



Congregation Olam Tikvah
www.olamtikvah.org
3800 Glenbrook Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22031

Volume 56, Number 12

December 1, 2019

Parents learn to bring Sukkot to their backyards

*OTRS Director Debra Beland Ackerman,
with Program Director Erin Dreyfuss*

In September 2018, congregations and Jewish organizations across the region received an exciting email from the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, asking for proposals about how Federation could invest in communities in a new way, to “encourage greater collaboration among organizations, increase engagement, and enhance community building.”



At the event

So OT Program Director Erin Dreyfuss and I got to work. We decided to focus on an ongoing initiative, the OT Young Families group, created by OT members several years ago and led by a committee of parents. This group facilitates play dates and opportunities for parents to make connections with each other.

We didn’t want to change the model of parents doing for and with other parents. We wanted to enhance it, by offering something extra, a pair of adult learning programs centered around Sukkot and Pesach, designed to help bridge the divide between sitting at the children’s table and being at the head of your own table. We wanted to empower parents to create Jewish experiences in their own homes, for their own kids.

(We also wanted to offer childcare. Luckily, at OT we are blessed with an army of amazing teen sitters!)

Erin and I wrote out our ideas, submitted them to Federation, and then headed over there ourselves for an event called Pitch Night. I had two minutes to “sell” our concept to a room full of funders; then we headed home. Several months later, we found out that we had been awarded an Impact Grant! Not only that, but PJ Library also came calling and asked if we would be interested in partnering with them as well.



In the backyard

On a Sunday morning in September, we held our first parent workshop, Bringing Sukkot to Your Backyard. Nineteen families (34 adults, 23 children) attended.

See **BACKYARD SUKKOT**, page 3

OTPS welcomes Director Cindi Drake

Peter Maer

Cindi Drake is a veteran preschool teacher and director, but she kvells like a newcomer to the world of early childhood education as she describes her role leading OTPS (Olam Tikvah Preschool).



With the sound of children laughing and singing outside her school office, Morah Cindi takes stock of her three months at OT. She previously served as director of the school at Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation. She says, “When you work with children this age, you see the wonder of life every single day. You never get jaded, and even more importantly, you make a difference every day in their lives.” The native New Yorker noted the importance of preschool, emphasizing “looking at the world through a Jewish lens.” She views it as, “early education on Jewish values” and knowing “how to make right what you’ve done to others.”

Ms. Drake wants OTPS students to learn to be “kind and empathetic.” She also hopes they will enter the next phase of their school years “with grit, able to withstand things not going their way.”

The mother of a grown son and daughter, Cindi Drake has been involved in Jewish preschool education for about 25 years. She notes it is more than fun and games. “The big deal about preschool is getting them to love school itself. If you get them to love school for the first three years here, they go off to kindergarten thinking it’s only going to get better.” She still remembers attending a speech by a child psychiatrist more than 30 years ago. The message: “Think of childhood as an apprenticeship. They learn at your elbow.” She took that message to heart, both as a teacher and as mother of a son and a daughter.

Asked to share a favorite story about her young students, Morah Cindi smiles, recalling a girl who appeared at her door with hands over her eyes, proclaiming, “You can’t see me.” Her face lights up as she counts the number of students who just ask for a hug.

She sums up the preschool world, saying, “Everything about it is magical. It never gets old.”

This exciting IMPACT GRANT process allows us to dream big and do big, without first having the ask. “How will we pay for it?” The call for proposals for another round of grants has just come out, which means it’s time to once again ask ourselves what we want to try next.

Have a great idea? Check in with Erin or me and share it! Maybe we can stand together at the next Pitch Night!

Each year at Kol Nidre, we collect canned goods. What happens to that food?

Erin Dreyfuss



We donate it to ECHO, which provides temporary and emergency assistance to those in need in our community.

This year, we collected 160 bags of food* to help restock the ECHO food pantry and support their important work!

Thank you to everyone who donated.

* Last year, we donated 100 bags of food.

Also on our radar: Backpacks

Thank you for supporting ECHO with your generous donation of 9 backpacks earlier this month. These were used to support our "Back to School" efforts to supply school age children with the supplies they needed for the upcoming school year.



ECHO, Inc.™
Ecumenical Community Helping Others
7205 Old Keene Mill Road
Springfield, VA 22150-3527
Phone: (703) 569-7972
Fax: (703) 455-2763
www.echo-inc.org
Email: admin@echo-inc.org



United Way
of the National Capital Area

#8426



#74224



County of Fairfax

Congregation Olam Tikvah
c/o Rochelle Goldberg, Synagogue Administrator
3800 Glenbrook Road
Fairfax, VA 22031

November 4, 2019

Dear Friends,

Thank you for supporting ECHO with the fantastic food drive which resulted in 160 bags of food being collected! These items from this fundraiser will be used to serve our clients' most urgent needs.

ECHO is celebrating fifty years of providing emergency assistance to families. We know that you are aware that we give food, clothing, household items, linens, school supplies, counseling, and financial assistance to over 1,800 families annually. Each month we provide about 20,000 pounds of food, and, last year, we also distributed 600 Holiday Food Baskets and had a Holiday Gift Shop for 600 children. Each fall we give approximately 1,300 backpacks filled with school supplies to students. Our organization is run entirely by nearly four hundred volunteers who allow us to keep our overhead at one per cent.

We appreciate your partnership in this effort and the generosity of everyone who participated in the fundraiser. On behalf of our clients and volunteers, thank you for helping those in need in our midst through ECHO.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Vitter, President

Due to an software error at LPi, this month's advertisements are not available in the electronic version of the Contemporary. Please check out a hard copy in your mailbox or in the OT main lobby.

Interfaith Power Packers prepare food for winter holidays

Shari Boyett, Lori Frumkin, Barbara Golub, Judith Shamir, Clare Bachner

On Sunday, 4 November, over 170 people from OT, MakeSpace Muslim Center, and St. Mark Catholic Church gathered for the third annual Interfaith Power Pack

This year's event was hosted by St. Mark, and a record 600 packs were prepared. Thank you to each of you who brought food for the students, and to those who participated in the Power Pack. It was wonderful to see how much OT contributed to the success of this event!

This food will go to the students at Annandale Terrace Elementary School, to provide them with extra food during the Thanksgiving holiday and Christmas week.



Deacon John from St. Mark provided an opening blessing and gave a short tour of the Church. This Power Pack was dedicated to Ann Ramish of St. Mark, whose untimely passing last summer was mourned by all who were touched by her. She was the person who initiated inviting OT and MakeSpace to join her for the first power packs.

After September 11, 2001, an event that tried to divide our communities, the Interfaith Communities For Dialogue suggested that different faith communities unite to work together to help the most vulnerable in our community. That is why Ann Ramish suggested we make the Power Packs for the children in our community who do not have enough food to eat, and why Congregation Olam Tikvah, Make Space, and St Mark Catholic Church will continue to meet yearly to do this community outreach.

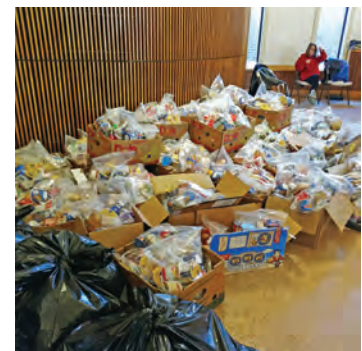


The OT Power Pack Team

L-R, Judith Shamir, Lori Frumkin, Clare Bachner, Shari Boyett, Barbra Golub

The next P3 event will take place in January at OT, with a different faith community.

Thank you for your continued support for this community outreach project!



BACKYARD SUKKOT. from page 1



While children played with babysitters in a preschool classroom, parents came together to learn about celebrating Sukkot. Rabbi Kalender and I went over the basics of the holiday and discussed ways to engage and include young children. Then we sent folks off to three piles of PVC poles and had them practice building sukkot (a big thanks to my husband for cutting and schlepping a lot of PVC pipes).

Once those sukkot were standing, we surprised them with the news that we were going to provide any interested family with a sukkah of their own, made possible by the Federation grant money. In addition, families were offered a lulav and etrog to add to their Sukkot celebration.

Of the 19 families who attended, seven decided to bring a sukkah into their backyards, 15 received a lulav and etrog, and everyone went home with a take-and-make sukkah decoration to create with their children.

See **CHANUKAH AND PESACH EVENTS** Page 8

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Around Olam Tikvah

B'nei Mitzvah

Parashat Vayetzei

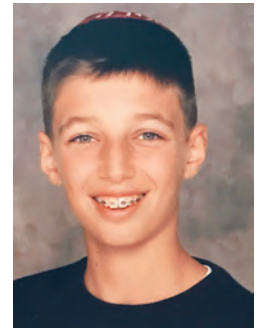
Saturday, December 7

Seth Micah Blumenthal,

son of Rachel & Philip and brother of Maya, is an 8th-grade honor roll student at Gesher Jewish Day School. His favorite school subjects include Math and Science. He enjoys playing baseball with his travel team, the NOVA Royals, and being a member of Gesher's Soccer and Basketball teams.

Seth is excited to share this special day with his grandparents, Ellen & Marc Jacobs, of New Jersey and Elaine & Jerry Blumenthal, of Atlanta, in addition to family and friends from across the United States.

For his Bar Mitzvah project, Seth will be volunteering with and collecting sports equipment and monetary donations for **Leveling the Playing Field** an organization that helps ensure that all kids have access to the sporting equipment they need.



Saturday, December 14

Adelaide Lucerne Borak,

daughter of Jill Borak and David Borak, is a 7th grader at Frost Middle School, where she excels in theater tech and poetry. When she's not winning poetry contests, Addie loves to draw, read, and cook.

Addie's mitzvah project is collecting food and supplies for the **Fairfax County Animal Shelter**. Addie will be celebrating with grandparents from Georgia and New York, aunts and uncles from both North and South Florida, and her brothers, Sam and Eli (her dog Winnie will not be in attendance).

Parashat Vayishlach

From Our Hearts

Kiddush Sponsors

Thank you for your donations to the Kiddush Fund, in honor of your December anniversaries.

December 6-12

Davida & Alan Kashdan; Nadine & Irwin Rosen; Tobey & Dennis Staten; Joanne & Tom Stryer; Linda Recht & Bob Watts

December 13-19

Rachel & Philip Blumenthal; Anne & David Hone

December 20-26

Barbara & Jordan Baker (15); Linda & Walter Meyer; Carol Gordon & Steven Rosenthal; Judith & Stanley Schretter

December 27-31

Sandra & Melvin Goldfarb; Susan & Bill Kristol; Ellen & Stephen Rubenstein; Nerissa & Micah Ticatch

October 26

Patricia & Bruce Gordon

Thank you to Lynne Dubin and Linda Meyer, for making anniversary calls.

Mazal Tov

We wish a hearty mazal tov to...

Barbara & Owen Bubel, on the birth of their grandson, Austin, son of Heidi & Philip Bubel

Elaine & David Onstott, on the B'nei Mitzvah of their children, Eli and Ella Onstott

Pearl & Steve Raikin, on the marriage of their grandson, Ivan Carrier, to Gayne Kalustian

Annie & Alan Schwartz, on the birth of their grandson, Blake Bernard, son of Rachel & Chad Schwartz

Liran Goldman & John Stemen, on their marriage

Amy & Steve Tursky, on the marriage of their daughter, Elayna Tursky, to Jordan Tenenbaum

Condolence

We acknowledge the passing of ...

Louis Bryan, husband of Ann Bryan

Anna Gordon, mother of Carol Gordon

Bernice Kaufman

Sarah Minor, mother of Marianne Berner

Alvin Eli Nashman, father of Stephanie Nashman

Ezra Sage O'Leary, grandson of Michelle Rendelman

Tzedakah

Thank you for your donations,
which were received by October 28.

Annual Campaign**IN MEMORY OF**

Edith Krantzman, by Neill & Eileen Norcott;
Ellen & Barry Golden; Gail & Norman Antin

Capital Improvement Fund**IN HONOR OF**

20th wedding anniversary of Rochelle & David
Goldberg, by Deedy & Ed Eisenson

IN MEMORY OF

Edith Krantzman, by Deedy & Ed Eisenson

R'FUAH SH'LAYMAH

Shelly Palley, by Ellen Finberg

Comfort and Condolence Fund**IN MEMORY OF**

Blanche Sloan, by Rosalind Sloan
Edith Krantzman, by Neil Schluskel
Eugene Reiser, by Anita & Steve Dienstfrey

**Dorothy & Alexander Levin
Library Fund****IN MEMORY OF**

Edith Krantzman, by Anne Kramer; Irene Smith

**Emanuel Passamaneck
Prayer Book/Tallit****IN HONOR OF**

Deborah Gould's 50th birthday,
by Beth & Daniel Felsen

IN MEMORY OF

Edith Krantzman, by Vera Finberg;
Zenita & Barry Bielsker

Beatrice & Benjamin Burke, by Judy Werbel
Ethel & Howard Werbel, by Judy Werbel
Jerry Werbel, husband of Judy, by Judy Werbel
Sidney Phillips, by Lynn Phillips
Samuel Bernath, by Livia & Harold Jacob
and Family

**Gerald Brissman/Lyle Miller/Carol
Samuels Youth & College Fund****IN HONOR OF**

65th wedding anniversary of Mimi & Len
Levine, by Sue & Ken Cohn
Bat Mitzvah of Kairi Galindo,
by Annie & Alan Schwartz

IN MEMORY OF

Edith Krantzman, by Sue & Ken Cohn
Edward Goldberg, by Sue & Ken Cohn
Irwin Cohn, by Sue & Ken Cohn
Jack Goldstein, by Sue & Ken Cohn

Harold T. Rib**Torah & Religious Articles Fund**

Thank you for the use of the Chuppah for Emily
& James's wedding. by Laura & David Adler

IN HONOR OF

Shofar Blowers: Steve Tursky, Billy Jacobson,
and Traci Goldberg, by Deedy & Ed Eisenson

Jerry Werbel Memorial Landscape Fund**IN HONOR OF**

Birth of a grandson to Evie & Jerry Stein,
son of Jessica & Rudy Lukow, by Judy Werbel

IN MEMORY OF

Edward Goldberg, by Judy Werbel
Jack Goldstein, by Judy Werbel
Jack Klevan, by Judy Werbel

R'FUAH SH'LAYMAH

Al Bernstein, by Deedy & Ed Eisenson;
Judy Werbel

Ellen Friedman, by Judy Werbel
Reuben Ambaruch, by Deedy & Ed Eisenson;
Judy Werbel

Rich Silberglitt, by Deedy & Ed Eisenson;
Judy Werbel

Kitchen Fund**R'FUAH SH'LAYMAH**

Shelly Palley, by Leona Shoon

**Rabbi Itzhaq M. Klirs
Memorial Adult Education Fund****IN HONOR OF**

Debbie & Mark Weber's special birthdays,
by Sharyn Stahl
Karyn Selko, in appreciation of excellent
summer Hebrew classes, by Larry Noble
Olam Tikvah, by Roz Sloan & Art Levine

IN MEMORY OF

Eugene Reiser, by Dana & Terre (Schlossberg)
Weatherspoon; Rita & Howard Schlossberg
Irv Greenspon, by Sharyn Stahl
Larry Kalender, by Sharyn Stahl

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

For good health and a good year,
by Jacqueline & Craig Krandel
In appreciation for the honor of opening the Ark,
and for having a place to say Yizkor,
by Lillian Kaminer

IN HONOR OF

Talya Kalender, by Deedy & Ed Eisenson
65th wedding anniversary of Mimi & Len
Levine, by David, Julia, and Ben Levine and
Marilyn Ginberg; Cindy Levine; Amy, John,
and Madeleine Gorlinsky; Steve Levine; Jose
Graterol; Edward, Vicki, and Alex Levine
My Rosh Hashanah honor, by Howard Sloan
Rabbi Kalender, in appreciation for his time,
by Ed Diener

With appreciation for High Holiday honors,
by Sharon & Lance Sherry

IN MEMORY OF

Edith Krantzman, by Ruth & Ed Diener

Robert Natkin Religious School Fund

Thank you to Rachelle Palley and Libby Saypol
for making the Fall Holidays so special,
by Joanne & Tom Stryer

IN MEMORY OF

Edith Krantzman, by Randee & Jerry
Markowitz; Sally Buckman; Nancy Ory;
Lerman Senter PLLC; Oanh Tran
Edith Krantzman, and in honor of her daughter,
Sharon Krantzman, by Steven Lerman

Joyce Fienberg, by Randee & Jerry Markowitz

R'FUAH SH'LAYMAH

Reuben Ambaruch,
by Randee & Jerry Markowitz

Stahl Family Experience Israel Fund**IN HONOR OF**

Bunny Kaplan's special birthday,
by Sharyn Stahl
Michael's Shabbat Honor,
by Bonnie & Michael Witlin

IN MEMORY OF

Ellen Follick, by Bonnie & Michael Witlin
Joan Israel, mother of Aaron Israel,
by Sharyn Stahl
Joseph Wiltin, by Bonnie & Michael Witlin
Mary Walker, mother of Rex Walker,
by Sharyn Stahl
Roslyn Shapiro, by Bonnie & Michael Witlin
Ruth Elliott, mother of Linda Elliott,
by Sharyn Stahl

OT Chorale, Fine Arts, and Social Action Committee contributions are listed in the Tzedakah Fund.

Tzedakah Fund**IN MEMORY OF**

David Siegell, by Jeffrey Siegell
 Ernest Chernoff, by Deedy & Ed Eisenson
 Harry Rabinowitz, by Kevin Hopkins
 Ida Cohen Golden, by Ruth Ungerleider
 Idareta & Nathan Schluskel, by Neil Schluskel
 Abraham Friedman, by Jacob Friedman
 Abraham Yehuda-Kalaf, by Zohar Golub
 Anita Levine, by Bruce Levine
 Arthur Winkler, by Rita Schlossberg
 Bernice Kaufman, by Julianne Sherman
 Carl Reichbart, by Howard Reichbart
 Cecile Levin, by Anita & Steve Dienstfrey
 David Singerman, by Fred Singerman
 Edith Froehlich, by William Froehlich
 Edith Krantzman, by Sushama Pathak; Julia
 Read; Erin Kim; Jonathan Garvinn; Marcia
 Michaelson; Jerry Luke; Lynn Phillips;
 Laurie & Stephen Coran; John, Donna, and
 Susan Williams; Sandy & Al Gabriel; Heidi
 Ackerman-Jordan and Family;
 Rachelle & Joel Palley
 Edward Goldberg, by Lynn Phillips
 Elaine Westreich, by Joan & Steve Heller
 Elsie Darrison, by Rhoda & Mark Miller

Evelyn Rodriguez, by Ronnie Rodriguez
 Freda Schretter, by Judy & Stanley Schretter
 Gayle & Robert Herwitz,
 by Stacey & Marc Herwitz
 George Silberglitt, by Rich Silberglitt
 Gerald Silver, by Barbara Finkel
 Harry Drazen, by Judy & Stanley Schretter
 Harry Stein, by Betsy & John MacCarthy
 Harry Weber, by Mark Weber
 Herman Litwin, by Barbara & Jordan Baker
 Ida Wolf Polmar, by Bev & Norman Polmar
 Irving Adler, by David Adler
 Irving Kaplan, by Bunny Kaplan
 Irwin Brown, by Sharon & Lance Sherry
 Iuda Hersch, by Lilly & Stuart Eder
 Jack Goldstein, by Lynn Phillips; Elaine Tolk
 Jerry Diener, by Ed Diener
 Joseph Murray, by Elaine Murray
 June Shuster, by Howard Reichbart
 Lea Richman, by Jeff Handler
 Lena Cornell Drazen, by Judy & Stanley Schretter
 Leo Lovener, by Zee Loevner
 Leon Holleb, by Barbara Holleb
 Leonard Gordon, by Stacey & Marc Herwitz
 Leonard Vorcheimer, by Ilese & Roger Vorcheimer
 Lillian Sontheimer, by Bunny Kaplan

Louis Berkowitz, by Barbara Holleb
 Manfred Gale, by BJ & Allon Shiff
 Marilyn Elaine Schwartz,
 by Stefanie Schwartz & Daniel Blacker
 Mark Miller, by Rhoda & Mark Miller
 Marlee Rae Treger, by Lisa Simon
 Martha Henes Cohen,
 by Barbara & Robert Cohen
 Max Rosenholtz, by Marsha Feldman
 Max Zelig Frahm, by Irene Smith
 Mildred Abrams, by Elliott Abrams
 Milton Cobert, by Tamara & Edward Faggen
 Mollie Wexler, by Florence & Al Bernstein
 Morris Kerman, by Fred Kerman
 Morris Miller, by Rhoda & Mark Miller
 Morton Sloan, by Howard Sloan
 Muriel Schuffler, by Carol Schuffler
 Myrna Blumenthal, by Elaine Tolk
 Nathan Schofer, by Sylvia Ambaruch
 Orin Underwood,
 by Michelle Avda & Stephen Underwood
 Pearl & Sidney Heller, by Joan & Steve Heller
 Rachel Lachovitzky, by Hemda & Ira Gold
 Reuben Faggen, by Tamara & Edward Faggen
 Rivka Katzman, by Jane & Bill Behrmann

See **TZEDAKAH**, page 8

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the contemporary

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December 2019-January 2020 Calendar Highlights

DECEMBER 2019

SUN	1	9:00am	Hebrew on One Foot
SUN	8	9:00am	Chanukah Bazaar
SUN	8	9:30am	Young Families Pre-Chanukah Craft Day* (see box below)
SUN	8	5:00pm	Sisterhood Membership Dinner
WED	11	7:00pm	Men's Club Casseroles for SOME
WED	11	7:30pm	Adult Ed: Magic vs. Miracles
SAT	14	7:00pm	ABBA Mezcals & Mishnah
SUN	15	8:00am	Blood Drive
SUN	15	11:30am	Sisterhood Book Club
SUN	22		Erev Chanukah

JANUARY 2020

SUN	5	7:00pm	Abba S'mores & More
SUN	12	6:30pm	Book Discussion: Kaaterskill Falls
SUN	19	9:45am	Men's Club Winter Brunch
FRI	24	5:45pm	Scholar in Residence Dinner & Lecture
SAT	25	9:30am	Scholar in Residence D'var & Post-Lunch Discussion
SUN	26	9:45am	Scholar in Residence Brunch

TZEDAKAH, continued from page 7

Roslyn Gold, by Hemda & Ira Gold
Roslyn Silver, by Barbara & Jim Finkel
Ruth Koss, by Marvin Kon
Sadie Spector, by Leslie Varkonyi
Sadie Staiman, by Francine & Robert Staiman
Sally Goldberg, by Jill Schwartzbach
Samuel Rolnik, by Helen Fruchter
Sara Dolin, by Jane & Herb Myers
Sarah Cohen Ungerleider, by Ruth Ungerleider
Saul Sacks, by Francine & Robert Staiman
Sidney Greenberg, by Morey Greenberg
Sigmund Gilbert, by Alan Gilbert
Stella Stern, by Rita Way
Stephen Richman, by Dvora Richman

Sylvia Meyerowitz, by Jane & Herb Myers
Sylvia & Morris Skolnik, by Judith Shamir
Teddy Shiff, by BJ & Allon Shiff
William Friedman, by Peter Friedman
William Gotkin, by Kitty Timmes
William Handler, by Jeff Handler
William J. Shriber, by Betsey, Joe, Rebecca,
and Hannah Goldberg
Yetta Blumenthal, by Jack Blumenthal
Gladys, mother of Carol Boyd Leon,
by Tamra Gordon

R'FUAH SH'LAYMAH

Al Bernstein, by Lynn Phillips
Rich Silbergliitt, by Lynn Phillips

CHANUKAH AND PESACH EVENTS,

continued from page 3

Our first Young Families holiday event will take place on Sunday, December 8. It is a pre-Chanukah craft day, where children and parents will make candle drip trays and other crafts, participate in a sing-along, and enjoy a doughnut breakfast. Our lay leaders will take the reins for this event, but thanks to the Impact Grant we'll be able to supply lots of wonderful materials without having to charge families to participate.

In the spring we'll tackle Pesach, leading parents through a Seder designed to meet the needs of the youngest and the oldest people at their tables.