

Freedom, Responsibility, and Tikkun Olam

With Passover approaching, the message of freedom is in the air. And with freedom comes responsibility. Perhaps that's why Jewish communities across the globe – including Havurat Tikvah - feel a special commitment to Tikkun Olam. At Havurat Tikvah, mitzvah and tzedakah projects continue throughout the year and provide members with opportunities to make Tikkun Olam a reality.

Our Project Linus group, for example, has been meeting regularly for the past five years. During that time, HT members and friends have produced over 50 hand-made "security-blankets" for children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. We can always use extra hands for this effort: no experience is necessary, there's a job for everyone. For information about the upcoming March meeting, call the number below.

The Dilworth Soup Kitchen, founded by HT member Allen B. Saxe, is another way to help mend what is broken in our community. Twice weekly lunches, served at 1200 East Blvd. (First Christian Church), provide a restaurant atmosphere and a family-style welcome to those in need of a good, nourishing meal. Want to help? Visit the soup kitchen's Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=77134194660.

Efforts for Tikkun Olam extend in other ways as well. We continue to collect contributions for Project Heifer International (this year's

Purim tzedakah challenge). And donations of children's craft supplies, linens, and store gift cards (for Thompson Child and Family Focus), as well as paper goods and cleaning products (for our friends



Gwen Offerdahl, Elaine Chernotsky, Anna Offerdahl, and Ellen Myers working on a Project Linus blanket.

at Samaritan House and for Jewish Family Services,) can be brought to any HT event.

This month's Shabbat service is scheduled for March 20. Services start at 10 AM and conclude with a vegetarian potluck lunch and social hour. We invite you to join us at the Fellowship Hall of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 2201 Springdale Ave. (at Magnolia) in the Dilworth neighborhood of Charlotte.

We also encourage you



Jewish Reconstructionist Federation



to mark your calendar for an upcoming Shabbaton to be held over the weekend of April 17. We'll be joined by Student Rabbi Arlene Berger who will discuss her recent experiences in Israel. It promises to be a full and exciting program.

Finally, we extend a hearty mazel tov to HT members Saul and Martha Brenner, whose son Daniel – a Reconstructionist rabbi and Executive Director of Birthright Israel NEXT – was the special guest speaker at the official opening of the Charlotte Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign.

Havurat Tikvah is an affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation. We provide a comfortable, family atmosphere where all Jews can feel welcome. We encourage participation in the community and in our services. Our Sunday School, with its exciting new curriculum, and B'nai Mitzvah preparation are available for children. Feel free to visit, get to know us, and become part of our growing congregation of over 50 households.

For an updated calendar or to find out more about Havurat Tikvah, our worship services, Sunday School program, and community activities - please

visit our website at www.havurat-tikvah.org or contact new member chair, Brian Feinglass, at bcfein1@gmail.com or at 1-877-203-5848. ✪

Musician Julie Silver to Perform at Temple Beth El's Arthur Tirsun Teacher Appreciation and Education Shabbat

The Temple Beth El Religious School Committee invites the community to attend Arthur Tirsun Teacher Appreciation and Education Shabbat, March 12 at 7 PM in the Sam Lerner Center.

Join us for a special Shabbat service as we celebrate our religious and secular school teachers. Julie Silver, world-renown Jewish musician, will perform.

This annual event is dedicated to Arthur Tirsun, a career educator who lived what he taught. Judaism was his life, and he had the rare gift of being able to impart his Judaic wisdom, passion and dedication to our students. All of the teachers at Temple Beth El Religious School possess these same attributes. Please join us we say thank you to our faculty and staff during this exciting and meaningful service. The public is welcome to join the celebration.

Julie Silver is one of the most celebrated and beloved performers in the world of contemporary Jewish music today. She tours throughout the world, and has been engaging audiences with her lyrical guitar playing, her

dynamic stage presence and her megawatt smile for nearly twenty years.

Without backing from a major label, Julie has sold more than 70,000 copies of her CDs. She released four highly successful albums of original Jewish music between 1992 and 2000. Her Jewish songs have become so tightly woven into the fabric of American Judaism that they have become "standards" in worship, camp and academic settings.

Julie's children's CD, "For Love to Grow," was released in spring 2005 and quickly honored as a Parents' Choice Blue Ribbon. "It's Chanukah Time," Julie's Barnes and Noble CD, was recorded in 2007, and was the first Jewish holiday CD produced exclusively for the bookstore chain.



Julie Silver

"I try to enhance the way people experience Judaism by adding my own take on our sacred texts," Silver says. "I also want people who have historically been marginalized to feel included in the Jewish community or in any community. Our tradition compels us to express ourselves...our joys, our hopes, our faith and our fears. The only path to healing is through sharing our stories with one another. As a songwriter, I just write and sing what I feel...hopefully some of it sticks." ✪



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