

# Temple Kol Tikvah Awarded Grant from Union for Reform Judaism

## URJ Incubator Grant Will Provide Seed Funding for Teen Projects

Lake Norman, NC – Temple Kol Tikvah is pleased to announce that they have been awarded a grant to fund teen programs to engage high schoolers, empower them with a sense of ownership for the congregation, and continue their learning beyond their Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

The program will have three broad components:

\* **Team Building/Leadership:** Participants will take part in retreats, charity work, and congregational leadership activities to develop and cultivate leadership

skills.

\* **Micro-Grant Empowerment:** Small teams of teens will apply for micro-grants of \$500-\$1500 to work with younger children and deepen their ties to the larger Jewish community.

\* **Learning:** Teens will participate in weekly classes directed by the Temple's Rabbi, using the high school curriculum from the Institute of Southern Jewish Life (ISJL).

"This grant gives us the resources we need to keep youngsters active in our community

after they complete their Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Often high school students are drawn to non-religious activities, especially after all of the hard work that they have put in to become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah," noted Slade Goldstein, Temple Kol Tikvah's co-president.

"With this grant, we will be able to provide programming that engages, educates, and cultivates future leaders that will benefit our congregation and the community at large," added Len Sadek, co-president.

Temple Kol Tikvah is one of 20

Reform congregations in North America selected to receive an Incubator Grant from the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ). There were nearly 165 applicants for the Incubator Grants, which provide seed funding for innovative new projects designed to actively engage more people in Reform synagogue life by stimulating creative thinking in three main areas: creating a culture that supports and encourages conversion; retention and engagement of post b'nei mitzvah teens and their families; and engagement in synagogue life

(including recruitment of potential members, integration of recent members, and retention of current members).

"We are thrilled to offer these grants to member congregations for the second year," said URJ's President Rabbi Rick Jacobs. "We saw how much the grant process inspired creativity last year and were impressed with the results of each of the award-winning initiatives. Together, we are developing and learning innovative ways to engage people in Reform Jewish life." ☆

# Sukkot Hospitality: Dinner, a Movie, and Tzedakah

Sukkot is the ultimate holiday of hospitality and Havurat Tikvah members and friends plan to celebrate it in style at 6:30 PM on Saturday, October 6. We'll gather at the Offerdahl family sukkah to share a holiday pot-luck dinner (kosher, dairy, parve ... no peanuts, please) along with some traditional lulav and etrog shaking.

We'll follow our meal with a showing – under the stars – of "Ushpizin," the ultimate Sukkot movie. "Ushpizin" (in English, "Sukkot Guests") follows the life of ultra-orthodox Jew Moshe and his wife Mali. Once secular Jews, the two find themselves totally broke as Sukkot approaches. An unexpected windfall, along with a

visit from some less-than-savory friends from Moshe's past, make this charming movie perfect for holiday viewing.

Also perfect for the holiday season is the opportunity to extend warm hospitality to those outside our immediate community. In this case, we'll use our Sukkot gathering as a chance to support Urban Ministries as they prepare to help those in need during the winter months. The "warmth" of our hospitality will come in the form of socks...men's, women's, and children. Bring a pair (or more!) and join us for this evening of festivities. For more information see our contact information below.

You can also contact us to find out more about this month's teen

group activities ("Mitzvahs in Action"), volunteer opportunities with the Dilworth Soup Kitchen (you can find the soup kitchen's facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=77134194660>), and the work of Project Linus (where blankets are made to help seriously ill, traumatized, or needy children).

Havurat Tikvah is an affiliate of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, providing a comfortable, family atmosphere where all Jews can feel welcome. For those who are interested, we invite you to visit, get to know us, and to become part of our congregation of nearly 50 households.

For more information about Havurat Tikvah or any of our

activities go to our website [www.havurattikvah.org](http://www.havurattikvah.org) or contact new member chair, Brian Feinglass through e-mail ([membership@havurattikvah.org](mailto:membership@havurattikvah.org)) or by phone at (980) 225-5330. You can also find Havurat Tikvah and Havurat Teens Charlotte on Facebook. ☆



# The Gift of Time

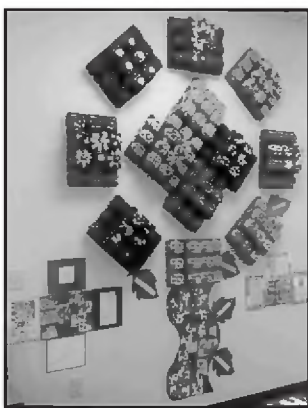
How one generation can affect all that come after it is a theme that runs through the veins of Temple Kol Ami. Our members are continually seeking out ways to affect the lives of those that come after them. This can be seen very clearly in the relationships that two of our congregants have created with the students of Ivybrook Academy, one of the only non-church based half-day preschool program in Fort Mill, SC.

Both Gail Danberg and Sawn Lowe have taken on prominent roles at Ivybrook. Gail has taken on the identity of Nana Gail. The children light up as Nana Gail becomes the center of Ivybrook's Author Studies program and reads to all of the children. As the children leave the library you can hear

the excitement in their voices as they have just be in the presence of this magnetic woman who shares her energy and knowledge with them every week.

This past year another one of our members served as "Artist in Residence" for Ivybrook. Sawn Lowe worked in Ivybrook's art studio and assisted the children in understanding the complex works of many prolific artists. Sawn's art expertise and passion for teaching enabled these young students to stretch beyond the traditional concept of preschool art and create pieces that would make even the most experienced artists jealous.

By taking time out of their days to invest in the education and growth of Fort Mill's youngest residents these Temple Kol Ami members define what it means to



Some of Sawn Lowe's artistic endeavors.

live life with purpose and selflessness. This is just one small example of the differences Temple Kol Ami members are making in the Fort Mill community. As our congregation continues to grow so will it's affect on the greater Fort Mill community. ☆

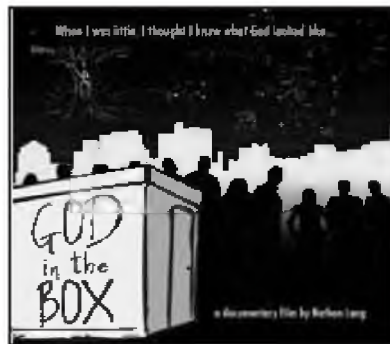
# God in the Box

On October 20, Temple Kol Ami will present *God in the Box*. This documentary by Nathan Lang asks two questions: What does God mean to you and what does God look like to you? These two basic questions explore the mystery and controversy behind God's relationship with Americans in the 21st century.


The *God in the Box* filmmakers traveled across America setting up the "Box" on iconic street corners and diverse locations. Once set up they invited people to step inside and share what they see in their mind's eye, and if possible, draw what God looks like to them.

A remarkable collection of scholars, religious leaders and a mythologist help examine the material and put it into a historical and relevant context. The surprises and revelations about our current interpretations of God come to light, as small glimpses inside the minds of others helps illuminate a much bigger picture.

Please join us as we will learn together what God looks like and means to many Americans in the 21st century. *God in the Box* will be presented on October 20, 7 PM at Unity Presbyterian Church, 303 Tom Hall Street, Fort Mill, SC.



Admission is free, contact us to reserve your space now. For more information about the film you can visit <http://godinthebox.com>. To contact Temple Kol Ami, call 803-701-0149 or email [yorksynagogue@gmail.com](mailto:yorksynagogue@gmail.com). ☆



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