



Reflections on Reopening

by Laura Strouse, excerpted from the 2021 Annual Meeting

What a year it has been! 366 days ago, we sat around this Zoom, unsure how the year would go. While OT never “closed” - we continued to stay connected in a virtual environment - there were still lots of questions. Would we truly be able to open our building for Shabbat morning safely? Welcome preschool and religious school children? Allow those who felt comfortable a place to pray in person for the High Holidays, while still ensuring that those who were not comfortable would likewise be a part of our community prayer?

Thanks to our incredibly thoughtful and devoted Building Reopening Task Force, as well as the diligence of all the OT professional and facilities staff, 3800 Glenbrook Road has been physically open, in a limited capacity, since June of 2020. We are grateful for the professional advice from the medical, public health, and legal professionals on our Task Force. We are also thankful for the consultations with the Fairfax County Health Department, as well as the Chief Epidemiologist of Fairfax County.



June 17, 2020 physically distanced ma'ariv service

During the past 15 months, the Task Force has continued to use the philosophies shared at the 2020 Annual Meeting as a guide for the building reopening process:

- Prioritizing the health and well-being of our members,
- Remaining within state and local government guidelines,
- Opening the building incrementally; and
- Continuing to meet as a task force to develop and modify plans as necessary.



Blumie Gourarie pre-taping Shabbat services for streaming in July

We have also been guided by Jewish values, with sensitivity to halacha (Jewish law) and minhag (Jewish traditions). We have strived to be inclusive and forward thinking. In short, we did not depart from the community values that have served us well for decades.

Our building opened slowly and methodically beginning in June 2020. We started with a total of 20 participants for evening minyan, spaced out throughout our sanctuary and pods. In August, Shabbat morning services were open to 40 participants. Rochelle used her expert Tetris skills to remove seats and arrange the sanctuary and pods to allow at least 10 feet of space between family units. At all times, pre-registration, sanitizing, masking, and distancing were required.

Continued on page 3 "Reopening Reflections"



Erin Dreyfuss and Rochelle Goldberg demonstrate physical distancing in the sanctuary ahead of Rosh Hashanah 5781

A Meaningful Mitzvah

by Cindy Rosen

I have donated my hair five or six times over the years. I usually grow my hair out for three to four years and then donate between 10-18 inches of hair to Locks of Love. I am glad to do it and feel like I am helping young people going through a really tough life experience.

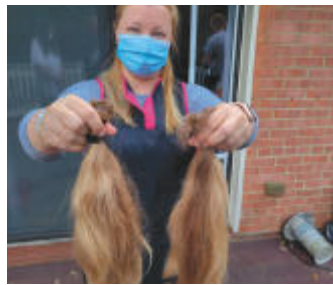
The first time I thought about donating my hair was just before deploying Desert Shield/Desert Storm. I was told to be ready in four hours. One of my first stops was to get my hair all cut off. As I watched all my hair fall to the

ground, I thought to myself, I should really donate that to a charity for children. Unfortunately, I was pressed for time. After that, I have donated every four years or so.

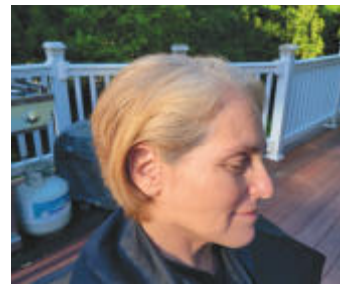
When I returned from Iraq, right before our chuppah, I donated about 10 inches. For me, that was an opportunity to show gratitude to G-d for my safe return. Now donating my hair continues to be personal. I am grateful for all that we have and the gifts G-d has graced us with. It is a small gesture that means so much to so many.



Cindy's hair pre-donation



Ponytails ready to donate



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Reopening Reflections

By the High Holidays, the Task Force had the confidence to increase the number up to 75 participants in the sanctuary. Again, pre-registration, sanitizing, masking, and distancing were required.



OT Religious School

During the school year, Olam Tikvah Preschool successfully ran a fully in-person program, with two classroom “pods.” The Olam Tikvah Religious School had a combination of in-person, fully virtual, and hybrid classes, allowing each family at OT to make the choice that was right for them, while continuing with its strong educational program for all. After hearing the OTRS protocols for reopening, about 75% of families chose to be in-person.

As we look back through the year, I am reminded of the incredible planning, attention to detail and follow through by all Olam Tikvah staff, as well as the support and willingness of the OT community to work with us and comply with these guidelines. All of these incremental steps to expand our in-person activities were complemented with the use of our livestream capabilities.



Weekday ma'ariv on Zoom and in-person

It is worth noting that while Olam Tikvah has been on its thoughtful, incremental path, having held in-person services for a year, and Shabbat services for more than ten months, most of the synagogues in the area have only recently begun to open up for in-person activities.

Today, we celebrate the commitment of everyone in our community, for following guidelines that have kept us safe, as we incrementally took steps to reopen the building over the past year.

It has been very emotional for many of our congregants just returning to our sacred space. There is absolutely nothing like the magic of sitting, singing, and praying together as one in our sanctuary. To everyone in our OT community; those who have come to OT regularly in the past year, those who have recently come for their first Shabbat, and those who will return soon, we look forward to ALL being together at 3800 Glenbrook Road again very soon.



Shofar in Your Neighborhood allowed us to hear the shofar, even though we weren't all at OT together. (Click the image to see video of congregants blowing the shofar.)

Thank you to our Reopening Task Force members: Chair Laura Strouse, Ramesh Cohen, Alan Gorowitz, Stacy Oshry, Ed Shnekendorf, Rachel Shnekendorf, Michael Toobin, Brittanie Werbel, Rabbi Kalender, Rochelle Goldberg, Debra Beland Ackerman, and Cindi Drake, and our OT facilities staff, Tino, Julio, and Andreas.

More details about our anticipated reopening plans for the summer, High Holidays, and 5782 will be communicated by email as changes are implemented. [CLICK HERE](#) for our July update.



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Joshua Guillen

July 24

Parashat Vaetchanan

Joshua Guillen, son of Deborah & Andrew Guillen and older brother to Ethan, is a 7th grader at Lake Braddock Secondary School. Josh enjoys reading, building Legos, drawing, sewing, and playing and snuggling with his cat, Catniss. Josh is excited to go to Camp Ramah for the first time this summer. For his Bar Mitzvah project, Josh will make fleece blankets to donate to the **Fairfax County Animal Shelter**. He is excited to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah with family and friends from California, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.



Olam Tikvah Community Connections

The Olam Tikvah community is here to celebrate with you and support you during lifecycle events.

Mazal Tov

Laura Conover, on the birth of her grandson, Daniel Adam Conover, Jr., son of Daniel & Shyanne Alexis Cohen & George Gantsoudes, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Isaac Gantsoudes
Simone Bielsker & Dale Rolfe, on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Zahavah Bielsker-Rolfe, granddaughter of Zenia & Barry Bielsker and niece of Rhona & Howard Nachman
Rebecca Behrmann & Joshua Rubin, on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Amelie Rubin, granddaughter of Jane & Bill Behrmann
Joan & Don Sacarob, on the forthcoming marriage of their granddaughter, Julie Merin, to Sam Klein
Dawn & Joseph Smith, on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jack

In Memory

Ed Friedson, grandfather of Rob Sherman
Doris Kaplan, mother of Sarah Shack and Jeanette Shapiro
Frederick Klein, father of Jody Klein-Saffran
Eugene Wang, grandfather of Rebecca Cohen

Anniversaries

Thank you for your donations to Olam Tikvah in honor of your anniversaries. Special thanks to our anniversary callers: Jane Behrmann, Shari Boyett, Carol Klevan, Linda Meyer, and Joanne Stryer.

June 1-3

Sara & Paul Astrow; Erin & Marc Dreyfuss; Ellen & Josh Oppenheim; Rimma & Semyon Reznik

June 4-10

Lisa & Joel Friedman (40); Andrea & Gil Rozner; Patricia & Stanley Schneider; Maxine & Ron Sherwin; Bonnie & Jeff Siegel

June 11-17

Mindy & Warren Cohen; Meredith & Edward Finn; Beth Liebmann & Peter Friedman; Amanda & Maxwell Hyman; Sandra & Ben Levy (60); Simone Bielsker & Dale Rolfe; Rachel & Eric Rothberg; Hillary & Bruce Rubin; Donna & Richard Rubino; Sarah & Richard Shack; Carol & Paul Shaman; Leslie & Irvin Varkonyi

June 18-24

Florence & Robert Brodkey (40); Sue & Ken Cohn; Andi & Brian Dorlester (30); Deedy & Ed Eisenson; Deborah & Andrew Guillen (20); Stacie & James Kaplan; Lisa Gross & Jordan Keitelman; Carol & Abe Schneider; Lori & Allen Zobler

June 25-30

Sandy & Al Gabriel; Myra & Gordon Gondos; Elissa & Marvin Kon (30); Betsy & Jon MacCarthy; Rho & Rich Silbergliitt (55); Sandy & Robert Tiemann

Tzedakah

Thank you for your donations, which were received by May 31, 2021. To make a donation, visit olamtikvah.org/donate

Annual Campaign

IN HONOR OF

Dan's 50th birthday, by Brittanie, Jonah, & Brandon

Mark Weber receiving the Blue Yarmulke Person of the Year award, by Cheri & Murray Bloom

IN MEMORY OF

Dr. Irwin Stuart Feldman, by Prina McCabe

Lisa St. Pierre, by Traci & Eliot Goldberg

Bernard Golub, by Arnold Golub

Capital Improvement Fund

IN HONOR OF

Bat Mitzvah of Sophie Fienberg, by Alice Sue Hecht

My welcome back aliyah, by Barbara Holleb

IN MEMORY OF

Frances Berkowitz, by Barbara Holleb

Ron Goldberg, by Natalie & Leonard Cheerman

Ronald Massarik, by Judy & Stan Schretter

Sandy Rosenthal, by Elaine Hruschka

Comfort & Condolence Fund

IN MEMORY OF

Doris Kaplan, by Diane & Joel Miller

Irwin Feldman, by David Margolis

Dorothy Edison/Alexander Levin Library Fund

IN HONOR OF

Barbara Finkel joining Women's League Seaboard Region as a Vice President, by Joanne & Tom Stryer

Emanuel Passamaneck Prayer Book/Tallit

IN MEMORY OF

Irwin Chickinsky, by Alan Chickinsky

Simon Jacob, father of Harold, grandfather of Debra, Dena, Dori, and David Jacob, by Livia & Harold Jacob

Sylvia Chickinsky, by Alan Chickinsky

Sylvia Lederhandler, by Toobin Family

Victor Lederhandler, by Toobin Family

Gerald Brissman/Lyle Miller/Carol Samuels Youth & College Fund

IN HONOR OF

Bat Mitzvah of Sophie Fienberg, by Lori & Allen Zabler

Birth of Hannah Ruth Taubman, granddaughter of Marie & Glenn, niece of Helen, daughter of Marla & Joel, by Barbara & Robert Cohen

IN MEMORY OF

Ron Goldberg, by Sue & Ken Cohn

Ronald Massarik, by Lori & Allen Zabler

REFUAH SHLEMA

Barbara Cohen, by Neil Schlussek; Eileen & Norman Leshan

Ed Eisenson, by Sue & Ken Cohn

Liz Maer, by Sue & Ken Cohn

Michelle Schuster, daughter of Sue & Ken Cohn, by Eileen & Norman Leshan; Chai Chavurah; Fraida & Alan Zusman

Harold T. Rib Torah & Religious Articles Fund

IN HONOR OF

Birth of Hannah Ruth Taubman, granddaughter of Marie & Glenn, niece of Helen, daughter of Marla & Joel, by Anita & Steve Dienstfrey

Jerry Werbel Memorial Landscape Fund

IN HONOR OF

65th wedding anniversary of Natalie & Julian Levine, by Toobin Family; Alice Sue Hecht

Birth of Hannah Ruth Taubman, granddaughter of Marie & Glenn, niece of Helen, daughter of Marla & Joel, by Kitty & Jack Timmes

Irv Varkonyi's Blue Yarmulke Award, by Phyllis Lustig

Judy Werbel's special birthday, by Toobin Family

IN MEMORY OF

Anne Wolf Miller, by Bobbie Ebert

Chuck Lipton, by Deedy & Ed Eisenson

Henry Miller, by Bobbie Ebert

Jeff Swartz, by Alice Sue Hecht

Ron Goldberg, by Phyllis Lustig

Wolf Lipsitz, by Deedy & Ed Eisenson

REFUAH SHLEMA

Ed Eisenson, by Toobin Family; Phyllis Lustig

Kitchen Fund

IN HONOR OF

Judy Back's special birthday, by Carol & Paul Shaman; Tamara Gordon

IN MEMORY OF

Ron Goldberg, by Alice Sue Hecht

Rabbi Itzhaq M. Klirs Memorial Adult Education Fund

In appreciation of Barbara Finkel's dedication and unwavering commitment to the Sisterhood of Olam Tikvah, by Olam Tikvah Sisterhood

In appreciation of the Adult Ed Classes, by Alan Shachter

IN HONOR OF

Bat Mitzvah of Elana Calderon, by Debbie & Mark Weber

Birth of Hannah Ruth Taubman, granddaughter of Marie & Glenn, niece of Helen, daughter of Marla & Joel, by Debbie & Mark Weber

Birth of Lev Cohen, son of Rebecca & Jonathan Cohen, by Debbie & Mark Weber

Debra Beland Ackerman's wonderful teaching of Us and Them, by Sharyn Stahl

Judy Werbel's special birthday, by Debbie & Mark Weber

Rabbi Brett Isserow's wonderful teaching of the Denominational Divide, by Sharyn Stahl

Shira Underwood receiving the Yad award, by Debbie & Mark Weber

Susan Kristol's wonderful teaching of Psalms, by Sharyn Stahl

IN MEMORY OF

Clara Chudnowsky Weber, by Debbie & Mark Weber

Doris Kaplan, by Lynne & Elliott Dubin
Frederick Klein, by Lynne & Elliott Dubin
Ron Goldberg, by Debbie & Mark Weber
Ronald Massarik, by Debbie & Mark Weber

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In appreciation of the hard work by George Billinson and Rabbi Kalender during these transitional times, by Rita & Gideon Frishman

IN HONOR OF

Annalisa Stryer's ordination from Hebrew Union College, by Leona Shoon

Birth of Hannah Ruth Taubman, granddaughter of Marie & Glenn, niece of Helen, daughter of Marla & Joel, by Cheri & Murray Bloom

Devora Shapiro receiving a 2 year fellowship in Bioethics at the Cleveland Clinic, by Pearl & Steve Raikin

Sophie Fienberg's Bat Mitzvah. Thank you Rabbi and all the staff!, by Marnie & Howard Fienberg

IN MEMORY OF

Charles Meyer, by Linda & Walt Meyer

Gerda Stein, by Linda & Walt Meyer

Mildred Rosenthal, by Beverly Polmar

Rachel Abrams, by Elliott Abrams

Sidney Feldman, by Marilyn Feldman

Frederick Klein, by Joan & Don Sacarob

Jack Finberg, by Leona Shoon

Melvin Goldfarb, by Alan Zinn

Sandy Rosenthal, by Alice Sue Hecht

Robert Natkin/Caren Pearl Religious School Fund

IN HONOR OF

Bat Mitzvah of Amelie Rubin, by Leslie & Irvin Varkonyi

Bat Mitzvah of Elana Calderon, by Bonnie & Jeff Siegel

IN MEMORY OF

Beverly Klein, by Beth & Fabian Rivelis

Solomon Shulman, beloved father, grandfather and great grandfather of Shulman Kovner and Tepp families, by Janet Shulman Kovner

REFUAH SHLEMA

Samantha Blacker, by Debbie & Al Spitzer

Stahl Family Experience Israel Fund

IN HONOR OF

Birth of Hannah Ruth Taubman, granddaughter of Marie & Glenn, niece of Helen, daughter of Marla & Joel, by Toobin Family; Judy & Stan Schretter

IN MEMORY OF

Irving Witlin, by Michael Witlin

Our Loved Ones, by Bonnie & Michael Witlin

Al Bernstein, by Sharyn Stahl

Lisa St. Pierre, by Beth & Fabian Rivelis

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

Walter Simon, by Sharyn Stahl
 REFUAH SHLEMA
 Elizabeth Maer, by Toobin Family
 Parker Toobin, by Sharyn Stahl
 Steve Stone, by Deedy & Ed Eisenson

Tzedakah Fund

IN HONOR OF

Bar Mitzvah of our grandson, Samuel Tudor, by Sheryl & Harold Tudor
 Bat Mitzvah of Amelie Rubin, by Clare & Herb Bachner
 Bat Mitzvah of Sophie Fienberg, by Clare & Herb Bachner
 Birth of Hannah Ruth Taubman, granddaughter of Marie & Glenn, niece of Helen, daughter of Marla & Joel, by Clare & Herb Bachner
 Bob Watts's Presidency of the Seaboard FJMC, by Irvin Varkonyi
 Cheri & Murray Bloom's aliyah, by Debbi & Joe Marzouk
 Connie Leibowitz's special birthday, by Sarah Elpern & Bruce Waxman
 Irv Varkonyi's Blue Yarmulke Lifetime Achievement Award, by Cheri & Murray Bloom

IN MEMORY OF

Arthur Schofer, by Sylvia & Reuben Ambaruch
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 Benjamin Stein, by Debra & Herman Stein
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Bunny Litwin, by Barbara & Jordan Baker
 Claire Gerhardt, by Elaine Murray
 Dale Pollino, by Rebecca Pollino
 David Weinstein, by Ann Bryan
 Doris Kaplan, by Janet & Lee Oppenheim; Sarah Elpern & Bruce Waxman
 Elizabeth Dienstfrey, by Anita & Steve Dienstfrey
 Emily Bruck, by Karen Rabin & Jeff Handler
 Ester Hersch, by Lilly Eder
 Frances H. Driessen, by Paul Driessen
 Gertrude Swichkow, by Deborah Swichkow
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 Ida Berger Weiss, by Irvin Varkonyi
 Irving Gordon, by Carol Gordon & Steve Rosenthal
 Jack Pollino, by Rebecca Pollino
 Jay Horne, by Debra & Herman Stein
 Lajos Weiss, by Irvin Varkonyi
 Leah Zisenwine, by Karen Rabin & Jeff Handler
 Leo Schretter, by Judy & Stan Schretter
 Lisa St. Pierre, by Wendy Silver
 Louis Cornell, by Judy & Stan Schretter
 Louis Endick, by Michele & Stuart Endick
 Max Zobler, by Allen Zobler
 Meyer Rosenthal, by Carol Gordon & Steve Rosenthal
 Mildred Kaplan, by Bunny Kaplan
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Nathan Kahn, by Lynn Phillips
 Nathan Weinstein, by Elaine Murray
 Rachael Ann Boyett, by Shari Boyett
 Reuben Drazen, by Judy & Stan Schretter
 Ronald Massarik, by David Massarik
 Ruth Klewans, by Samuel Klewans
 Stanley Bernard Sontheimer, by Bunny Kaplan
 Ronald Massarik, by Clare & Herb Bachner
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New Member Spotlight



Rebecca & Jonathan Cohen and baby Lev

You might recognize Rebecca Cohen as one of our OTRS teachers, but she, her husband Jonathan, and their newborn Lev have now officially joined OT! They live in Burke, where they wear many different hats. In addition to her OTRS duties, Rebecca is a special education teacher at Thoreau Middle School in Vienna, tutors math and science, and edits books. Jonathan is both a mortgage loan officer and an airline pilot with United Express. They moved to the area in 2019 from New Jersey (Rebecca’s home state and where Jonathan, who’s Israeli, moved after serving in the IDF). The couple are musicians and travelers, and are eager to leyn Torah and Haftorah at OT. Jonathan recently shared his expereinces in the IDF as our June OT Talks speaker.

Samuel & Lauren Stollar and their children Caroline and Natalie

Meet the Stollars of Falls Church: Samuel, Lauren, Caroline, and Natalie. Annandale-native Sam is a consultant, returning once again to his childhood synagogue. Lauren, who hails from Atlanta, is a pediatric nurse practitioner at Inova L. J. Murphy Children’s Hospital. Caroline is 3 and starting preschool this summer; she has aspirations to be a student at Shrevewood Elementary and OTRS. Caroline is 9 months old; you can often find her bouncing in her jumper. The family loves to cook and take walks together, and are looking forward to participating in OT’s young family events and community service activities.



Congratulations Grads!

Below are additions to the list of graduating high school and college students published in the June Contemporary. Mazal tov to everyone for your hard work. (The rest of the graduation list can be found on the last page of June's Contemporary.)

Student	Graduating From
Daniel Rubino	Old Dominion University, BS in Accounting
Adam Golub	Virginia Tech