



# The Menorah

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## Notes from the Rabbi: Ethan Seidel

### Life is Complicated

Life is complicated. Whether we're thinking about people (friends, enemies, strangers) or events (weddings, funerals, baby-namings), I often find that our emotions (love, sadness, joy, anger) are mixed. We acknowledge strengths in our enemies and flaws in our heroes. Though we love moments of unmixed joy (I cited in a recent sermon the example of staring into an infant's eyes), we know that the more mixed joy of watching children grow up (and assert their wishes, and eventually leave the nest) is the deeper emotion.



In our congregation, in our listserve, and during a recent drash I gave, we have been thinking about Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, that very flawed hero of late 20<sup>th</sup> century Judaism. On the plus side, as an article from the

*(Continued on page 3)*

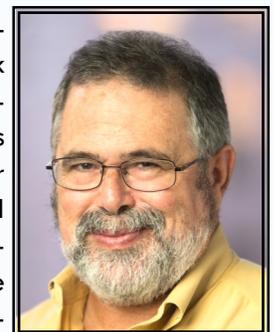
## President's Column: Stan Dorn

I hope the new secular year is beginning beautifully for you and yours. I'm writing about several disparate topics.

### Sulam and TI committees

You may have noticed, in the advance notice of Board agendas that now come to your email in-box, enigmatic references to the "Sulam" process. This refers to work under way with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism to strengthen TI's lay leadership. John List, Andrew Reamer, Varda Fink, and Terri Zall are heading up the effort for TI. The Board has met on multiple Sundays to absorb information about effective leadership practices and to implement those ideas here at TI.

One particularly exciting component of this work involves TI's committees. If all goes as planned, our committees will each adopt charters that describe their mission, function, and membership. Every year, committees will submit annual work plans to the Board for feedback, along with year-end self-assessments setting out lessons learned.



*(Continued on page 2)*



## President's Column (continued)

In the coming months, we'll be expanding the Sulam process to include committee chairs. A key goal of all this work is to facilitate broadly-shared community engagement to do TI's work together. We will accomplish so much more if we can engage, more fully, the remarkable talent, skills, and energy of our membership.

### Feedback on Rabbi Seidel's leadership

Another Menorah article in this month's edition, authored

by Richard Siegel, describes the Rabbinic committee he is heading. I encourage you to share with Dick and his committee your thoughts about Rabbi Seidel's leadership here at TI. Rabbi Seidel sincerely values your ideas of what is going well and what could be improved. Moreover, his current contract runs out in several years. The Congregation and our Rabbi will soon go through a process of deciding, jointly, what future relationship will best meet the community's needs. Your insights are an important part of that process.

### **The Menorah** **Tifereth Israel Congregation**

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Additional closings for January  
January 1 (New Year's Day)  
January 15 (Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.)  
*Appointments are recommended*

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*Tifereth Israel is a traditional egalitarian congregation affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism*

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### Solar power is coming to TI's roof

I am delighted to share with you other exciting news. Thanks to progressive and smart energy policies implemented by the District of Columbia, the District has an extraordinarily vibrant market for solar power installation. We are working with the Community Purchasing Alliance, a consortium of DC non-profits, to find reputable, high-quality solar-power vendors who will replace our roof and install solar panels. If all goes as planned, we will obtain a desperately needed new roof with a decades-long, fully warranted lifespan; we will obtain electricity at greatly reduced rates; and we will contribute to a more environmentally sustainable future. The work is being overseen by a working group co-chaired by House Vice-President Mark Verschell and former Administrative Vice-President Ray Natter. Members include Sylvia Horwitz, Daniel Pederson, and Stephanie Roodman. The committee is also being advised by George Greenberg and Joelle Novey, who heads the area's chapter of Interfaith Power and Light. Executive Director Jevera Temsky and Grant Maxwell are providing administrative support and substantive back-up. Our friends at Ohev Shalom are engaged in this project at the same time, so there may be some good opportunities for inter-denominational synergy. Stay tuned!

Here's hoping for a peaceful, joyous, healthy 2018!

All the best,

Stan

## Rabbi's Column (continued)

magazine Lilith in 1998 reminds us:

“An Orthodox rabbi by training, Rabbi Carlebach took down the separation between women and men in his own synagogue, encouraged women to study and to teach the Jewish texts, and gave private ordination to women before most mainstream Jewish institutions would. Described as a musical genius, Rabbi Carlebach’s melodies—including Adir Hu, Am Yisrael Chai and Esa Einai are sung throughout the world in hasidic shteibels and Reform temples alike; they have sunk so deeply into Jewish consciousness that many don’t realize these are not age-old tunes. And Rabbi Carlebach encouraged women to sing out loud—a challenge to the Orthodox teaching that women’s voices should not be heard publicly lest they arouse men.

On the negative side, as that article continues (you can find it here: <http://lilith.org/articles/rabbi-shlomo-carlebachs-shadow-side/>) Carlebach harassed (and according to the modern usage at least, assaulted) many women as he traveled around the world. You really should read the entire article, including a fascinating coda by Art Waskow.

In recent weeks, many, including some in our own congregation, are wondering if we should still be singing Carlebach songs, given that his deeds harmed a great many women. I (and others) have advanced the argument that there is no purity in this world, and that life is complicated. For example, King David is portrayed as a *much* more flawed person (see the books of Samuel in the Tanach), and yet we still sing songs whose words are attributed to him.

Some have countered that David is long gone, whereas we have women alive today who suffered because of Carlebach’s deeds. In sensitivity to those women who may still be pained by hearing his songs, we should refrain from singing them. And there are other important issues to consider in this matter:

Against change:

1. There are many of his songs that folks have come to love, and would miss. Eliminating favorite melodies can come at a high communal price: Shall we anger (and possibly lose) those who love these songs and want to keep them, in the hope of attracting people who are looking for a Carlebach-free environment?
2. Some (it’s impossible of course to know what percentage, but it seems like it could be high) of the women who suffered do not want the tunes to be discontinued.
3. Once we start down this path, will we limit our purging of the liturgy only to tunes composed by those who sinned in this way? Or will we include other sins, and by so doing, exclude yet more tunes? Artists tend to be iconoclasts, living lives not neatly colored between the lines – we might even need a committee to vet composers.

For (at least some) change:

1. Shouldn’t we, at this historic moment, find some way to stand in solidarity with the women of the #MeToo movement, and if that involves some communal sacrifice on our part, so be it? Maybe this isn’t such a big lift for a community that tries, as much as possible, to be inclusive.
2. Some of those old Carlebach tunes are overused, and could use a rest. Maybe it’s time to learn some new tunes. (In fact, I plan to do just this in the coming months).

As of this writing, we are planning a Ritual Committee meeting on January 15th, 2018, and this will be on the agenda. We may or may not make a decision then about how to proceed, but either way, I look forward to hearing your thoughts.

Rabbi Ethan Seidel

### Visits by Rabbi Seidel

Are you homebound, or hospital-bound, and would like a visit from Rabbi Seidel? Or do you know of someone in the congregation who could use such a visit? Please let Rabbi Seidel know, either by phone at 202-882-1605 x 302, or by email at [tirabbi@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:tirabbi@tifereth-israel.org).

## New Members

### Jared Garelick

**Sam Isaacson and Amelia Karraker** – Sam and Amelia are new to the area, having moved to Silver Spring this past year. Sam grew up in New Jersey and Amelia in Minneapolis. They met as undergraduates at the University of Chicago, after which they each earned PhD degrees, Amelia at the University of Wisconsin and Sam at Harvard. Sam is a mathematician, and Amelia is a health scientist administrator at the National Institute on Aging, a part of NIH. Sam and Amelia first visited TI at Purim while on a house-hunting trip to the area last year. The entertainment, such as it was, did not turn them off. Last spring,

this reporter's spouse, **Ellen Kramarow**, met Amelia at a work event and invited her and Sam to a Pesach seder. This makes Ellen our Health Scientist TI Magnet Member of the Month.

On the side Sam plays the bass, playing jazz and other music. Amelia enjoys biking to work in Bethesda, even after her trail was displaced by purple line construction. She also aspires to do some gardening now that they have their first house. They both love baseball and walking, though their long walk home from TI is uphill all the way. Welcome to this month's featured new members!

## The Much-Maligned Pharisees

### Richard Kruger

In a recent Washington Post op-ed column accusing the majority of Alabama Evangelical pastors of hypocrisy for keeping silent about the past behavior of their state's Republican senatorial candidate, the author referred to "pharisaical hatreds." An adjectival form of "Pharisee," the word "pharisaical" unfortunately has acquired the meaning of hypocritical, sanctimonious, holier than thou. And for that, we have the New Testament to thank, particularly the writers of the four gospels.

The Pharisees were one of a number of Jewish sects active during Second Temple times, and it was their form of Judaism that best survived the destruction of 70 C.E. and formed the basis of Rabbinic Judaism. To use "Pharisee" derogatorily is to malign our spiritual forebears. Most modern scholars of the New Testament acknowledge that the Gospel writers were not fair to the Pharisees, that Jesus probably did not verbally attack them in the harsh manner described, that they did not seek to kill him, as alleged, and that the animosity portrayed in the gospels between Jesus and the Pharisees probably reflects the rivalry that developed decades later between Rabbinic Judaism and the Gentile Christian Church, when the gospels were being written and edited. Some scholars think Jesus may actually have been a Pharisee himself or, at least, that his beliefs and practices were close to those of the Pharisees. Interestingly enough, some positive reflections of the Pharisees managed to slip into the gospel accounts despite their au-

thors' animosity, probably because the information was present in the authors' source material. In Matthew, for example, Jesus endorses the teachings of the Pharisees and says they sit in "Moses' seat" (though he accuses them of not practicing what they preached). In Luke, some Pharisees try to save Jesus' life by warning him that he was being pursued by the authorities. Luke also records Jesus accepting dinner invitations from Pharisees on three occasions.

The contradictory picture continues in the fifth book of the New Testament, Acts of the Apostles, which tells the story of the Jesus movement in the first few decades after Jesus' execution. In one scene, the leading Pharisee of the day, Rabban Gamaliel, comes to the defense of Peter and the other Apostles, on trial before the Sanhedrin, and persuades that body to release them. Acts says Gamaliel was "respected by all the people" - not what one would expect if the Pharisees were as bad as alleged. (Thanks to his efforts on behalf of Peter and the others, the legend developed that Rabban Gamaliel was a secret Christian, and he came to be regarded as a saint in Eastern Orthodox Christianity.) A few decades before Jesus, one of the two leading Pharisees was none other than Hillel (Gamaliel's grandfather). The Pharisees, while not perfect human beings, did not deserve the reputation they acquired. After some of the above was pointed out to the writer of the aforementioned op-ed, he promised not to use "pharisaical" in its "dictionary meaning" again.

## TI's Rabbinic Consultative Committee Wants to Hear from You! Richard Siegel

### What is the Rabbinic Consultative Committee?

Our Committee has two main functions.

First, our committee consults with Rabbi Seidel to offer our help as a resource as he carries out his spiritual leadership, teaching and pastoral work. Also, the Rabbinic Consultative Committee works closely with Rabbi Seidel on setting his short-term and long-term goals every year and tracking achievement of these goals.

Second, our committee serves as a constructive channel of communication between the general membership of the Congregation and the Rabbi. Rabbi Seidel uses our Committee to help gather suggestions from members about how he can serve the Congregation better. As longtime members will recall, in 2011 and again in 2015 our committee surveyed the Congregation in written questionnaires for their opinions on how well Rabbi Seidel was serving the Congregation.

### Why are we asking you for your comments at this time?

Here is why Rabbi Seidel and our committee are requesting your input at this time.

Rabbi Seidel began serving our Congregation in 1992 and his current contract runs until July 31, 2020. In early 2019 Rabbi Seidel is required to notify the lay leadership about his plans for continuing to serve the Congregation after July 31, 2020. Thus this year, 2018, is when members of the Congregation should give their input to Rabbi Seidel and our Committee. Both the Congregation and

Rabbi Seidel need this input from individual members as we continue working together.

Rabbi Seidel has told us he would love to hear from you directly. He invites you to speak to him in person, to reach him by telephone (202-882-1605, x 302) or by email (eseidel@tifereth-israel.org).

Our committee agrees that it will be most preferable if members contact Rabbi Seidel directly. If you have specific concerns to raise with Rabbi Seidel, then speaking to him directly will be the best way to have him hear and address your concerns. In this spirit we hope as many of you as possible will contact Rabbi Seidel so that he can listen personally to your views on his performance.

Some of you may still prefer to contact our committee first instead of coming directly to Rabbi Seidel. We understand this, and we are ready to hear from you. You may speak to us in person or by telephone. Please feel free to give us your comments in a candid manner, so that we can get a clear sense of how members feel on specific questions.

### How can you contact our committee members?

Members of the TI Rabbinic Consultative Committee are:

Richard Siegel (chair), telephone 202-363-3711 (home)

Rabbi Elizabeth Richman, telephone 917-686-8671 (cell)

Lee Footer, telephone 202-897-8380 (cell)

Ruth Tabak, telephone 518-364-9705 (cell)

Our Committee's email address is [tircc@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:tircc@tifereth-israel.org).

## Havdallah Potlucks!

Havdallah potlucks are a lovely TI tradition and an excellent way to get to know your fellow congregants. Bring a dairy or parve dish to serve 8-10 people.

### Upcoming potlucks:

January 27th at the home of Richard Gryziak and Leigh Verbois (and Lorelei and Sam)

February 10th at the home of Adrienne Torrey, Joel Coffidis & Miriam Torrey-Coffidis

March 3rd at the home of Lisa Itkin and Judah and Michael Flum

Sign up for any or all of them here: <http://tinyurl.com/TIHavdalot>

## Himmelfarb & Chai Happenings

Rina Rebibo

December was filled with Hanukkah happenings. Pre-Gan & Gan made their own menorahs to bring home. Kitah Alef & Bet also made menorahs but they donated theirs to a local residence for the elderly. Kitah Gimel made a personalized wall hanging with the Hanukkah blessings. Kitah Hey made a large menorah with Morah Fylis that is on display by the main office (photo below).

On Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup>, about 200 people joined at TI for the annual Hanukkah Extravaganza. Roz and the kitchen staff outdid themselves with artisanal grilled cheeses, tomato soup, and latkes. Every age from tots on up had something to do. About 30 children enjoyed the interactive workshop about centripetal force with JScience and over 20 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed Festival Family Feud with our USY advisor Adam Rosen. All ages enjoyed the Dreidel Brackets Game led by Laura Schiavo as well as helping Rabbi Seidel with making over 240 sufganiyot.

On Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>, our Better Together intergenerational cohort had their own Hanukkah Party, complete with holiday treats. The program focused on the themes of Hanukkah and culminated with the generations working together to make origami dreidels, which they then used to play dreidel with!



Photo  
by Rona  
Rebibo

After school, our faculty stayed for lunch and an afternoon CPR training. This program was sponsored by Mona & Mark Berch and we are on our way to having 100% of our staff being CPR certified!

As 2017 winds down, we look back at the first four months of school with pride and are looking forward to exciting things in 2018!

## Himmelfarb & Chai Happenings (continued)

### Important Upcoming Dates

**Wednesday January 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Hebrew School classes resume

**Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am -12:00 pm:** Better Together Program – Stephanie K. Firestone, Senior Strategic Policy Advisor, Health and Age-friendly Communities, AARP International will be speaking on Senior Public Policy.

**Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup> 6:15 – 8:15 pm:** Confirmation

Class

**Friday January 12<sup>th</sup>:** Teen-led Kabbalat Shabbat & USY Tzedakah Dinner. Register here: <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/event/jan18>

**Sunday January 14<sup>th</sup>:** No School

**Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup> 6:15 – 8:15 pm:** Confirmation Class – Special Guest Speaker, Ira Forman

## 2018 Social Action Shabbaton That You May Know to Whom the Earth Belongs

*“That you may know that the Earth belongs to the Lord.” Shmot 9:29*

*“The highest heavens belong to the Lord, but God has given the Earth to humanity” Tehillim 115:16*

Martin Luther King Weekend, January 12th-13th

On the Shabbat of Martin Luther King weekend, we'll read parshat Va'era, in which Moshe demonstrates to Pharaoh that “the Earth belongs to the Lord.” Yet the rabbis have subsequently wondered how this squares with other texts in the Torah, which teach that God only presides over the heavens, while the Earth has been given to us.

The Tifereth Israel community will pick up this timely discussion at the 2018 Social Justice Shabbaton: to whom does the Earth belong, and how are we as human beings supposed to live and relate to God's world? And how can we learn from Moshe about the best ways to speak out to those in power about environmental injustice?

As the first generation to understand that burning fossil fuels is also disrupting the “heavens,” damaging our climate, how might we pursue climate justice and shift to cleaner energy, inspired by the work TI's Solar Committee is doing this year to install solar panels on the soul's roof?

Guest speaker Mirele Goldsmith will speak at Friday night dinner and at Shabbat morning services.

Dr. Goldsmith is an environmental psychologist and climate activist who served as the Director of Hazon's Jewish Greening Fellowship. She is a founder of Jews Against Hydrofracking and was a leader in mobilizing the New York Jewish community to participate in the Peoples Climate March.

Saturday after lunch, join us for a panel to discuss the hopeful ways that we can get more of our energy from “the heavens” by going solar at home, in our communities, and through advocacy in DC, Maryland, and beyond:

Joelle Novey, Interfaith Power & Light, Maryland Clean Energy Jobs campaign, moderator

Daniel Pedersen, TI Solar Committee

Mirele Goldsmith

Camila Thorndike, #PriceltDC Campaign

Anya Schoolman, Solar United Neighbors (invited)

*The 2018 Social Justice Shabbaton is organized by the TI Social Action Committee in partnership with Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA) and the TI Environmental Committee.*

## Kol Nashim Book Club - Jessica Weissman

At our December meeting the KN Book Club discussed *Violins of Hope* by James Grymes, about string instruments played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust, the fates of the musicians, and how the instruments were later restored. We noted that the book did not meet our expectations, concentrating in far more detail on Holocaust experiences than on the restoration of the instruments or on the Israeli luthier who restored them.

On January 16th at 7:30 we will meet at the home of Jessica Weissman and Louise Kelley to discuss Michelle Brafman's *Washing the Dead*, a novel set in Milwaukee, mainly in the Orthodox community. My recollection from reading it a few years ago is that it

is an affecting and well written novel that does touch on the practice of *tahara* (ritual washing of the dead) along with many other things. A congregant from Milwaukee assures me the Milwaukee details are accurate.

Many copies are available in the Montgomery County public library system and a few in the DC library. It is also available in paperback and electronic forms from the usual sources.

Everyone is welcome, including those who have not finished or even started the book.

RSVP to [knbook@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:knbook@tifereth-israel.org)

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## Abdullah Family Update - Janet Nesse

November and December were great months for the Abdullahs. The Feron family has been spearheading Sunday morning tutoring and also invited the family to a Thanksgiving feast. As best as I ascertained, their favorite things included the Turkey napkins, Thanksgiving crafts, and grapes. Other weekend family field trips have included the zoo, Wheaton Regional Park and the Natural History Museum

Alice Burton has done amazing work getting the grownups done with their dental care and working with the family to get them all of the medical care, vaccines, etc. for their Green cards. The family submitted their Green card applications with the assistance of a friend, and we have confirmation of receipt. We are awaiting the next steps in that process.

As always, the congregation was incredibly generous when a call went out for warm winter clothes. In days, the whole family had coats, boots, sweaters, scarves, hats, and gloves. In a cross cultural note, when the IKEA coat rack arrived Mr. A tried to put it together

without looking at the IKEA pictures. For all those of you who try to do that and you know who you are... it is impossible. We have some more gift cards, and are planning to use them for New Year's gifts.

On the school front the children are working away. We had one honor roll certificate and one citizenship award. Reading is the key to all of this, so we are focusing on that. If anyone has the time to go after school and help for an hour or so, that would be great. It is very hard to keep four children moving forward at the same time. Judy Berland has joined the regular after school tutoring group. In addition to the children's tutoring, we have some adult ESL tutoring ongoing, but if anyone is available during the week to spend an hour or so with the parents, learning English, that would be great.

Many many people have donated items, money, personal time, and professional expertise to this effort, so thank you all so much.

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# TI TEEN SHABBAT AND TZEDAKAH DINNER

## JANUARY 12TH 2017



Join TI Kadima/USY for  
**Kabbalat Shabbat and the  
annual tzedakah dinner.**

**A night of singing, friends, family, and food!**

Dinner followed by  
People, Planets, and Prophets:  
Jewish Wisdom for a Sustainable World,  
led by Mirele Goldsmith

Be sure to register by January 8:

[www.tinyurl.com/Tljan18](http://www.tinyurl.com/Tljan18)

Teens can sign up to lead  
services and help with dinner:  
[www.tinyurl.com/Tlusedinner18](http://www.tinyurl.com/Tlusedinner18)

Services at 6pm  
Dinner at 7pm

Questions? Email Adam:  
[adam@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:adam@tifereth-israel.org)

## Nothing is More Life Affirming than Death

Anonymous

I am a member of a secret society, performing one of the most private Jewish rituals. I am one of the members of the Tifereth Israel community who lovingly washes, dresses, prays over, and cares for the body left behind after a member of our community dies and before he or she is buried. This society is secret because it seeks no recognition, no glory, for its work.

What I do is called *taharah*, purification, the solemn practices to prepare a body for burial. I am part of the Chevra Kadisha, the holy friends. Men perform *taharah* on men, women on women, following ancient rituals. The service we perform is called "*chesed shel emet*" or the ultimate "true kindness" since this service is provided for those who can no longer say "thank you", can no longer return a favor. But to me it is not clear who is the real beneficiary. I get so much more than I give from doing *taharah*.

I started doing *taharah* at Tifereth Israel many years ago. I had heard about it at a synagogue discussion, and thought that I could do it. That's the path most of us take: we hear about it and say "I could do that." We just know.

I was trained, and a few days later came the first call. That's the thing about death: it doesn't make appointments. We had to do *taharah* in a few hours. So we did, making mistakes, I'm sure, but with kindness and caring for the *met*, the shell of the person who died.

I've performed *taharah* many times since that first time, always a little uneasy as I enter the *taharah* room, but comfortable knowing that the team will work together. The ritual is very prescribed, washing the body in a standard order, changing our gloves before the ritual cleansing. Saying "she is pure" or "he is pure" as we pour the water. Carefully drying the body and combing hair, putting on the garments

of the shroud in a particular order, holding the hand of the *met* as we dressed what was left of the once vital person. Hearing one of the team read from the Song of Songs about "heaps of curls black as a raven" or a body like "polished ivory covered with sapphires" reminds us that this person was beautiful, and we remember that the body we wash and dress still is beautiful. I cradle the head as I draw the body to me to allow other team members to reach the back. Someone drops the washcloth on a foot, and apologizes to the body that was once a person.

Throughout it all we say ancient prayers, beginning and ending with asking forgiveness for any mistakes we might make or might have made. After washing and dressing the body, the team places it in the coffin, adding some Israeli soil, and closes the top. The team members are the last to see the *met*.

When my mother died, I was comforted to know that others were performing this same ritual on her, with lovingkindness. She had loved to be bathed, to be clean, and she was being cared for. They say that the person's spirit is in the room with us as we do *taharah*, and so we respect the life and celebrate it as we get that body ready for burial. The *met* is as helpless as a baby, maybe more so because it cannot respond. Yet the *met* before us is a sacred vessel, and what we do honors the dead.

When it is over we say prayers for the person who has died, the community, and ourselves, and outside the building we wash our hands. When I leave, I enjoy the sunlight or moonlight, the drive, the power of the car. When I get home I hug my family, rejoicing in their presence. I have something to eat and I am more aware of the taste of the food, the sounds of friendship around me. And when there is a *simcha* I celebrate, for myself and for all those for whom I have performed *taharah*.

## Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Diana Zurer

### *Nakhes Fun Kinder and General Mispoche News Dept.*

**Alan Landay** went to Brooklyn for Thanksgiving visiting his niece, **Dyanna**, her husband **Pramodh** and his extremely cute grand-niece, **Leela**, age about 2 1/2. Also visiting was his sister, brother-in-law, and nephew (a junior at the University of Tennessee) up from east Tennessee; and another niece down from Boston. It was a crowd for a modest-sized apartment but a very fun experience. They had a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner organized by **Dyanna**; it was the entire menu from the New York Times Thanksgiving dinner. Alan brought Challah that he had just learned to make at the Rabbi's Challah baking class.

They also had a wonderful time doing other activities: visiting nearby Prospect Park (where he ran on Thanksgiving morning), walking across the Brooklyn Bridge into Manhattan, seeing the wonderful holiday window displays (accompanied by music) in Manhattan, eating at some excellent restaurants, and even doing Karaoke. For the Karaoke they got to reserve a room for their group, so no performance anxiety! It was great fun. **Alan** told someone it was like a movie, such as "Miracle on 34th Street," except it was like being in the movie instead of just watching it.

**Mike and Lisa Kraft** traveled to Israel in early December for a big family gathering of more than 60 relatives honoring **Lisa's** surviving first cousins: **Yair**, who turned 95 and is an artist and a World War II British army veteran and **Giana**, 90, who still tutors children with learning problems. The more than 60 second, third and fourth cousins at the gathering are descents of her late aunt and three daughters who were underground in Italy during World War II. The **Krafts** stayed with their daughter **Dina**, who returned to Tel Aviv from Cambridge in August for a sabbatical year and is writing for Ha'aretz and the Christian Science Monitor. Their two sabra grandchildren (10 and 8) are attending school in northern Tel Aviv and catching up on their *Ivrit and Tanach* after nearly 6 years in Cambridge.

While in Jerusalem to meet a one-year-old grand

nephew, **Mike** and **Lisa** also met for the first time their son **Daniel's** grandmother-in-law, who is 99. She too is still sharp and active. Maybe there is something to the Mediterranean diet.

In November they attended another of Singularity University's annual exciting Exponential Medicine conference founded and chaired by their son **Daniel**. It was attended by more than 600 researchers and others from 30 countries. There in San Diego they also spent time at the Zoo and the beach with their two young California grandsons. 3 1/2 year old **Leo** whose conference badge labeled him "Dinosaur Expert" happily shared his expertise all around.

At the end of the month, **Mike's** latest book on counterterrorism was published after nearly three years of conducting research and interviews. Entitled [U.S. Counterterrorism: From Nixon to Trump: Key Challenges, Issues, and Responses](#), the book presents an overview of the evolution of terrorism threats and U.S. countermeasures from the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre of Israeli athletes during the Nixon administration to the first year of the Trump administration. In addition, **Mike** and his co-author **Edward Marks**, also a former State Department and Defense Department counterterrorism official, describe the impact of technology and the internet on the accelerating changes in the terrorism threat.

### *Dergraychungn (Accomplishments)*

**Janice Mehler** received an Academy Award for Lifetime Achievement. No, not that Academy; it was her longtime employer, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. *Mazel Tov!*

**Jessica Weissman** passed an online test and was awarded the ITILv3 Foundations certification. This is now considered table stakes for IT professionals who work with living breathing customers. Not for nothing is it pronounced identically with "idle". *Mazel Tov!*

### *Happy News*

*Mazel-Tov and Welcome to:*

*(Continued on page 13)*

## The Rape of Dina and Shlomo Carlebach: How Do We Respond?

Michele Sumka

Many thanks to Rabbi Seidel for opening up this discussion by allowing congregants to offer our comments for the drash on Parshat Vayishlah on November 17, which includes the rape of Dina. I appreciate that those affected, including myself, were the first to speak. This is a very difficult topic, one that many are uncomfortable talking about.

What is the role of women in this discussion? I can only speak for myself, and yet I know that my experiences and perspective are representative of many others. As a woman who was sexually assaulted at a young age, I've carried the burdens from this experience. For many years I was silenced by fear, guilt, and shame, even though I knew cognitively that I didn't do anything to provoke or deserve the assault. I am thankful that the shame and guilt I felt were healed by many years of hard, painful work with several therapists, a group at the DC Rape Crisis Center, and a Focusing Counselor.

I was also confused about how God could have allowed this to happen to me. Over the years I have talked to a number of rabbis, including Rabbi Abramowitz. Several of my teachers at ALEPH, the Alliance for Jewish Renewal have been instrumental in helping me work on uncovering residual issues. I am so grateful to God's Feminine Presence, Shechinah, for being with me and guiding me on my path. God has helped me see the gifts I have received from doing this work, of which the most important one is finding my voice.

Now I believe that it is time for those of us who have been marginalized by fear, shame, or guilt over who they are to find our voices and speak with honesty and compassion about our truths.

Sometimes it's not easy to find our truths, especially if we've been threatened by someone stronger or more important. Sometimes we may have to work on healing our pain with a sensitive, trained listener be-

fore we can even recognize our own truths.

What truths am I speaking about? The truth that our voices have been mostly disregarded in our tradition for millennia. The truth that we have often held our tongues for the sake of Shalom Bayit (peace in the home, i.e., not to rock the boat). The fear of being ridiculed for our women's intuition, for listening to bubba mayases (grandmothers' tales), for being too emotional, for over-reacting. The truth that many of us constantly question, "Are we enough?" Are we attractive enough, intellectual enough, strong enough??? The truth that our empathy for others is a strength, not a weakness.

Now comes the question for us as a community of whether we want to continue using Shlomo Carlebach's melodies in our services. I feel that we must, first of all, believe those who have been affected, secondly, honor their bravery for speaking up, and thirdly understand that, for many of them this abuse was traumatic and that hearing his music or name is re-traumatizing, just as soldiers with PTS may be re-traumatized by hearing loud noises. Consequently, I believe that we should avoid, as much as possible, using his melodies. I know that they are ubiquitous and may be impossible to eliminate completely. I'd like to give an analogy. Suppose you are the producer of a special, wonderful food product that has great health benefits. Suppose you learn after it has been distributed that there is one ingredient in this product that can cause some people to become deathly ill. Wouldn't you want to do all you could do to trace the customers who purchased this product to warn them not to consume it? This is how I feel about Carlebach's melodies: they have been healing for some people, but they are like poison for others. As Jews, we have an obligation not to cause harm to others, and it follows that we should do whatever we can to avoid using these melodies.



## *For the Fun of It!*

Join Kol Nashim and Gevarim for

# GAME NIGHT

Saturday, Jan 20, 2018

7:30 pm

In the Library

**Poker, Card, Board and Strategy Games Available**

Or

**BYOG (Bring Your Own Game)**

**Knitters' Table**

**Beer and Snacks Provided**

**Children Welcome**

**\$5 donation requested**

## **Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers (continued)**

**Suri Aliza Berg, Mikah** and **Alex Berg's** new baby daughter, who was born on Monday, November 20, 2017. Big sister **Naomi** joins us all in welcoming **Suri**.

### **Sad News**

Rabbi **Jack L. Shapiro**, brother of TI member **David (Lois) Shapiro**, and uncle of **Jennifer**, died December 9, 2017, in Chicago. He was 75 and died after a long illness. The funeral took place in Chicago and burial was in Beth Shemesh, Israel on December 11, 2017.

**Sara Rovinsky**, mother of TI member **Robert Rovinsky (Renana Brooks)**, and grandmother of **Nesha-**

**ma** and **Neilah**, died December 11, 2017 in Pennsylvania. She was 100 and died after a short decline. The funeral took place on December 14 at Roosevelt Memorial Park in Trevoise, Pennsylvania.

*May their memories be a blessing.*

*Redn iz zilber, shvaygn iz gold* means Speech is silver, silence is golden. This month I leave you with: *Azoy vert dos kikhl tzebrochen*. Hope to hear from many of you for the February Menorah.

My deadline is January 23rd, 2018. Thanks!  
dzurer@gmail.com [dzurer@gmail.com](mailto:dzurer@gmail.com)

## SHALEM

Jessica Weissman

TI's own **Diana Zurer** will present An Introduction to American Yiddish poetry on December 30th. From Morris Rosenfeld, a sweat shop poet from the end of the 19th c. to Aaron Zeitlin who died in 1974, you'll be introduced to poems in Yiddish and English, read and sung, that will fascinate, challenge and charm you.

Diana Zurer is a product of Sholem Aleichem Folk Shul 45 in the Bronx and the Fareynikde Mitleshul. She was a member of TI's Yiddish Ahf Shabbos troupe which presented programs on Yiddish themes. She is a member of the DC Leyenkrayz which reads Yiddish texts together. Diana worked for DC Public Schools in Curriculum and Instruction and after leaving DCPS was the Deputy Director of the Early Childhood Leadership Institute. Since retirement, Diana has been able to devote more time to her passion for quilting and Italian travel.

On January 6th, Funeral Practices committee member **David Cohen** will give a *dvar torah* on the history and functions of the committee. He hopes to make people less fearful of the topic and inspire volunteers. The SHALEM program, entitled "Honoring the Dead, Comforting the Living: Exploring Funeral Practices at Tifereth Israel" will feature a panel of committee members moderated by **Jennifer Kefer**. Panelists will describe their experiences – and motivations – for doing this important work:

- **David Cohen** will discuss the role of the Funeral Practices Committee (haverim)
- **Judith Turner** will discuss *tahara*
- **Susan Catler** will discuss *shmira* and meal delivery during shiva
- **Rabbi Seidel** will describe the *halacha* governing shiva

## January Highlights at Tifereth Israel

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>January 6</b>       | <b>SHALEM post-Kiddush program: Honoring the Dead, Comforting the Living: Exploring Funeral Practices at Tifereth Israel, 1:15pm</b>             |
| <b>January 12</b>      | <b>USY Tzedakah Dinner—Kabbalat Shabbat 6pm; then dinner and a presentation by Dr. Mirele Goldsmith on Jewish Wisdom for a Sustainable World</b> |
| <b>January 12 - 13</b> | <b>Social Action Shabbaton including Friday night talk, drash and SHALEM program on the theme of To Whom Does the Earth Belong?</b>              |
| <b>January 16</b>      | <b>KN Book Club, at the home of Jessica Weissman &amp; Louise Kelley 7:30 pm. Reading is <i>Washing the Dead</i>, by Michelle Brafman.</b>       |
| <b>January 20</b>      | <b>Game Night, sponsored by Kol Nashim and Gevarim. Games, snacks, and knitting. 7:30</b>  |
| <b>January 28</b>      | <b>Movie nite, showing <i>Inventing Our Life: The Kibbutz Experiment</i>, 7:30 pm</b>  |

For further details on these and other TI events go to our website at [www.Tifereth-Israel.org](http://www.Tifereth-Israel.org), Facebook at [www.facebook.com/TiferethIsrael](https://www.facebook.com/TiferethIsrael), or Twitter at [www.twitter.com/TiferethDC](https://www.twitter.com/TiferethDC).

## Gevarim

### Andrew Reamer

# גברים

#### Movie Nite

On Sunday, January 28, at 7:30 PM, Movie Nite@TI will show "Inventing Our Life: The Kibbutz Experiment" (2010, 81 mins). The film meshes interviews with first-, second- and third-generation kibbutzniks — including those from Sasa, the first kibbutz founded by Americans — and commentary from Israeli scholars with tours of numerous kibbutzim today and vintage footage from as far back as the 1920s. The movie is free.

#### Game Night

The annual mid-winter TI Game Night takes place Saturday, January 20 at

7:30 PM in the Berch Library. Join Gevarim and Kol Nashim in the fun!

#### Video Course: The World of Biblical Israel

Video lectures on "The World of Biblical Israel" continue on January 7 and 21 from 10:30 AM-12:15 PM in the Berch Library. In these two sessions (Lectures 9-12), Oberlin College Professor Cynthia Chapman covers "Kings and Kingdoms, North and South, 1000–745 B.C.E." Subjects include monarchy, politics, economics, worship, and social classes. Each session includes an hour of lecture and 45 minutes of discussion led by Allan Tulchin, Adult Ed Committee chair and

Shippensburg University history professor.

#### Shabbat Talmud Study

Rabbi Seidel continues leading us in the study of Talmud Tractate Berakhot in English translation. This tractate is an extended discussion of the blessings that one recites on various occasions over one's life. The next sessions are on January 20 and 27 from 1:15 to 2:00 PM in the Reamer Chapel. Books are provided. Feel free to drop in on our ongoing exploration of the Talmud

## TI New Member Shabbat - January 20th 2018

We will be welcoming and honoring everyone else who joined TI in 2017, during Shabbat morning services on January 20th. Before the conclusion of the service (roughly 11:45am) we will ask all new members and their families to come up on the bima so we can introduce you to the congregation. Then new members help lead the congregation in singing or dancing to Adon Olam.

If you joined TI in 2017:

- Please RSVP at <https://goo.gl/forms/JTEV33p57NGty12W2> to let us know whether you are coming. We want to have a name tag waiting for you and each family member. When you RSVP, you can let us know if (and how) you would like to participate in the service.
- We will be creating a photo board with pictures of our new members for the Juniper St lobby. Please send your photo to [Receptionist@Tifereth-Israel.org](mailto:Receptionist@Tifereth-Israel.org) so you and your family members can be included, whether or not you can be at TI on January 20th.

And if you are not a new member, please come support and welcome everyone who is new to TI. After all, you helped create the welcoming and lively atmosphere that helped draw them to TI in the first place.

Questions? Contact Susan Catler, Membership VP, at [TIMembership@Tifereth-Israel.org](mailto:TIMembership@Tifereth-Israel.org)



## Preparing and Serving Christmas Dinner

TI-ers and members of Adat Shalom served Christmas dinners at four shelters this year: Friendship Place's La Casa Men's Apartments, Patricia Handy Women's Shelter, Harriet Tubman Women's Shelter, and Adam's Place Men's Shelter. Photos show only a few of the many volunteers who prepared food, transported food, carved turkeys, and served the dinners.



Photos by Jeff Peterman



## USCJ Biennial Convention Report

### Shoshana Strom

Hello! For those of you who I haven't had a chance to meet yet, my name is Shoshana Strom and I am the administrative and community engagement assistant here at TI. If you've called the synagogue office in the past few months, we've probably spoken on the phone. At the beginning of December, thanks to a generous anonymous donor from TI, I was able to attend the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism biennial convention in Atlanta, Georgia. For four days, I was surrounded by the ruach and passion of the leaders of our movement. We ate, prayed, sang, and studied Torah together - and drank lots of Coke. (Fun fact: the global headquarters of Coca-Cola is in Atlanta, and only Coke products were served at the hotel!)

#### Millennial Leadership Summit

The convention itself was split into two parts: a Shabbaton and then the conference. During the Shabbaton, I attended the Millennial Leadership Summit that brought together people in their 20s and 30s from across North America. There were about twenty of us in total, representing kehillot in DC, New York City, Boston, Toronto, Edmonton, and more; some are employees of synagogues, while others balance working outside a synagogue with lay leadership roles. One of the most significant parts of the Shabbaton was meeting these other Jewish young people and hearing about their communities in other cities. I grew up deeply connected to my Jewish community in Los Angeles, and remained involved when I went to college outside of Seattle, but I have professional experience in a Jewish community only here in DC. On a personal level, then, I really enjoyed the opportunity to hear about programs and activities that bring together Jewish people in other cities; on a professional level, I was grateful for the opportunity to brainstorm with and learn from people doing similar work to me.

We attended sessions to share stories of our Jewish communities, exchange ideas, and learn about best practices for building strong communities.

#### Relational Judaism

One session that I particularly enjoyed was on relational Judaism, a model of community-building developed by Ron Wolfson that values people over programs, personal relationships over institutions, quality over quantity. Relational Judaism tells us that it is not enough to have big events or popular speakers or clever marketing, if those programs do not also bring people closer to each other and strengthen their personal Jewish practices. At the Millennial Leadership Summit, we discussed Wolfson's twelve principles of relational Judaism, as well as practical ways to implement these principles at our kehillot. Something as simple as a follow-up phone call or email after meeting someone for the first time, for example, or rethinking which rooms are used for certain programs can be very beneficial to building strong relationships.

#### Concerts and Community

The conference formally began on Sunday afternoon and each session had about a dozen topics from which attendees could choose, ranging from themes like building maintenance to teen engagement to the intersection of music and midrash. A particular highlight of my weekend came after these sessions, at a Jewish music concert held at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. preached. Music had already been a constant of my convention experience, from Friday night tisches to a late-night song session on Saturday night. But singing and dancing my way through this historic house of worship connected to me to my Judaism and to this new community that had formed in only a couple days in an entirely new

*(Continued on page 18)*

## A Different Blessing Upon Your Child

Mark Berch

A few years back, Rabbi Seidel wrote a column for the Menorah encouraging people to recite the parental blessing on their children. Many, myself included, find this to be a very meaningful practice, and I do it to this day.

But the traditional form of the blessing has, in my view, a flaw: it's gendered, and it doesn't need to be. The male form includes the names of two biblical men; the female form has four biblical women. Starting with the birth of our oldest in 1983, I recited a variant of this blessing, which kept the traditional wording, but all six names were recited. Had we been later blessed with a girl, I would have used the same wording. This was the most minimal change needed to put the blessing into a non-gendered form.

There are two precedents for such a move. The first is the blessing most close to this one – the traditional blessing recited at a boy's bar mitzvah, a blessing I gave a dvar tefila on a few years ago. When the bat mitzvah became practice, the same blessing was employed. Thus, parents recite the same blessing over a boy or girl --- just as here.

The second is the traditional blessing for having been born, which is recited right at the start of the morning service. The male and female versions are markedly different in both wording and tone. When Sim Shalom came out, this was changed. They could have gone

with a gendered version, making the two versions parallel, e.g. "...who has made me a man" and "... who has made me a woman". Instead, Sim Shalom has a non-gendered wording, with male and female wording the same. So it is here as well, the same wording in either case.

Don't think that this wording means that you believe that e.g. boys and girls are just the same, or some such. This is one of those blessings that oughtn't be taken too literally. After all, we don't really want our kid to be entirely like for, example Rachel, who had to share a spouse with her sister and who died in childbirth.

Last year in discussing parashat Vayechi, Rabbi Seidel remarked that one thing he liked about the blessing recited at a bat or bar mitzvah is that it's "parve". He noted that it's the same blessing regardless of the child's particular strengths and weaknesses; it's the same regardless of what dreams and aspirations you have for your kid. This wording takes that "parve" one step further: it's the same blessing regardless of your child's gender.

One last point. It may turn out that your little girl is, at heart, actually a boy, or vice versa. Or it may be that your little one will turn out to be one of those people for whom neither "female" nor "male" is really a good fit. If that's the case, this wording for the blessing would have been right all along.

## USCJ Biennial Convention Report (continued)

and unexpected way. At one point during the concert, the singer turned to us and said, "If we don't insist relentlessly that we bring love and peace to the world, we're not fulfilling our mission." This is a statement I have returned to constantly in the weeks since returning to Atlanta, and it is something I am sure I

will continue to think of in the new year. I'm looking forward to 2018, and can't wait to begin implementing what I learned at the convention here at TI!

## Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

### January 5, 2018

Morton Simon  
David & Rona Siskind  
Aaron & Reva Snow  
Steven Solomon & Cara Lichtenstein  
Jamie Sorge & Malki Karkowsky  
Sarah Sorscher & Marcus Hedrick  
Louis & Madge Lee Specter  
Barry & Sari Siegel Spieler  
Jeffrey & Julie Steinberg  
Lois C. Steinberg  
Michael Stempel & Sheryl Frank  
Abby Stoler & Samantha Holtz  
Steven Stoller  
Jack Stone & Wilma Brier  
Herman & Malka Stopak  
Michael & Michelle Strollo  
Edwin Stromberg & Rose Ellen Halper  
Shelley Sturman

### January 19, 2018

Marc Suddleson & Molly Surden  
Howard & Michele Sumka  
Michael & Adele Sumner  
Gabe & Ruth Tabak  
JT & Naomi Taransky  
Bernard & Daniella Taveau  
Kassahun Teffera & Melke Mengiste  
Jevera Temsky  
Glenn & Diane Thrush  
Neil & Rachel Tickner  
Michael Tilchin

Peter & Rhoda Trooboff  
Paula Tucker  
Jonathan & Cathy Tuerk  
Allan & Judy Tulchin  
Daniel & Allison Turner  
Michael & Ruth Unterweger  
Mark Verschell & Elizabeth Leff  
Susan Vitale

### January 26, 2018

David Wachtel & Jennifer Goldstein  
Reenie Wagner  
Harry Waldman & Susan Morse  
Philip Wallach & Vera Krimnus  
Marc Warshawsky & Vivian Seidner  
Matthew Watson & Ellen Cabot  
Stephanie Weber  
Eric Weiner & Sharon Moshavi  
Zach Weinstein  
Jon Weintraub & Judith Heimlich  
Michael Weiss & Phyllis Stanger  
Jessica Weissman & Louise Kelley  
Dov Weitman & Sylvia Horwitz  
Alan & Cynthia Weitz  
Howard & Barbara White  
Louise Wiener  
Peter Winch & Denice Zeck  
Adam & Dorothea Wolfson  
Christopher Zeilinger & Ann Baker  
Yohannes Zeleke  
Alan Zibel & Renee Gindi  
Diana Zurer  
Ellen Zwibak

### February 2, 2018

Luis & Karen Acosta

Andrew Afflerbach & Joanne Hovis  
Miriam Alpern  
Jon Alterman & Katherine LaRiviere  
Robyn M. Altman & Brendan J. Doherty  
Timothy Anderegg & Lisa Fogel-Anderegg  
Leonard Bachman  
Heike Bailin  
Sidney Bailin  
Lawrence Baizer & Elaine Lewis  
Paul & Esther Bardack  
Burt Barnow  
Mae Cooper & Gideon Bass  
Charles Baum  
Leonard & Joy Baxt  
Mark & Mona Berch  
Alex Berg & Mikah Goldman  
Bruce & Laurie Berger  
Carl Bergman & Margie Odle

### February 9, 2018

Judi Berland  
Joe Berman & Marsha Gentner  
Nicole Berns & Alex Schaffer  
Dana Beyer  
Jackie Binogol  
Sheri Blonder  
Gideon & Lisa Blumenthal  
Ron & Dina Borzekowski  
Larry & Lise Bram  
Sarah Bram  
Steven & Rachel Bressler  
Sharon Brown  
Stephen Burd & Laura Schiavo

## January and February Birthday/Anniversary Kiddushim



Share your January or February simcha and help sponsor the birthday/anniversary kiddush. Your name on a cake in squiggly icing! Your birthday or anniversary in the bulletin and mentioned in the announcements!

Sign up to sponsor at: [www.tinyurl.com/Tibday](http://www.tinyurl.com/Tibday)

**January 13, 2018:** deadline is January 10th

**February 3, 2018:** deadline is January 31st

## Friday Night Minyan Assignments (continued)

Joel & Alice Burton

Susan Chapin

Daniel Chazan & Ronit Eisenbach

Joel Cohen

**February 23, 2018**

Ann Cohen

David & Judy Cohen

David & Elana Cohen

Hal Cohen & Katie Benton-Cohen

Raymond & Rebecca Coleman

Jeffrey Colman & Ellen Nissenbaum

Nataliya Chernyak Cowen

Tamir & Rebecca Damari

Miriam Davidson

Joe Davidson

Ronni Davis

Adam Diamond & Rabbi Jane Berman

Helen Disenhaus

Stan Dorn & Carla Ellern

Earl Dotter & Deborah Stern

Desirée Douglas

## Preparing and Serving Christmas Dinner continued



Photos by Jeff Peterman

## Crafting Tots at the Hanukkah Extravaganza - Ruth Tabak

TI Tots hosted an arts & crafts table at the Hanukkah extravaganza before, during, and after dinner! Tots and their families decorated dreidels and menorahs to hang in their homes, and were kept busy peeling the backs off tiny stickers and learning how to use stamps. Thanks to Rina for the ideas and supplies, and expect to see Tots again at next year's Hanukkah Extravaganza, working diligently on a new craft project!



## Updates from Your TI USY and Kadima Advisor

### Adam Rosen

Dear TI USYers, Kadimaniks, Parents, Family and Friends,

December was an incredible month for our chapter. We began with a Teen Shabbat service, with our USYers showing off their davening skills for the congregation and bringing an extra level of ruach



to Kabbalat Shabbat. Not to be missed was the Hanukkah Extravaganza, as we joined with the community to celebrate the festival of lights, lit candles, filled up on latkes and sufganiyot, and had

25 Kadimaniks and USYers take part in the ultimate game of TI Jewish Family Feud. Up next was a fun filled Sunday afternoon as 13 Kadimaniks enjoyed a pizza lunch and successfully completed the TI "Escape the Room". Last, but not least, was the USY TI Teen Hangout, as the chapter took over Rina's house for more donuts, latkes, friends and fun.

Our events this past month further proved to me that our chapter is strongest when we are together regardless of the activity, and I look forward to continuing that trend in the future. Check below for some awesome events coming up in January, and save the dates for February. You may notice some changes since our calendar initially came out at the beginning of the year.

Thank you to everyone who has made suggestions thus far. Special shout out to our Kadima participants for coming up with their own idea for an upcoming program! I encourage anyone who has suggestions about improving TI USY Kadima, teens and parents alike, to reach out to me at: [adam@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:adam@tifereth-israel.org) as we continue to take TI USY and Kadima to the next level. Please remember

*(Continued on page 22)*

Photos by  
Adam Rosen



## Updates from Your USY and Kadima Advisor (continued)

ber that to participate in chapter or regional events you must be a member of TI Kadima or USY. Feel free to reach out should you have questions about scholarship information for chapter or regional programming.

**To become a member of Kadima/USY and participate in chapter and regional programming, please sign up here: <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/youth17>**

### Upcoming TI Kadima and USY Activities

**Sat, January 6<sup>th</sup> – Seaboard Kadima Saturday Night Live – 7:30 – 10PM – Beth El Bethesda**

Join your TI friends at Seaboard USY's largest event of the year. This can't miss night will feature inflatables, laser tag, video games, giant Jenga, gaga, DJ's, and an ice cream sundae bar. There is something for everyone at this mega program and an incredible opportunity to meet Kadimaniks from across the region. As this is a regional program, please sign up here: <http://www.regpacks.com/Seaboard1718/>. If you register in advance, the cost for this fun-filled evening is **ONLY \$20**

**Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup> - TI USY Teen Shabbat and Tzedakah Dinner – 6 -9PM**

Back by popular demand is the annual Tzedakah Dinner. This is your opportunity to help serve our community Shabbat Dinner while raising money for charity as our waiters and waitresses for the evening. Before dinner come to our monthly TI Teen Kabbalat Shabbat. To learn more about the evening, sign up to help with dinner or leading services or register to attend, go to: <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/event/jan18>. There is something for everyone, and we hope to see many of our families at this fun and rewarding evening.

**Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> – Seaboard USY Formal - 8pm-11pm - Ohr Kodosh - Chevy Chase, MD.**

Want to get more involved with regional events? Do you like dressing your finest as we gear up for prom

season? Are you a fan of dancing and dessert? Then this could be the event for you! Sign up here: [www.regpacks.com/Seaboard1718/](http://www.regpacks.com/Seaboard1718/). All ticket requests must be received by January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Tickets are 20 dollars.

**Save the dates in February!**

**February 4<sup>th</sup> – TI Kadima Iron Chef Competition**

**Feb 16 – 18<sup>th</sup> – Seaboard Winter Kadima Kallah**

**Feb 25<sup>th</sup> – Purim Carnival**

**Feb 28<sup>th</sup> – Kadima Purim Shake and Donate**

### ***Funeral Practices Committee Always On-Call***

Chaverim of the Funeral Practices Committee are on call to provide counsel and services to synagogue members and their dependents.

In the event of a death, before contacting the funeral home please contact one of the following haverim, Rabbi Seidel, or the TI office (202-882-1605).

<b>Shelly Heller</b>	h: 301-942-1836 w: 202-994-5906
<b>David Cohen</b>	h: 301-652-2872
<b>Marcia Goggin</b>	h: 301-593-8480 w: 301-754-1963
<b>Bruce Heppen</b>	h: 301-299-3255 c: 202-997-1890 w: 703-417-8983
<b>Robert Rovinsky</b>	h: 202 237 1036 c: 202 815 8707

## Interfaith Action for Human Rights Pen Pal Program

Rabbi Charles Feinberg

*Join IAHR in writing D.C. residents who are incarcerated in the Bureau of Prisons!*

Interfaith Action for Human Rights (IAHR) is an interfaith organization representing people of different faiths from Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia. Our mission is to end policies and practices that promote torture in our society and to respect and affirm the dignity of each human being. IAHR does advocacy on the federal, state and local levels as well as outreach to men and women in prison. In the District of Columbia we are especially sensitive to the fact that over 4,600 District residents are incarcerated in 122 Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facilities around the country and are isolated from their families and loved ones. This makes it particularly difficult for them to successfully maintain supportive relationships and reintegrate into their communities upon their return.

IAHR'S Pen Pal Program is designed to link members of churches, synagogues, mosques and temples to District residents in BOP facilities. We are asking volunteers from each religious community to sign up to correspond with one imprisoned D.C. resident at least once a month for one year. We will be starting with ten Bureau of Prison facilities, and will expand beyond these to residents in other facilities based on our initial success.

We launched the Pen Pal project in November. We have over 60 volunteers! But we still need more volunteers, as close to 150 men and women in the Bureau of Prisons have requested a pen pal. Everyone in the project has to attend an orientation before being assigned a pen pal.

The next orientation will be held at TI at 7pm on January 17th.

We also plan to bring volunteers together periodically to reflect on their experiences and nurture the community of people who have come together to provide support and encouragement to this important segment of our community.

Be part of our effort to be a supportive presence for our incarcerated neighbors by joining this Pen Pal Program. I hope you will find it a rewarding and an enlightening experience.

For more information and or to volunteer, contact Rabbi Charles Feinberg ([iahrpenpal@gmail.com](mailto:iahrpenpal@gmail.com)) or at 202-669-7700

### TI is Collecting Individual Sized Toiletries

The next TI collection is toiletries for Interfaith Works. Please bring in your unopened, individual sized containers from all the exciting travel you have been doing. Requested items include, but are not limited to,

- soap
- shampoo and conditioner
- toothpaste and toothbrushes

- lotion
- deodorant
- alcohol-free mouthwash

Remember, the collection box is now located in the Elevator Lobby. (It's on your left as you go from the Juniper Street entrance towards the sanctuary.)

Collection ends Wednesday, January 31

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## Millennials Plus Hanukkah Ruth Tabak

Young(ish) TI members and friends lit up TI's library with Havdallah and Menorah-lighting on Saturday night, enjoying appetizers-for-dinner and Board games. A few Tots came, too, with their own games to play.



**Left:** Zach Weinstein, Alan Goldsmith, Mikah & Alex Berg, Leah Weinryb Grohsgal & Corey Goettsch, Liora Tabak and Naomi Berg

**Below:** Aaron and Nathan Tabak, Wilhelmina, Johan and Hedy Gottschalk

**Photos by Ruth Tabak**

**Below:** Liora Tabak, Naomi Berg, and Eliza Goettsch

