraordinary place to be, both as a Jew and as a Jewish organizational leader, and I have been privileged to witness this up close and personally

over the past month as I observed both *shiva* and *shloshim* upon the death of my mother, Rhea Weinbrom, on Nov. 3.

For the week after my mother died, my life was simultaneously a whirlwind and unnaturally slow. As family gathered in York, Pa. — hometown to me and my mother's place of residence — I prepared my mother's obituary and spoke at length with Rabbi Israel. His remarks at the funeral, which he presided over, were moving and comforting. Rabbi Israel even wore a lavender shirt for the event, a tribute to my mother's love of color. (Purple was indeed one of her favorite colors). And my congregational co-president, Beth Smith, contributed her own purple touch to the proceedings, driving 90 minutes to attend the funeral, her purple locks on display.

After returning to Rockville, my family sat for four days of *shiva*. Our living room was overwhelmed by the presence of congregants wishing to support me as I said *kaddish* each evening in my mother's memory. Other congregants sent contributions in my mother's name to TI. Still others pulled me aside at services to ask me about my mother and allow me to express both my grief and my memories. My family was able to enjoy a delicious meal provided by TI that was delivered to our home. And during the first 30 days after my mother died, almost every service I attended had a *minyan* where I could say *kaddish*.

I write this in great detail to make the point that Tikvat Israel is a warm and supportive community. Though my mother was not a member and spent most of her life elsewhere, she was treated with respect and dignity by all at TI, something I appreciate greatly. Even as my mother was recovering from a recent fall at the Hebrew Home in Rockville, Rabbah Arlene Berger was there to hold her hand and sing with her. My mother, who had Alzheimer's disease, would not have been able to meaningfully interact with Rabbah Arlene, but up until her last days, she loved music and the touch of someone else's hand.

And that is why belonging to a *kehillah* is so important. None of my own devices were able to comfort me at a time when human interaction was so important. The members of Tikvat Israel and its clergy knew that and acted with humanity and compassion.

So, to answer my curious friends, why join a religious community today? For the gift of friendship that is inherent in sharing a *kehillah*. And why become a leader in a religious community? To share talents with that community so it can continue to grow and thrive.

But leadership does not spring full-born. Rather, every elected officer, board member, committee chair and *minyan* captain started as an attendee at a meeting of some sort, a volunteer at an event, a drop-in at a religious service or a fill-in for someone else. Leadership requires would-be officers and board members to take that first step toward making a difference in someone else's life.

Where can your journey at TI start? Perhaps as a member of the Bereavement Committee. Lis Schwartz ably leads a small group of people who respond immediately upon the news of a death in our community. The committee's responsibilities are not time consuming, but they are time-sensitive. And I can attest the support this committee performs is invaluable. I never felt alone or abandoned during my *shloshim*, and that can be directly attributed to the work of the Bereavement Committee and the wonderful spirit of Tikvat Israel Congregation.

Thank you, Tikvat Israel. May we continue to go from strength to strength.

# New Legislative Caucus Tackling Jewish Concerns

Jared Solomon, a Maryland state delegate from Montgomery County who co-chairs the legislature's newly established Jewish Caucus, and Delegate Anne Kaiser, a TI member, addressed 25 individuals on Nov. 10 at the synagogue.

Solomon said the state legislative group introduced bills requiring anti-bias and anti-hate training for educators, changing the membership (and adding removal provisions) of the Hate Crime Commission and appropriating funds for security grants. The caucus also met with October 7 hostage families, held a Purim celebration (with invitations to non-Jewish legislators) and hosted a Holocaust survivor to increase awareness of the impact of hate speech.

For the legislative session beginning in January, the Jewish Caucus hopes to garner some funding to hire a staff person and develop a website. The group's founding pillars include establishing a unified voice on issues affecting the Jewish people; fighting anti-semitism; educating colleagues on Jewish practices and culture; and building bonds with other caucuses.

The Jewish Caucus was recognized by Maryland's legislature last January. It has a membership of 19 (all of the Jewish legislators). Members range from ultra-Orthodox to solely cultural identification.

Solomon responded to wide-ranging questions and encouraged attendees to communicate with him at Jared.Solomon@house.md.us. Kaiser, a longtime TI member, offered comments on the new caucus and the subsequent discussion.

# RABBI'S CORNER

# **Upcoming Election: Your Vote is Critical**

BY RABBI MARC D. ISRAEL



Yes, you read that correctly – there is an extremely important election coming up that will have a significant impact on our community.

The World Zionist Congress election takes place this Spring and we have a lot at stake. The World Zionist Congress, founded by Theodor Herzl in 1897, is the only democratic body with represen-

tatives of all world Jewry: all countries, all denominations. In the WZC, diaspora Jews not only have a voice, but a vote! Elections to the World Zionist Congress are held every five years and are open to Jews who are 18 years old, live outside of Israel and didn't vote in the most recent *Knesset* election.

# Why do these elections matter?

The results of these elections determine the policies of the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Fund and how they will allocate billions of dollars for Jewish life around the world. Issues at stake include:

- The effort to establish an equally accessible space at the Kotel (Western Wall).
- Funding for pluralistic Jewish education in Israel and the Diaspora.
- Support for Conservative movement synagogues in Israel.
- Shlichim from Israel to diaspora Jewish communities, including many Conservative synagogues, as well as Israeli staff at Camp Ramah.
- Gap year and teen travel programs in Israel.

In addition to those perennial concerns, there are issues specific to this year's election that make it even more important:

- Rebuilding communities hardest hit on October 7, rather than diverting funds to new settlements in the West Bank.
- Protecting democracy in Israel by making our voice heard on issues such as judicial reform.
- Funding organizations that support maintaining Israel as a civil and pluralistic society.
- Fighting antisemitism around the world.

# Why vote for MERCAZ USA?

Unlike American elections, I am allowed to express my bias here, and I urge you to vote for the MERCAZ USA slate – the only slate that represents the interests of Conservative Judaism in the WZC. An incredible statistic: In the last elections, only 14,000 Conservative Jews in America voted. Because of this, for the last five years, extremist slates have controlled 20 percent of U.S. delegate spots despite representing only 4 percent of the American Jewish population. Based on their previous behavior and their campaign promises, we know the ultra-Orthodox and new extreme nationalist slates aim to reallocate money that has traditionally gone to support Jews around the world and across the

broad spectrum of Jewish identity to programs that benefit only their communities. Knowing what's at stake, they are pouring in a ton of resources to the election this year. We must do likewise!

We are living through a critical time in Israel's history. As American Jews, we often have strong opinions, but rarely have an opportunity to cast a vote to promote our vision for the Jewish future. Once every five years, the World Zionist Congress election empowers us to make an impact.

# What happens if you don't vote?

The World Zionist Congress will direct \$1 billion each year for Jewish education and Israel programming in Israel and the Diaspora. If we don't vote, or if we vote in low numbers, the ultra-Orthodox and ultra-nationalist extremists will garner even more influence and money to fund programs that build greater divisions in Israeli society and between Israel and the Diaspora.

If we want a Jewish future that includes Jews from across the spectrum of religious observance and that is committed to the state of Israel as envisioned by the values expressed in its Declaration of Independence, we must make our voices heard. Voting for *MERCAZ* USA gives us a say in the distribution of funds, including our core projects such as USY and Ramah summer camps, supporting hostage families and rebuilding communities destroyed on October 7 and in its aftermath.

### Register now!

The next WZC election will take place from March 10 to May 4. All Jews who are at least 18 years old, live outside of Israel and didn't vote in the last *Knesset* election are eligible to vote. To ensure you get timely information about the election, including a reminder when the voting opens, **please go to** *mercazusa.org/votemercaz2025*, **fill out the form and enter community code 222** to indicate you are a member of Tikvat Israel. Note: There will be a \$5 fee when you vote that covers the cost of running the election and demonstrates your investment in the future of the Jewish people.

### Interested in learning more?

On Monday, March 17, Tammy Gottlieb, vice chair of Women of the Wall and member of the WZO executive board representing *MERCAZ*, will speak at Tikvat Israel. Gottlieb also sits on the governing body of the WZO's Hostage and Hostage Families Directorate, which is responsible for managing Israeli government programs supporting returned hostages and families of hostages still in Gaza. (God-willing, may they all be returned before then.)

Look for more information in the March-April *Bulletin* and in issues of *B'Kesher* leading up to the event.

If you would like more information or to help spread the word about the election, contact Edna Breit, our campaign captain, at dancept@aol.com.

# **Annual Pledges Painting a Positive Picture**

BY AARON CHUSID, TIKVAT ISRAEL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



We are now halfway through the first year of our new annual pledge model, and so far it has been a success for our community.

The new model combines traditional dues with the *Chai* Campaign so we can spend more time celebrating together and less time fundraising.

If you have attended a recent board meeting (and if not, please join us at one on the fourth Tuesday of each month), you already may have heard how the new model has helped our congregation, but I wanted to share the story with our full membership as thanks for your continuing support.

As of Dec.1:

- 230 households have pledged a total of \$617,750.
- 47 percent of our households pledged more than the suggested amount.
- The average pledge amount was \$2,700 (compared to \$1,800 over the previous three years).

• On average, household pledges were 43 percent above previous giving levels.

In addition to the financial support of our community, several members shared with us that they had been considering cancelling their membership for financial reasons, but the new pledge model, which allowed them to set a giving level according to their family's needs, made it possible for them to remain involved.

At the same time, we have had 21 new families join already this year, and many of them mentioned the pledge model as one of the reasons they joined.

One reason our community made the decision to move to the new model was to ensure that money would not be a barrier for anyone who wanted to participate. I believe we have achieved that goal and more already.

Thank you to all our households who have made such generous pledges for this year. If you have not made your annual pledge yet or have questions about how this would work for your family, please contact the TI office.

# **Updated Menu Options and Pricing Created for TI Events**

New lunch menu plans and pricing have been adopted by the Tikvat Israel Kitchen Committee with guidance from kitchen manager Joe Atkin.

Five menu options are now available:

- Stand-up *kiddush*, an informal light offering;
- Basic sponsored kiddush, a simple sit-down light meal;
- Dairy middle-tier kiddush, a more robust lunch;
- Dairy kiddush luncheon, the most elaborate luncheon with more bells and whistles; and
- Meat *kiddush* luncheon, the only meat-based offering.

Within these menu alternatives, there are many options to customize the meal, including delicious hot and cold side dishes, salads, desserts and more.

In addition to the updating of menu prices for the first time since 2019, the *kiddush* lunch costs have been updated to include all related expenses, such as basic paper and plastic products, linen service, food prep and dish cleaning help, custodial services and

the cost of one hour of uniformed security because attendees tend to linger well beyond *Shabbat* services when the *kiddush* is sponsored.

"We have taken this approach to ensure that our pricing is current, and the kitchen operation does not run at a deficit. And so far it is working," said Monica Meyer, chair of the kitchen committee.

Since the beginning of the fiscal year last July, the synagogue's kitchen has run in the black, Meyer said. "We plan to keep it that way!"

She added: "We want to keep our kitchen running efficiently, so please note the following when sponsoring a *kiddush*."

- Our kitchen manager will be ordering all food and beverages used for every kiddush at TI;
- Every *kiddush* sponsor is responsible for picking up leftover food from the kitchen no later than Sunday evening after the sponsored *kiddush*. A *mashgiach* will arrange to meet the sponsor in the kitchen for the pickup.

To schedule a sponsored *kiddush*, feel free to contact Atkin at kitchen@tikvatisrael.org. He will be happy to work with you!

# **Mazel Tov**

to **Aaron and Alex Chusid** upon their son Isaac "Ziggy" Chusid becoming a *bar mitzvah* on Dec. 14 at Temple Beth Ami

to **Susan and Alan Apter** on the birth of their granddaughter, Daphne Elizabeth, born to Ross and Laurel Apter, on Nov. 17

to **Sue and David Meiselman** on the birth of their first grandchild, a son born to daughter Sarah and son-in-law Bajazit Alickovic, on Oct. 30



**Ziggy Chusid** 

# SEA Change: Are You Looking to Make a Difference in 2025?

BY ANNA LEVY AND RONI SILVERSTEIN

In the past year, more than 100 Tikvat Israel congregants have participated in programs and informational sessions through our Tikvat Israel SEA Change partnerships to support our fellow Marylanders.

TI is a member congregation of the SEA Change DMV Network (*www.seachangedmv. org*). SEA Change — Study, Engage Act, Change — is a network of synagogues, focusing on social justice, fostering relationships

and organizing internally and externally to create more equitable and inclusive communities. SEA Change congregations partner with three local organizations: Action in Montgomery, Jews United for Justice and Interfaith Power and Light.

Our 2025 TI board goals and, most importantly, our congregation's five-year strategic plan, "Roadmap for the Future," spell out ways we can team together to make a difference in our community. The roadmap challenges us to participate in *tikkun olam* and connect with community organizations to build social justice actions that align with Jewish values.

Social justice focuses on addressing the root causes of inequities, whereas social action addresses the symptoms. For example, taking action to address homelessness through county and state



legislation that increases low-income housing in our communities, provides access to legal counsel for tenants facing eviction, increases the minimum wage and provides access to mental health services are all examples of how we work together with partners to address root causes of inequality.

On *Yom Kippur*, many congregants participated in a side trip with TI SEA Change members to share memories and experiences

that started our thinking about racial and social inequities. During this past November and December, SEA Change members participated in actions with JUFJ and AIM that focused on the upcoming 2025 Maryland legislative session. There will be many more opportunities to work on priorities in juvenile justice, fair taxation, pre-K education, housing justice, immigration and environmental justice.

TI SEA Change is supporting an event for the Rockville MLK Jr. Day commemoration in January, packing *Purim* bags to take to state legislators in Annapolis with JUFJ, scheduling a visit to the Josiah Henson Museum in Rockville and more.

Access the TI SEA Change website page for details on upcoming events (*www.tikvatisrael.org/get-involved/sea-change*). Or you can email us at anna\_levy@verizon.net or roni.silverstein@gmail.com.

# Women's Network Focuses on Advocacy for Individuals with Disabilities

Thirty people joined the Women's Network event to discuss supporting people with disabilities and their caregivers on Sunday, Nov. 3.

At a session titled "Engaging and Supporting People with Physical, Mental and Developmental Disabilities," Rebecca Salon discussed her long career in the disabilities field, followed by fellow congregant Judy Waldman, who spoke from personal experience about raising a daughter with a developmental disability. The discussion ranged from welcoming our *Shabbat* attendees from the nearby Makom group homes to the use of hearing aids to residential moves to senior communities to how conditions have changed over the years for children with disabilities in public school settings.

The two presenters also led attendees in discussing how to be an effective advocate and a caretaker, how to find resources to assist with loved ones and the need for caregivers to have a respite themselves.

Another longtime congregant, Hope Kott, discussed physical accessibility and the lack thereof in many places, highlighting our joint need to advocate in the Jewish community for accommodations for people with disabilities.

For congregants interested in information on making our TI community more inclusive and welcoming, Disability Belongs (formerly RespectAbility) has an Inclusive Congregations Guide (https://www.respectability.org/faith-inclusion/inclusive-congregations/) that offers suggestions for improving accessibility during in-

person events and services, in virtual events and services, and more. Vanderbilt University's Kennedy Center has run initiatives to promote inclusive faith communities for decades. The center has created useful resources, including Inclusion in a Faith Community (https://vkc.vumc.org/assets/files/tipsheets/inclusionfaithcomtips.pdf), which provides tips and links to additional resources.

Waldman's advice to attendees: Talk to people with disabilities you may not know during *kiddush*. A simple hello, *Shabbat* shalom and any other outreach will go a long way in communicating that they are welcome and they belong.



Rebecca Salon (left) drew on her decades of professional experience in the field to discuss ways to advocate for individuals with disabilities. (*Photo by Amy Matathias*)

# **WOMEN'S NETWORK**

# Fade-out to 2024, Welcome to 2025 with Exciting Events

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

As we close out 2024 and welcome 2025, the Women's Network has much to be thankful for. We are appreciative of our leadership team, our volunteers and our members—all of whom have made us so successful.

We were proud of our November and December events, which were well received with enthusiastic participation. We look forward to a host of exciting programs in the new year.

First, looking ahead, we have several January events. The first is a virtual book group discussion of *The Thread Collectors* by co-authors Alyson Richman and Shaunna Edwards. It will be led by Ellie Diamond. This book's story takes place during the Civil War, in which the main characters are a Black enslaved woman living in New Orleans and a Jewish woman living in New York. Both individuals are fighting for freedom and a Union victory and have a connection through their needlework. The story beautifully portrays female strength, hope and friendship.

Second, we encourage our members to participate in a book discussion via livestreaming on Jan. 12, through the Women's League for Conservative Judaism that will examine *Displaced Persons: Stories*. Author Joan Leegant will lead the program. Her book focuses on American Jewish life and Israel.

On Jan. 25 (a date chosen by WLCJ), we will hold our annual Shelly Goldin Women's Network *Shabbat* program. It will feature Julie Fisher, director of engagement for the Good People Fund, an organization that is devoted to *tikkun olam* (repairing the world) by guiding and financially supporting like-minded small to midsized non-profits that share goals. Following the conclusion of the Women's Network *Shabbat* service and talk, there will be a *kiddush* lunch for all to enjoy.

Turning to February, our learning programs coordinators Fortuna Scheige and Maxine Perlmutter are planning a special event to take place at the synagogue on Sunday, Feb. 9. Details will be announced in the Women's Network newsletter. Also look for information on our *Purim* programs to take place in March.



Author Sanford Greenberg joined the Women's Network book discussion group when members gathered on Zoom in mid-November to talk about his book. (*Photo by Amy Matathias*)



Nancy Goldberg (front right) led the Women's Network in a workshop on *Qigong*, an ancient form of exercise.

To recap our fall highlights, in November we ran three events. Our program Nov. 3 called "Engaging and Supporting People with Physical, Mental and Developmental Disabilities" was well attended. (See related story, page 6.) The topic is of great importance to many of our congregants and may be revisited in future programming.

On Nov. 9, we hosted speaker Arno Rosenfeld from the *Jewish Forward* at *Shabbat* services. His talk on antisemitism and the question and answer session were thought provoking. On Nov. 20, we had a memorable virtual book group discussion of *Hello Darkness My Old Friend*, in which the author Sanford Greenberg participated and spoke of his personal experience with blindness. The discussion and Q&A were expertly led by our co-president Susan Apter. We are grateful to Ellie Diamond for making the arrangements for the author to participate in the program.

Turning to December, on the 8th Nancy Goldberg led a workshop on *Qigong*, which benefited both our bodies and souls. This class gave us a wonderful overview of this ancient form of exercise. She put special emphasis on Judaic and nature themes in her program.

On Dec. 30, Ellen and Sherman Eisner organized a group of TI volunteers to serve dinner to homeless persons at Shepherd's Table in downtown Silver Spring. We are thankful to the Eisners for including Women's Network in the planning for this volunteer activity.

If you have any questions on our programs or are interested in volunteering/donating to a specific event, please reach out to me at bbrooksx@gmail.com.

# **OPEN BOARD MEETINGS**

Meetings of the Tikvat Israel Board of Directors take place on the fourth Tuesdays of most months at 8 p.m. (following evening minyan) via Zoom. Congregants are permitted to join as observers (with the only closed portions relating to personnel or legal discussions). Agendas for meetings, as well as the Zoom links, can be obtained in advance from TI's recording secretary, Melissa Apter, at mwapter@gmail.com, or from the synagogue office.

# No Kidding: Books on Jewish Humor Reside in Flax Library

BY JANICE ROSENBERG, LIBRARY COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Big Book of Jewish Humor explains that Jewish humor is usually substantive. It is about something—food, family, business, anti-semitism, wealth, health or survival. It tends to be anti-authoritarian in that it ridicules grandiosity and self-indulgence, while exposing hypocrisy.

Jewish humor is strongly democratic, stressing the dignity and worth of the common man. It usually has a critical edge which can create discomfort. And it mocks everyone, including religious personalities, institutions and Jewish rituals. At the same time, Jewish humor affirms religious traditions and practices.

The Herman J. Flax Library has many books on Jewish humor.

Here are a few:

- The Big Book of Jewish Humor, by William Novak and Moshe Waldoks.
  - Bursting with quick wit and hilarity, with anecdotes from the Marx Brothers, Lenny Bruce, Shel Silverstein and Neil Simon.
- The Big Little Book of Jewish Wit and Wisdom, by Sally Ann Berk.
  - Covers a range of wise observations on the ways of the world, snappy one-liners, and stories that capture the spirit of the Jews throughout the ages.
- *The Funniest Man in the World*, by Ephraim Kishon. Includes humorous stories about children, dogs, neighbors, plumbers, taxi drivers, policemen and more.
- The Haunted Smile: The Story of Jewish Comedians in America, by Lawrence Epstein.
  - Argues that Jewish comedy is tinged by bitter encounters with anti-semitism and a desire to be accepted.
- How Do You Like Me So Far?, by Henny Youngman.
   Contains hundreds of jokes by Henny Youngman, known as "king of the one-liners."
- Jewish As a Second Language, by Molly Katz.
   Examines the complex twists, unexpected nuances and hidden meanings of Jewish language and culture.



- Jewish Humor: What the Best Jewish Jokes Say About the Jews, by Joseph Telushkin.
  - Includes more than 100 of the best Jewish jokes, interspersed with perceptive insight into what these jokes indicate about how Jews see themselves, their families, money and success, among other topics.
- Joys of Jewish Humor, by Henry Spalding.
   Introduces a wide range of colorful characters from the Jewish past and present.

Search the library's online catalog to reserve books in the collection on Jewish humor and other topics. Open TI's website and under "Study," click on "Flax Library Catalog." You also can borrow a book from TI's library by sending an e-mail to TikvatIsraelLibrary@gmail.com. Be sure to include the book title, your name and your contact information. As a reminder, the library accepts donations in good condition published since the year 2000.

Happy reading!

# A Poem of Gratitude

Roz Kram, who recently stepped down from years of service as the coordinator of kitchen operations at TI, composed this poem as an expression of her gratitude toward fellow congregants.

I look in the mirror and what do I see?

I see plainly just me

an average person trying to be nice

My favorite beverage is water with ice

But when called to help in whatever way

I'd rather say yes than to say nay

I've joined with you all to visit or pray

sometimes in evenings and sometimes by day

I've catered simchas both large and small

and love to share nachas with you all

I've been with you in times of grief

I hope these times are not often but brief

I've worked on committees and gone to meetings galore

Some are interesting and some are a bore

But through these times of my membership here

It's all of you people that I hold dear

I continue to work to keep this synagogue strong

I hope that you will join me and tag along

I am just an average person trying to be nice

My favorite beverage is water with ice!

# **EDUCATION AND YOUTH**

# Sunday School, Teen Programs, Family Dinners

BY JUDY STERN, VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATION



# **Sunday School Registration**

Registration is beginning for next year's *Netivot* Religious School with classes taking place weekly on Sunday mornings. The program will be open for children in kindergarten through 3rd grade in the fall of 2025. Families do not need to be synagogue members to enroll their children in the *Netivot* program.

For further information, contact roni.silverstein@gmail.com.

### **TI Teens**

Our second annual TI Teens Movie Night was held on Saturday evening, Nov. 14. Teens enjoyed a lively evening of *havdalah*, followed by dinner and a viewing of several episodes of an Israeli television series.

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to join the TI Teen group for a variety of activities this coming year.

Teens from the synagogue, as well as the outside community, are invited to attend.

For further information and to be placed on the mailing list, contact Shira at shirayona@gmail.com.

# **EFN Young Families Shabbat Dinners**

Our Young Families *Shabbat* Dinners, hosted by the Early Childhood Center Family Network, continue to be well-attended. The dinners are tailored for families with preschool-age children, accompanied by their parents and older siblings. Grandparents are welcome, too.

The evenings kick off at 5 p.m. with a brief *Shabbat* service led by Rabbi Marc Israel followed by an activity and a delicious kosher meat dinner. The next Young Families *Shabbat* Dinner will be held on Feb. 7. Check *B'Kesher* for the upcoming schedule and signup information.

The EFN will host a Parents Night Out fundraiser on Feb. 16. Details and registration forthcoming.

### **Volunteer Readers**

TI congregants have been volunteering to read books to the ECC children on Wednesday mornings.

The children really enjoy listening to the guest readers. Sources report that the readers appear to have a good time as well.

If you are interested in demonstrating your book-reading skills to ECC classes for one time or more, send me your contact information at judymstern7@gmail.com.



Teens affiliated with TI and their friends gathered for a movie night and meal in November.

# Art League Exhibits Two Congregants' Works

The Rockville Art League selected works of congregants Larry Levine and Karen Lantner for the Juried Members' Winter Show, which runs through Jan. 17 at Glenview Mansion Art Gallery in Rockville.

Levine's entry is an environmental portrait of a dulcimer maker in western North Carolina. For the last few years, he

has been working on a major photographic project about mountain dulcimers. He took the photo in May 2023.

"Sandy and I had made reservations to return to that area for a dulcimer festival in the mountains about 15 miles from where

our friend Tom lives. The hurricane hit western North Carolina two weeks before our trip," Levine said. "The festival site was destroyed. Fortunately, Tom and his wife are fine."

Lantner has two pieces juried in this show, both part of her series of paintings on the challenges of childhood. The first, "Middle School," portrays a time of life that's full of changes and uncertainty. The child is teetering on the edge of adulthood. The second, "Siblings," illustrates the tension among siblings. The youngest can feel caught in the spotlight.

To view the show online, go to Rockvilleartleague.org and click on RAL Juried Members Winter Show. Or you can go to see the show in person (always a better option) at the Glenview Mansion.



# Dear to My Heart

I was deeply gratified by the outpouring of love and support shown to me and Elliot Cowan as the *Kallat Bereishit* and *Hattan Torah* during the past *Simchat Torah*. Thank you to all those who made donations in our honor, coordinated and participated in the service, and prepared the celebratory luncheon.

Tikvat Israel is dear to my heart because of the people who have embraced me and my family over the past two decades. Thank you.

Melissa Apter

# My Synagogue Family

A large *todah rabah* to the congregation and the committee headed up by Lois Sbar that thanked me in November for my years of service to the congregation. This was a remarkable evening filled with the joy of *Shabbat* and entertainment reminding me of my 55 years of membership and fellowship here.

I also want to thank those who made contributions in my honor. I have a mug that says you are at home at Beth Tikva, and I have certainly felt this to be my home for all these many years. I look forward to sharing times with you all at Zoom *minyanim*, services or other programs.

Thanks for being part of my synagogue family!

Roz Kram

# **Grants to High Schoolers**

Thank you for your work with your Jewish high school students. Please share with them NoVaChai's Manhig program for \$1,000 college grant awards. The first deadline is at the end of the 2nd semester. Any coursework submitted between now and then that meets award criteria is eligible. The second award deadline is the end of the year.

NoVaChai will award up to six grants per year for collegiate study to high school students in the Washington, D.C., area who produce course specific work that explores and illustrates aspects of current or historical Jewish experience.

See details at www.novachai.org/for-student-scholars.

James Rose Executive Director NoVaChai Foundation

# **Outdoor Havurah Explores Glen Echo's Scenes**

BY BRENDA BROOKS

Tikvat Israel's Outdoor *Havurah* got together for lunch and a hike in Glen Echo on Nov. 10. We had a beautiful fall day together, starting off with a meal in a private dining room at the Irish Inn near the park. It was a perfect setting to catch up and enjoy each other's company.

Then we walked to a nearby entrance to the C&O canal. We hiked on the path, stopping at the Little Falls dam and a lockhouse. We took in the scenery and saw some interesting birds around the canal and in the water. It was a fabulous day.

Our next event will likely be a museum trip due to the winter weather.

The Outdoor *Havurah* began close to 10 years ago. Our group shares a common interest in exploring parks and museums. We also enjoy combining our outings with a group meal at a restaurant or a picnic. Our group consists of longtime members and relative newcomers. It is open to everyone. Our hikes are generally on easy trails so they can be done by beginner-level hikers.

Over the years we have gone on many hikes in local parks, as well as participated in other outdoor events, and visited several D.C.-area museums. Our *havurah* took a break during the pandemic, and then resumed in 2023.

We've been to a large variety of places, including Seneca Creek State Park, Lake Needwood, Brookside Gardens, Brookside Beer Gardens, the Air and Space Museum in Chantilly, Va., Catoctin Mountain Park, the National Gallery of Art, Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, Wolf Trap (for a backstage tour), Woodlawn Museum, Black Hill Regional Park, Jewish Museum of Maryland and Dickerson Conservation Park. We are open to suggestions for new places to visit and explore.

Newcomers to the group are always welcome. Please contact Brenda Brooks at bbrooksx@gmail.com.



Shown at an observation point near the Little Falls dam are (from left)
Marvin Kasper, Keith Brooks, Brenda Brooks, Cindy Renteria, Sue Urban and
Len Lipton. Amy Sanders participated but is not shown.

# Rambling and Nosherei in the TI Neighborhood

BY SUE URBAN

On a sunny Sunday afternoon in October, small groups of TI congregants combined schmoozing, snacking and fresh air during TI's *Sukkah* Hop. Three TI families near the northern end of Bauer Drive in Rockville built *sukkot* at their homes for the holiday and welcomed about two dozen visitors on the pre-planned route.

The trail included the *sukkot* of Susan and Alan Apter, Aaron Mannes and Sonia Castillo, and Rabbi Marc Israel and Abbey Frank. Rachel Laveer ensured each *sukkah* had *nosherei* to nourish the guests and flowers to brighten their tables. Some visitors covered the two-mile route on foot, some on bicycles, some by car and some via a combination of modes. All agreed it was a lovely way to celebrate the *chag*.



Inside the Apters' sukkah (from left): Nancy Solomon, Rachel Solomon, Rachel Laveer, Beth Smith, Susan Apter, Alan Apter and Warren Berger. (Photo by Sue Urban)



Inside the Israel/Frank's *sukkah* (from left): Dan Black, Felicia Black, Rachel Laveer, Elaine Weinstein and Tamah Graber. (*Photo by Sue Urban*)



At the Mannes/Castillo's *sukkah*: Becky Eisenberg and Aaron Mannes along with Becky's daughters. (*Photo by Sue Urban*)



Shown (clockwise from left) are Beth Smith, Rachel Solomon, Nancy Solomon, Rabbi Marc Israel and the Eisenberg girls. (*Photo by Sue Urban*)



Visiting the Mannes/Castillo's *sukkah* (from left): Beth Smith, Rachel Laveer, Aaron Mannes and Warren Berger. (*Photo by Sue Urban*)



Sue Urban (left) with Nancy Solomon inside the *sukkah* outside Rabbi Israel's house.

TIKVAT ISRAEL JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2025

# EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER Practicing Values of a Well-Trained Staff

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



As winter arrives, the ECC continues its important work of providing a safe, stimulating and fun place for children to thrive each day.

On Nov. 5, the entire ECC staff spent the day in training, thanks to the generous support of the Helen P. Raucher Memorial ECC Development Trust. The morning workshop, "Behavior Management

Strategies," was not just informative, it was engaging with our educators exploring the art of intentional behavior management. The speaker reviewed how to be proactive, teach and respond to challenging behaviors. The staff participated in lively practice exercises and came away with real-life examples and strategies.

The second workshop, "I Don't Like That! Supporting Picky Eaters as They Fully Develop Their Palate," tackled the challenge of feeding picky young eaters. The staff learned valuable insights into why some children can be a bit finicky and how to gently encourage them to expand their culinary horizons. Families are invited to learn more about these strategies and join us in a collaborative effort to support the children's growth.

The ECC prepared food and gathered as a school to celebrate Thanksgiving together in the social hall on the Tuesday before the holiday. Each class contributed a dish for our feast. The menu included cornbread, fruit salad, tuna salad, stuffing, green beans, pumpkin bread and a vegetable platter shaped like a turkey. We sang songs and danced together. It was a wonderful way to start our Thanksgiving holiday.

As the ECC heads into 2025, we are thinking about registration for the 2025-26 school year. If you know a family interested in learning more about the ECC or taking a tour, contact Debbie@tikvatisrael.org for more information.





Pre-school youngsters celebrated Thanksgiving in style and with colorful food in the Early Childhood Center at Tl.

# Where Everybody Knows My (English and Hebrew) Name

The writers of the 1980s hit TV series "Cheers" understood something fundamental about human psychology: Our brains are wired to help us feel more at ease when people call us by our name. Babies recognize their name from an extremely early age, and we are able to hear someone calling our name even across a crowded noisy room.

However, our ability to instantly recall names decreases with age and, in a world where information is bombarding us from every angle, name recall has become more difficult even for the younger among us.

To ensure Tikvat Israel remains a place where everybody knows your name, we have printed name badges for all members that now are affixed to a standing seven-foot magnetic board in the lobby or the coatroom. You are asked to take and wear your name tag whenever you are attending *Shabbat* services or an event. Lanyards and clip-on badges will be available.

These badges have an added benefit for *Shabbat* — your transliterated Hebrew name (as entered in ShulCloud before the



All TI members have magnetic name tags awaiting them in the lobby.

printing) is on the reverse side. This will ease the process of being called to the Torah as you can present your name tag to the *gabbai* to read. After *kiddush* or the event, simply return the name tag to its place — alphabetically — on the magnetic board.

Office staff know that numerous name tags will need to be reprinted, especially if the Hebrew name information was not complete or someone prefers to go by a nickname. Simply e-mail the rabbi with the information you want corrected and he will reprint your tag.

The name badge project has been a longtime goal of the membership committee. The idea originated with past Recording Secretary Jaime Smith and was brought forward again by Membership Chair Melissa Apter and her team. Executive Director Aaron Chusid designed the badges (you may note their similarity to the High Holiday ticket/name-badge combo of the past two years).

Thanks to the office staff for stuffing all of the holders and organizing the boards alphabetically.

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# **Blood Drive Collects 31 Units**





Among those donating their blood at Tikvat Israel in November were Cantor Rochelle Helzner (left) and Edna Breit. (*Photos by Robbi Cohen*)

The American Red Cross collected 31 units of blood at the Tikvat Israel blood drive in November. Approximately 50 percent of the donors were connected to TI in some way.

Thanks to TI staff members Aaron Chusid, Susan Davis, Nadia Palacios and Iber Gonzalez as well as TI volunteers at the reception table, Keith Brooks and Jonathan Solomon. Robbi Cohen serves as coordinator of the periodic blood drives.

The next Tikvat Israel blood drive run by the Red Cross is set for March 5 in the social hall.



# **Judean Memorial Gardens**

Traditional Jewish Burial Service and perpetual care in the heart of Montgomery County, MD. Come and browse the hundreds of beautiful trees, gardens, works of art, and award-

works of art, and awardwinning Memorial Chapel.

Traditional Jewish Burial Service Tikvat Israel owns a section of sites and perpetual care in the heart of Montgomery County, MD. Come discounts available to members.

To reserve your sites please call Aaron Chusid at Tikvat Israel: 301-762-7338.



# **Donations**

The congregation gratefully acknowledges the following donations to the various funds of Tikvat Israel. The donor lists that follow reflect gifts received at the synagogue in October and November. If your donation during this time does not appear in the list, or if there is an error in the listing, please contact the synagogue office at 301-762-7338.

### **YAHRZEIT DONATIONS**

In memory of ...

Doris and Arthur Amster by Deborah and Michael Amster

Gertrude Appel by Shirley Nasoff Marvin Apter by Susan and Alan Apter Jacob Armoza by Elaine and Micah Krichevsky Lynn Berk by Mimi and Allan Meltzer

Lillian Bloom by Ellen and Richard Lederman Chasse Freda Chait by Moira and Leon Green David Chefer by Aaron Fineman Jack and Goldie Chelemer by Carol Chelemer Philip and Fanny Chelemer by Carol Chelemer

Melford Cohen by Joyce Fischer Marcelle Copaken by Moira and Leon Green Alvin Fineman by Aaron Fineman David Fineman by Aaron Fineman Saul B. Friedman by Sheila Myers

Lewis Godfrey by Roslyn Levy Godfrey Charles Goldman by Rebecca Salon and Jay Goldman

Muriel and Mickey Goldstein by Dan Goldstein Jeanne Hale by Stephanie and Howard Weiss Jacob Hershbaum by Moira and Leon Green

Noach Hoffman by Sharon Spanier Melvin and Selma Jackson by Ellen and Mark Diamond

Benson B. Kessler by Susan and Alan Apter Samantha Jane Kessler by Susan and Alan Apter Janice Kirschenbaum by Joel Bressler and Shirley Waxman

Adair Lederman by Ellen and Richard Lederman Sondra Levin by Ronald Levin Belle Meyers by Tamah Graber Benito Pazo by Nadgy and Stephen Roey

Neftali Pazo by Nadgy and Stephen Roey Ada Punitzer by Joan Margolies Shirley Rubinstein Rodes by Ellen and Sherman Eisner

Kalman Roey by Nadgy and Stephen Roey Harold Saldinger by Ellen and Richard Lederman

Abraham Schuchman by Ziva and Gerald Schuchman

Mary Seslan by Joyce Fischer Marjorie Shulman by Dorothy Costinett Alex Silbert by Joel Bressler and Shirley Waxman

Arthur Spanier by Sharon Spanier

Dora Thaler by Barbara and David Thaler Irwin Marvin Towers by Alan L. Gordon

Doris Warren by Ronald Levin Benny Waxman by Joel Bressler and Shirley Waxman

Harry West by Deborah and Michael Amster

### BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE

In memory of Abraham Krugman by Marilyn and Michael Greenwood

In memory of Alan Robinson by Amy and Daniel Matathias

In memory of Howard Joseph Schimmel by Julie Norin

In memory of Howard Schimmel by Daniel Bachman and Debby Berlyne

In memory of Marjorie Shulman by Penina and Sam Freedenberg by Marilyn and Michael Greenwood by Larry and Marcy Grollman by Daniel Schultz

In memory of Rhea Piperberg Weinbrom by Daniel Bachman and Debby Berlyne by Ellen and Mark Diamond by Amy and Daniel Matathias by Keith Sallerson

### **CANTOR'S FUND**

In honor of Manny Helzner's 96th Birthday by Jules and Muriel Asher

In memory of Martin Collins by Marilyn and Michael Greenwood

Mazel tov to Nathan and Sofia Darby on their recent marriage by Marilyn and Michael Greenwood

### **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

Mazel tov to Susan and Alan Apter on the birth of their granddaughter Daphne Elizabeth, born to Ross and Laurel Apter, by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon

### **COWAN TORAH CLUB**

In honor of Elliot Cowan by Jules and Muriel Asher

Mazel tov to Elliot Cowan for his Simchat Torah honor by Robert and Janice Balin

### **EDUCATION FUND**

In memory of Marjorie Shulman by Colleen Thomas

In memory of Marjorie Shulman by Alise Snyder, Evie Brian Eden and Tyler Laug In memory of Rhea Piperberg Weinbrom by Sandra and Larry Levine

### **GENERAL FUND**

In appreciation of Roz Kram by Moira and Leon Green

In honor of the 36th wedding anniversary of Jonathan and Nancy Solomon by Marc Schneider and Martie Adelman

In honor of Cantor Rochelle Helzner by Carol Chelemer

In honor of *Chatan Torah* Elliot Cowan and *Kallat Bereishit* Melissa Apter by Deborah and Michael Amster

### **GENERAL FUND (CONTINUED)**

In honor of Elliot Cowan

by Carol Chelemer

by Cliff and Betty Fishman

by Moira and Leon Green

by Leilani Lansing

In honor of High Holiday service clergy, leaders and readers by Carol Chelemer

In honor of Melissa Apter

by Carol Chelemer

by Cliff and Betty Fishman

by Moira and Leon Green

by Anna Robbins

In honor of Nancy and Jonathan Solomon's 36th Anniversary by Ziva and Gerald Schuchman

In honor of Jonathan and Nancy Solomon's wedding anniversary by Ronald Rabin

In honor of Rabbi Marc Israel by Carol Chelemer

In honor of Ron Rabin's 70th birthday by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon

In honor of Roz Kram on her special birthday

by Robert and Janice Balin

by Cliff and Betty Fishman

by Anna Robbins

by Nadgy and Stephen Roey

by Lois and Neil Sbar

In memory of Dr. Marjorie Hendler by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon

In memory of Eva and Mike Gross by Tom Gross

In memory of Fanny Raucher, Benjamin Raucher, and Ruth Lewinstein by Jane Connor Raucher and Stephen Raucher

In memory of Howard Schimmel by Judi and Dan Gever

by Susan and Alan Apter by Susan Schwartz

In memory of Marjorie G. Shulman by Corinne Tylka by Denise Hampton

by Linda Kappesser by Sheri DeVinney

In memory of Nestor Ratesh by Adam Rubin In memory of Nestor Ratesh by Carol Ide In memory of Nestor Ratesh by Cecilia Tohaneanu

In memory of Isadore Goldberg by Trung Nghia and George Theofilos

**Continued on next page** 

# **Donations (continued)**

### **GENERAL FUND (CONTINUED)**

In memory of Rhea Piperberg Weinbrom, mother of Sally Kram

by Barbara Katz

by Betty and Clifford Fishman

by Bobbi and Larry Gorban

by Ellen and Sherman Eisner

by Marc Schneider and Martie Adelman

by Nancy and Rodney Matheson

by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon

by Wendy Bauman

In memory of Rita Kleinman

by Daniel Bachman and Debby Berlyne

by Rosemarie and Howard Chernoff

by Ellen and Sherman Eisner

by Rebecca Salon and Jay Goldman

by Bobbi and Larry Gorban

by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon

Mazel tov to Melissa Apter, on her Simchat Torah honor, by Robert and Janice Balin

Mazel tov to Susan and Alan Apter on the birth of their granddaughter, Daphne Elizabeth, born to Ross and Laurel Apter, by Elyse and Jeffrey Bernstein

Mazel tov to Bruce Goldin on the birth of his grandson, Sam Robin Goldin, by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon

Mazel tov to Ziva and Jerry Schuchman by Nancy and Jonathan Solomon

Refuah shlemah to Dean Choulas by Laurie

Refuah shlemah to Gerry McBrinn by Laurie Goldman

### KIDDUSH FUND

In honor of Roz Kram by Daniel Bachman and Debby Berlyne

### LIBRARY FUND

In appreciation of Phyllis and Ken Schwartz by Susan and Jay Plafker

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of Janice Balin by Amy Sanders In appreciation of Marc Pressman by Amy Sanders In appreciation of Roz Kram's timeless efforts to care for and bless us with her food and friendship by Sara Harris

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (CONTINUED)

In honor of Alan and Susan Apter's grandson by Ellen and Mark Diamond

In honor of Roz Kram by Ellen and Mark Diamond

In honor of Steve Raucher by Sandra Levy

In memory of Evelyn Berlin by Sandra and Larry Levine

In memory of Hyman Jacob Gardsbane by Diane Gardsbane and Paul Sully

In memory of Bertha Greenfield by Sandra and Larry Levine

In memory of Howard Schimmel by Amy and Daniel Matathias

In memory of Harriet Klausner Suskin by Amy and Daniel Matathias

In memory of Rita Kleinman by Hilda Springer and family

In memory of Rhea Piperberg Weinbrom by Sara Harris

by Alan Kaplan

by Anna Levy

by Jeffrey Kirschenbaum

### TZEDAKAH FUND

In honor of Roz Kram, for her many years of devoted service to Tikvat Israel, by Marilyn and Michael Greenwood

In honor of Manny Helzner's 96th birthday by Fran and Stan Kensky

In honor of Manny Helzner's 96th birthday by Sandra and Larry Levine

In memory of Lynn Berk by Amy and Daniel Matathias

In memory of Esther Friedman by Amy and Daniel Matathias

In memory of Lena Gantz by Alice and David Gantz

In memory of Rita Kleinman by Amy and Daniel Matathias

In memory of Marjorie Shulman by Roberta and Larry Cohen

In memory of Marjorie Shulman by Amy and Daniel Matathias

In memory of Rhea Piperberg Weinbrom by Lois and Neil Sbar

In memory of Rhea Piperberg Weinbrom by Dee Coplon Weiss

# Congregational Condolences

Tikvat Israel Congregation shares its condolences over the following recent deaths:

... to **Ron Rabin** on the loss of his mother, June Caplan Rabin, on Dec. 4 (3 Kislev, 5785).

... to **Bobbi Espinoza** on the loss of her brother, Howard Schimmel, on Nov. 12 (11 *Cheshvan*, 5785).

... to **Sally Kram** on the loss of her mother, Rhea Piperberg Weinbrom, grandmother to Sophia and Aviva Kram, on Nov. 3 (2 *Cheshvan*, 5785).

... to **Gabriela Miller** on the loss of her father, Nestor Ratesh, grandfather to Becky and Ethan Miller, on Oct. 31 (30 *Tishrei*, 5785).

... to Phyllis Schwartz on the loss of her aunt, Faye Williams.

# ORCHESTRA PREPPING IN SOCIAL HALL GETS MEDIA ATTENTION

The Washington Metro Gaming Symphony Orchestra — a musical group that uses Tikvat Israel's building as its rehearsal space — was featured in *The Washington Post* on Nov. 22.

The article, titled "Beep Beep Zip: Video Game Music Goes Classical at Local Orchestra," can be found at https://wapo.st/49yJUG2.

The published photos all were taken in our social hall.

"We thought it would be fun if we were able to include this in the *Bulletin* to show our members what happens around the building and to celebrate with this piece of our community," said Executive Director Aaron Chusid.

# HOW TO BE A WELCOMING PRESENCE ON SHABBAT

Would you consider being an official greeter to welcome those coming to *Shabbat* services at Tikvat Israel?

The assignment is simple but meaningful: Opening the *shul's* front door as worshippers arrive and welcoming them with a warm *Shabbat* Shalom. If someone is new to our synagogue, you direct them to the sanctuary (or point them to the coat room if they have a garment to hang).

A walkie-talkie should be ready and waiting on the supply table outside the sanctuary entrance for you to use in an emergency. It is connected to the county police officer in the parking lot and should be used to alert them of any trouble.

Greeter coordinator Felicia Black provides on-site support. Contact her with your interest at feliciarblack@msn.com. Or use the sign-up site for greeter volunteers at: https://bit.ly/TI-greeter.

# Tikvat Israel Remembers With Respect Those Whose *Yahrzeits*Occur From from 1 *Tevet* - 2 *Shevat* — January 2025

# January 1

1 TEVET
Bernard Fattman
Frank Feinsilber
Jacob Golding
David Greenberg
Doris Kalman
Joshua Krepchin
Sidney Sandler
Mark Stern

Irwin Jan Stolovy

### January 2 2 Tevet

Louis Burdoo Peter Schwartzman Judith Sue Sussman

### January 3 3 *Tevet*

Louis Broadman Jacob Dall Sol Danoff Max Douma Jay Stefan Gorban Pauline Greene Miriam Hoffman Miriam Matathias

# JANUARY 4

Julius Novack

Theresa Romm

4 Tevet
David Cohen
Samuel Grossman
Ida Levitan
Ethel Pear
Ruth Seide
Gary Shuken
Max Teitel
Freda Weiss

# JANUARY 5

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

### January 6 6 Tevet

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

# JANUARY 7

**7 TEVET**Jack Bendett
Helen Berger
Eve Benesch Hoffman
Daniel Jeremias
Sol Leise
Anne Segal

# JANUARY 8

8 TEVET
June Balin
Esther Berk
Morris Gaspin
David Glass
Joan Levin
Belle Schechter
Eva Kramer
Weinshelbaum

# JANUARY 9

9 TEVET
Max Bassin
Stephen Feigin
Jason Leif
Irving Reiner
Doris Klion Taylor
Philip Weinstein
Dora Zlotnick

# JANUARY 10

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

# January 11 11 *Tevet*

Julia Auerbach Irene Berger Fred Buff Morris Gorinson Margaret Peisner

# JANUARY 12

**12 TEVET**Geraldine Linden
Ellen Rosenthal
Mollie Radin Schrager
Jennie Strassman

# JANUARY 13

13 TEVET
Samuel Berly
Rose Blackstone
Eli Dannemann
Ellen Jacob
Allen Katz
Anna Krooler
Nathan Nachamkin
Lois Renee Nisenson

Miriam Sarah Roey

# January 14 14 Tevet

Elaine Feinberg Irving Joseph Kaplan Moshe Kritz Jacob B. Levin Julius Rom Anne Rosenberg Rebecca Rosenberg Norman Shapiro

# JANUARY 15

15 TEVET
Harry Brafman
Ilsa Cutler
Melvin Dick
Benjamin Feinman
Henrietta Shantz Levine
Jennie Schnitzer
Lillian Walder

# January 16 16 *Tevet*

Benjamin Kay Judith Lipofsky Roslyn Mollen Milton Thaler

# January 17 17 Tevet

Mildred Brook Rachel Cohen Hyman Goodman Adele Mainen Harriet Miller Samuel Nadel Mildred Schreiber

# JANUARY 18 18 *Tevet*

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

# January 19 19 *Tevet*

Sam Fermon Abraham Pelish Gertrude Rosenwald Joseph Scolnik Lesley Teitelbaum Caren Janet Thaler Henrietta Zebooker

# January 20 20 *Tevet*

Walter Blumberg Beatrice Boroff Frieda Levin Cohen Louis Hecht Sara Kaplan

# JANUARY 20

**20** *TEVET* (CONTINUED)
Sadie Koeppel
Clement Ezra Marcus
Mildred Stein
Sol Tropp

# January 21 21 Tevet

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

# JANUARY 22

**22 TEVET**Morris Cohen
George Ray Davis
Anne Hoffman
Anne Kristal
Maurice Levinsohn
Abraham Peck

# JANUARY 23

23 TEVET
Samuel Asen
Albert Blonder
Ruth Halpern
Cathy E. Lerman
Noah Roitman
Sidney Sirkis
Rebecca Louise Soldano
Eugene Thompson
Evelyn Weingross
Warren Weinstein

# January 24 24 *Tevet*

Stanley Bergstein Harry H. Cohen Mollie Jacobs Solomon Meltzer

# January 25 25 Tevet

Sarah Cohen William Davis Hilda Diamond Rose Finster Mollie Flax Bernard Gross Jacob Kanner Davida Kline Norman F. Kline Rebecca Lipofsky Leonard Miller Nathan Plafker Henry Schwartz Eleanor O. Stillman Louis Waxler

# JANUARY 26

Benjamin Robert Bliss Ida Cavall Moishe Chaim Chait Bert Herman Chatlynne Benjamin Futrovsky Sam Gorin Marcus Jacobs Charles Kessler Rose Podolsky Morris Silverman

### January 27 27 Tevet

Maurice Solomon

Rena Cora Block Marie Gabes Leslie Green David Kushner Lena Rosenblum Marilyn Teitelbaum Della Whittaker

# January 28

# **28** *Tevet*

Richard Alan Goodman Meyer Kensky Florence Lentchner Max Levine Reubin Rosenberg Joyce Blumberg Schwartz Dora Stutz

# January 29 29 *Tevet*

Lena Berlin
Samuel D. Bredt
Saul Cohen
Mathilde Eichtersheimer
Malcolm First
David Benjamin Grishman
Moody Grishman
Harold Kaplan
Shoshana Kolirin

# January 30 1 *Shevat*

Lawrence Blonder Nathan Gershowitz Marion Goldstein Sidney Labovich Samuel Lerner Estelle Lipsy Joseph Seiler

# January 31 2 Shevat

Alyssa Michelle Kasse Sarah G. Kravitz Frances Nadel Sylvia Seiler Esther Blake Wilchins

# Tikvat Israel Remembers With Respect Those Whose *Yahrzeits*Occur From from 3 *Shevat* - 30 *Shevat* — February 2025

# FEBRUARY 1 3 SHEVAT

Fred Cutler Raymond Eldredge Sarah Gorin Bertha Grossman Celia Hecht Anna Hoffman Nat E. Koeppel Morton Leman Carl Lerman Jacob Schneider Bess Snyder

### February 2 4 Shevat

Sheldon Caplan Edith Chefer Leo Pachenker Isaac Zipin

# FEBRUARY 3 5 SHEVAT

Eva Brooke
Dorothy Caplan
Gutman David Cohen
Mordechai Costa
Bernard Einbinder
Belle Krasner Fabel
Samuel Helzner
Ben Kalman
Anna Linsenberg
Rachel Mandel
Maxwell Rosenlicht

# FEBRUARY 4 6 SHEVAT

Constance Brooks Robert L. Gellman Jackie Greene Fisher Martin Hershenhorn Leroy Lowenfeld Celia Bress Radin Marion Salon

# FEBRUARY 5

Frances Kanner Jennie Lerner Stanley Nasoff Jack Zoltrow

# FEBRUARY 6 8 SHEVAT

Ludwig Klein Phyllis Leise Harry Levinstein Elsa Neuwirth Joseph Steinberg

# FEBRUARY 7 9 SHEVAT

Jacqueline Barnett Mildred Brafman David Caplan Goldie Chelemer Jerome Danoff Molly Levinson Max Mendelson Harry Miller Hans Moses Zanvel Nisenson Edith Plesset Rose Schwartz Elliot S. Steinberg Sheldon Wagner Rose Weinstein

# FEBRUARY 8 10 SHEVAT

Seymour Engel Sarah Miriam Green Howard Gudelsky Pauline Levy Hein Rheta Kruger Louise Pasternak Yefim Sandler Lori Faith Schwartz

# FEBRUARY 9

Paul Berman Libby Gordon Jonathan Lapkoff

# FEBRUARY 10 12 SHEVAT

Sara Dick Jacob Finster Lillian Gorinson Ruth Hochberg Jules Liss John Gordon Phillips Morton Salit Bernice Zimlin

# FEBRUARY 11 13 SHEVAT

Edith Adler
Mildred Rothman Coblitz
Frank Ehrlich
Sylvia Kronzek
Edith Lazarus
Issy Matheson
Sumner Meiselman
Rose Murdock
Norman Tubiash

# FEBRUARY 12 14 SHEVAT

Shirley Baer Fannie Rose Cohen Irvin A. Lavine Ruth Milenky Nathan Osofsky

# FEBRUARY 13 15 SHEVAT

Mordechai Armoza Rose Auerhahn Rosalind Graber Miriam Kagan Jalle Koricki Sara Sokolow Charlotte Turkanis Leonard Wagman

# FEBRUARY 14 16 SHEVAT

Charles Benesch Selma Oppenheim Max Rothman Steve Smith Eli Herman Stein Albert Toney

# FEBRUARY 15 17 SHEVAT

Miriam Ginsburg Alex M. Kravitz Benjamin Newman Beatrice Venetsky Charles Walder

# FEBRUARY 16 18 SHEVAT

Judith Flax Elustondo Abe Goldstein Laura Hoffman Isadore Kramer William Mazaroff Beverly Pasternak Ruth Rosen Kate Schefter Bernice Schwartz

# February 17 19 Shevat

Rabbi Robert Chernoff Bernard Glaser Jacob M. Greenbaum Ellie Greene Debbie Rosen Kron Ernest Rosenwald

# February 18 20 Shevat

Milton Ackerman Leo Greenberg Michael Hamburg Rosie Kasper Morris Oppenheimer Mark Schaffman Fanny Stoll Morris Yonks

# FEBRUARY 19

**21 SHEVAT**Bernice Cavall
Samuel Cohen
Sarah Cohen
Elaine Danovitz
Alan D. Hillerson
Eliezer Kishner
Joseph Kolirin
Rebecca Pear
Mildred Schwartz

# FEBRUARY 20 22 SHEVAT

Celia Sobovinsky

Martha Barrish Goldie Goldman Les Lampert Arlene Minott

### FEBRUARY 21 23 SHEVAT

Benjamin Adelson William Edlowitz William Gershowitz Samuel Helfant Norman Kanner Ada Milder Lori Schwartz Jay L. Zebooker

# FEBRUARY 22 24 SHEVAT

Doris Lillian Asher William Berly Fay Gardner Deborah Lynn Kron Ruth Yudkoff Love Freda Stutz

# FEBRUARY 23 25 SHEVAT

Jerie Cohen Ruth Fogel Charlotte Helzner Lois Klion Stanley Zelman Marder Vera Meyerson Rose Rosenthal Fannie Sills Emanuel Thaler

# FEBRUARY 24

**26 SHEVAT**Howard M. Berman
Adele Cohen
Elizabeth Davis
Sidney Katz

# FEBRUARY 25 27 SHEVAT

Haskel Chigorsky
Benjamin Cohen
Leslie Fineman
Hase Marie Hershbaum
Yetta Horowitz
Alvin Kabik
Eli Miller
William Renfrew
June Warhoftig

# FEBRUARY 26 28 SHEVAT

Shoshana Natovich Ben-Ami Philip Braunstein Harry Cohen Edward Davis Bruce Glauberg Doris Kanner Mae Mukasey Beina Schwartz

# FEBRUARY 27 29 SHEVAT

Isador Bilsky Rosalie Cohen Edward Rosenbloom

# FEBRUARY 28 30 SHEVAT

Leonard E. Cohen Hyman Gilston Edward Schwartz Jacob Teitelbaum

# JANUARY 2025

SAT	4 4 Tevet 9:30 AM Preliminary Service 9:45 AM Shabbat Services (Parashat Vayigash) 5:44 PM Havdalah	9:30 AM Preliminary Service 9:45 AM Shabbut Services (Parashat Vayechi) Hul5 AM Torah Club, Auntie A Shabbat Family Jam 5:50 PM Havdalah	B Tevet 9:30 AM Preliminary Service 9:45 AM Shabbat Services (Parashat Shemot) II:15 AM Auntie A Shabbat Family Jam 5:57 PM Handalah 7:30 PM Israel Film Festival	25 25 TeVe 9:30 AM Preliminary Service 9:30 AM Shabbat Services (Parashat Vaera), Women's Metwork Shabbat 10:30 AM Torah Club 6:04 PM Navdalah 7:30 PM Israeli Pilin Festival, Part 2	
FRI	3 3 Tevet 8:00 AM Minyan 4:40 PM Candle Lighting 6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat	10 10 Tevet 6.03 AM Fast Begins 7:15 AM Minyan 4:47 PM Candle Lighting 6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat X Asara 8 Tevet	17 17 Tevet 8:00 AM Minyan 4:54 PM Candle Lighting 6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat	24 24 Tevet 8:00 AM Minyan 5:02 Candle Lighting 6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat	31 2 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 5:10 PM Candle Lighting 5:20 PM Pre-Service Reception 6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Winstruments
THO	2 2 Tevet 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	9 9 Tevet 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	16 16 Tevet 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	23 23 Tevet 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	30 I Shevat 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan 8:00 PM Gabbai Gadol Training
WED	B:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan 80 best Charles Freet 2:30 PM Charles Heret 3:30 PM Candle Lighting	8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	15 15 Tevet 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan 8:00 PM Women's Network Book Group	22 22 Tevet 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	29 29 Tevet 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan
TUE	read B'Kesher	7 7 Tevet 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	4  4 Tevet 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	21 21 Tevet 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	28 28 Tevet 29 8:00 AM Minyan 8:0 7:30 PM Board Meeting
N O E	All events subject to change. Please read B'Kesher for the latest status. The TI Office & Broadman-Kaplan ECC are closed on U.S. Holidays.	6 6 Tevet 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	13 13 Tevet 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	20 Tevet s AM Minyan o PM Minyan	27 27 Tevet 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan 8:00 PM Bimah Gabbai Training International Holocount Remembrance Day
SUN	All events subject to for the latest status. The TI Office & Broa U.S. Holidays.	5 5 Tevet 9:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	12 12 Tevet 9:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	19 19 Tevet 20 9:00 AM Kiloyan 10:00 AM Gabbal Gadol 7:15 Training 11:00 AM MIX Unity Gathering © Beall IS 7:30 PM MIX Unity Gathering 11:30 PM MIX Unity Gathering 11:30 PM MIX Unity Gathering 11:30 PM MIX Unity Gathering	26 26 Tevet 9:00 AM Minyan 10:00 AM A Croatian Survivors Story 7:30 PM Minyan

# FEBRUARY 2025

SAT	3 Shevat 9:30 AM Preliminary Service 9:45 AM Shabbat Services (Parashat Bo) 6:12 PM Havdalah	B IO Shevat 9-30 AM Preliminary Service 9-45 AM Sheaboat Services (Threathat Beshalach, Sheaboat Shiab) IIIIS AM Torah Club, Auntie A Sheabbat Family Jam II:200 PM Niggan Circle 6:19 PM Hardalah	15 IT Shevat 9:30 AM Preliminary Service 9:45 AM Shabbat Services (Parashat Yitro 6:27 PM Havdalah	22 24 Shevat 930 AM Preliminary Service 945 AM Shabbat Services (Parashat Mishpatim, Repro Shabbat) 10:30 AM Torah Club 6:34 PM Havdalah	
FRI		7 9 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 5:00 PM Young Families Shabbat Dinner 5:19 PM Candle Lighting 6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat	14 16 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 5:27 PM Candle Lighting 6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat & Dinner	21 23 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 5:34 PM Candle Lighting 6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat	28 30 Shevat 7:15 AM Minyan 5:42 PM Candle Lighting 6:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat @Rean Chedesh Adar
THU		6 8 Shevat 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	13 15 Shevat 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	20 22 Shevat 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	27 29 Shevat 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan
WED		5 7 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	12 14 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	19 21 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	26 28 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan
TUE	read <i>B'Kesher</i> C are closed on	4 6 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	II I3 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	IS 20 Shevat 8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	25 27 Shevat 26 8:00 AM Minyan 8:0 7:30 PM Minyan 7:3 8:00 PM Board
NOW	All events subject to change. Please read B'Kesher for the latest status. The TI Office & Broadman-Kaplan ECC are closed on U.S. Holidays.		10 12 Shevat 7:15 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	8:00 AM Minyan 7:30 PM Minyan	24 26 Shevat 25 7:15 AM Minyan 8:0 7:30 PM Minyan 8:0
SUN	All events subject to for the latest status. The TI Office & Broa U.S. Holidays.	2 4 Shevat 9:00 AM Minyan 10:00 AM Congregational Meeting 7:30 PM Minyan	9 II Shevat 9-00 AH Minyan 10-30 AH Women's Network Learning Session 2:00 PH Birnah Gabai Training 3:00 PH Gabbai Gadol Training 7:30 PH Minyan	Shevat nyan N ht Out iyan	23 25 Shevat 24 9:00 AM Minyan 7:15 7:30 PM Minyan 7:3



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# Israeli Film Festival Set for January Viewings

Two films will be screened on Saturday evenings in January in the synagogue sanctuary as part of the 2025 Israeli Film Festival.

The films will be shown at 7 p.m. on this schedule, with a light dessert reception and a moderated discussion following each screening. Tickets will be \$20 per film, \$36 for both.

You can buy tickets at https://tikvatisraelrockville.shulcloud.com/form/israeli-film-festival-2025.html.

# Saturday, Jan. 18: "The Matchmaker" (2010), directed by Avi Nesher.

Plot summary: Arik, a teenage boy growing up in Haifa in 1968, gets a job working for Yankele Bride, a matchmaker. Yankele, a mysterious Holocaust survivor, has an office in back of a movie theater that shows only love stories, run by a family of seven Romanian dwarfs in the seedy area by the port. Yankele introduces Arik to a new world, built on the ruins of an old one.

As Arik begins to learn the mysteries of the human heart through his work with Yankele, he falls in love with Tamara, his friend, Beni's cousin. Tamara has just returned from America and is full of talk of women's rights, free love and rock 'n' roll. The disparate parts of Arik's life collide in unexpected, often funny and very moving ways as he lives through a summer that changes him forever.

# Saturday, Jan. 25: "Firebirds" (2015), directed by Amir Wolf.

Plot summary: An 80-year-old man's body is found with three stab wounds to the chest and a number tattooed along his forearm. Amnon, a police detective and second-generation Holocaust survivor, is reluctantly assigned to the case. As the plot weaves between the past and present, their stories unfold.

Ron Rabin serves as the coordinator of the film fest.



