

**MINUTES**  
**Beth Chaim Tikkun Olam Meeting**  
**Sunday, March 12, 2023**  
**Committee co-chairs: Holly Singer and Becky Marks**  
**Liaison : Rabbi Blum**

<https://www.bethchaim.org/tikkunolam> [tikkunolam@bethchaim.org](mailto:tikkunolam@bethchaim.org)

Attendees: Holly Singer, Becky Marks, Gayle Weisberg, Linda Feldstein, Wendy Lipka, Barbara Horn and Rabbi Blum

1. **D'Var Torah** [Gayle Weisberg]: Vayakheil-Pekudei (reading from Exodus 35), Gayle discussed several themes including very relevant to Tikkun Olam, i.e., individuals are stronger as a community, especially with connections among us.
2. **May/June print newsletter:** March 31 deadline including flyer (message/images)
  - Our newsletter section will feature the summer camp lunches, back-to school drive and refugee assistance with related requests.
3. **RECAP: Feb. Diaper drive for Womanspace:** Linda Feldstein who organized the program noted that this year featured the largest collection with overflowing boxes in the lobby; Womanspace was extremely appreciative as their needs continue growing and they are now finding temporary shelter space in motels for single parents as needed.
4. **Scheduled projects** <https://www.bethchaim.org/tikkunolam/>
  - **Monthly HomeFront dinners for tutoring group:** upcoming dates include March 22, April 26, May 24
  - **March: Passover drive for JFCS,** organized by Fran Lichtenstein: March 10-19; collection is underway, featured in blasts and social media.
  - **April: Mother's Day personal hygiene collection** for HomeFront, organized by Holly and Wendy Lipka; blast planned for late March with sign-up/collection in early April; full size and travel sizes requested – signup list will include specifics; no gift bags applicable for this program any longer as the recipients are selecting the products rather than being handed a pre-filled bag.
  - **HomeFront summer camp:** Holly noted June 26 as the first date of 2023 summer camp; details of lunch needs, headcount and deliveries need to be determined.
  - **Back-to-school drive for HomeFront:** Wendy Lipka noted the enormous need, i.e., over 800 students served by HomeFront. Beth Chaim/Tikkun Olam will run a summer collection and continue to focus on providing sneakers for high school students as a huge area of need (approx. 35% of the 800 students), especially since many donors are covering school supplies and young children's clothing.
5. **May 7th Mitzvah Day:** Organized by religious school/Anne in partnership with Tikkun Olam; program to include 10:30-12 noon Mitzvah Mall [Becky / Holly] with approx.. 6 stations, each a table providing a 15-minute activity for students.
  - Preliminary rundown includes: (1) camp bag/rainy day camp activity, (2) Shabbat cards for Keshet, (3) 'Minute to win it' , (4) story booth
  - 6 volunteers needed from Tikkun Olam, each to be paired with a teen at religious school. Preliminary list: Holly, Becky, Barbara, Wendy, Gayle

- Potential sign-up/collection in advance (details TBD)
6. **Refugee assistance** – information provided by Betsy Ie (in absentia):
- There is a need for volunteers to teach English - no experience needed since books and guidance provided by I- RISE refugee resettlement group in Hightstown. Requirement to commit for 4-6 months 1 hour a week. [*Wendy suggested that perhaps this group can participate in the HomeFront tutoring program.*]
  - Many recent refugees need a car [*Linda suggested that perhaps the Mercer County Votec school's auto repair shop can help.*]

Upcoming meetings: April 2, June 11 (We will cancel the May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting – Mother's Day).

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Holly Singer 3/12/23.*