

TIKVAH TOPICS

TAMMUZ

AV



May at Beth Tikvah



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RABBI KAREN MARTIN



Jewish Responsibility in American Democracy

We're approaching this 4th of July, America's 250th, at a time of intense division and polarization in our country. Trust in [our fellow Americans](#) and our [civic institutions](#) is low, and our democracy is under unprecedented threat. If ever there was a time for American Jews to step up, the time is now.

Jews have been part of America's civil fabric and pushing to ensure civil liberties since the first Jewish community came as refugees from the Dutch colony of Recife to New Amsterdam in 1654.

Peter Stuyvesant, the colony's governor, complained to the directors of the Dutch West India Company, saying these ragged refugees were "anti-Christ's" and would be a financial burden on the nascent colony. He denied them permission to acquire land, engage in trade with other colonies, and serve in the militia. Undeterred, the refugees wrote to influential Jews back in the Netherlands and requested aid in appealing Stuyvesant's decision. Those Jews, many of whom were investors and trustees in the Dutch West India Company, prevailed, and the directors of Dutch West India Company told Stuyvesant that he must allow the Jews to "travel and trade...live and remain provided the poor among them shall not become a burden to the company or the community, but be supported by their own nation¹."

Read more 

Jewish Responsibility in American Democracy

As Rabbi Dr. Gary P. Zola said in his 2004 remarks on the 350th anniversary of Jews in the United States, the character of New World capitalism trumped Mr. Stuyvesant's Old World prejudices.²

Despite the explicit orders of the Dutch West India Company, the Jews of New Amsterdam had to continually advocate and petition for permission to travel, trade with neighboring colonies, and own property.

In 1678, after the British took control in New York, Asser Levy was given permission to build a slaughterhouse and obtain a butcher's license, along with an exemption from slaughtering hogs, as that was against his religion. He became a burgher in the colony and thus was able to serve on a jury. He did so for a case in which Peter Stuyvesant was the defendant.

"Jews, like Asser Levy and his contemporaries, wanted more than toleration. They conceived of themselves as full-fledged citizens, and they conducted themselves as such," writes Rabbi Dr. Zola. And in doing so, "these Jewish citizens helped to define the meaning of political and civil liberty in this country³."

Our Jewish forebears did this by insisting on their rights and religious freedoms, and by engaging actively in civic life. It is time for us to do the same. We need to join the conversation around civic life and shared civic values, protect our democracy and the right of all citizens to vote safely and without fear, and we must continue to insist on the separation of Church and State so that our students can learn without religious intimidation or coercion.

Today, there are a number of ways to get involved:

- Join us on August 9 at the Worthington Interfaith Neighbors **Festival of Nations** at the Village Green Park. Stay after to celebrate the conclusion of faith250 in a **multi-faith ritual** to mark the end of four months of collaboratively studying America's [foundational texts](#) with Worthington Presbyterian Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, All Saints Lutheran Church, and Lord of Life Lutheran Church. Join us in the fall as we continue these important conversations.
- Support the Reform Movement's [Every Voice Every Vote campaign](#), register for the upcoming [Protect Our Vote Training](#), and let me know if you are interested in joining our team as we look toward the 2026 election and beyond. You can also sign up to be a [poll worker](#). You can host a [postcard party](#) to encourage registered voters to vote.
- Help us ensure Ohio's public school students have the freedom to belong, learn, and practice faith freely without government influence. As of writing, [HB 531](#), the School Chaplain Act, is in committee in the House. [Contact your legislators](#) today and tell them to keep untrained and uncertified chaplains out of our schools. If you do one thing today, [contact your legislators](#) about [HB 486](#), the Charlie Kirk American Heritage Act, which contains several efforts to undermine the separation between Church and State, including permitting educators in public schools and universities to promote "the positive impact of Christianity" on American history. This bill has already passed the House and is in the Senate Committee.

¹ "Directors of the Dutch West India Company to Peter Stuyvesant, 26 April 1655," in A Documentary History of the Jews in the United States, 1654-1875, ed. Morris U. Schappes (New York: Schocken Books, 1971).

² Gary Phillip Zola, "Historical Reflections on 350 Years of American Jewish History," in Honoring Tradition, Embracing Modernity, ed. Beth Lieberman and Hara Person (New York: CCAR Press, 2017), 553.

³ Zola, "Historical Reflections," 553-555.

Pause for Poetry - Rabbi Rick Kellner

Rainbow by Kevin Johnson

from Mishkan Ga'avah: Where Pride Dwells, edited by Rabbi Denise Eger, CCAR Press

*When I see a rainbow on
The flag flying
From the lamp-post,
Fluttering in the
Pacific breeze,
I know that God
Made a covenant
Between us.*

*If we lived our lives
In black and white,
We would never see
That promise God made.
To see all those colors together
Reminds me
That God is there
For you and me.*

Signs of God's covenant with humanity and with the Jewish people are everywhere. Torah teaches us that the bow in the clouds after a storm is a sign of God's covenant. We also learn in the book of Genesis that *brit milah* is a sign of the covenant. Later, in Exodus, we are taught that Shabbat is a sign of the covenant between God and the Jewish people. Together, these signs trace the unique partnership God forms—first with all humanity, then with the descendants of Abraham, and ultimately with the Jewish people.

For the poet Kevin Johnson, God's rainbow covenant shifts from the clouds to a flag blowing in the breeze. What is typically seen refracted through raindrops becomes a symbol stitched together, extending God's covenant and reminding us how God embraces all creation. For members of the LGBTQIA+ community, who have so often been marginalized and excluded, seeing the Rainbow or Progress flag is a powerful reminder of spaces where they are welcomed, affirmed, and embraced.

Perhaps the most powerful line in this poem is the comparison between living in black and white and living in a world of color. To live in black and white is to live in a binary world, with limited ways of seeing one another. Johnson invites us instead to see the world in its full spectrum of color, an invitation to recognize and honor the diversity of humanity, just as God created each of us.

Embedded within the Jewish concept of *brit*—covenant, we find themes of hope, protection, and mutual loving-kindness. We are all responsible for extending these values to the LGBTQIA+ community. As we enter Pride Month, we will celebrate with Pride Shabbat on June 5th and then join Worthington Pride on June 7th. Through these celebrations, let us wave the Pride or Progress flag proudly, as an expression of the fullness of God's covenant with all humanity.



SERVICES & RITUAL

June 2026

JUNE

5

PRIDE SHABBAT

Friday, June 5 at 7:15 PM

This special service honors and uplifts LGBTQIA+ voices in our community and will feature our very own congregant, Joanne Strasser, as a special guest speaker. Join Beth Tikvah in celebrating everyone as they are, created *b'tzelem Elohim*.

JUNE

12

BOARD INSTALLATION & VOLUNTEER SHABBAT

Friday, June 5 at 7:15 PM

We will install our incoming board members and express our deep gratitude to the many dedicated volunteers whose time, energy, and commitment help Beth Tikvah thrive!

Join us at 5:45pm for a soup-making activity, followed by Shabbat dinner at 6:15pm.

[REGISTER HERE FOR DINNER!](#)



RENEW

STAY CONNECTED TO BETH TIKVAH

Renew Your Membership at Beth Tikvah!

It's been a strong and energizing year at Beth Tikvah. We've welcomed new faces, deepened connections, and are grateful to continue building this community together.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

**Please review the information on the following page before
completing your renewal.**

You must be logged into your ShulCloud account to submit the form.

Need access? Contact comms@bethtikvahcolumbus.org

No Increase this Year!

There is **no increase** in our membership giving or Religious School Tuition rates this year. Our annual sustaining amount remains \$2,835 per household.

This amount reflects what it takes to support Beth Tikvah each year—our space, staff, and programs—but it's simply a guide. We operate on a **flexible membership model**, meaning you choose a contribution that works for your household. Some give more, some less—every commitment matters, and we never want finances to be a barrier to belonging.

You can find our Giving Guide in the “Annual Commitment” section of the form, and you're welcome to spread your contribution over monthly payments.

Important Note

Please take a moment to make sure that the accurate birthdays of each person (including children) in your household are updated within your ShulCloud profile.

This is an incredibly important step that ensures our records and reports are correct.

Development Fund

If applicable, families with a Head of Household over age 37 who have not yet completed their \$2,000 Development Fund pledge will see it included in their account, payable over five years.

If this does not apply to you, you may disregard this section.

Religious School & Teen Program

If you have children in Religious School or the Teen Program, **membership renewal is the first step in registration for the 2026-2027 school year.**

Please note:

Membership renewal must be completed first. Tuition is fixed and separate from membership. *Tuition is based on grade level and Hebrew involvement and supports our teachers and classroom experience.*

After completing the form, click “Confirm and Continue” to access the Religious School Enrollment Form. Contact Morissa Freiberg-Vance, RJE, at mfreiberg@bethtikvahcolumbus.org with questions.

2026-'27 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Rabbi Rick Jacobs Visits Beth Tikvah





EXCITING NEWS FROM TARA ROZEN

LEADERSHIP CONTRACT RENEWALS



I am thrilled to announce that last week, both Morissa Frieberg-Vance and Rabbi Rick Kellner have extended their contracts with Beth Tikvah, ensuring continued strength and stability in our educational and spiritual leadership!

Since joining our community in 2011, **Rabbi Rick Kellner** has made a meaningful and lasting impact on Beth Tikvah. He has strengthened our social action efforts, guided our children through Religious School, and supported our families through every life-cycle moment—from baby namings and b'nei mitzvah to weddings and funerals. Rabbi Rick also teaches several Adult Learning classes each year and leads our community through complex issues of antisemitism, Israel, and Holocaust education—both within our building and throughout the greater community. Through services, music, and teaching, he continues to create meaningful ritual experiences.

Morissa Frieberg-Vance, our Director of Education & Lifelong Learning, has been keeping our Religious School vibrant, engaging, and relevant for the past 14 years. In addition to her skilled leadership in our Religious School, she oversees our Adult Learning programming, ensuring that our adults have meaningful

opportunities for learning and social connection throughout the year. Morissa coordinates classes taught by both of our rabbis, herself, and the lay leaders she brings in. Her programming covers topics ranging from Jewish films, yoga, meditation, women's studies, and more. We are thrilled that she has extended her contract with us through **May 2031**.

This past year, his mentorship and partnership with Rabbi Karen Martin have been especially evident in the innovative engagement opportunities and enriched Shabbat and holiday experiences they have brought to Beth Tikvah. We are delighted that Rabbi Rick has extended his contract through **June 2036**.

Please join us in celebrating their continued leadership and the strength it brings to our congregation!

Warmly,

Tara Rozen

President, Board of Trustees



FAMILY

Events

8
JUNE

Register

ANTISEMITISM & REAL-LIFE RESPONSES: TOOLS FOR TEENS & PARENTS

Calling all families with children in 5th - 12th grade...

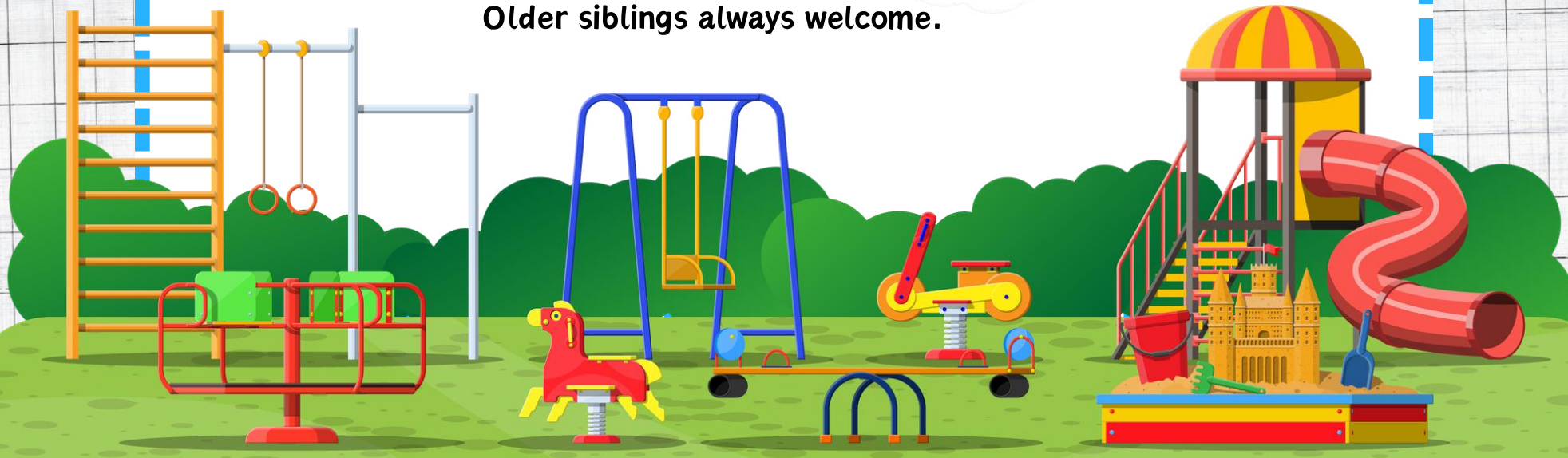
Join us at 5:45 PM for a conversation with Kelly Fishman, Regional Director of the ADL, explore tools, strategies, and responses to antisemitism in today's world.

13
JUNE

Sign-Up

KESHET PLAYGROUND PLAYDATE & HAVDALAH

Calling all families with kiddos 0-8 years old! Join us at 4:45 PM at Thompson Park in Upper Arlington for songs, Havdalah, and playtime at the park. You are welcome to bring a picnic dinner to enjoy. Older siblings always welcome.



MITZVAH DAY RECAP

Tanya Shats, Social Action Chair



Prior to joining Beth Tikvah, I had never heard of Mitzvah Day. My Jewish learning looked very different, and I mostly understood *mitzvot* in terms of how one celebrates holidays, prays, or follows specific rules. There were many times when I worried that if I couldn't observe certain *mitzvot*, like keeping Shabbat, Hashem might view me as somehow less than. I often wondered what truly makes someone "good" and what my larger role in the world might be. I had never heard the phrase *tikkun olam*, though I was very familiar with *tzedakah* and the important role that giving back plays in Jewish life.

After the pandemic shutdown ended, our family began actively participating at Beth Tikvah to help our son build a Jewish identity and community. He joined Religious School, began learning Hebrew with Morah Daniel, and truly enjoyed the fun family activities. When I was first asked whether we would be coming to Mitzvah Day, I shared that I had no idea what it was and asked if it was open to children. I was told not only that children were welcome, but that the day was intentionally designed to help children learn how they, too, can give back. I was hooked. I attended the first year, co-chaired the second and third years, and now have the privilege of leading it.

On Sunday, April 12, Beth Tikvah hosted another successful and well-attended Mitzvah Day. The social hall was filled to capacity with children laughing, completing meaningful projects, and

parents connecting with one another while learning about local nonprofits organizations.

In total, we offered more than 12 project stations benefiting organizations such as Nationwide Children's Hospital, Alicia's Closet, Wexner Heritage Village, Action Ohio, Worthington Resource Pantry, and Friends of the Shelter. We also hosted creative stations where participants made kindness rocks to share, thank you cards for first responders, and more than 150 Tikvah Totes care packages. There are truly no words to capture the joy of watching children feel empowered to help others, or of hearing parents express their desire to replicate these projects in their own homes and communities.

This day was made possible through the generous support of Beth Tikvah families and staff, whose donations and supplies brought these projects to life. Thank you to the Women of Beth Tikvah, Brotherhood, Shishim, Rabbi Karen Martin, the Garden Buds, and the many volunteers who helped plan, organize, and carry out the day. We are also deeply grateful to the nonprofit partners who joined us and shared the impact of these efforts on the families they serve.

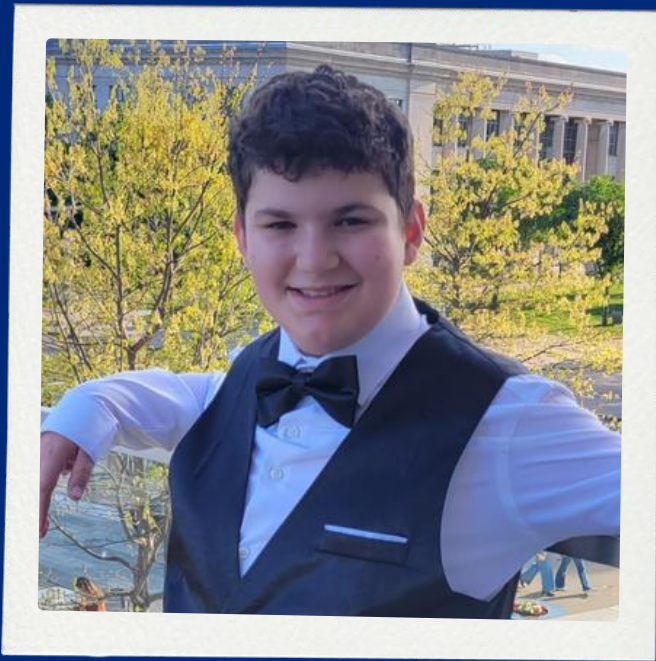
I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the Social Action Fund. Your generosity sustains this work and helps ensure that we can continue making a difference in the future.

Photos from The Last Day of School



Mazel Tov!

B'NAI MITZVAH



HENRY

Henry Reece Stinemetz is a rising 8th grader at McCord Middle School. Henry has a passion for music and has been learning piano for 6 years. In school, Henry plays percussion and has participated in Honor Band, Percussion Ensemble and next year will be part of the Worthington Kilbourne Marching Band. For his Bar Mitzvah project, Henry created a new program at his school which he titled Wolfpack Deliveries. Wolfpack Deliveries provides free toiletries, snacks, and laundry detergent for students in need. In his free time, Henry enjoys being outdoors, traveling, hiking, biking, and exploring national parks.



XAVIER

Xavier is a 7th grader at Olentangy Orange Middle School. He is always active and enjoys basketball, flag football, and running track. He is a member of the Orange Jazz Band, where he plays the tuba, and is also part of the Olentangy “OZone” Robotics team. He loves math, building LEGO creations, traveling, and watching sports. For his bar mitzvah project, Xavier is raising funds for ALS United Ohio. Due to a specific gene in his family, this devastating disease has already taken the lives of four dear loved ones, with one currently fighting it. He hopes to raise awareness about ALS and raise money so affected families can access the medical resources needed for their care. Each year, Xavier fundraises by hosting a bake sale and participating in his family’s team. To donate, [visit secure.alsohio.org/goto/TAYLOR](https://secure.alsohio.org/goto/TAYLOR)

25-26 GRADUATES



Happy Graduation



Congratulations on your graduation!
Here's to this milestone being just the beginning of many more successes ahead!



25-26 GRADUATES



Happy Graduation



Congratulations on your graduation!
Here's to this milestone being just the beginning of many more successes ahead!



Rising 8 - 12 Graders

MADRICHIM APPLICATIONS

Open for 2026-2027

Our Madrichim (“guides”) are an integral part of our Religious School staff! These amazing teens help our teachers prepare and run lessons, lead discussions, assist with office tasks, and serve as incredible Jewish role models for our younger learners.

Madrichim are paid by twice-yearly stipend, or can choose to earn community service hours.

NEW MADRICHIM

RETURNING MADRICHIM





Protecting Jews in Columbus. Securing our Future.

You are invited to a presentation on JewishColumbus' community-wide security initiative. JewishColumbus leadership will share updates on their work to protect our Jewish community during this time of heightened risk.

June 3, 2026
7:00 – 8:00 PM

Through investments in physical infrastructure, policy advocacy, and crisis response planning, JewishColumbus has committed over \$5 million this year to keep our institutions safe, protect our families, and ensure our voices are heard at every level of government.

Learn how Annual Campaign dollars are helping protect our community, including our own synagogue.

Located at Congregation Beth Tikvah





The Carob Tree Project Featuring Gideon Fraenkel

Gideon Fraenkel's story begins in Germany in 1932. His family history stretches back through Munich; wool brokers, rabbis, lawyers, and relatives who understood, early enough, that Germany was no longer safe. "In 1933, the whole bloody lot of them moved to Palestine," he said. "They were clever." After Hitler came to power, British scientists came to Germany looking for scholars they could help bring back. "They got Dad a job at a university college, and so we moved to England."

"A defining event of my life was the Second World War." He was only a boy when the Blitz began. He remembers sleeping under the stairs with his younger brother because "that was a safe place," while his parents slept under a heavy steel table. Soon the family moved west of London to Slough, where his father's research had been relocated. There, wartime life took on a quieter rhythm; he remembers a nice house, a vegetable garden, and a sense of adaptation. "It was a rather quiet war, to tell you the truth," he says.

School didn't always hold his attention. "I was a rather bad student," he admits. But then two subjects changed everything: history, because it simply happened, and chemistry, because it offered something irresistible: "you could mix things up, make a stink, and blow things up." He and a few friends began turning his bedroom into a laboratory of small explosions and improvised fireworks; the reckless joy of boys who had discovered a messy form of wonder. "The funny thing is," he says, "each of us became an academic chemist."

The Carob Tree Project Featuring Gideon Fraenkel

That joy in experimentation never left him. Science became one of the great forces of Gideon's life. He entered the field just as Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) was emerging, a technique that allowed chemists to see molecular structures in ways they never had before. "I was one of the early chemists who started using this to solve problems," he says. "That was why I became well-known quite quickly."

When he speaks about his work, he describes it with an exhilaration, as if he can see the memories dancing in front of him. "We were always in the forefront." He recalls the chemistry departments in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s staying alive late into the night, with students and faculty alike pulled along by the thrill of discovery.

At the time, public investment in research created room for ideas to flourish and for young scientists to build lives in discovery. "You could get money to pursue research," he says. It was a golden age—a world where curiosity was rewarded with possibility. While consulting for Goodyear, Gideon helped solve a dangerous problem with airplane tires that were bursting on landing. "I knew about the catalysts because we were interested in lithium compounds," he explained. The solutions he and his partner implemented "must have saved the country millions in deaths, injuries, aircraft damage and so on."

For all the exhilaration of scientific discovery, some of the deepest joy in Gideon's life came from building a life with Alice. He tells their shared story with warmth and a glint of mischief. When she first opened the door to him, he says, she later confessed that she thought to herself "she'd like to have one of those." A year later, they were married.

"In the beginning you're in love," he says, "and then later on you're just best friends." Alice died in 2016, but his admiration for her is unmistakable — for her mind, her ambition, and the life they built together.

Gideon speaks proudly of his children and grandchildren, of their intelligence, their individuality, and the ways they surprised him. But he is also candid about regret. "Probably should have paid more attention to my children," he says. Gideon's honesty is one of the qualities that makes him so compelling. He doesn't try to pretend that life can be smoothed into a polished lesson.

Judaism runs through Gideon's life as a culture, an inheritance, and a way of belonging. His father "knew the entire Torah by heart" a legacy of his Orthodox upbringing in Munich. At Beth Tikvah, Gideon continues to learn, read, argue, and think. The Jewish habits of interpretation and questioning seem to suit him.

Gideon remains animated by the same forces that shaped the child mixing chemicals in his bedroom. He talks eagerly about science, public research, energy, electric cars, heat pumps, and the future of universities. He still writes, questions, and critiques. He still wonders.

"I tell you one thing I regret," he says, half-smirking. "I never bought myself a Miata."

Gideon's life has been shaped by history, sharpened by science, and sustained by curiosity. He has spent a lifetime asking questions others had not yet learned to ask. And even now, when he speaks about discovery, that youthful spark returns.

The experiment, it seems, is not over yet.



Women's TORAH STUDY

Join us once a month
in-person or on Zoom for
Women's Torah study with
Morissa R. Freiberg-Vance.

Monday, June 8
12:00 PM



ONLINE TORAH STUDY

Every Saturday at 9 AM

[JOIN ON ZOOM](#)

WORTHINGTON PRIDE

Sunday, June 7
1:00 - 5:00 PM

[SIGN-UP TO TABLE](#)

Located in Old Worthington

SUNDAY EVENING STUDY GROUP

"Heart of a Stranger"
by Angela Buchdahl

*Every other Sunday at
7 PM on Zoom*



RAISE A GLASS & A SLICE FOR A GOOD CAUSE!

POUR FOR A CAUSE

AUGUST 12 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

**Join us at Hills Market Worthington
for a special Happy Hour!**

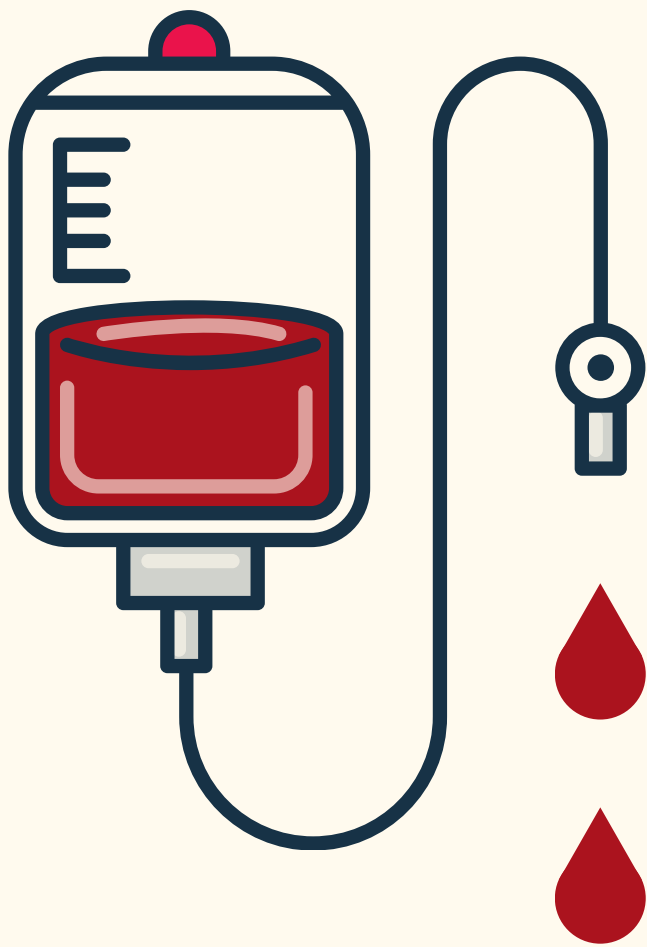
All donations from this event will support our youth
programming at Congregation Beth Tikvah



BETH TIKVAH BROTHERHOOD

RED CROSS

BLOOD DRIVE



TUESDAY

23

JUNE

2026

JUNE BROTHERHOOD LUNCH

Join the Brotherhood at Hunan Lion
Contact jpalbert46@gmail.com to RSVP

JUNE 17 AT 11:30 AM



Brotherhood x WBT Game Night



[click here for full newsletter](#)



Women
OF BETH TIKVAH

Telling Our Stories: Baking Edition!

Sunday, June 14 • 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Stories are a time-honored way to share our experiences and keep traditions alive. They are especially meaningful when they're interactive. Please join us as Cindy Barker shares her family's beautiful story as she teaches the class her family's *treasured* legacy recipe for Kamish Bread Cookies.

SIGN-UP FOR KAMISH BAKING

\$10 per person • Please bring one cookie sheet

Upcoming WBT Events

WBT is actively planning many opportunities to connect. Keep an eye out for emails, and read our monthly newsletters so you don't miss activities that interest you.

THE FOLLOWING EVENTS WILL BE HELD AT BETH TIKVAH:

Holiday Recipes with Your New Jewish Moms

Sunday, Aug. 16 from 3:00-5:00 PM a cooking class offered jointly by Kehillah Connect & WBT

Card making with Margot Morisey

Sunday, Aug. 23 from 2:00-4:00 PM

Decoupage Class

Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026

LINGO

Date & time TBA at Beth Tikvah

BIRTHDAY BAGS

Date & time TBA

Daytime Mahj

1:30 - 3:30 PM

Located at Beth Tikvah

Upcoming Dates:

June 3

July 1

June 16

July 21

SIGN-UP

Evening Mahj

6:30 - 8:30 PM

WBT has started an Evening Mahj group led by **Leigh Zircher** that plays twice a month on **Mondays**.

Upcoming Dates:

June 1 & June 15

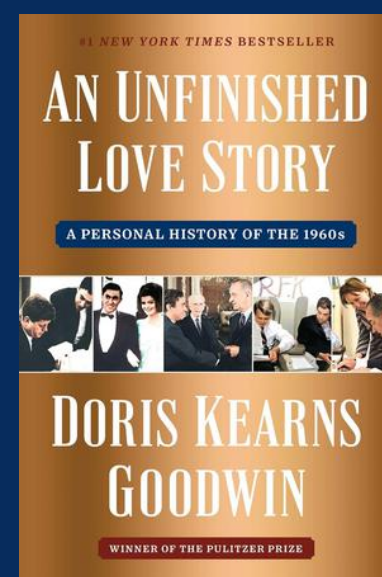
SIGN-UP

Book Club - Tuesday, June 9 at 12:30 pm

Join us in the Beth Tikvah Library to discuss *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s* by Doris Kearns Goodwin.

A memoir by Doris Kearns Goodwin, one of America's most beloved historians, artfully weaves together biography, memoir, and history. She takes you along on the emotional journey she and her husband, Richard (Dick) Goodwin, embarked upon in the last years of his life.

Join us on **July 14** for our next title! More information coming soon...



Canasta is Back! JUNE 1 • JUNE 15 • JUNE 22 • JUNE 29

Join us for a relaxed and social afternoon of cards, conversation, and community from **4:30-6:00 PM** at **Beth Tikvah**.

All levels are welcome—just come ready to play!
Please let us know if you're able to bring a snack to share.

SIGN-UP



AGES 60+

SHISHIM

JUNE PROGRAM

JUNE 11, 2026

11 AM - Ohio Goes to the Movies

Molly Kreuzman, program director at the Ohio History Connection for Ohio Goes to the Movies, will be sharing a program showcasing Ohio's role in the movie industry. Her talk will take us from the very beginning of films — right up through today.

12 PM - Lunch

We will be eating chicken brochette, pasta primavera, sauteed veggies, salad, fruit, and dessert. \$15 for Beth Tikvah members, \$18 for non-members. *Indicate your dietary needs in the "Notes" section of the ShulCloud form.*

1 PM - Kismet Notes

Comprised of saxophonist **Cliff Marsh** and vocalist **Laura Kay**, Kismet Notes showcases a seamless harmony of instrumental skills and vocals that transports audiences back in time to their favorite memories.

This program is available in-person and on Zoom.

The Zoom link can be found in the Shishim program message. If you do not receive the Shishim program message, send a message to David at dbinkovitz2@aol.com



[ORDER LUNCH](#)





Photos taken by David Binkovitz



Central Ohio WRJ Tzedakah Collective

The Central Ohio Women of Reform Judaism Tzedakah Collective is in its 12th year working toward social justice in Central Ohio. By pooling funds, members make a difference through grantmaking. All Jewish women in Central Ohio are encouraged to join.

The Hebrew word “Tzedakah” means righteousness and justice. The Tzedakah Collective seeks to lift all people up by learning about the needs in our community and supporting the non-profits that address those needs in the populations they serve. The Tzedakah Collective focus is to help restore human dignity in underserved populations.

Featured Non-Profit: The Garden District Corporation

DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026

TIME: 3:30-5:00 PM on Zoom

SPEAKER: Sean McKay, President, Founder, & Horticulturist

The **Garden District Corporation** cultivates food access through sustainable urban agriculture, leadership development, and community- based solutions. **Sean McKay** will share information about their activities and impact, which include managing 11 community gardens and urban farms across the Columbus region.

One of their service partner agencies is **Jewish Family services**, where they partner with **Wexner Heritage Village** by donating cut flower arrangements to residents, and manage their rooftop garden and donate produce to residents, staff and JFS.

Meetings are held six times a year, mostly by zoom. You do not have to be a member to attend the meetings to hear the presentations. Everyone is welcome to benefit from this education about our community. An annual tax- exempt donation of just \$60 (or more if one wishes) brings membership and the right to vote to allocate grants. Tzedakah Collective Steering Committee members: Jan Alloy, Pamela Feldman-Hill, Bobbie Garber, Stacy Levin, Lori Sachs, Laurel Zulliger, and Coordinator, Marsha Pond (marshapond@msn.com). All inquiries are welcome!

Save-the-Dates

**23
JUNE**

Red Cross Blood Drive

12:00 - 6:00 PM in the Beth Tikvah Social Hall

**22
JULY**

Brotherhood Lunch at Bravo on Bethel

Contact jpalbert46@gmail.com to RSVP

**22
JULY**

Rabbi Rick's Summer Reading Session

Begins at 7:30 PM • More info coming soon...

**7
AUG**

Adult B'nai Mitzvah Shabbat Evening Service

7:15 PM • In-person and on Zoom

**9
AUG**

Worthington Interfaith Neighbors Festival of Nations

1:00 - 5:00 PM

**9
AUG**

Faith250 Multi-faith Ritual Service

5:00 PM - Location will be released soon...

**12
AUG**

Pour for a Cause

6:00 - 8:00 PM • Located at Hills Market Worthington

**14
AUG**

Shishim Shabbat Evening Service

7:15 PM • In-person and on Zoom

CONGREGATION BETH TIKVAH
FOUNDATION

At Beth Tikvah, our Legacy endowments are established by our congregants and serve as permanent sources of funding that support our synagogue's programs, education, and community initiatives for generations to come. Each one reflects the generosity and vision of congregants who want to ensure a vibrant Jewish future. You have the ability to contribute to any of these funds at any point in time to help strengthen the foundation of Congregation Beth Tikvah. Reach out to Executive Director, [Debbie Vinocur](#) or Life & Legacy co-chairs [Carol Folkerth](#) and [Andy Shafran](#) for more information.

Ruth & Herbert Abrams Endowment

**Michael Alexander & Jane Mitchell Endowment
for the Education of all Jewish Children**

Davidoff Family Camp Scholarship Fund

Arthur W. Davidson Endowment

Daniel Engler Memorial Legacy Fund

**Flamm Family Endowment for
Adult Learning**

**Flesch Family Fund for Security at
Beth Tikvah**

Forman Pay-It-Forward Fund

**Dr. Gail E. Herman Endowment in Celebration
of the Life of her son, Drew P. Mendelbaum**

Teen Allies for Justice Endowment

**Rabbi Gary A. Huber Endowment for
Education**

Linda Kellner Camp Scholarship Fund

**Rabbi Richard M.C. Kellner Endowment for
Jewish Life**

Kon Family Fund for Holocaust Education

**Alan & Risa Lazaroff Endowment for Repairing,
Maintaining, and Improving the Building &
Grounds**

**Stacy & Howard Levin Educator Professional
Development Fund**

**Manfred & Rose Luttinger Endowment for Adult
Learning and Social Action**

Mandell Family Fund

**Barbara A. Mindel Endowment for Hebrew
Learning**

**Louis & Susan Pomerantz Endowment for Beth
Tikvah Senior (60+) Adult Community**

**Jewish Women's Spiritual & Educational Studies
Endowment**

**Patti & Sid Price Beth Tikvah Religious School
Endowment in Memory of Lee Kimchee McGrath**

**Martin & Marian Rosenthal Legacy Fund for
Holocaust Education**

**Tara & Brad Rozen Beth Tikvah Mitzvah
Community Outreach Fund**

Marjory & Martin Seltzer Endowment

Bob & Beverly Shafran Endowment

B. Myer Simon Building Maintenance Fund

William & Ann Slabodnick Building Endowment

William & Ann Slabodnick Operating Endowment

**Taxier Family Fund for Youth Engagement
Through Tikkun Olam**

Weisberg Endowment for Music at Beth Tikvah

**Stu & Rochelle Zweben Endowment for
Technology**

LEGACY CIRCLE SHABBAT





GARDEN BUDS ARE BACK!

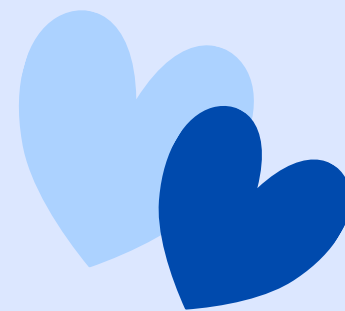
Gardening season is back!

This year, we'll tackle the wild growth along the driveway while continuing to make our Beth Tikvah grounds beautiful and welcoming.

Join the Garden Buds every Tuesday at 10:00 AM.

No experience needed, just a willingness to get your hands a little dirty! We wrap up around noon with lunch and great company.

Come grow with us!



MAZEL MOMENTS!

Cade Crane

**...on his election as the
official NFTY National
President, marking an
exciting milestone in
his leadership journey!**

Patti & Sid Price

**...on the birth of
their new
grandson,
Levi Price, on
May 16, 2026!**

Lainey Moffett

**...on being named
BBYO Kentucky-Ohio-
Indiana Region Rookie
of the Year and elected
Aliyah B'nai B'rith Girls
treasurer for the
coming year!**

Eric Russ Comeras

**...on beginning
his new teaching
position as an
English teacher
at Bexley High
School!**

Beth Tikvah Mazel Moments is our monthly space to celebrate congregants' milestones and good news. If you or someone else should be featured, please reach out to comms@bethtikvahcolumbus.org—we'd love to celebrate with you.

Torah Trailblazers: Celebrating Remarkable Jewish Women

ROBERTA KAPLAN

Every generation produces leaders who help move society towards progress. For Pride Month, we reflect on the impact of Roberta “Robbie” Kaplan, a Jewish attorney whose work has shaped some of the most significant civil rights victories of our time.

Born in Cleveland and educated at Harvard and Columbia, Kaplan built her career as a litigator, willing to take on difficult cases and unpopular fights. She is most well-known for representing Edith Windsor in *United States v. Windsor*, the landmark Supreme Court case that struck down a key provision of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in 2013. The decision required the federal government to recognize legally married same-sex couples and paved the way for marriage equality in America. Kaplan has said that when she first heard Windsor’s story, she knew that it was a case worth fighting for. Her willingness to take that risk helped change the lives of millions of Americans.

Kaplan’s career did not stop there. She went on to found her own law firm, focusing on civil rights and public-interest litigation. She has represented survivors of discrimination and harassment, supported LGBTQIA+ equality, and was involved in other high-profile cases. In 2024, *Forbes* featured her as one of [America’s Top 200 Lawyers](#) and described her career as one defined by “big risks and big payoffs.”

What makes Roberta Kaplan’s story compelling from a Jewish perspective is the values that stand as the basis for her victories. Jewish tradition teaches that every human is created *b’tzelem Elohim*—in the image of God. This idea calls on us to recognize the dignity and worth of every person. Kaplan’s work has consistently centered on advocating for those whose rights and humanity have been questioned or denied, something we actively work to live out in our community.

At Beth Tikvah, Pride Month is not only a celebration of LGBTQIA+ identity; it is an opportunity to reflect on what it means to build a community where everyone belongs. Kaplan reminds us that inclusion is not passive; it requires a willingness to stand up when equality seems out of reach.

Through her work, Roberta Kaplan has helped widen the circle of belonging—a goal that continues to resonate deeply with the values we strive to live each day at Beth Tikvah.



Sources

- [Kaplan Martin LLP, “Roberta A. Kaplan.”](#)
- [Forbes, “Roberta Kaplan: A Career of Big Risks and Big Payoffs” \(2024\).](#)
- [Columbia Law School, “Roberta Kaplan.”](#)
- [The Advocate, coverage of Roberta Kaplan’s representation of E. Jean Carroll.](#)

Written by Hannah Karr

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS...

Adult Education

- Meg & Dennis Cheyfitz

Bimah Flowers & Oneg

- Jessica Prinz in memory of her mother, Helen Prinz
- Tanya Shats & Travis Stinemetz in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Henry
- Beth & Robert Taylor in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Xavier
- Maryann & Walter Freedy in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Xavier

Executive Director Discretionary Fund

- Alison Prince

Garden Buds Donations

- Nada & Robert Mazurek in memory of Linda Moliver, beloved sister of Nada
- Nada & Robert Mazurek in memory of Eleanor Suna, beloved mother of Nada

Kon Family Fund for Holocaust Education

- Darla Abraham in memory of Donald Saltzman, father of Jackie Kon, and Rebecca Kon, mother of Mitch Kon
- Elaine Selekman in memory of Donald Saltzman
- Debbie Vinocur & Jack Metzger in memory of Jackie's father, Donald Saltzman, and Mitch's mother, Rebecca Kon
- Rhonda Simon in memory of Jackie's father, Donald Saltzman, and Mitch's mother, Rebecca Kon
- Larry & Debbie Romanoff in memory of Rebecca Kon
- Larry & Debbie Romanoff in memory of Donald Saltzman
- Evie & Harvey Freeman in memory of Donald Saltzman

Meditation Dedicated

- Nada & Robert Mazurek

Music Fund Dedicated

- Paul Feder & Marjorie Gaffin in honor of Julie Sapper's retirement, her outstanding musical leadership and mentorship over many years
- Betty Klapper in honor of Julie Sapper's retirement
- Stacy & Howard Levin in honor of Julie Sapper's retirement and 20 years at Beth Tikvah

Rabbi Kellner Discretionary Fund

- Alison Prince
- Philip & Betsy Samuels in memory of Betsy's father, Charles P. Bergtholdt
- Jane Mitchell & Michael Alexander in honor of the Bet Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Eleanor Cather

Rabbi Martin Discretionary Fund

- Jane Mitchell & Michael Alexander in honor of the Bet Mitzvah of their granddaughter, Eleanor Cather

Shishim Donations

- Joyce & Dick Sabgir in memory of the parents of Mitch and Jackie Kon
- Jane Mitchell & Michael Alexander in memory of Donald Saltzman and Rebecca Rubin Kon
- Helena Schlam in memory of Max Frenkil
- Louis & Susan Pomerantz in memory of Donald Saltzman, father of Jackie Kon

Women of Beth Tikvah Donations

- Betty Klapper in memory of Donald Saltzman, father of Mitch Kon and father-in-law of Jackie Kon

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TIKVAH TOPICS

Editor's Note:

It is my privilege to design, write, and publish Tikvah Topics each month. This newsletter is a reflection of the heart and spirit of our Beth Tikvah community.

If you have content ideas, information to share, or suggestions for upcoming editions, please feel free to reach out to me at comms@bethtikvahcolumbus.org. Your input helps ensure Tikvah Topics continues to represent and celebrate our vibrant congregation.

Hannah Karr

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Scan QR Code OR [Click Here](#) for the Calendar.

If you do not have the passcode to the calendar, reach out to Hannah Karr



Our mission at Congregation Beth Tikvah is to empower individuals to live and learn Jewishly, and to make the world a better place.