

CONGREGATION OLAM TIKVAH

CONTEMPORARY

SPRING 2023



OTUSY TAKEOVER!

A Recent History of OTUSY

Where did this group come from?

Lock-In

Up All Night with OTUSY

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SPRING 2023



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Cover photo: Outgoing USY President Zahavah Sterling and incoming USY President Alexi Wirpel. PHOTO BY OSCAR PERSKY



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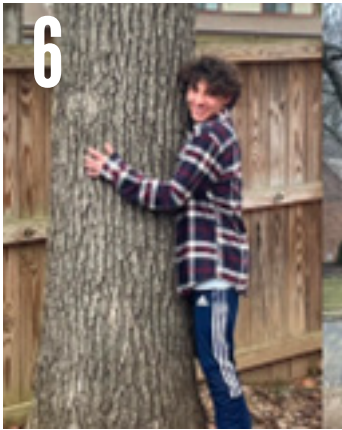
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

So this issue is late. Volunteering sometimes gets caught in the needs of the rest of our worlds - and multiple volunteers were impacted at the same time (including me) by new jobs. This shows that we're ready for new blood on the communications committee. Keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities!

On the other hand, one of the most popular issues in 2022 was the OTRS 7th grade takeover. This year, our OT Teens wanted to get in on the action, so Olam Tikvah's own United Synagogue Youth, better known as OTUSY, has taken over this issue! These amazing kids are sharing stories that are informative and just a little sassy. Thank you to all the writers and photographers for putting together a great issue.

Marnie Fienberg
Communications Chair



CONTEMPORARY TEAM

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- Theresa H.

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A RECENT HISTORY OF OTUSY

BY ZAHAVAH STERLING AND BRANDON WERBEL

1970s-2000s

A USY chapter at Olam Tikvah was started sometime in the 1970s. It thrived for years, until slowly declining and eventually dissolving.

2015

The OTUSY chapter was restarted! This was an effort led by Sierra Kaplan, Shauna Kaplan and Molly Goldberg. Over the next several years the chapter would go through many different changes and have some amazing accomplishments!

2019

OTUSY wins the Seaboard Region Chapter of the Year award!!!!

This came after the work of the 2019 chapter board as well as the work building up the chapter over the previous years. The award was presented after the annual awards ceremony at Seaboard USY Spring Convention, where 16 OTUSYers were able to celebrate together on this achievement.

2020

While quarantine was definitely a change from what everyone was used to, OTUSY was able to keep going strong throughout the year by seamlessly moving to online events after lockdown began and continuing to have events

throughout the year. In May of 2020, for the first time, OTUSY had two members join the Seaboard Region Executive Board, Sarah Hasson and Rachel Freidman!

2021

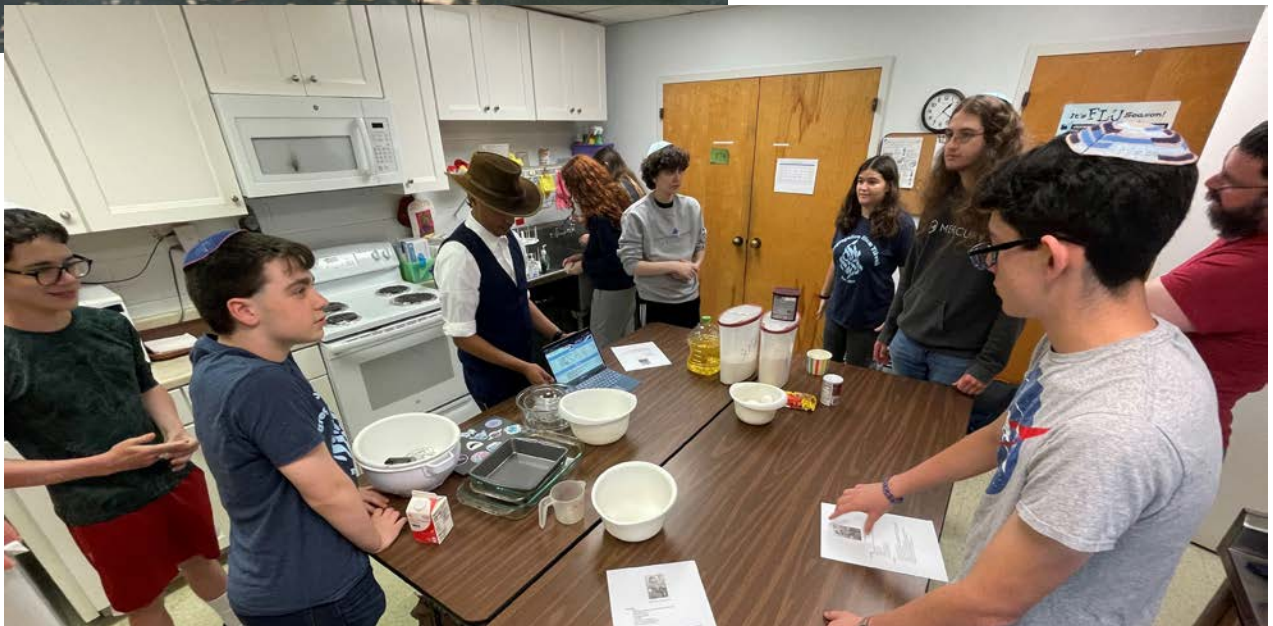
The 2020-2021 year started off with our most well-known program that lasted all-summer long - "Stay at Home Homies." OTUSY had almost 50 participants from 6th-12th graders at OT. At the beginning of this program, each USYer (high schooler) was paired with a Kadimanik (middle schooler) and they became "Homies" for the summer!



(Far left) 2019 Seaboard Region Chapter of the Year award winners. Left to right: Ella Newman, Shauna Kaplan, Sierra Kaplan, Sarah Hasson, and advisor Rafi Glazer. PHOTO BY SEABOARD USY STAFF

(Near left) The 2020-2021 board. Left to right: advisor Rafi Glazer, Seth Blumenthal, Rachel Dallas, Jonah Werbel, Devorah Freeman, Zahavah Sterling, Carter Albert and Brandon Werbel PHOTO BY BRIAN GROSSBARD

(Below) Cooking with Yehoon for the Yom HaZikaron Reminiscing with Recipes program. PHOTO BY OSCAR PERSKY



Over the summer, the USY Board came up with weekly challenges and/or meetings for the homies to participate in, while also pushing members to "meet" and chat with their homies outside of our weekly sessions. During the rest of the year, we had a number of amazing events, moving in person and online with the fluctuation of the pandemic.

Our hard work paid off - we once again won the title of Seaboard Chapter of the Year!

2022

Throughout the year, we had monthly and bimonthly events, some highlights being our "Blanket

Making and Movie Night," making blankets to donate to Project Linus for premature newborns. The "Reminiscing with Recipes" event where we had the chance to make a favorite meal of a fallen IDF soldier and learn from his family.

Once again...you guessed it... OTUSY won Seaboard Chapter of the Year!

2023/NOW!

This year has brought some large changes with USY as an organization and how our local chapters interact with the broader community. OTUSY is a thriving community that will continue for years to come. If you

are interested in learning about the various chapter boards we've had, you can look in the Youth Lounge (which has been painted by our USY chapter as well!) We would love to get anybody interested involved, and we invite any 8th-12th graders to join us at an event soon!

If you are interested in more information you can contact USY Advisor, Rafi Glazer at rafi.glazer@gmail.com and check out our Instagram account @otusy1.

TU B'SHEVAT: THE OTUSY TREEHUGGERS

BY ZAHAVAH STERLING

For the past few years, our USY chapter has done an annual Tu B'Shevat fundraiser through the Jewish National Fund (JNF) and their Tu B'Shevat Across America program. There is a donation page available for our chapter.

Every year, to kick off our fundraiser as a chapter board we make a fun video to celebrate Tu B'Shevat in a fun way. The first time we did this was during 2021, where our video was a series of things to do with trees! One board member played basketball with a tree, another took selfies, one even ate waffles with a tree. All of our videos are on our instagram page @otusy1.

The donations we made go towards forestry in Israel, planting and maintaining trees throughout the Jewish homeland. Our focus is being able to celebrate Tu B'Shevat in a unique way that allows people in our community to do a huge mitzvah by planting trees in Israel.

THE TREEHUGGER APPROACH

This year we went for the treehugger approach and went along with the social media trends, making a short sweet video with a compilation of photos of trees and our board members hugging some trees.

Donate



Support OTUSY
by donating to
the Brissman/
Miller/Samuels
Youth Fund

"Our focus is being able to celebrate Tu B'Shevat in a unique way that allows people in our community to do a huge mitzvah by planting trees in Israel"

— Zahavah Sterling



Some OTUSY board members hugging trees! Clockwise: Seth Bond, Seth Blumenthal, Carter Albert and Alexi Wirpel

OTUSY LOCK-IN

BY CARTER ALBERT AND ALEXI WIRPEL

If you've ever wondered about nightlife in the OT community, you'll be happy to hear that while the teens have taken over, we've been up to some good while running rampant. OTUSY had a lock-in recently where 13 teens set up a Power Pack in partnership with the Social Action Committee and made blankets for premature newborns. We packaged more than 173 Power Packs and made seven tied blankets to donate to people in need.

The night began with Havdalah, then we were briefed on our first activity, a scavenger hunt. Set up by the OTUSY Board's very own Alexi Wirpel, the hunt took the chapter all around the synagogue while learning about the history and artwork at OT, allowing us to explore possibly previously unexplored places. After a few ups and downs through the game, Team 1 put all the pieces of the puzzle together and won the game. Though it was getting late the fun wasn't even close to over.

After the scavenger hunt we all made our way back down to the Social Hall to pack as many Power Packs as we could. After setting up the tables and sorting through the foods we began to pack as fast as we could. At the end we packed over 173 full bags and still had food to spare for next time.

After a few rigorous activities it was time to settle down. We turned on a movie and started to make hand tied blankets for premature newborns through Project Linus. Some of us changed into our pajamas and got our sleeping bags out, while others had some snacks to fuel up for the rest of the night. When the movie ended it

(Left) Scavenger hunt puzzle for the OTUSY Lock-In. PHOTO BY RAFI GLAZER

(Below) USY assembled over 173 Power Packs for children in need. PHOTO BY RAFI GLAZER



was fine to get right back at it with a game of Manhunt. By then President Zahavah Sterling was already more than half asleep but she toughed it out and was our first hunter of the night. Maybe it was due to exhaustion or maybe a lack of communication of the rules but we can say that no one was technically found that round.

We needed some sugar - time for the OTUSY Cupcake Wars! The theme was Tu B'Shevat and after about 5 minutes of scrambling to decorate our cupcakes, Yehoon and Spencer Wirpel were ready to judge our

tree-themed cupcakes. While some had a more abstract approach to the theme, a majority of our participants decorated the cupcakes with green and brown to symbolize some kind of plant for the holiday.

OTUSY still wasn't done! It was time for the traditional game of Jungle Speed, a high speed card game involving memory, reflexes, and strength.

One-by-one a player flips over one of their cards and if another player's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

LOCK-IN CON'T

card matches the design on their own, both players try to grab the totem in the middle as fast as they can. Now, if both players grab the totem at the same time then it's a fight to see who can be the last person to hold on. Then it was finally time for sleep.

Only a few hours later it was time to get up in the morning. As we all walked back down the stairs like zombies, we joyfully reminisced about the memories we made the previous night and continued to talk about all of our experiences that morning over a breakfast of bagels, cereal, cupcakes, and spoonfuls of icing.

THANK YOU FROM MELINDA ROTH

To our Olam Tikvah community,

I am overwhelmed by your kindness and I'm finding it difficult to adequately express my gratitude for your outpouring of support during my sister's illness and subsequent death. Your sustained care and concern kept me going during those months of struggle as well as keeping Mark occupied while I was out of town attending to my sister and her family. My sister was also part of a wonderful community that I have known for 30 years, which makes me doubly blessed.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the cards, email, phone calls, and showing up for a shiva minyan at the last moment. You helped bring us comfort and peace upon our return home after the funeral. I am honored and humbled by all the donations that have been made in my sister's name. You have truly made her name a blessing.



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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 simchas. Keep in touch with us on Facebook at facebook.com/OlamTikvah.

MAZAL TOV TO:

Brooke & Gary Aiken, on the bar mitzvah of their son, Tyler
Sally Amster & Augie Arnstein, on the birth of their grandson, Jamie Acharya Arnstein, son of Ben Arnstein & Leila Kutler
Kendra & Jacob Asher, on the birth of their son Atticus Quinn
Andy Baker, on receiving his yad award
Marianne & Todd Berner, on the marriage of their son, Aaron, to Sarah Jarvis
Marissa Abraham & Noah Epstein, on the birth of their daughter, Hannah Mae Abraham
Leslie Frieden & Seth Feldman, on the bat mitzvah of their daughter, Ilana
Barbara Finkel, on her acceptance into the Women's League of Conservative Judaism Nashim B'Kedushah
Ellie Klein and Dan Finkel, on the bat mitzvah of their daughter, Yaara
Alexis Cohen & George Gantsoudes, on the bar mitzvah of their son, Zachary
Hemda Gold, on the naming of her granddaughter, Tali Liv Gold, daughter of Lindsay & Avi Gold
Bruce Gordon, on FJMC Lifetime Achievement Honor
Allison & Adam Greenhouse, on the bat mitzvah of their daughter, Ryan
Staci & Brian Grossbard, on the bat mitzvah of their daughter, Zoe
Barry Hemmerdinger, on being named FJMC Blue Yarmulke Persons of the Year
Stacey & Marc Herwitz, on the engagement of their son, Eric, to Ilana Wiesel
Amit & James Hickman, on the bar mitzvah of their son, Aidan

Avery Kane, on receiving his Yad Award
Jordana Schmier & David Kane, on the bar mitzvah of their son, Jeremy
Tali Shokek and Seth Kapan and Jane & Arthur Kaplan, on the bar mitzvah of their son and grandson, Aiden Shokek-Kaplan
Natalie & Julian Levine, on the birth of their great grandson, Logan Axl Schaffer
Stefany & Russell Meyer, on the bar mitzvah of their son, Zachary
Deb & Tom Neuman, on the birth of their daughter, Elinor Tova
Ellen & Josh Oppenheim on the birth of their grandson, Micah, son of Rebecca & Jack Mcauley
Sharon & Ross Raphael, on the bar mitzvah of their son, Benji
Noy Peri Ravid & Ben Ravid, on the birth of their daughter, Niv
Laura Fargotstein & John Riskind, on the birth of their granddaughter, Maya Jade Riskind, daughter of Victoria & Zachary
Melinda & Mark Roth, on the engagement of their daughter, Hannah Roth, to Austin Rohaly
Naomi & Yoni Saad, on the birth of their daughter, Natalie Ruth
Carol & Abe Schneier, on the birth of their granddaughter, Aria Ellen Gregory-Schneier, daughter of Neal Schneier & Liliana Gregory
Jill & Cary Schwartzbach, on the aufruf of their son, Eric, and Alexandra Wax
Judith & Shmuel Shamir, on the birth of their granddaughter, Amaya Aviva, daughter of Eliah Shamir & Juan Salvatierra
Leslie & Irvin Varkonyi, on the birth of their grandchildren, Miriam Eleanor and Ari Gabriel, children of Lauren Stevens & Peter Varkonyi
Laurie & Shawn Vergott, on the b'nei

mitzvah of their sons, Jonah and Micah

Danielle Voelker, on the engagement of her son, Spencer Gabriel Kreisler, to Jessica Barros Neves
Halli & Ben Weiner on the birth of their son, Adin
Karen Tovey & Ed Weiss, on birth of granddaughter, Reyva Pramila Weiss, daughter of Aditi Bobhate & Josh Weiss

ANNUAL MEETING AWARDS

Linda Cohn Memorial Youth Award:

Zahavah Sterling

President's Award: Mark Weiner

Todah Rabah and L'hitraot to our shaliach, Yehoon Bayih, and to Preschool Director Cindi Drake, on her retirement

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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

December 1-8: Lauren & Samuel Stollar (10); Linda Recht & Bob Watts (30)

December 9-15: Rachel & Philip Blumenthal (20); Davida & Alan Kashdan; Joanne & Tom Stryer

December 16-22: Anne & David Hone

December 23-31: Barbara & Jordan Baker; Betsey & Joseph Goldberg; Karen & Barry Hemmerdinger (25); Susan & Bill Kristol; Linda & Walter Meyer; Judith & Stanley Schretter

January 1-5: Anna & Lenny Gottesman; Sharon & Joshua Yungshsten

January 6-12: Elizabeth Whisnant & Kevin Hopkins; Rochelle & David

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

B'NEI MITZVAH



JANUARY 21, 2023 **Parshat: Vaera**

JONAH AND MICAH VERGOTT

Jonah, son of Shawn & Laurie Vergott and elder brother of Micah and Izzy the Fluffer Dog, is an eighth grader at Lake Braddock Secondary School. He loves coding, kayaking, listening to music, and curling up with a good book. He has been volunteering at a local chess club for two years, helping to teach young children. Micah, Jonah's brother, is a seventh grader at Lake Braddock Secondary School. He enjoys playing basketball, competitive chess, and math. He has been volunteering at a local chess club since September and has mentored other young chess players as they learn the game he loves.

The Vergotts, who have been members of the Olam Tikvah family for six years, are excited that their boys will celebrate their big day together.



FEBURARY 18, 2023 **Parshat: Mishpatim**

ILANA FELDMAN

Ilana Lillian Feldman, daughter of Leslie Frieden & Seth Feldman and younger sister of Alicia, is a seventh grade honor roll student at Geshar Jewish Day School. Ilana enjoys many different styles of dance and performs on the Center Stage Jazz and Acro dance teams. In the summer, Ilana looks forward to spending time at Camp Pinemere. When she is not dancing or camping, Ilana likes to hang out with friends and her pet parakeet, Dusk. Ilana is excited to celebrate her bat mitzvah with friends and family from Maryland, Michigan and Virginia.

Bat Mitzvah Project: For her bat mitzvah project, Ilana volunteers at Olam Tikvah children's services. She is also planning to donate to wild bird conservation.



MARCH 11, 2023 **Parshat: Ki Tisa**

ZACHARY MEYER

Son of Russell & Stefany Meyer and sibling to his cat Daysi, Zach is a seventh grader at Robinson Secondary School. He enjoys soccer, video games, and hanging out with his friends. He has been a member of the Olam Tikvah family for 8 years.

Bar Mitzvah Project: Zach's Bar Mitzvah project is collecting gently used sporting goods for Leveling the Playing Field. Playing soccer is a huge part of his life, and he looks forward to helping less fortunate kids be able to participate in sports as well. If you would like to help, please bring gently used sports equipment to the bin in the synagogue lobby, or purchase off the Amazon wish list here: <https://a.co/5MNZgZE>.

Learn more about b'nei
mitzvah projects and how
you can support them at:





MARCH 18, 2023 Parshat: Vayakhel Pekudei

TYLER AIKEN

Tyler Jennings Aiken, son of Gary & Brooke and brother to Emmett, is a seventh grader at Frost Middle School. Tyler loves basketball, soccer, video games, and hanging out with friends. Tyler is excited to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah at Olam Tikvah with friends, family and the community.

Bar Mitzvah Project: For Tyler's bar mitzvah project, he plans to organize a fun karaoke night for all ages and request donations for Fairfax County Meals on Wheels in honor of Tyler's great grandmother, Phyllis Freiman, a long-time organizer and volunteer for Meals on Wheels in Baltimore.



APRIL 1, 2023 Parshat: Tzav / Shabbat HaGadol

AIDAN HICKMAN

Aidan Hickman, son of Amit & James, and sibling to Ellie, Nathan and puppy Oakleigh, is a seventh grader at Katherine Johnson Middle School. He enjoys playing lacrosse, video games with his friends and cheering on the Capitals! Aidan and his family have been members of Olam Tikvah for 8 years.

Bar Mitzvah Project: For his bar mitzvah project, Aidan will be collecting donations for the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.



APRIL 22, 2023 Parshat: Tazria-Metzora

ZOE GROSSBARD

Zoe Grossbard, daughter of Staci & Brian Grossbard and sister to Sydney, is a seventh grader at Katherine Johnson Middle School. She is on the Acro and Hip Hop dance team at Center Stage and enjoys her school's theater program. Zoe loves spending time with friends and family. Zoe has been a member of the Olam Tikvah family for 8 years.

Bat Mitzvah Project: For Zoe's Bat Mitzvah project she donated 10 inches of her hair to Hair We Share (her second time donating her hair) and is also raising money to support the organization.

MAY 6, 2023 Parshat: Emor

YAARA FINKEL

MAY 13, 2023 Parshat: Behar-Bechukotai

RYAN GREENHOUSE



MAY 20, 2023 Parshat: Bamidbar

AIDEN SHOKEK-KAPLAN

Son of Tali Shokek and Seth Kaplan, Aiden is a seventh grader at Thoreau Middle School. He enjoys theatre/acting, playing basketball, and playing guitar. Aiden has been a member of the Olam Tikvah family for 6 years.

Bar Mitzvah Project: To support his Olam Tikvah community, Aiden wrote and handmade copies of a Mitzvah Journal that features monthly topics, inspirational quotes, and a suggested activity or space to reflect.



MAY 29, 2023 Parshat: Naso

ZACHARY GANTSOULES

Zachary Max Gantsoules, son of Alexis Cohen & Geordy Gantsoules and sibling to Isaac, is a seventh grader at Kilmer Middle School. He enjoys baseball, basketball, tennis, traveling outside the United States and playing the viola and has been a member at Olam Tikvah for 7 years.

Bat Mitzvah Project: Zach is volunteering with Food For Others, a local organization that distributes food to our NOVA neighbors in need. He is also collecting food donations for the Power Pack Program, a program that provides weekend meal packs to FCPS students experiencing food insecurity. To donate visit tinyurl.com/zmgMitzvah.

Get a Mitzvah Shoutout!

Would you like to include your own Mazal Tov for a simcha? Thank someone who went above and beyond? Donate \$18 for a 2-line announcement in the Contemporary! Contact Melissa Benson at mbenson@olamtikvah.org to get started.

Mazal Tov on Your B'nei Mitzvah!

Jonah and Micah Vergott Jan 21

Ilana Feldman Feb 18

Zachary Meyer Mar 11

Tyler Aiken Mar 18

Aidan Hickman Apr 1

Zoe Grossbard Apr 22

Yaara Finkel May 6

Ryan Greenhouse May 13

Aiden Shokek-Kaplan May 20

Zachary Gantsoules May 29

**FROM THE 5783 OLAM TIKVAH
B'NEI MITZVAH CLASS**

Salzman; Barbara & Carl Villarruel
 January 13-19: Barbara & Seth Kaplan; Cynthia & Mark Rutzick; Paula & Mitchell Weiss
 January 20-26: Lori & David Jacobs (15); Joan & Howard Katz; Nancy & Jeff Klain
 January 27-31: Natalie & Julian Levine; Rita & Howard Schlossberg
 February 10-16: Birgitta & Marshall Hoffman
 February 17-23: Anne & Matthew Continetti; Lynne & Elliott Dubin; Debbie & Mark Weber
 March 3-9: Jaclyn & Jack Blumenthal; Karen & Mark Hasson
 March 10-16: Ellen & Michael Friedman; Ronnie & Steven Tepp
 March 17-23: Tamara & Edward Faggen; Aurora & Gerald Malakoff; Sheryl & Adam Roth; Sarah Elpern & Bruce Waxman
 March 24-30: Debra Beland Ackerman & Josh Ackerman; Barbara & Norman Brand; Rita & Gideon Frishman; Ellen & Marc Jacobs; Sarah & Alan Munro; Perla & Benjamin Umansky (35)
 April 1-6: Lauren & David Breslaw; Judy & Jon Gabel (45); Randee & Jerry Markowitz (25)
 April 7-13: Ruth & Edward Diener (55); Anita & Steve Dienstfrey
 April 14-20: Marie & Glenn Taubman
 May 1-4: Sharon & Jerome Vitner
 May 5-11: Elaine & Lew Komarow (30); Debra & Herman Stein (35)
 May 12-18: Martha & Paul Hill (45)
 May 19-25: Pearl Beck & David Fisher; Rhona & Howard Nachman; Annie & Alan Schwartz; Amy & Steve Tursky
 May 26-31: Ann & Michael Epstein; Barbara & James Finkel; Karen Rabin & Jeff Handler; Rhoda & Mark Miller; Lisa & Tony Simon; Myra & Jerome Strauss; Anjali & Robert Sues; Marian Diamond & Ari Tapper (30); Kitty & Jack Timmes (40)

IN MEMORY OF

Catalina Blumenthal, mother of Perla Umansky
 Zachary Bopp, son of Linda Halle &

Richard Bopp
 Karin Close, mother of Brad Close
 Joseph Drory, father of Tammy Cohen and Ilana Gamerman
 Minnie Edelman, mother of Debra Stein
 Edwin Friedman, father of Michael J. (Amy) Friedman
 Ellen Gale, mother of BJ Shiff
 Ted Gamerman, father of Gary Gamerman
 Miriam Gilbert, mother of Alan Gilbert
 Clare Golub, mother of Arnold Golub
 Geri Gordon, mother of Bruce Gordon
 Adele Greenspon
 Beatrice Gugick, mother of Bonnie Siegel
 Len Heimowitz, husband of Sara Heimowitz and father of Amy Ackerman
 Rabbi Victor Hoffman, father of Talya Kalender
 Susan Horne, sister of Debra Stein
 Jennifer Hornstein, sister of Melinda Roth
 Edward Kessel, father of Karen Sultan
 Edward Kessler, the 4th President of Olam Tikvah (1968-69), uncle of Sharon Raphael
 Maryann Klein, mother of Cantor Adina Ackerman
 Carole Mendelson, mother of Barbara Kaplan
 Betty Salzman, mother of David Salzman and grandmother of Eric Salzman
 Elizabeth Sherman-Gellert, sister of Julianne Sherman
 Joan Singer, wife of Fred Singer
 Naser Siyooni, father of Levana Siyoni
 Helen Stahl, aunt of Sharyn Stahl
 Davida Weiss, sister of Shana Weiss
 Chris Whisnant, brother of Elizabeth Whisnant
 Bonnie Wohlford, mother of Scott Benson

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

USY D'VAR TORAH

BY SETH BLUMENTHAL

As we approached Passover, we arrived again at our annual remembrance of the Jewish peoples' bitter slavery and eventual Exodus from Egypt. We recalled the 10 plagues sent to punish Pharaoh for enslaving the Hebrews, how Moses confronted Pharaoh and led us out of bondage, and how the Jewish people became Am Yisrael. But most of all, we recalled how God rescued and protected us, splitting the sea and crushing the Egyptian army in order to guarantee our freedom.

The story of our Exodus from Egypt is a defining aspect of Judaism. It is a formative moment for Am Yisrael - the first time we emerge as a nation and govern ourselves. But even more than that, the Exodus is the primary example of God's influence and empathy for the Jewish people. To this day, it is one of the moments that we thank God for the most in our prayers; every Shabbat we praise God who "rescued us from Egypt, and redeemed us from the house of bondage" in the silent paragraph before Mi Khamokha.

God's rescue of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt, with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, builds upon our covenant with God and further establishes our faith in God to support us when we are in need. It is the prototypical example of how the Jewish people find strength and resilience through our Judaism, trusting that God will protect us and grant us freedom. Throughout our history of thousands of years of exile from our homeland, including more than a few heinous attempts to kill Judaism entirely, we have always looked back to the Exodus to find our faith in times of need - God protected us then, so God will protect us now.

Even today, the Exodus teaches

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

THE LAST WORD: D'VAR

D'VAR TORAH CON'T

us how to rely on Judaism as a source of strength. Tikkun Olam (repairing the world), one of the core aspects of Judaism, tells us to find resilience in Judaism and work to help others or fix injustices. Although Tikkun Olam can be difficult and sometimes strenuous work, it is critically important because of its relationship to our covenant with

God. Our strength to take action when we see injustice in the world stems from our connection with Judaism and with God.

One way I find strength in my Judaism is through USY. Participating in Olam Tikvah's USY chapter and supporting Tikkun Olam projects is just one connection I have to my Judaism and my connection with God. Judaism provides me with a

foundation of morals and lessons, which motivate me to participate in OTUSY's Social Action and Tikkun Olam projects

So, with Passover in mind, I encourage you to find your source of strength within Judaism and, if you're a teenager at Olam Tikvah or you happen to know one, maybe that source of strength could be through OTUSY.



OTUSYers made blankets to donate to Project Linus for premature newborns, just one of their many Social Action and Tikkun Olam efforts. PHOTO BY OSCAR PERSKY



**Congregation Olam Tikvah,
thank you for being Friends of the IDF.**

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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 events and classes, and check out our online directory in the members-only section.

In Your Inbox Every Week

This Week at OT - OT-wide announcements every Friday morning

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