

OUR ANNUAL FLAGSHIP DAY OF MITZVOT IS COMING!

While we as Jews serve our communities year-round, Mitzvah Day is an opportunity to act together as a congregation to make positive change. On February 23rd, learn about new ways to help, share your passion for service, or reignite prior volunteer commitments, all while meeting and connecting with your fellow congregants. With dozens of organizations to support and opportunities both on and off-campus, there's an opportunity for everyone at Mitzvah Day!

To participate, register, and find project-specific info, including detailed donation requests, visit:

[TBAM.ORG/MITZVAHDAY](https://tbam.org/mitzvahtday)

MITZVAH DAY LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rabbi Rachel Greengrass, *Clergy Liaison*

Rebecca Hölljes, *Tikkun Olam President*

Alexis Brody, *Tikkun Olam VP Programming*

Jessica Goldberg, *Tikkun Olam-YERS Liaison*

Jessica Steiner, *Mitzvah Day Chair, Tikkun Olam VP*

Caroline Miller, *Tikkun Olam Rambam-PATIO Liaison*

Ashley Tinstman, *Tikkun Olam Marketing Chair*

Phylcia Cook, *B'nai Mitzvah and Auxiliary Groups Coordinator*

Sharon Socol, *Tikkun Olam VP, TBAM Board of Directors*

INAUGURAL MITZVAH DAY HONOREE THE LEGACY OF TINA FORSTER

April 7, 1970 – February 10, 2024

As a Mitzvah-Day leader, Tina Forster was responsible for coordinating and organizing all of the dozens of captains and projects—an effort that starts months in advance of Mitzvah Day and is critical to its success. For three years Upon her passing, Tina bequeathed to Tikkun Olam the largest single donation Tikkun Olam has ever received, which continues to make much of our programming possible.

At this year's Tikkun Olam Shabbat on February 28th, we invite you to join us as we recognize the individuals and families who have been and are instrumental to the success and growth of Mitzvah Day and specifically honor Tina and her contributions by making a \$1,000 donation in Tina's name to Lighthouse For the Blind, an organization she loved deeply.



PROGRAMS ARE ADDED AND UPDATED ONLINE AT TBAM.ORG/MITZVAHDAY

01 DONATE BLOOD

Captains: Susan Rosenthal (educatorsusan@aol.com),
Pam Misrahi (pmisrahi@me.com)

Location: TBAM (Big Red Bus)

Time: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Ages: 16+

Donate blood (whole blood and platelets) to enhance the health and well-being of others and facilitate scientific research through OneBlood's work with blood and stem cell products.

02 BOOK DONATIONS

Captain: Brenda Kilmer (kilmer_b@yahoo.com)

Location: TBAM Overhang

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Ages: All ages

Donate your gently used books (baby/children's, young adult and adult) to support various adult and child-development organizations, including The Children's Trust, Books for Free, the Jewish Home for the Aged and many more.

03 PREPARE SANDWICHES FOR BUDDY SYSTEM MIA

Captains: Gaby Kushner (gabylkush@gmail.com),
Jeanne Kushner (jhbqt@aol.com)

Location: TBAM Social Hall

Time: 9:00 AM

Ages: All ages (parent supervision req'd for kids under 13)
Support Buddy System's initiative to combat food insecurity by making sandwiches and restocking community fridges around Miami.

04 DONATE TOILETRIES TO CHAPMAN PARTNERSHIP WITH BROTHERHOOD

Captains: Jeffrey Rosenberg (jeffreyrosenberg@gmail.com),
Jay Koren (jaykoren@gmail.com)

Location: TBAM Social Hall & Overhang

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Ages: All ages

Donate hygiene necessities and create toiletry kits for residents of Chapman Partnership, which manages two homeless assistance centers in Miami and Homestead for vulnerable populations.

05 DONATE & CREATE HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS KITS (CLEO INSTITUTE)

Captains: Lindsey Wolfson (linds.wolfson@gmail.com),
Randi Wolfson (RandiWolfson@gmail.com)

Location: TBAM Chapel

Time: 10:30 AM - 11:30 PM

Ages: All ages

Enjoy a family friendly morning to support The CLEO Institute, which focuses on climate action to ensure a safe and just environment. You'll purchase and donate essential hurricane supplies for vulnerable communities, then bring them to TBAM to make hurricane-preparedness kits.

06 CREATE MOSAICS FOR TBAM'S GARDEN BENCHES WITH SISTERHOOD

Captain: Robyn Abrams (robynabrams26@gmail.com)

Location: TBAM Terrace

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Ages: 8+ (younger kids must be accompanied by an adult)
Create mosaics, which will later be applied to benches in the TBAM garden. The benches will provide a place for quiet contemplation.

07 SUPPORT ISRAEL'S TROOPS WITH FRIENDS OF THE IDF

Captain: Brittany Adams (britaddams@gmail.com)

Location: TBAM Social Hall

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Ages: 8+

Support Israel Defense Forces (IDF) via the Friends of the IDF (FIDF) by writing cards and decorating pillowcases to send to the soldiers. The FIDF is a non-political, non-military organization that provides for the well-being of the IDF, its veterans, and family members.

08 JAFCO BIRTHDAY BOXES

Captains: Ali and Perri Calinoff (acalinoff@gmail.com)

Location: TBAM

Ages: All ages

Join us for a meaningful and fun-filled morning to support JAFCO! In this special activity, families will shop for "Birthday Boxes" from wishlists created by the children of JAFCO. Bring joy to kids in need by selecting items that will help make their birthdays extra special! Once you finish shopping and pay, bring the items back to Beth Am where they'll be collected and delivered to JAFCO.

09 SHOP FOR THE JCS KOSHER FOOD BANK

Captains: Rooney Brodie (rooney.brodie@gmail.com),
Laura Greer Haim (laurahaim1@gmail.com)

Location: Milam's Market, 11701 S Dixie Hwy, Pinecrest Plaza

Time: Various (see online)

Ages: All ages

Enjoy a family-friendly morning to support JCS and the Kosher Food Bank with this two-part activity perfect for families with young kids. First, grab your Milam's grocery cart and go on a scavenger hunt to stock-up on essential groceries to replenish the KFB. Once you find everything and pay, package the items at Milam's in a basket to distribute to local families in need.

10 MAKE BOOK PACKAGES FOR ACHIEVE MIAMI

Captain: Nessia Kushner (nessia.kushner@gmail.com)

Location: TBAM Social Hall

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Ages: All ages

Create book care packages for 1st-5th graders of ACHIEVE Miami, an organization helping underserved families realize

Questions about a specific project? Contact the captain(s) (emails included in project descriptions).
Questions in general? Contact mitzvahday@tbam.org.

LEARN MORE + REGISTER AT [TBAM.ORG/MITZVAHDAY](https://tbam.org/mitzvahday)

their full potential through reading and writing based activities and college-access programs. Bring in gently used books, then create the care packages together.

11 MUSEUM PLAYDATE WITH THE CHILDREN OF LOTUS HOUSE

Captain: Caroline Miller (c.lampen.miller@gmail.com)

Location: Miami Children's Museum (980 MacArthur Causeway, Miami, FL 33132)

Time: 2:45 PM - 5:00 PM

Ages: Families with children 4-12 years old will have the most fun playing with Lotus House attendees (ages 4-10). Lotus House aims to improve the lives of women, youth and kids experiencing homelessness by providing sanctuary, support, education, tools and resources. Come be a kid again at the Miami Children's Museum alongside our Lotus House neighbors as we explore and enjoy the magic of the Museum through a craft activity, playtime in the museum exhibits and pizza.

12 MAKE A MITZVAH

Captain: Anne Becker (ajbwalks@aol.com)

Location: TBAM Social Hall

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Ages: All ages

Bring your knitting needles, yarn, or whatever crafting project you're working on. Once completed our Clergy will give your works of art, love and comfort to congregants and local organizations to let them know that TBAM cares.

13 BEACH CLEAN-UP WITH MIAMI WATERKEEPER

Captains: Lindsey Friedman (lazopoulosfriedman@gmail.com), Todd Friedman (toddfriedman3@gmail.com)

Location: Virginia Key

Time: 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Ages: All ages

Volunteer with Miami Waterkeeper, a non-profit dedicated to clean water, ecosystem protection, and sea-level-rise resiliency, to clean up our beaches and learn about the negative impacts of marine debris and microplastics.

14 POT PLANTS FOR THE PALACE RESIDENTS

Captains: Brett Rubin (bfinkrubin@gmail.com), Emily Eaglestein (emily.eaglestein@gmail.com), Yonah Townsend (yonah.eveline@gmail.com)

Location: TBAM

Time: 9:00 AM

Ages: All ages

Join the TBAM Garden as we pot plans and decorate planters and cards for residents of The Palace, a home offering independent and assisted living and rehab to seniors. Plants will then be delivered to older adults in our community to let them know we care!

15 BEAUTIFY PATCHES & DIAPER DRIVE

Captains: Jennifer Resnick (Jensresnick@gmail.com), Susan Malca (suzbow33@gmail.com)

Location: TBAM Social Hall & Overhang

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Ages: All ages

Tap into your creative and artistic spirit by painting colorful designs on ceiling panels that will later be installed at PATCHES to brighten their facility. PATCHES is a home away from home for children and their families receiving medical care. Diaper donations are greatly encouraged as well.

16 VOICES FOR CHILDREN TOILETRY DRIVE

Captain: Kadie Black (kblack@beavoice.org)

Location: TBAM Overhang

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Ages: All ages

Help the children of Miami-Dade's foster system with the Voices For Children Foundation by purchasing and donating full-size toiletries and sanitary products. Your donations will be assembled into comfort kits for each child.

17 HELP THE PUPS OF REDLAND DOG SANCTUARY

Captain: Steven Safren (ssafren@miami.edu)

Location: 25800 SW 182nd Ave and TBAM (drive-thru)

Time: 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Ages: 9+ (parental supervision required for ages 9-17)

Redland Dog Sanctuary is a no-kill, nurturing animal shelter in Homestead that works diligently to rescue and rehab dogs so they may be adopted into forever homes. Spend time with the dogs and participate in facility clean up, organization and improvement projects.

18 PREPARE LUNCH AT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Captains: Judi Gampel (gampel@aol.com), Alyssa Gold (alyssa.gold@gmail.com)

Location: 1145 NW 14 Terr.

Time: 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Ages: 11+ (kids must be accompanied by a parent)

Prepare a home-cooked lunch and participate in a craft project for out-of-town families with children receiving treatment at Jackson Memorial Hospital. RMHC supports the well-being of critically ill children and their families by providing lodging, meals, activities and care.

19 TIKVA HOUSE

Captain: Jennifer Warren (Jen@seekingempowerment.com)

Location: TBAM Social Hall

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM | **Ages:** All ages

Create handwritten cards for the children from Tikva Children's Home who've been displaced by the war in Ukraine. We'll also make video messages offering words of encouragement to Tikva graduates living in Israel and serving in the IDF.

Questions about a specific project? Contact the captain(s) (emails included in project descriptions).
Questions in general? Contact mitzvahday@tbam.org.

Friends of the TEMPLE BETH AM GARDEN SANCTUARY

**JOIN US!
THE SUPER SALAD BOWL
IN THE GARDEN!**

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2025
Super Bowl Sunday! 8:30-11:30 AM**

**Harvest your salad supplies and herbs for your Super Bowl party!
Planting for Spring & garden maintenance
SUPER SALAD BOWL relay & games for the kids!**

**Wear your favorite Super Bowl team colors and bring your hat,
closed toe shoes and energy!!!**

Everyone is welcome. Bring your friends!!!

Kindly RSVP at Garden@tbam.org



RAC-FL UPDATE



WHAT IS THE RELIGIOUS ACTION CENTER?

The Jewish world is filled with many acronyms. It can be confusing! The URJ, the RAC, the CSA, and the CCAR are just a few in the Reform Jewish world. We as a congregation belong to the URJ (the Union of Reform Judaism). Our Rabbis belong to the CCAR (Central Conference of American Rabbis). Our Cantors belong to the American Conference of Cantors (ACC).

In December, I was honored to attend the meeting of the Commission on Social Action (CSA) of the Religious Action Center (RAC) of the URJ. For more than six decades, the RAC has worked to educate, inspire, and mobilize the Reform Jewish Movement to advocate for social justice. It has helped to activate the Jewish community in the key debates and mobilizations of our time, from the civil rights movement and voting rights act, to immigration reform. Recently, the RAC and its Florida affiliate, RAC-FL, have been involved in issues such as gun violence prevention, fighting antisemitism and hate, racial justice, immigration reform, environmental justice, and reproductive rights in 2024. We are a founding congregation of RAC-FL and have been integral to its leadership and work.

The meeting that I attended in Washington, DC in December was for the CSA. The CSA is a deliberative, policy-development and leadership body, bringing the vision of Reform Judaism to issues of social justice; it is involved with education, programming, advocacy, leadership development and engagement on behalf of the positions which it

and/or the URJ and the CCAR have adopted; it encourages, supports and enhances the social action and social justice work of URJ congregations and CCAR Rabbis. Its members engage congregations and constituencies to advocate at the federal, state, provincial, and local levels for the positions which the CSA, the URJ and the CCAR have adopted. The goal of this work is to empower the Reform Movement to realize its social justice agenda.

The CSA took place in conjunction with the L'Taken weekend seminar for teens, who come together to learn about a variety of public policy issues and explore the Jewish values that inform the Reform Movement's advocacy around these issues. The teens then learn how to write effective, persuasive and passionate lobby speeches on a topic of their choice that they get to present to their Senators and Representatives in Congress. I was able to participate in L'Taken with teens and chaperones from our neighbors at Temple Beth Am, Temple Judea and Temple Beth Sholom. We can all be proud of how our teens spoke so passionately about antisemitism, gun violence prevention, climate change and reproductive rights.

We are part of a strong Reform movement which advocates for a democratic and strong United State and Israel. I invite you to get involved. Please email me at jagron@tbam.org.

All the best,
Jeff Agron, RAC-FL





**SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 23, 2025**

TBAM.ORG/MITZVAHDAY



**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 22
TIKKUN OLAM MINYAN**

with Rabbi Jaime Aklepi &
Cantorial Soloist Jessica Bass

10:30 AM
Temple Beth Am Chapel

**SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 23
MITZVAH DAY**

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM
Join us at TBAM in the Social Hall and
grab a nosh or head straight to your
project

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
On campus projects including
donations

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Off campus projects

*Start and end times are project-specific.
Confirm scheduling details online and
with project captains.*

*All donations must be at TBAM
by 12:00 PM.*

**FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 28
TIKKUN OLAM SHABBAT**

Honoring Mitzvah Day Leaders and
Participants!

6:00 PM
Pre-Neg

6:30 PM
Shabbat service and honors
Temple Beth Am Sanctuary