

CONGREGATION OLAM TIKVAH

CONTEMPORARY

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2021



NEW BEGINNINGS

New Beginnings, New Faces

Meet Assistant Rabbi Viktoria Bedo and
Shlichah Mala Hod

Jewish Life in Northern Virginia

Meet the new Fairfax Eruv



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

WELCOME TO THE NEW
CONTEMPORARY MAGAZINE!

New beginnings are energizing! The issue you see before you is the beginning of many communications changes planned at Olam Tikvah to reflect our intelligent, hamish and sophisticated community. It's exciting so many creative people are stepping forward to innovate, create and envision ways that communications can express our OT culture.

Thank you to the following inaugural members of the OT Communications Committee who brought you this issue — in print and digitally:

- Andrea Albersheim
- Joshua Fertel
- Barbara Finkel
- Alexis Cohen Gantsoudes
- Judie Lieberman
- Jerry Markowitz
- Bob Watts

I want to share an extra thank you to contributing writer George Billinson; the invaluable OT office staff: Melissa Benson, Erin Dreyfuss and Rochelle

Goldberg; and special support from Rabbi Kalender.

Are you interested in learning more about this dynamic team or how to support the printing of the Contemporary magazine? Contact me at communications@olamtikvah.org.

Wishing you a sweet Happy (and healthy) New Year. May you be inscribed in the Book of Life!

Marnie Fienberg,
Communications Chair

NEW BEGINNINGS, NEW FACES

INTRODUCING RABBI BEDO

INTERVIEW BY MARNIE FIENBERG
COVER PHOTO & VIDEO BY BOB WATTS

Rabbi Viki Bedo joined the OT Family on July 15, 2021 as our new Assistant Rabbi. A Jew by Choice, she comes to us from Hungary and has lived all over the Jewish world. We welcome Rabbi Bedo, and her family, Jonah and Lev Fisher to our congregation.

Contemporary: What are your first impressions of the OT congregation?

Rabbi Bedo: It was very powerful to see everyone at the Baseball/Ice Cream Kabbalat Shabbat. Everyone was so joyful just to be together. Even before the event, when my family arrived just a few days ago, the generosity, the chessed, the loving-kindness of the OT congregation has blown us away. People have brought us food and have reached out to see if we have everything we need, the whole staff has been amazing. The OT congregation has been so supportive, we're overwhelmed with gratitude.

Contemporary: You have not only chosen Judaism, but chosen to lead as a Rabbi. What motivated you?

R. Bedo: Judaism has fundamentally transformed my life. It brought

me a sense of meaning, purpose and vision. Judaism has provided a framework and substance to everything and I want to help bring it to others and help them realize it's power.

I converted to Judaism when I was 17. Along the way, I experienced a deep generosity and grace from teachers in multiple Jewish communities. One of the things that motivated me to enter the rabbinate is this sense of service, a desire to give back and be generous to others. I want to be present for people's joyous and sad moments. Originally, I wanted to be an academic, because I love the Jewish texts, but realized being more people-centered was important. The texts help us get to people. Teaching, discussing Torah with people, hearing them ask questions about it and teach



PHOTO BY DAN NOBLE

ME about it is so powerful. This combination is what led me to choose the rabbinate.

Contemporary: As you were exploring your Judaism, what drew you to Conservative (also known as Masorti) Judaism?

R. Bedo: Interestingly, I chose Conservative Judaism again and again. First when I chose to convert, then again when I joined communities across the world, I chose communities with Masorti values, and ultimately when I chose the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) where I was ordained.

Initially what drew me to it was egalitarianism. I didn't see equality at all in Hungary where I grew up. At first, I "put away" Judaism because as a feminist it's important to me to have the same opportunities and responsibilities as my male peers. But then I went to a Masorti synagogue. The head Rabbi was a woman and women were on the Bimah—it really opened up my world. I realized that I could have a mostly traditional life and we all have the same rights as adults.

It's also the Conservative belief in science, our willingness to look at other dimensions of life, such as literature, history, or psychology and see how secular disciplines can teach us more about the Torah and enrich our Jewish tradition. Everything is from G-d, all of this is sacred. To be a Jew in the modern world means that we are interested in facts and science, and the Jewish tradition is the central narrative in our lives.

Can't get enough Rabbi Bedo? Neither can we! The rest of this interview is available on video at olamtikvah.org/contemporaryvideo or scan the QR code with your camera phone.



JUST LANDED FROM ISRAEL

BY BARBARA FINKEL

Mala Hod arrived at OT on August 16 to be our new shlicha (emissary). She is 22 and bursting with enthusiasm to deepen our community's love and understanding of Israel, as she also looks forward to learning from us about Jewish life in the diaspora.

Mala was born and raised in Pardes Hanna, 30 miles south of Haifa. Mala's parents took her name from the Sanskrit word for a beaded necklace used in Buddhism and Hinduism for prayer and meditation; they were thrilled later, realizing its connection to Shir Ha-Ma'alot, Song of Ascents. Mala spent the year before her Army service volunteering in the Habonim Dror youth movement, and then served in the IDF Education and Youth Corps, preparing at-risk and special education Israelis for Army service, as well as introducing visiting Jewish youth from the diaspora to life in the IDF.

OT Education and Youth Director Debra Beland-Ackerman shared that Mala will build upon the successes of our previous shlichot, Gefen and Noy. She'll be a regular presence in OTRS as well as adult and family education programs. In addition, Mala will work with the MoEd Jewish after school program that is opening a new site at OT, as part of their Hebrew immersion and Israel education staff.

Rabbi Kalender noted the Shlichut program has been an amazing addition to the OT community. The concept of connecting people, not just information, has had an enormous impact on many individuals and families.

Mala is most looking forward to participating in "shishi" (Friday evening) Shabbat dinners and getting in touch with her growing love of Jewish prayer and synagogue life. She hopes to share her love for travel in Israel and Hebrew poetry, as well as the farming and woodworking skills she acquired this past year as a guide in the Hashomer Hachadash (New Guard) agricultural youth movement.

ANTICIPATION: OLAM TIKVAH'S REOPENING

BY JERRY MARKOWITZ

**"How lovely are your dwellings,
people of Jacob ..."**

— Siddur Sim Shalom



PHOTO BY MARNIE FIENBERG

Like this outdoor Havdalah service, we continue to look for ways to renew, refresh and look with a new light.

Even COVID can't keep a good congregation down. Olam Tikvah opened early and carefully, implementing new technologies along the way, with an eye to Conservative halachic rules and to being together. Now that we are extending the reopening, while staying flexible for new variants, what makes us excited about what's next? What do we keep from these odd times?

I spoke with 10 people representing a cross-section of OT members. Everyone enthusiastically spoke on two basic themes: what they are hoping for in the new year at OT, and how OT can develop into a meaningful, post-pandemic community. Their comments reflect some of the values that describe the OT community, including "lessons learned" about the innovations OT and OTRS implemented during the pandemic that may positively impact how we come together in the future.

Hopes for the New Year

Alison Stern's young son "loves challah" and the lighting of Shabbat candles. But there is something missing. She and her husband, Josh, are looking forward to the day when their son can be vaccinated and their entire family can be together in person enjoying OT. She's spoken with many parents with kids under 12 that have the same outlook as they look for ways their children, who aren't vaccinated, can continue learning and appreciating their Judaism.

School-age children, such as Rachel Hofstatter's son and daughter, are excited to continue their Jewish education at OTRS this year. They "really miss" their friends and are looking forward to seeing them again!

So are adults. Irv Varkonyi recently returned in person to OT's Shabbat morning service. He's enthusiastically ready for more Kiddush Club (schnapps for adults) and schmoozing this year. Ed Diener is planning to sit again in various areas of OT's sanctuary. In person, this gives him different perspectives and feelings of the Shabbat service. He's also longing to schmooze during kiddush lunch because it is a "really lovely feeling."

Ideas About What's Next

According to Bruce Waxman and Manny Solon, focusing on interpersonal relationships or more discussion groups are important as OT reopens. This could be accomplished through Sisterhood and Men's Club, or by forming more Chavurot (friend

groups). These interpersonal activities or events should focus on what people have in common, regardless of age or other demographics.

Steve Kirsch, father of a young daughter, wonders whether it is possible to occasionally have a short outdoor Shabbat morning service. Kabbalat Shabbat, which has occasionally been held outside during, isn't always convenient for young families due to work, daycare, dinner, and bedtime schedules.

While we're still slowly and safely emerging from the pandemic, innovations such as incorporating livestream and Zoom in a halachic manner can continue playing essential roles at OT. Livestream enabled many people to attend Shabbat services. For Bev Sleph and Shula Friedman, Zoom helps them continue enjoying short story discussions, Mishnah and Torah studies. Incorporating these technological innovations are important alternatives, offering

OT stays safe while staying together.

As the new COVID variants travel through Fairfax, we are grateful to everyone who has vaccinated and/or wears masks when appropriate. Incorporating technology and flexible in-person approaches halachically make OT a special and safe community.

people a chance to sing along and feel connected even when they are not well, don't drive at night or driving conditions are hazardous due to bad weather.

As we go forward, we should continue appreciating the ways that OT is affecting our lives. Sylvia Ambaruch admirably sums it up: "Keeping community alive, ever so helpful." OT is "so absolutely fabulous, marvelous, outstanding."

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MISHPACHA

We are OT mishpacha (family) and we celebrate the good times and remember together. Here's where you can find out who from our congregation is celebrating over the next two months. Keep in touch with us on Facebook at facebook.com/OlamTikvah.



PHOTO BY DAN NOBLE

We are family and back together for special occasions, like the Baseball All Star Shabbat on July 23. The Kabbalat Shabbat service was preceeded by an ice cream truck serving up delicious treats in Olam Tikvah-themed baseball helmets that the kids (and adults) scooped up!



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Anniversary donations support Shabbat Kiddush lunch at Olam Tikvah. The following people made donations in honor of their anniversaries:

August Anniversaries

August 1-5: Ellen & Rafe Katkin; Debbi & Joe Marzouk; Martha & Mark Pohl; Jennifer & Michael Scher
August 6-12: Michelle & Stuart Endick; Marilyn & David Friedman (55); Karen & Howard Newman; Rebecca Behrmann & Josh Rubin; Gerri & Aaron Sterling

August 13-29: Sally Amster & Augie Arnstein (35); Ellen & Martin Dubin; Elisabeth & Neil Epstein; Jane & William Froehlich; Lorraine Fischer & Marc Kremer; Milly & Michael Rose; Laura & Daniel Strouse; Sheryl & Harold Tudor

August 20-26: Sylvia & Reuben Ambaruch; Zenia & Barry Bielsker; Laura & Jerrold Budiansky (55); Ilka Shore-Cooper & Fred Cooper; Judy & John Dietrick; Joan & Alan Hahn; Talya & Rabbi David Kalender (30); Rita & Harvey Lempel; Rachelle & Joel Palley; Beverly & Barry Redler; Merle & Michael Toobin

B'NEI MITZVAH



SEPTEMBER 4, 2021

SAMMY PFEFERMAN

Parshat: Nitzavim

Samuel Noah Pfeferman is an 8th grader at Frost Middle School in Fairfax. He is the oldest of Max Pfeferman & Holly Spanier and big brother to Meira and Eyal and his favorite, family dog Olive. Sammy's hobbies include playing the guitar, engineering things only he can imagine, being leader of his neighborhood bicycle gang (everyone welcome), babysitting, figuring out loopholes to arbitrary and non-arbitrary rules, illusionist, magic player, and now learning how to "teenage." We would like to thank Sammy's Grandma Sharon Spanier and his Bubby and Grandpa Sheila Douglas and Ken Pfeferman for sponsoring kiddush luncheon.

Bar Mitzvah Project: He is planning on donating a portion of his babysitting/bar-mitzvah gelt to Animal Welfare Institute because he cares deeply about all living creatures.

August 27-31: Mimi & Len Levine; Marcy & Michael Marcus (50); Naomi & Yoni Saad; BJ & Allon Shiff; Shana & Fred Singerman (35); Elizabeth & Martin Weiner; Alice & Michael Weinreb (55); Roberta & Henry Wulf (55)



OCTOBER 2, 2021

KATY KLEIN

Parshat: Bereshit

Katherine Klein, daughter of Kimberly and Ariel Klein and older sister to Jacob and Joshua, is a freshman at W. T. Woodson High School. Katie enjoys reading, singing and theater and dedicates her focus and available time to ballet. She has been a member of the Olam Tikvah family for eight years.

Bat Mitzvah Project: Katy's bat mitzvah project focuses on collecting clothing and necessary items for people in need.



OCTOBER 30, 2021

SPENCER WIRPEL

Parshat: Chayei Sara

Spencer Wirpel, son of Bill and Andi Wirpel and brother of Alexi, is a 7th grader at Lake Braddock Secondary School. Spencer loves BASEBALL! He has been playing ball since he was 5. This summer he majored in baseball at Ramah Sports Academy. He enjoys playing cello, ukulele and keyboard. He also likes to play games, including Chess, Risk, and anything cards. Spencer and his family look forward to celebrating with family from Virginia to California, to Connecticut, to Israel.

Bar Mitzvah Project: Spencer hopes to help special needs kids learn to love the game of baseball as much as he does.

Celebrate with us! Help us expand the Mishpucha section for a variety of simchas—all ages, all experiences. Send your ideas or announcements to communications@olamtikvah.org.



Steven Kirsch; Emilee Pressman & Eli Schlam (15); Ilese & Roger Vorcheimer

September 17-23: Patricia & Jeffrey Freilich; Lauren Hahn & Mark Quist (5)

September 24-30: Dotty & Al Fuchsman (65); Nikki & Jonathan Greenberg; Linda & Larry Noble (55)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Matthew & Meryl Barofsky
Sheldon & Karen Danto
Marc & Phylcia Fisher
Daniel & Anna Goldberg
Melissa & Eric Jones
Julie & Ken Lifland
Courtney & Ryan Merrell
Lauren Hahn & Mark Quist
Alex & Maddie Rosenwald
Farideh Schonberger
Nissim & Ashley Vazana
Mark Weiner

MAZAL TOV

Deborah & Andrew Guillen, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Joshua
Ellen & Michael Hilert, on the aufruf of their son, Zachary Hilert and Miriam Goldstein
Sharyn Stahl, on the engagement of her son, Jonathan Stahl to Cara Bubes

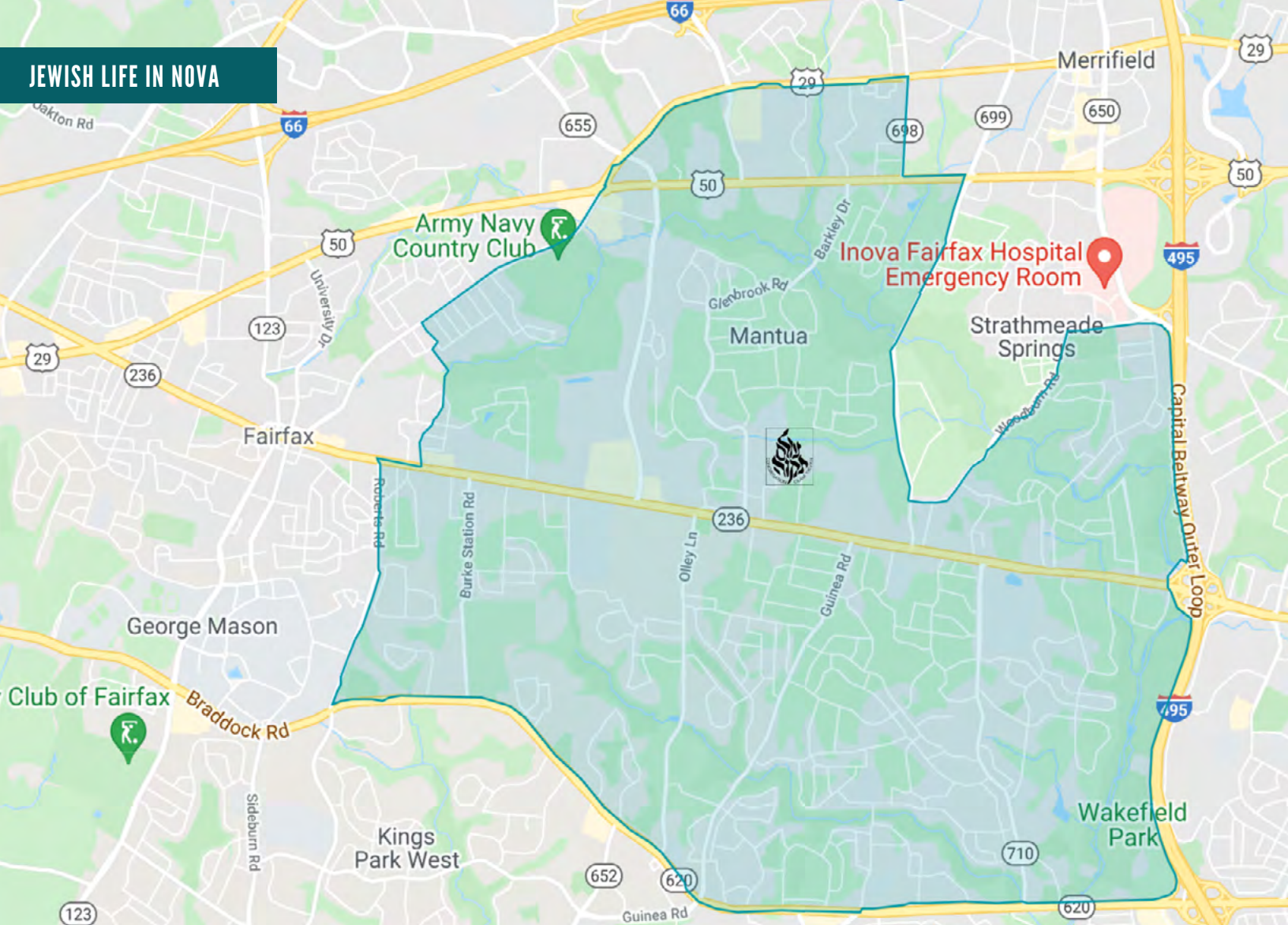
September Anniversaries

September 1-2: Erica Silverstein & Adam Black; Jennifer & Alan Gorowitz (20); Cynthia Yellen & David Honey
September 3-9: Clare & Herb Bachner; Amy & Michael Friedman;

Wendy & Stuart Hoffman; Margery & Stephen Kraus (55); Constance & Lawrence Leibowitz (60); Gail & Mark Lumer; Sara & Mitchell Schuler; Sara & Edward Silverman; Brittanie & Dan Werbel
September 10-16: Debbie &

IN MEMORY OF

Dan Glickman, brother of Stuart Glickman
Sylvia Safferson, mother of Paul Safferson



A new eruv has been set up in Fairfax, encompassing a two-mile perimeter around Olam Tikvah. This allows more flexibility to observant congregants. Go to FairfaxEruv.org to see an interactive map.

MEET THE FAIRFAX ERUV

BY ELIOT GOLDBERG

This Rosh Hashanah, we will welcome in the New Year. Fairfax Jews will also welcome the establishment of the very first eruv in Northern Virginia, the Fairfax Eruv.

What Is an Eruv?

An eruv is a ritual enclosure that facilitates activities that would otherwise not be possible due to the prohibition on

carrying anything outside the home on Shabbat. An eruv is constructed by surrounding a defined area using physical elements and designating food, usually a box of matzo, as communal property. By creating this common domain, those observing Shabbat can transport children, carry personal items such as books and cups of coffee, bring food over to a neighbor, and even contribute a new bottle to the OT Kiddush Club.

The Conservative Movement and Eruvs

In 1950, the Conservative Movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards issued an opinion that allowed for driving to synagogue when walking would be unreasonably difficult. But they didn't throw out all the other Shabbat proscriptions. The Rabbinical Assembly publication, "The Observant Life" (OT has two copies of this book in the library), notes that Halacha prohibits carrying anything outside of the home in the absence of an eruv.

"Here at Olam Tikvah, as a community of respect, individuals make their own choices regarding their personal Shabbat observances."

— Rabbi Kalender

"Here at Olam Tikvah, as a community of respect, individuals make their own choices regarding their personal Shabbat observances," Rabbi Kalender said. "In the communal construct, you may have noticed this is the reason that we don't take food in or out of the building on Shabbat or the major festivals. Our Shabbat physical area is special and an eruv increases the footprint of our sacred space."

Several Conservative congregations in D.C. and Maryland are within one of the more than six local eruvs, and the Georgetown eruv is working on an expansion into Arlington. Ramah camps all have their own eruvs.

Our New Fairfax Eruv

The 2018 Jewish Federation study of the DMV revealed that Northern Virginia has the largest population. In 2019, meetings involving Chabad and OT members were held to assess whether the time was right to establish an eruv. The Fairfax Eruv Committee was formed and in 2020 received a grant from Federation through its NoVA community building initiative.

The eruv design includes all neighborhoods within a two mile walk of OT, balanced out by what existing infrastructure could be leveraged in order to keep construction and maintenance costs reasonable. (Go to FairfaxEruv.org to see an interactive map.)

Direct and indirect benefits will be reaped by OT and Fairfax community members. For those whose observances are more traditional, the impact will be felt immediately. For example, both parents of young children will be able to come to services and visit friends while pushing strollers and carrying diaper bags, toys, and containers of Cheerios. For those looking to do a little more in their Shabbat observance, having an eruv in place could make the effort easier.

The JCC and Geshet are looking to promote Jewish NoVA to those who are thinking of moving to the DMV, attracting a broader segment of Jews to join our thriving Jewish community. Local supermarkets with kosher sections should see a rise in demand. As our diverse community grows and thrives, the eruv could even help encourage some Jewish businesses to set up shop in NoVA. Who knows, at some point down the road, Fairfax may finally have enough of a base to sustain a kosher shawarma restaurant. I look forward to taking a bite of that sandwich!

Want to learn more about eruvs?
Visit rabbinicalassembly.org/story/creating-ambience-shabbat or scan the QR code for more information.



**Mazel Tov to our
B'nei Mitzvah!!**

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Sammy Pfeferman | Sept. 4, 2021
Katy Klein | Oct. 2, 2021
Spencer Wirpel | Oct. 30, 2021

**FROM THE 5782
OLAM TIKVAH
B'NEI MITZVAH CLASS**

Our committees and other groups are a critical part of what keeps OT running. Each issue, we will look at a few committees and what they are planning for the year—and why you should be involved. Many of our closest OT friendships develop through involvement in committees. There are a variety of ways for all ages to be involved: joining Men's Club and Sisterhood, participating in young families and youth activities, volunteering with social action, and learning in adult ed.

This issue, our spotlight is on Social Action and Sisterhood. Find out what these dynamic committees are doing next on the OT calendar at www.olamtikvah.org/calendar.



PHOTO BY DAN NOBLE

Volunteers work the food drive for Good Deeds Day 2021.

SOCIAL ACTION IN 2021/2022/5782

Social Action gives OT congregants an awareness of what is needed in our community, which of our neighbors are being affected, and opportunities to meet that need. The Jewish value of Tikkun Olam, requires that we proactively improve the lives of one another and our neighbors. The Social Action Committee does this by partnering with mosques and churches for an interfaith approach to fighting food insecurity, homelessness and equality for all. Committee members range in age from our preschool to our seniors as everyone has a role to play.

For many years, OT congregants have participated generously throughout the year in many different ways – food drives, blood drives, providing and serving meals at the Katherine Hanley Family Shelter, Shabbat and holiday dinners at Brown/Berish Jewish Group Home, at Bailey's Crossroads Homeless Shelter, and at a local church with our neighbors who are homeless. We join together with mosques and churches to provide for students with food insecurity. We improve reading skills for elementary school students and teach Citizenship classes for our neighbors who want to become American citizens to name some of our outreach activities.

During the pandemic, we adapted and increased our activity due to additional community needs. For example, the pandemic caused a huge increase in food insecurity and we responded with additional food drives and donations to Food for Others and to ECHO. We donated personal care items to our neighbors experiencing financial hardships through Communities of Trust.

What will Social Action look like in 2021/2022/5782? OT remains committed to all the people and organizations we have been working with and will adapt as our reality continues to change. The success of each of these outreaches is due to all those who took the lead in their outreach and to every congregant who participated and contributed to do what was needed.

Join us as we meet the new challenges that await us in the new year by adding your name to the Social Action list. Please contact Clare Bachner at clarebach@aol.com to be informed when a social action outreach occurs. Any thoughts or ideas for additional social action outreach would be greatly appreciated.

Learn more about Social Action at www.olamtikvah.org/socialaction.

IT COULD BE SISTERHOOD

If you see dozens of women enjoying a brunch in the Social Hall with a great speaker, It could be Sisterhood.

If you see OT members collecting food and blankets for the needy and supplies for school children, It could be Sisterhood.

If dozens of women are taking a virtual tour of Paris or the Galilee with a licensed guide, It could be Sisterhood.

If women are doing yoga in an OT pod, It could be Sisterhood.

If women are packing Mishloach Manot bags so everyone can enjoy Purim, It could be Sisterhood.

If women are having a lively discussion about a Jewish themed book. It could be Sisterhood.

If women are driving out to the countryside for a kosher wine-tasting party, It could be Sisterhood.

If local causes and charities are receiving donations to continue their good work, It could be Sisterhood.

If women are climbing up trees to rescue a neighborhood cat... Well, it probably isn't Sisterhood, but it's an awfully nice thing to do anyway!



PHOTO BY ERIN DREYFUSS

Sisterhood volunteers put together a mailing in July.

If any one of these activities sounds appealing to you, YOU can be Sisterhood. Join the many Olam Tikvah women who make up Sisterhood. While we offer dozens of exciting programs, what makes OT's Sisterhood really special is the camaraderie we experience when we do fun and important things together.

Sisterhood brings you challah, produces a great cookbook, holds book club events, invites you to join in weekly knitting, crocheting and needleworking, and runs Simcha Catering and Jewish Treasures where you can find all kinds of Judaica for your holiday table and gifts for your friends. We sponsor gatherings where members who have a skill or an interest can share them with others. Sisterhood is your link to the Torah Fund and Women's League with many more activities and

opportunities to learn. If you want to become part of the OT community and make a difference, or learn, or make friends, we are here for you. You can be involved as little or as much as you want, but once you've tasted what's on offer and made friendships, it will be hard to stay away. Here's the link for a quick and easy online registration to join Sisterhood: www.olamtikvah.org/sisterhood.

Hope to see you at one of our many events!

— Poem by Paula Weiss

Looking for activities? See our calendar and Connect pages on the OT website.



PHOTO BY ERIN DREYFUSS

T'SHUVAH—TO REPENT OR TO RETURN?

BY GEORGE D. BILLINSON

At this time of year, we spend a lot of time thinking, and speaking, about T'shuvah. We even sing about it. In the repetition of the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Musaf Amidah, we sing together: U-t'shuvah, u-t'fillah, u-tz'dakah ma-avirin et ro-a ha-g'zeirah, which is generally translated as "But repentance, prayer, and charity avert the severe decree."

As we see, T'shuva is frequently translated as "repentance." Sometimes it's translated as "return." But are these terms really different?

The word t'shuvah as "return" appears in various forms a number of times in our religious texts.

Sometimes, it's framed in terms of returning from something. For example, Ezekiel (33:11) tells the people, "Turn back, turn back from your evil

ways, that you may not die, O House of Israel!"

Sometimes, it's framed in terms of returning to something—specifically to God and what God asks of us. Thus, the prophet Joel (2:13-16) entreats the people to "[r]end your hearts rather than your garments, and turn back to the LORD your God. For He is gracious and compassionate...." Similarly, in the Book of Devarim (4:30) we read, "when you are in distress because all these things have befallen you and, in the end, return to the LORD your God and obey Him."

And sometimes, it's framed in terms of us and God returning to each other. As the Prophet Malachi (3:7) says, "From the very days of your fathers you have turned away from [God's] laws and have not observed them. Turn back to Me, and I will turn back

to you—said the LORD of Hosts. But you ask, 'How shall we turn back?' " The Prophet Micah (7:18-19) puts a more positive spin on it: "Who is a God like You, Forgiving iniquity And remitting transgression; Who has not maintained His wrath forever against the remnant of His own people, Because He loves graciousness! He will take us back in love; He will cover up our iniquities...."

In the end, perhaps there is no real distinction between repentance and return. If we are to seek God's forgiveness, we must turn back from our shortcomings and return to God. And if we are successful in doing that, and God turns back to us, isn't that the ultimate expression of repentance?

At this very special season, may we all turn back to God and may God turn back to us.

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OLAM TIKVAH CONNECTIONS

OT is a dynamic community, with multiple events for every age group throughout the month. We stay in touch with you in the following ways:



On-Demand at Olamtikvah.org

Go to our website for our calendar and the latest from committees and the OT Religious School. Sign up to participate in virtual and in-person events, adult education classes and our online directory in the members-only section.

In Your Inbox Twice a Week

This Week at OT – OT-wide announcements every Sunday morning
Shabbat Shalom! – Shabbat announcements every Friday morning

Special Communications by Email

Holiday announcements & Baruch Dayan Ha'Emet (Condolences)

The Contemporary Magazine

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Looking to write an article or contribute? Contact us at communications@olamtikvah.org.