

TIKVAH TOPICS

AV

ELUL



Summer at Beth Tikvah



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Words from

RABBI RICK KELLNER



Turning the pages of the calendar is often a daunting task. The passage of time can stir emotions that blend the elements of sacred aging with the potential for self-reflection and growth. Jewish tradition has always focused on the moment; what has already happened cannot be the sole focus of our minds, lest it paralyze us from living or stunt our growth. What may come in the future awakens anxiety because we have told ourselves stories that we do not know will come to be. While we can plan for the future, life may throw us curveballs, causing us to pivot in a new direction.

Turning the calendar to the Hebrew month of *Elul*, the month leading up to the High Holy Days, and then to *Tishrei*, in which we celebrate Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, is an even more daunting task. For it is in this month that we stand before the true Judge. Whether we believe that Judge is God, or perhaps even if we are the judge, we stand under a microscope and look at ourselves as we try to do better. We might ask ourselves: When does this season begin? For most of our lives, we are taught that this season of turning begins when we arrive at the synagogue and immerse ourselves in our prayers for these ten awe-inspiring days. Jewish tradition teaches us that the season began all the way back on Tisha B'Av, when we mark the destruction of both Holy Temples in Jerusalem, in 586 BCE and then again in 70 CE. We then mark another significant moment in the days leading up to Rosh Hashanah: *Selichot*.

Selichot translates to forgiveness, and it is the moment when we first say the prayers so familiar to us from Yom Kippur. We hear the sound of the shofar and sing *Avinu Malkeinu* for the first time during the season. Not surprisingly, Ashkenazi and Sephardic traditions offer different customs surrounding this observance. The Sephardic community observes *Selichot* early in the morning, beginning at the start of *Elul*. The Ashkenazi community, however, begins *Selichot* around midnight on the Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah. If Rosh Hashanah falls early in the week, *Selichot* begins a week earlier. At Beth Tikvah, we observe *Selichot* with a meaningful program on the Saturday night before Rosh Hashanah. We usually begin around 7:00 p.m. and conclude by 9:30 p.m. The program often focuses on a theme related to the High Holy Days or Jewish life. In recent years, we have focused on trauma, repair, or personal growth. We have welcomed speakers, watched short films, engaged in text study, and then concluded the evening with a short prayer service.

Selichot is a tradition unfamiliar to many of us. Perhaps our synagogues did not observe it when we were younger; perhaps they did, and we did not attend. I hope you will consider joining us this year on Saturday evening, September 5, for our *Selichot* observance, a meaningful opportunity to engage in community, reflect deeply, and perhaps take our first step on the journey through a season that awakens the deepest awe within our souls.

HIGH HOLY DAYS 5787

ALL SERVICES WILL BE OFFERED IN-PERSON...
WATCH OUT FOR OUR ZOOM OFFERINGS

ROSH HASHANAH

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

7:30 PM Rosh HaShanah Evening Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

8:45 AM Family Service for children 6 & under

10:00 AM Rosh HaShanah Morning Service

10:00 AM Pre-K – 2nd Grade Programming &
3rd – 6th Grade Youth Service

3:00 PM Kellner Family Open House

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

10:00 AM Rosh HaShanah 2nd Day Service

12:00 PM Tashlich at Antrim Park

YOM KIPPUR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

7:30 PM Kol Nidre Service

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

8:45 AM Family Service for children 6 & under

10:00 AM Yom Kippur Morning Service

10:00 AM Pre-K – 2nd Grade Programming &
3rd – 6th Grade Youth Service

1:15 PM Yom Kippur Afternoon Program

3:00 PM Yom Kippur Afternoon Service

4:30 PM Yizkor

5:30 PM Neilah

6:30 PM Sisterhood Break-the-Fast

Pause for Poetry - Rabbi Karen Martin

The Lanyard by Billy Collins

*The other day I was ricocheting slowly
off the blue walls of this room,
moving as if underwater
from typewriter to piano,
from bookshelf to an envelope lying on the floor,
when I found myself in the L section
of the dictionary
where my eyes fell upon the word lanyard.*

*No cookie nibbled by a French novelist
could send one into the past more suddenly—
a past where I sat at a workbench at a camp
by a deep Adirondack lake
learning how to braid long thin plastic strips
into a lanyard, a gift for my mother.*

*I had never seen anyone use a lanyard
or wear one, if that's what you did with them,
but that did not keep me from crossing
strand over strand again and again
until I had made a boxy
red and white lanyard for my mother.*

*She gave me life and milk from her breasts,
and I gave her a lanyard.
She nursed me in many a sick room,
lifted spoons of medicine to my lips,*

*laid cold face-cloths on my forehead,
and then led me out into the airy light*

*and taught me to walk and swim,
and I, in turn, presented her with a lanyard.
Here are thousands of meals, she said,
and here is clothing and a good education.
And here is your lanyard, I replied,
which I made with a little help from a counselor.*

*Here is a breathing body and a beating heart,
strong legs, bones and teeth,
and two clear eyes to read the world,
she whispered,
and here, I said, is the lanyard I made at camp.
And here, I wish to say to her now,
is a smaller gift—not the worn truth*

*that you can never repay your mother,
but the rueful admission that when she took
the two-tone lanyard from my hand,
I was as sure as a boy could be
that this useless, worthless thing I wove
out of boredom would be enough
to make us even.*

It's incredible to me the way memory works. Sometimes, I feel like my memory has more in common with Swiss cheese than a steel trap. Words won't be where I need them, or I'll remember every detail of a conversation, including where we were standing or sitting, but the name of my conversation partner eludes me. And yet, when I encountered this poem in *When We See You Again* by Rachel Goldberg-Polin, it felt like being teleported back in time. For Rachel, it was back to her own camp summers and the night she shared this poem with Hersh, who was killed after 328 days in captivity after being taken on October 7, 2023. For me, it was back to January of my senior year of high school, when my dad took me to the Key West Literary Festival to hear Billy Collins share his work. I read several of his books of poetry that year and was so excited to meet one of my literary icons.

Aspects of that trip came rushing back. Getting a hug from Billy Collins was pretty cool, but more poignant was the memory of how loudly my dad snored and how he would collect stories from everyone he encountered on the street. We shared a love of poetry and language. To borrow Rachel Goldberg-Polin's language, he was my person.

Pause for Poetry - Rabbi Karen Martin

Collins is a master of drawing out the deeply poignant in what might otherwise be seen as the painfully mundane. My kids have brought home myriad lanyards in different colors and states of completion. They litter their rooms and seem to spontaneously spawn in the backseat of my car. While these are not usually gifts, my younger son loves to draw pictures of hearts on whatever paper he can find and proudly presents them to me as a token of his love.

Goldberg-Polin zeros in on the last stanza of this poem, when Collins, as the speaker, confesses that in his youthful naïveté, he believed the gift of a lanyard (made with help and mostly out of boredom) was enough to repay all that his mother had given and done for him. He confesses this from a distance, no longer the child he was, and with this new perspective, no longer able to say the words to his mother. Goldberg-Polin answers from the mother's perspective:

I know how Hersh repaid me. He stayed alive and let me fight for him. For 330 additional days after Death came to the door of the opposite-of-shelter bomb shelter. Hersh let me prove how much I loved him by letting me go into the arena to battle without training or armor, just with my tiny fists of primal love. He gave me hope that I could save him by wrestling with the world. He kept breathing so that I would be motivated; he kept me motivated so that I would keep breathing. I was, and I still am.

I find her answer beautiful and deeply moving, but I also struggled with it because I struggle with the idea of debt in loving relationships. My parents didn't keep accounts. Only in jest did I ever hear, "I gave birth to you, so...!" Life, care, and love were and are to be given freely and generously. To the extent that love is an exchange, I find myself repaid when my older son leans on me to show his affection between one thing and the next, or when my little one hands me yet another paper heart and asks for cuddles while sitting on the couch. I pray they never lose their affectionate natures.

In many ways, that's the crux of the poem. It's not about repaying in any real sense. Rather, it's an acknowledgment of how perspective changes. As kids, we don't see all that our parents pour into us, all that love and care and energy and time and financial and emotional resources. With perspective, we can see and name the impossibility of repaying all that was given, even if it is too late. As a mother, Goldberg-Polin's answer turns the expectation of repayment on its head. Hersh paid her back, so to speak, by being Hersh. By waking up each day, by giving her the opportunity to be his mother, to love him fiercely, that was all she needed. No bauble or lanyard was necessary. He was the gift. He wasn't perfect, but he was perfectly Hersh, and that's all she needed him to be.

There's a story told of the Hasidic master Rabbi Zusya. On his deathbed, he said to his disciples, "In the world to come, they will not ask me, 'Why were you not Moses?' They will ask me, 'Why were you not Zusya?'" I hear the echoes of The Lanyard and Rachel Goldberg-Polin's response. As I watch my children grow and discover who they are, I pray that they don't lose themselves in the world's tempestuous winds. I cannot imagine the challenges they and their friends will face, or how they will change and grow. In Zusya's story, God is like a parent, knowing that the world will be filled with trials. Zusya's words remind us that what God wants from us is not perfection or conformity to some imagined ideal, but rather that we weather the storms of life and come through them—not unchanged, which would be impossible—but anchored by that which makes us who we are.



SERVICES & RITUAL

August 2026

AUG

7

ADULT B'NAI MITZVAH SERVICE

Friday, August 7 at 7:15 PM

A special service celebrating the members of Beth Tikvah's 2025–2026 Adult B'nai Mitzvah class as they mark this meaningful milestone in their Jewish journeys.

AUG

14

SHISHIM SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday, August 14 at 7:15 PM

Join us for our annual Shishim Shabbat, a special evening honoring the members of our community who are 60 and older. This meaningful service celebrates the wisdom, contributions, and spirit of our Shishim community through prayer, reflection, and recognition.



Mazel Tov!

2025-2026

Adult B'nai Mitzvah!

Allison Avner

Meg Cheyfitz

Eric Comeras

Rita Distelhorst

Brock Flint

Janet Glassman

Karen Gorsky

Josh Jones

Kirsten Peninger

Lesley Pfening

Megan Taylor

George Vance

Jacki Yashon



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 correct birthdays of everyone in your household, including children, are entered in 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.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

INVOLVEMENT FORM

Julie Sapper's Retirement Celebration



Photos taken by David Binkovitz



FAMILY

Events



28
AUG

Register

SHABBAT TOGETHER: DINNER & SERVICE

A joyful Shabbat experience for families with young children (ages 0-8). Join us for a musical service led by our rabbis, followed by dinner and a craft.

SERVICE: 5:45 PM • DINNER: 6:15 PM

Register for dinner by August 26.

30
AUG

Sign-Up

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL WELCOME BACK & MEET YOUR TEACHERS!

Start the new Religious School year at ICC Hoover Family Park from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM! Meet your teachers, madrichim, and classmates while enjoying games, boating, face painting, music, and bagels! **Open to current and prospective member families. RSVP by Aug. 27.**



PURSUING JUSTICE

**Morissa Freiberg-Vance, Tzedek America
Rabbi Emily Feigenson Impact Fellowship**

This summer, I had the privilege of completing the Rabbi Emily Feigenson Impact Fellowship through Tzedek America, a yearlong professional development experience for Jewish educators centered on social justice, Jewish values, and experiential learning. The fellowship culminated in an immersive educational journey through Los Angeles, where we explored what it means to live out the Torah's repeated commandment to "welcome the stranger" and pursue justice in our own communities. Throughout the week, we visited organizations and neighborhoods that tell powerful stories of resilience, strength, and hope.

We began at Historic Belmar Park, which commemorates the thriving African American community that once existed there before it was destroyed through eminent domain in the 1950s. Our tour was led by Tzedek America educator Pastor Rondell Eskridge. At Inkwell Beach in Santa Monica, we learned about its history as a safe haven for African American beachgoers during segregation.

One stop that was especially meaningful to me was Beit T'Shuvah. As an organization that integrates Jewish spirituality, psychotherapy, and the 12-step program to support individuals recovering from addiction, its work beautifully demonstrates how Jewish values can be woven into healing, personal growth, and second chances. We heard testimony from residents and participated in a moving text study with their head rabbi, Iggy Gurin-Malous. We have welcomed Beit T'Shuvah educators to Beth Tikvah in the past, and I look forward to hopefully bringing them back for another program soon.

We also visited Liberation Coffee House, a social enterprise of the Los Angeles LGBT Center, where LGBTQ+ youth and older adults build job skills and community through its Culinary Arts program. We heard the story of a young person who moved to

Los Angeles from a small town in rural California so they could be accepted for who they are. The LGBT Center provided them with housing, gender-affirming care, and now a job at the café.

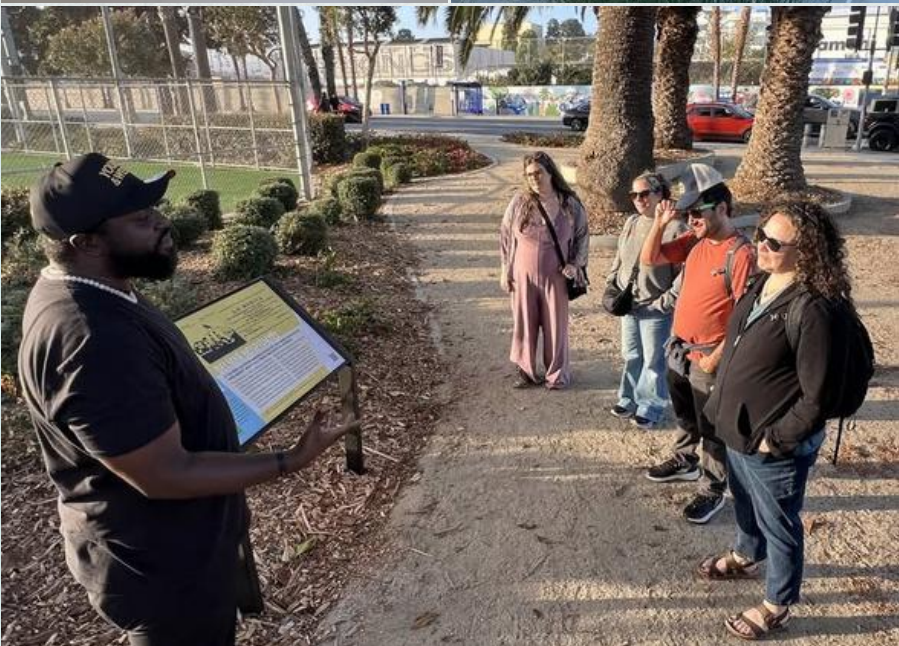
Our visit to Chinatown offered another powerful lesson, led by tour guide and local DJ Kev Lu. After the original Chinatown was demolished in the 1930s because of discriminatory housing policies, residents rebuilt their community while preserving their rich culture and traditions. We also learned how anti-Asian hate resurfaced during the COVID-19 pandemic, prompting community members to organize and protect one another. Their story is a testament to resilience in the face of repeated injustice.

One of the most inspiring experiences of the week was touring Homeboy Industries, the world's largest gang rehabilitation and reentry program. For more than three decades, Homeboy has provided training, employment, counseling, and support to formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated individuals, helping them rebuild their lives with dignity and purpose. Hearing our guide share his own journey of transformation was unforgettable and served as a powerful reminder of what becomes possible when communities choose compassion over judgment. Every major city in our country needs a program like Homeboy!

Perhaps the most impactful experience, however, was an afternoon spent with the Los Angeles Mission on Skid Row, distributing water and connecting with individuals experiencing homelessness. Out of respect for those we met, I chose not to take photographs. Instead, I left with stories, conversations, and a renewed sense of responsibility. With more than 70,000 people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County and critical funding for service organizations continuing to decline, the need is overwhelming.

This fellowship challenged me to think more deeply about justice, empathy, and the many ways Jewish values call us to engage with the world around us. It left me deeply concerned about those whom we call “strangers” in our community. It reminded me that tzedek, justice, is not simply an abstract ideal, but an ongoing practice of listening, learning, showing up, and recognizing the dignity inherent in every person.

As I prepare for another year with our Religious School and Adult Learning communities, I look forward to bringing these experiences into my work with our learners and families.



Mazel Tov!

B'NAI MITZVAH



MATILDA

Matilda will be entering 8th grade at Dominion Middle School in Columbus. Her favorite subject is English, and she loves to read. She is a member of the orchestra, debate club, and spelling bee club, and she also participates in the school musicals and plays. Her true passion is gymnastics, and she has competed across the country—even in the Bahamas. For her Mitzvah Project, Matilda focused on helping people in need. She volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, helping design and build playhouses for underserved children. She also organized a collection of basic necessities and oversaw the assembly of care bags during Mitzvah Day.



RAFAELA

Rafaela will enter 7th grade at Eversole Run Middle School this fall. While she jokes that lunch is her favorite subject, math is a close second. Outside the classroom, Rafa comes alive on the soccer field, where she proudly plays goalkeeper. She also enjoys spending time with friends and family, traveling, and, most of all, dogs.

For her Bat Mitzvah project, Rafa created Paws for a Cause, a donation drive benefiting a local animal shelter. Through social media, flyers, and community outreach, she organized a two-day collection of food, toys, blankets, and other essential supplies for dogs in need. The project reflects her love of animals and her commitment to helping others.

Mazel Tov!

B'NAI MITZVAH



SAM

Sam is a 7th grader at Larson Middle School in Grandview Heights. He loves to play football, baseball, basketball, and golf. For his mitzvah project, Sam collected used sports gear from members of our community to donate to an organization called Leveling the Playing Field. LPF provides sports equipment to underprivileged schools and organizations so they can have what they need to participate in various sports or even gym class.



IAN

Ian E. will be entering 7th grade at Dublin Grizzell Middle School this fall. He loves sports, spending time with friends and family, and attending Camp Wise each summer. For his mitzvah project, Ian collected sports equipment for Leveling the Playing Field, helping provide athletic opportunities for youth in need. He also volunteered with TOP Soccer, a program that gives children of all abilities the chance to participate in and enjoy the game. Through these efforts, Ian combined his love of sports with his commitment to helping others in the community.



PARENT-TOT PROGRAM

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL BEGINS AT AGE 2 AT BETH TIKVAH!

Our Parent-Tot program has a fun holiday- and Torah-based curriculum that uses story, song, sensory experiences, and crafts to teach 2-to 4-year-olds about Jewish holiday observances. The class meets once a month on Sunday mornings during Religious School from **9:30-11:00 AM**. A parent or other significant adult is required to accompany the child to class, and grandparents are always welcome!

Parent-Tot is a wonderful way to build community with other families with young children at Beth Tikvah. Parent-Tot is taught by Jodi Reinicke and Andrea Adkins.

2026-2027 DATES:

8/30 • 9/27 • 10/25 • 11/15 • 12/6 • 1/10 • 2/7 • 3/14 • 4/11 • 5/2

Tuition: \$257 (Members) • \$275 (Non-Members)

REGISTER FOR PARENT-TOT

QUESTIONS?

Contact Morissa R. Freiberg-Vance, RJE, Director of Education & Lifelong Learning
mfreiberg@bethtikvahcolumbus.org



Rising 8th - 12th 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 a twice-yearly stipend, or can choose to earn community service hours.

NEW MADRICHIM

RETURNING MADRICHIM





RAISE A GLASS & A SLICE FOR A GOOD CAUSE!

POUR FOR A CAUSE

AUGUST 5 | 6:00 – 8:00 PM

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

LET US KNOW YOU'RE COMING!

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



INSIDE LOOK: REFORM JUDAISM IN ISRAEL

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12 at 7:00 PM

A Conversation with IMPJ Leaders Anna Kislanski & Anna Avital

Hear directly from leaders of the Reform Movement in Israel about the work, challenges, and hopes of building progressive Jewish life, pluralism, and Reform community in Israel today.

SIGN UP FOR AN INSIDE LOOK

Dessert reception to follow.

Open to Beth Tikvah and our neighboring Reform congregations in Columbus.



Anna Avital
Deputy Director of IMPJ



Anna Kislanski
CEO of IMPJ



RELIGIOUS ACTION CENTER
**EVERY VOICE,
EVERY VOTE.**



POSTCARDING EVENT

Join fellow congregants on
August 6 from 7:00–9:00pm
to create postcards encouraging voter
participation and civic engagement.

**ENGAGE LOCALLY.
IMPACT NATIONALLY.**

Hosted by Keila Hund

Address provided upon
registration

SIGN-UP HERE!



**ONLINE
TORAH
STUDY**

Every Saturday at 9 AM

JOIN ON ZOOM

WORTHINGTON INTERFAITH NEIGHBORS



**Festival of
Nations**

August 9, 2026 • 1–5 PM

Travel the world without leaving Worthington!
Enjoy music, dance, cultural exhibits, hands-on
activities, games, prizes, and family fun at the
annual WIN Festival of Nations.

Volunteer at our table or stop by to say hello!

**SUNDAY EVENING
STUDY GROUP**

“Heart of a Stranger”
by Angela Buchdahl

*Every other Sunday at
7 PM on Zoom*



faith250



Worthington

INTERFAITH SERVICE



SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

5:00 – 6:00 PM

Located at St. John's Episcopal Church
No RSVP Necessary

10 ★ 24 ★ 2026



CONGREGATION
Beth Tikvah

JOE BUCHANAN

JEWISH COUNTRY ARTIST



FREE COMMUNITY CONCERT

LIVE MUSIC ★ FOOD TRUCKS ★ SILENT AUCTION

CHECK OUT JOE'S MUSIC!

Sponsorship opportunities available!

PATRON GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

CHAYER SPONSOR

Name will be recognized on the rolling sponsor monitor during the event.

\$10-\$499

KEHILLAH SPONSOR

Name recognized on monitor during the event. Includes 2 reserved VIP seats.

\$500-\$999

SIMCHA SPONSOR

Name recognized on monitor during the event. Includes 4 reserved VIP seats.

\$1,000-\$1,799

L'DOR VADOR SPONSOR

Name recognized on monitor during the event. Includes 6 reserved VIP seats.

\$1,800-\$3,599

TIKVAH SPONSOR

Monitor and stage recognition. 8 reserved VIP seats.
Meet & Greet with Joe Buchanan.

\$3,600+

BECOME A SPONSOR BY SEPT 30 TO BE INCLUDED ON SIGNAGE.

For tax purposes, sponsorships are tax deductible as financials are administered by Congregation Beth Tikvah, a registered nonprofit.

BECOME A SPONSOR!

Meaningful Jewish moments do not happen by accident...

They happen because people step forward.

Because someone believes in connection.

Because someone says yes to creating something memorable.

Beth Tikvah's Shishim Group Ends Its Season with a Picnic, Announces its Programs for the Next Season

Article and Photo by David Binkovitz



Shishim, Congregation Beth Tikvah's senior group, ended its season with a picnic and concert in a park on July 9. Over 60 people from around the Columbus community attended. The picnic was held at Mirolo's Community Shelter in Worthington. "We selected this site because of the beautiful natural setting surrounding the shelter as well as the array of amenities available at this site," said Marcey Foreman, one of the event coordinators.

After a lunch from City Barbecue, Imber Solis provided musical entertainment. "We enjoyed her elegant vocals and acoustic guitar," said Jackie Kon, a member of the Shishim planning committee.

Shishim also announced its new season of programs for September 2026 through June 2027.

"Our planning committee has been hard at work finding a variety of speakers and entertainers," said Jane Mitchell, Shishim's chairperson. "The upcoming speakers will present diverse talks in the areas of history, art, literature, Judaism, gardening, and medical concerns for seniors. We even have lighter topics such as the history of pizza in Columbus as well as several musical concerts."

The season starts on September 3 at 11:00 AM with former political strategist Dale Butland talking about "When Ohio was Blue: My Twenty-Year Journey with John Glenn." At 1:00 PM there will be a talk by OSU Professor Angus Fletcher entitled "You Are Smarter Than AI." A lunch will be held between the two programs.

Shishim, which holds its programs at Congregation Beth Tikvah, is open to the entire community. "Shishim's outreach is to all seniors," said Mitchell. "We have about 60 to 80 people coming to our programs each month from all around the Columbus area."

If you would like to be added to the email list for monthly program messages, send a message to shishim@bethtikvahcolumbus.org.

THE SHISHIM GROUP *of* CONGREGATION BETH TIKVAH

Program Guide for 2026 – 2027

☆ Gather at 10:45 AM
☆ First program starts at 11 AM

☆ Lunch at Noon
☆ Second program starts at 1 PM

September 3, 2026

- **When Ohio was Blue: My Twenty Year Journey with John Glenn**
Dale Butland, Author & Political Strategist
- **Why You're Smarter than A.I.**
Angus Fletcher, Professor, OSU

October 8, 2026

- **A Musical Concert**
Buckeye Blend
- **A Journey Into Animation**
Benny Zelkowicz, Animator, OSU

November 12, 2026

- **Buckeye Brotherhood: How Ohio State Navigated a New World to Win a National Championship**
Bill Rabinowitz, Sports Writer & Author
- **World News from Waverley High**
Linda Kass, Author & Bookstore Owner

December 10, 2026

- **Orthopaedics and Aging**
Michael Rozen, Orthopaedic Surgeon
- **Columbus and Worthington Pizza: Slices of History**
Jim Ellison, Author & Career Advisor, OSU

January 14, 2027

- **Osteoporosis: Gimme a Break**
Chuck Katz, Endocrinologist
- **Camille Pissarro: Jewish Artist and Key Member of the Impressionist Circle**
Danny Marcus, Curator, Columbus Museum of Art.

February 11, 2027

- **A Refugee Story: From Shanghai to Columbus**
Ella Uretsky, Retired Psychologist
- **Exploring the Arc of Appalachia**
Kimberly Baker, Outreach Coordinator

March 11, 2027

- **Crash of the USS Shenandoah**
Robin Yocum, Journalist & Author
- **What I Didn't Say: A Parkinson's Journey**
Matthew Moore, Actor, Director, Writer & Teacher

April 8, 2027

- **Jewish Monsters You Never Knew**
Morissa Freiberg-Vance, Educator, Beth Tikvah
- **A Journey From India, to Israel, to America**
Hannah Kaunitz, Hebrew Tutor & Teacher

May 13, 2027

- **Understanding the Current Supreme Court**
Larry Baum, Retired Political Science Professor
- **In the Room: Geri Joseph & Female Activism in the Age of Hubert Humphrey**
Michael Flamm, History Professor

June 3, 2027

- **Nurturing Mindfulness in the Garden**
Debra Knapke, "The Garden Sage"
- **An Acoustic Folk Rock Concert**
Ruvane

The
Shishim
Group



Congregation
Beth Tikvah

Shishim is a group of senior members of Congregation Beth Tikvah and friends who gather monthly to deepen their connection to one another and their community.

[click here for full newsletter](#)



Women
OF BETH TIKVAH

Holiday Recipes with Your New Jewish Moms

Sunday, August 16 • 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Intergenerational cooking experience designed to help you bring the High Holidays into your own kitchen.

Space is limited to 20 people.

This class is offered jointly by Kehillah Connect and WBT!

SIGN-UP FOR HOLIDAY RECIPES

Card Making with Margot Morrissey

Sunday, August 23 • 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Sign Up

Learn to make beautiful bespoke greeting cards!

Cost is \$15 per person for four cards:

1 New Year • 1 Hanukkah • 2 General Occasion Cards

Open to ages 12 and up; those under 16 must attend with a parent.

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:

Decoupage Class

Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026 at Beth Tikvah

LINGO

Wednesday, April 14, 2027 at Beth Tikvah

BIRTHDAY BAGS

Date & time TBA

[click here for full newsletter](#)

Daytime Mahj

1:30 – 3:30 PM

Located at Beth Tikvah

Upcoming Dates:

August 5 Sept. 2
August 18 Sept. 15

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:

August 10 & August 24

SIGN-UP

Book Club - Tuesday, August 11 at 12:30 pm

Join us in the Beth Tikvah Library for our annual Book Selection Meeting!



Canasta is Back! **AUG 3 • AUG 10 • AUG 17 • AUG 24**

Join us for a relaxed and social afternoon of cards, conversation, and community from **4:00–6:00 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.

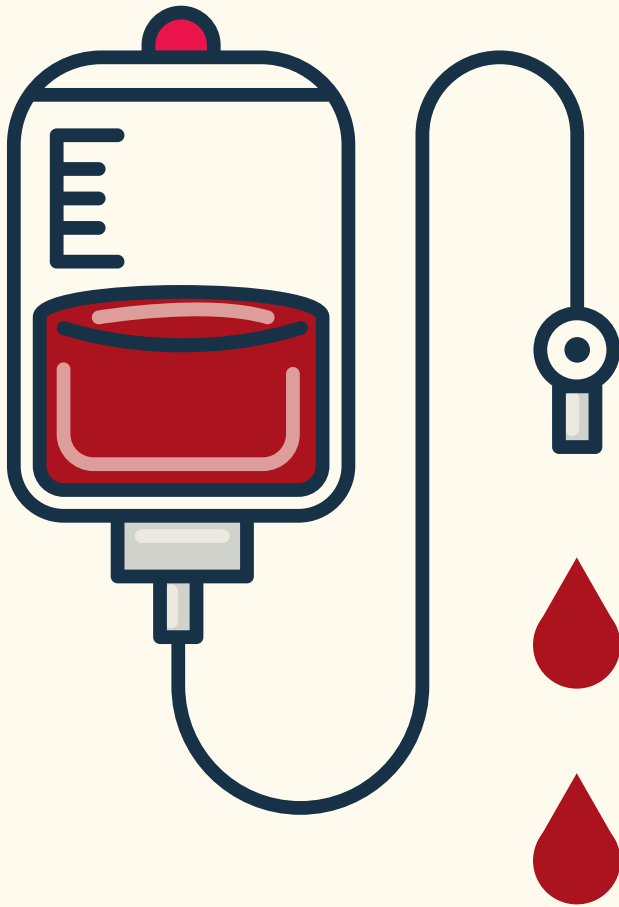
SIGN-UP



BETH TIKVAH BROTHERHOOD

RED CROSS

BLOOD DRIVE



TUESDAY

20

OCTOBER

2026

AUGUST BROTHERHOOD LUNCH

**Join the Brotherhood at Bravo on Bethel
Contact jpalbert46@gmail.com to RSVP**

AUGUST 11 at 11:30 AM





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 nonprofits that address those needs in the populations they serve. The Tzedakah Collective’s focus is to help restore human dignity in underserved populations.

Featured Nonprofit: The Garden District Corporation

DATE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026

TIME: 3:30–5:00 PM

LOCATION: Temple Israel – 3100 E. Broad St. Columbus, OH

Please join us for the Tzedakah Collective’s annual in-person meeting and collection event on August 23. Learn more about the Collective’s achievements and, if you’ve ever wondered what the Tzedakah Collective does, this is the perfect opportunity to find out.

This social gathering will focus on Gemilut Chasadim (acts of loving kindness) through sharing information and experiences about volunteer opportunities and collecting donations for local nonprofits, including the Harmony Project Encore Free Store, Dress for Success, and the Temple Israel Little Free Pantry. Everyone is welcome, so bring a friend and enjoy refreshments while making a difference in our community.

Meetings are held six times a year, mostly on Zoom. You do not have to be a member to attend meetings or hear the presentations. Everyone is welcome to benefit from this education about our community. An annual tax-deductible 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

**12
AUG**

Meditation with Morissa

11:15 AM • on Zoom

**14
AUG**

Shishim Shabbat Evening Service

7:15 PM • In-person and on Zoom

**23
AUG**

Religious School Teacher Training

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM • Located at Beth Tikvah

**23
AUG**

Card Making Class – Women of Beth Tikvah

1:00 - 3:00 PM • [Click Here to Sign-Up](#)

**5
SEPT**

Selichot Service & Program

7:00 - 9:30 PM • More details coming soon...

**8
SEPT**

Brotherhood High Holy Day Chair Set-Up

12:00 - 4:00 PM • Located at Beth Tikvah

**11
SEPT**

Erev Rosh HaShanah Service

7:30 PM • Located at Beth Tikvah

**19
SEPT**

In-Person Meditation with Morissa

10:30 AM • In-person only at Beth Tikvah

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



MAZEL MOMENTS!

Evan Byers

**...who played on
the U19 Boys
Soccer team for
the 2026
Maccabiah Games!**

Avi Swissa

**...on the
completion of his
Adult & Pediatric
First Aid/CPR
Certification**

2025-2026 Adult
B'nai Mitzvah Class

Allison Avner	Josh Jones
Meg Cheyfitz	Kirsten Peninger
Eric Comeras	Lesley Pfening
Rita Distelhorst	Megan Taylor
Brock Flint	George Vance
Janet Glassman	Jacki Yashon
Karen Gorsky	

Wendy & Ernie
Grindstaff

**...on the birth
of their
granddaughter,
Margo Bloom
Grindstaff on
July 23, 2026!**

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

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS...

Adult Education

- Rochelle & Jules Steinberg in memory of Joseph Fatt
- Judy Krasnoff in memory of Rhoda Gelles
- Lisa Kalson & Jonathan Beck in memory of Dan Zerkel

Bima Flowers & Oneg

- Shishim in honor of Shishim Shabbat
- Ian & Allison Kupferberg in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Matilda
- Ryan & Karen Crossley in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Sam
- Kenny & Suzanne Ecker in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Ian

Brotherhood Donations

- Shelley Grieve-Zerkel & Danny Zerkel in honor of Jonathan Beck's special birthday
- Lynn S. Sisson in honor of her brother, Don Goldbaum, for his recognition as the 2025 Recipient of the Ed Schechter Founders Award

Caring Community Dedicated

- Ronni & Paul Richards in loving memory of Donald Saltzman and Rebecca Rubin Kon

Executive Director Discretionary Fund

- Shelley Grieve-Zerkel & Danny Zerkel in appreciation of Debbie Vinocur on the occasion of Yena Zerkel making Aliyah to Israel

Facility Improvement Dedicated

- Jeff Gelles

Garden Buds Donations

- Dora & Ed Sterling in appreciation of the welcoming bench and landscaping for the WBT Library in the Temple parking lot
- Marcey Forman in memory of Nada Mazurek's sister

General Endowment Donations

- Ranen Burke in honor of Jacki Yashon and Joshua Jones
- Stephen & Martha Somach in memory of Rhoda Gelles
- Jeffrey Bryan in memory of Roger Bryan and Lore Bryan

High Holy Days Dedicated

- Joel & Connie Mayerson in honor of Joel's father, David Mayerson

Holocaust Education Dedicated

- Alice Hilliard

Jewish Camping Dedicated

- Matt Ryan Mobile DJ in honor of Rafa Dahan's Bat Mitzvah
- Matthew Warshawsky in memory of Rhoda Hiatt Gelles
- Betty Klapper in memory of Rhoda Gelles
- Darla Abraham in honor of the birth of Levi Andrew Prince, grandson of Patti & Sid Price

Kon Family Fund for Holocaust Education

- Robert & Deborah Ecker in memory of Donald Saltzman and Rebecca Kon
- Wendy & Ernie Grindstaff in memory of Donald Saltzman and Rebecca Kon
- Julie Abdalah in memory of Rebecca Kon
- Stacy & Howard Levin in memory of Becky Kon
- Richard & Denise Fogel in memory of Rebecca Kon
- Scott & Terri Gordon in memory of Donald Saltzman and Rebecca Kon
- Douglas & Debbie King in memory of Donald Saltzman and Rebecca Kon, parents of Mitch Kon & Jackie Saltzman Kon
- Jeff & Carol Folkerth in memory of Jackie Kon's father and Mitch Kon's mother

Library Dedicated

- Sarah & Tyler Brozovich in honor of Rose Brozovich

Linda Kellner Camp Scholarship Fund

- Stacy & Howard Levin in honor of Zoe Kellner

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS...

M&R Luttinger Endowment for Adult Learning & Social Action

- Karren Fink in memory of Rhoda Gelles

Music Fund Dedicated

- Joel & Connie Mayerson in memory of Connie's father, Don Shaffer
- Jaclyn Yashon in honor of Robin Brenneman's birthday milestone
- Gary & Marsha Huber in memory of Irwin Schoenberg in observance of his Yahrzeit
- Douglas & Debbie King in honor of Julie Sapper's retirement

Operating Fund Donations

- Larry Mack in memory of Rhoda Gelles

Patti & Sid Price Beth Tikvah Religious School

Endowment in Memory of Lee Kimchee McGrath

- Ron & Diane Saks in honor of Sid Price's 70th birthday
- Jeff & Carol Folkerth in honor of Sid Price's 70th birthday

Rabbi Gary A. Huber Endowment for Education

- Shelley Grieve-Zerkel & Danny Zerkel in appreciation of Rabbi Huber on the occasion of Yena Zerkel making Aliyah to Israel

Rabbi Kellner Discretionary Fund

- Stuart & Marilyn Cooper in memory of Jack M. Portnoy
- Debbie Shub in memory of Sanford Samuels
- Steve & Sue Speck in memory of Phillip Speck
- Bob & Mary Bargar in memory of their dear friend Rhoda Gelles
- Susan Marcus in honor of Rhoda Gelles
- Tanya Shats & Travis Stinemetz in honor of Henry Stinemetz becoming a Bar Mitzvah
- Susan & Tim Hedges in memory of their precious mother, Phyllis K. Friedman

Rabbi Kellner Discretionary Fund continued...

- Shelley Grieve-Zerkel & Danny Zerkel in appreciation of Rabbi Rick on the occasion of Yena Zerkel making Aliyah to Israel

Rabbi Martin Discretionary Fund

- Jeff Gelles
- Tanya Shats & Travis Stinemetz in honor of Henry Stinemetz becoming a Bar Mitzvah
- Alison Prince

Religious School Dedicated

- Michael & Barbara Taxier in memory of Rhoda Gelles

Shishim Donations

- Jane Mitchell & Michael Alexander in honor of Jackie Yashon's Bat Mitzvah

Social Action Dedicated

- Michael & Barbara Taxier in memory of Rebecca Kon and Donald Saltzman
- Sheldon & Jacqueline Chizever in honor of the beauty, serenity, and even majesty Julie Sapper brought to our Beth Tikvah experiences
- Douglas & Debbie King in memory of Dan Zerkel, father of Danny Zerkel

Forman Pay It Forward Fund

- Marcey Forman in memory of Danny Zerkel

Wish List Dedicated

- Mimi Chenfeld in memory of Ruth Kaiser
- Debra Lipkowitz in memory of Ruth Kaiser

Women of Beth Tikvah Donations

- Barbara Crabill in honor of Marci Delson

Youth Activities Donations

- Cameron & Lauren Crane

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SHISHIM: Jane Mitchell

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT: Sarah Stevens

TRUSTEE AT-LARGE: Stacey Martinez

TRUSTEE AT-LARGE: Abby Harris Holmes

BROTHERHOOD: Larry Romanoff

WOMEN OF BETH TIKVAH: Jenny Holz

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

Director of Marketing & Community Engagement
comms@bethtikvahcolumbus.org



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.