



The Menorah

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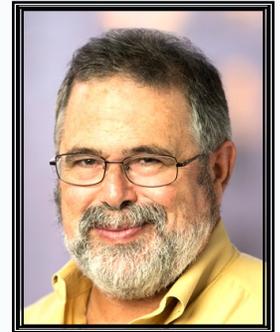
* On-line readers can click the title of an article to go directly to that article

From the President: Stan Dorn

In recent months, the board has begun discussing an important new initiative, with the help of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ). Like many of you, I've spent much of my working life in non-profit organizations. The best of them function in a straightforward way: the board provides strategic direction, the staff makes operational decisions consistent with that direction, and volunteers work under the direction of staff or volunteer leadership designated by staff.

Reaching that kind of clarity here at TI will require a journey. In many ways, we act like a non-profit transitioning from a volunteer-led to staff-driven organization. For a fascinating account of how such transitions have played out in Washington State organizations that serve communities of color, see <https://rainiervalleycorps.org/2017/07/space-navigating-transition-volunteer-run-staff-run-organizations/>. Much in this blog post is quite different from what we experience, but I found many elements to be shockingly familiar.

Fortunately, USCJ's staff includes organizational experts who have helped many



(Continued on page 3)

Notes from the Rabbi: Ethan Seidel

Did Pesach Stick this Year?

So, did Pesach stick with you this year? (I mean besides any extra pounds you gained.) Did Pesach open your heart to God's blessings, ancient, recent, and future? Here's a bit of Torah from Midrash Rabbah that, God having willed, I will have presented at services on the 7th day of Pesach.

Sh'mot Rabbah 23:4 takes up the question of the Hebrew word az, "then", in the phrase that begins the song of the sea (Exodus 15:1) "Then the Israelites sang...". Why not: "The Israelites sang"? Why add the word "Then"? This midrash sees "then" here in the sense of "finally!" Here's how it reads:

From the day that God created the world until Israel stood at the sea, we do not

(Continued on page 2)



Notes from the Rabbi - continued

find a single person singing to God, save Israel. Adam was created, but sang no song. Abraham was rescued from the ... kings [in Genesis 14] and sang no song, and likewise Isaac was spared the sword [of Abraham, *Ibid.* 22] and sang no song. Similarly, Jacob was saved from the angel [he wrestled with, *Ibid.* 32], and from Esau [*Ibid.* 33] ... and sang no song. But when Israel came to the sea and it was split before them, they immediately sang before God, as it is written: "Then Moses and the Israelites sang." Which is just like the verse [Proverbs 31:26] "She opened her mouth in wisdom". God said: "It for these [Israelites] I have been

waiting expectantly!"...

Apparently, we were not created with an understanding of the importance of thankfulness. Nor can we assume that every culture automatically has this understanding. Thankfulness needs to be taught. (And it needs reinforcement - sometimes it seems as if there is no feeling as evanescent as thankfulness.)

The Sfas Emes, writing at the end of the 19th century, notes that at the Red Sea we sang this song, a song contained in the Torah, before the Torah itself was even revealed at Sinai!? We prefigured God's gift with our song. We must have had a deep understanding of the root of Torah!

In the siddur, we often call God: El HaHoda'ot, meaning "the God of thankings" (for example, see Sim Shalom, where this phrase can be found on page 106, 9 lines from the top in the Hebrew). I sometimes imagine this phrase means that Godself is actually composed of thankings. We are the ones constructing God, (or, if that is too radical) dressing God, making God visible by draping on the Divine formlessness, the cloth of thankfulness. We perceive God, only inasmuch as we can thank God.

I love Pesach. And especially the Seders. But I also love the feeling after Pesach, the sense that a new start is possible, that thankfulness (which the budding spring season does so much to reinforce) is at the root of holiness. I hope Pesach was good for you! And now on to Shavuot!

Rabbi Seidel

The Menorah Tifereth Israel Congregation

7701 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20012
Voice: 202-882-1605 FAX: 202-829-0635

info@tifereth-israel.org

Office hours: M, W, Th 9-6; Tu Staff Projects Day, F
9-3

Sat & Sun Closed

Closed: Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day
June 10 for Shavuot

Appointments are recommended

Rabbi: Ethan Seidel, ext. 302

Rabbi Emeritus: A. Nathan Abramowitz, ext. 301

President: Stan Dorn

Executive Director: Jevera Temsky, ext. 301

Administration: Sheri Blonder, ext. 304

Education Director: Rina Rebibo, ext. 305

Catering: Roz Kram, ext. 312

Facilities: Steve Ross, ext. 301

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

Menorah Editor: Jessica Weissman

Copy Editor: Robert Rovinsky

Photography Editor: Jeff Peterman

Menorah submissions: menorah@tifereth-israel.org

President's Column - continued

other synagogues move down this path. At the end of the road lies much more efficient decision-making, smoother operations, and improved accountability. It will take us some time to get there, and we will need a TI-specific set of roles and responsibilities, but I anticipate significant progress when next year's board takes its seats in June.

Speaking of the forthcoming changing of the guard, this is my final Menorah column as your President. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve TI, and I hope I've been able to make a contribution.

When I belonged to a conservative synagogue in Los Angeles, my teacher, Moshe Cohen, alav ha shalom, teased my friend, Bruce, who was about to become our President. Moshe pointed to the Yekum Purkan prayer we say after the Haftorah is read. Among

other requests, the prayer asks God to "forgive all the sins" of "those who faithfully occupy themselves with the affairs of the community." "You see," Moshe told Bruce, "You're going to commit some sins and need forgiveness!"

Bruce's Presidential tenure was fabulous, but Moshe's words were fully applicable to my two years as TI's lay leader. I hope you will forgive my many mistakes and sins; perhaps that will encourage the almighty to forgive me as well!

May our beautiful, holy community grow from strength to strength!

With much warmth,

Stan

Library News -Michele Sumka

BOOKS ARE MISSING FROM THE LIBRARY! My trusted Assistant, Diana Zurer, has discovered that the following popular books are missing, and we would like them back!!

- A Jewish Mourners' Handbook by Isaacs and Olitsky
- Jewish Meditation by Aryeh Kaplan
- Everything is Illuminated by Jonathan Safran Foer
- Hitler's Willing Executioners by Daniel Jonah Goldhagen

IF THESE BOOKS ARE HIDING OUT ON YOUR SHELVES, PLEASE BRING THEM BACK; NO QUESTIONS ASKED. OTHERWISE, WE'LL HAVE TO DIP INTO OUR FUNDS AND REPLACE THEM!

You may have missed last month's announcement that we have received Robert Alter's "monumental new literary translation of the Hebrew Bible." -JTA

SINCE WE DON'T WANT IT TO DISAPPEAR, OUR POLICY, FOR NOW, IS THAT YOU MUST KEEP IT IN THE BUILDING IF YOU WANT TO USE IT. IF YOU HAVE A SUGGESTION FOR WHERE TO SHELVE IT, I'M OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS. Perhaps in the Sanctuary??

And now, for a rare treat, here is a review of Amos Oz' Don't Call It Night by Bernie Shleien.

"Not an easy read, but well worth the effort. Each sentence is packed with meaning or details about the 'feeling' of life in a small Israeli city. Expresses the complexity of life in Israel, the mixing of populations and the societies' fears and joys."

If you would like to review a book from the library, please just send your review to me.

Kol Nashim

Rose Ellen Halper

What can we learn from Jewish thinkers and rituals about gratitude?

Please join KN for a lecture and discussion to explore how Judaism teaches us to notice and be grateful for the blessings in our lives. A complimentary brunch will be available.

Sheryl Frank, PhD Clinical Psychologist, will help us learn about the connection between Jewish daily rituals and prayers and the importance of gratitude.

Research has shown that gratitude can positively affect our health and happiness. Together we will explore these benefits and learn how to invite gratitude into our daily lives.

For more information, see the flyer below.



Explore the Power of Gratitude

Complimentary Brunch and Discussion

Lecture and discussion about the intersection
of Jewish thought and mental health
led by

Sheryl Frank, PhD Clinical Psychologist

Sunday, May 19

10:15-12:15

TI Emsellem Room

Please join us for a workshop to explore the many ways that Judaism teaches us to be grateful for the blessings in our lives. Together we will explore the benefits of gratitude and how to invite it into our daily lives.

Registration is required. RSVP to knrsvp@tifereth-israel.org

Social Action Committee - Keep the Tradition Alive

Gene Herman

Since 2000, adults and teenagers from TI and the Shepherd Park neighborhood have tutored students from our local public elementary school (Shepherd Park Elementary School). Each tutor is paired with a young student (grades 2-6) for the school year. The pair meets one hour each week at the synagogue to read, practice math skills or review homework. The weekly hour can make a significant difference in the academic performance of participating students by boosting self-confidence and strengthening skills learned in school, a very high rate of return on volunteer service. **Pam Stone, Chuck Rombro, Jenny Goldstein, Dave Wachtel** and **Susan Catler** have been successfully running the tutoring program for the past five years. They would like to step back and work on other projects. We are very much interested in keeping TI connected in this meaningful way to the local community. We are extending a request for someone (or better yet a small group of people) to volunteer to keep the tutoring program running for the next school year. Please consider the opportunity to participate in this special program.

Gene Herman (gene511@aol.com)

Photos of Pesach food deliveries by Julie Steinberg



Himmelfarb Happenings May 2019

Rina Rebibo

As we are winding down the academic year, the last month of school is going to be jam packed with activities.

- Sunday May 5th we will have our final **Parent Shmooze** at 9:30 AM discussing ways to keep kids connected to Judaism over Summer break. At 10:00 that day the 4th & 5th grades will have their third and final **Israel Program** with Congregation Etz Hayim, and at 10:30 Better Together will be hosting the District Playback Theater for an interactive and exciting morning.
- Our Wednesdays will be busy with holidays as we commemorate Yom HaShoah and celebrate Yom HaAtzmaut & Lag B'Omer.
- On Sunday May 19th, the Himmelfarb School has partnered with Gevarim for a **Family Movie Night**. The animated movie, The Legend of King Solomon, will be shown at 6:15 PM and is open to everyone.
- After we have off for Memorial Day Weekend on Sunday May 26th, we will have our final Wednesday class on May 29th and our **Last Day of School Festival** will take place on Sunday June 2nd.

USY and Kadima

Adam Rosen

Dear TI USYers, Kadimaniks, Parents, Families, and Friends:

Check out TI USY and Kadima's upcoming events below and take advantage of your final chances this school year to be part of the TI teen community! Reach out to adam@tifereth-israel.org with any questions about ways to get involved in the chapter. We hope to see even more families and teens join us as we close out another incredible year of programming.

Upcoming Events

USY City Hunt DC - Sunday, May 5, 2019 - Leaves TI at 12:30PM

With the nation's capital in our backyard, it's easy to forget about how many exciting sights, sounds, and monuments are accessible on a daily basis. Unleash your inner tourist during the ultimate DC scavenger hunt. All 8-12th graders are invited to join. RSVP to adam@tifereth-israel.org by Wednesday 5/1.

Kadima Lag Ba'Omer Color War - Sunday, May 19, 2019 • 12:30 pm • TI

Put your knowledge, athleticism, and teamwork to the test as you compete in the Inaugural TI Kadima Color War. RSVP to adam@tifereth-israel.org by 5/14.

TI Teen Dinner and Davening Friday • May 31 (6:30pm)

Join TI friends and families as all our 6-12th graders are invited to join a spirited Kabbalat Shabbat service, followed by a delicious dinner. Volunteers to lead services are both needed and welcome. We'd be happy to have you lead your favorite prayer or learn a new one too! A link to the signup form will be circulated on flyers to the Himmelfarb and TI USY and Kadima listservs. Reach out to adam@tifereth-israel.org with any questions.

Shavuot Program and End of Year Party - Saturday, June 8, 2019 • 8:30PM

As our year with USY winds down, enjoy one last event to celebrate Shavuot and the incredible year USYers had together. Of course, plenty of dairy treats will be in store. RSVP to adam@tifereth-israel.org by 6/1.

Shavuot Schedule

Sat, June 8 – Erev Shavuot

- 7:30 pm Pre-Shavuot Dairy Dinner - Sign up at www.tinyurl.com/TIJun19
- 8:30 pm USY Shavuot Program and End of Year Party
- 9:15 pm Ma'ariv Holiday Service
- ~9:50 pm Tikkun Leil Shavuot
- 5:00 am

Sunday, June 9 – Shavuot 1

- ~5:00 am Early Morning Holiday Service
- 9:00 am Morning Holiday Service
- 11:00 am Tot Shavuot

Monday, June 10 – Shavuot 2

- Office Closed
- 9:00 am Morning Holiday service
- ~10:15 am Reading of the *Book of Ruth*
- ~11:00 am Yizkor Service



**SHAVUOT
DINNER**

SATURDAY JUNE 08 | 7:30 PM

Ma'ariv at 9:15 pm
Tikkun Leil Shavuot to follow

Register by June 3rd:
www.tinyurl.com/TIJun19

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 chaverim or the TI office (202-882-1605).

Shelly Heller h: 301-942-1836
w: 202-994-5906
c: 301-996-2704

Marcia Goggin h: 301-593-8480
w: 301-754-1963
c: 301.792.1063

Bruce Heppen h: 301-299-3255
c: 202-997-1890
w: 703-417-8983

Naomi Revzin h: 301 765 6272

Robert Rovinsky h: 202 237 1036
c: 202 815 8707

Whose Land Are You On? Building Alliance with Our Indigenous Neighbors

Judith Shapiro

Where do you live – and whose land do you live on? The answer does not lie in recent deeds and county records, nor even in the records of historic treaties and land grants. Instead, the answer is based in the history of the land over millennia, and of its Native peoples whose presence long predates European colonization and the establishment of the United States. The difficult truth, even for a congregation of open minded, justice seeking, progressive Jews, is that we all live on land whose people were dispossessed and displaced. In our region, the original land owners survive, if at all, in an internal diaspora in their own country. But many do survive.

The Federal Government now recognizes and acknowledges 573 tribal governments, with whom it deals on a nation-to-nation basis. At times, the Federal government has admitted error – paying compensation for some land theft (albeit at a rate of pennies per acre); acknowledging the existence of tribal entities that it had ignored, or terminated. The list of social and cultural harms is long and intolerable. The accumulated burden of historic and contemporary stressors continues to damage Native individuals and communities.

So – in a time of increasing awareness of disproportionate privilege, what is a socially conscious collection of Washington Jews to do? We can start with historic awareness and contemporary acknowledgment. We can learn that our community lives on land long inhabited by the Piscataway Nation, speakers of an Algonquian Indian language, forever cultivators of the life-sustaining “three sisters” crops of corn, beans, and squash in the lands along the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River. After years of colonization, disease, conflict, and relocation, Piscataway peoples still live among us. We know them; they know us. They know the lands and the connection to their ancestors. We should acknowledge that we live

in and benefit from their homelands.

There is little that we can do to roll back having inherited the fruits of 400 years of colonization. But we can be aware of the continuing harm of colonization, in the generational trauma that haunts so many of the urban natives living in and around our own communities. After centuries of governmental policies designed to forcibly separate Native peoples from their language, culture, homelands, and family, communities near us are in crisis. Communities of dislocated people are disparately impacted by substance abuse, family crises, youth suicide, and violence against women. Families struggle to raise children in a dominant culture that has long seen native heritage in two-dimensional stereotypes – and reiterates that stereotype in disparaging mascots.

Understanding these problems, we can reach out. Our own ancestors had to maintain viable communities surrounded by others, often others who were hostile to us and mocked our ways. We have centuries of experience developing customs of coherence, and later, of mutual aid. Maybe we can support these other communities whose culture varies from the mainstream, and who take pride in learning and maintaining the ways of their ancestors.

Community support systems exist in nearby Native communities, but are struggling. Urban Indians in Baltimore and in the District of Columbia mostly live at a distance from their home territories and communities. They lack the safety nets of extended families, and cannot easily access the important strengths of traditional community. Nearest to us, Native American Lifelines, in Baltimore, struggles to provide the barest minimum of dental care, health care referral, and children’s culture classes. The recent federal shutdown closed those services, because even treaty-obligated

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Whose Land Are You On? continued

Native health funding (paid for by historic land cessions) is discretionary at best, and scarce even in good times. After the Tree of Life Shooting, the Baltimore Native Community began a coalition with the Baltimore Jewish community – to seek common grounds and mutual support for two communities living under social pressure in current American society. I propose that we explore joining that coalition and expanding a tree of life for all of us.

On May 4, the Social Action Committee is sponsoring a Shalem program with Native community and the growing Baltimore based Native-Jewish consortium with the Hinenu Congregation. The agenda: to discuss what awareness and initiative might develop.

Please come, and join an important conversation to educate the community about the communities that have preceded us on these lands. And to learn about alliances between Jewish and Native communities - dealing with historic trauma and resisting assimilation in today's world. Speakers:

- Gabrielle Tayac, Ph.D., Piscataway Tribe, Director of Legacy Collections at Spirit Aligned Leadership Program
- Kerry Hawk Lessard, Shawnee Descendant, Executive Director of Native American Lifelines
- Judith A. Shapiro, Tribal Lawyer, T.I. Member.

Kol Nashim Book Group

On April 16th we met to discuss a short novel by Yitzhak Gormeano Goren called *Alexandrian Summer*. While many disliked the characters, as a group we found the portrait of Jewish Alexandrian society illuminating. Bernie Shleien shared his research on the impact made by the book when it was published.

We meet on May 21st at 7:30 at the home of Jennifer and Josh Kefer to discuss Sara Davidson's *The December Project*. This book chronicles a series of meetings between the author and Rabbi Zalman

Shachter-Shalomi where they discuss what he calls The December Project. "When you can feel in your cells that you're coming to the end of your tour of duty," he said, "what is the spiritual work of this time, and how do we prepare for the mystery?" Some copies available in local libraries, and also available in electronic form and paperback. RSVP to knbook@tifereth-israel.org

Looking ahead to the June meeting our reading will be Julius Lester's *Lovesong*, an account of his conversion to Judaism and his Jewish life.

SHALEM - Jessica Weissman

Two intriguing SHALEM programs are coming up in May. As described in Judith Shapiro's article above, Social Action presents a Native American Shabbaton on May 4th (no Star Wars jokes, please). Claudine Schweber draws on her mother's experience to discuss Hidden Children in WWII - Moving through Occupied France to Safety on May 18th.

As always I am looking for SHALEM speakers. The only requirement for a SHALEM topic is that it be of Jewish interest, loosely interpreted. There's something you know that TI'ers would love to hear about, and SHALEM attendees are the best audience you can ever have. We are attentive, full of questions, and forgiving - what more could a speaker ask for? Please contact me with your ideas.

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Diana Zurer

Nakhes Fun Kinder and General Mishpokhe News Dept

David and **Judy Cohen** had the great pleasure of attending the wedding of their oldest grandchild, **Yoav Cohen-Rimmer** to **Sara Judith Levine** in Toronto on April 7. Since Judy's maiden name was Judith Levine, and her mother was Sarah, this match seemed b'shert from the moment the Cohens met the bride-to-be over a year ago. **Yoav** is the son of the Cohens' son, **Benjy**, and his wife, **Jane Rimmer**.

The wedding weekend was launched with a lovely dinner at **Benjy** and **Jane's** home on Friday night, followed by a Saturday night buffet supper for out-of-town relatives, and then the wedding itself on Sunday afternoon and evening. The Cohens were joined by Sara's three grandparents in leading the procession to the chupah. Yoav's parents and younger brother and sister, Amichai and Elah, stood with him, and Benjy chanted the Sheva B'rakhot. Lots of eyes were full of happy tears.

Margie and **Dick Siegel** went to Israel for a special event, the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, **Boaz Siegel**. His proud parents are **Jonathan Siegel** (their son) and his wife **Ilana Harlow**, of Manhattan, formerly of Washington. Boaz was called to the Torah on Monday, April 22, the 3rd day of Pesach, at the historic Bet Israel synagogue in Jerusalem's picturesque Yemin Moshe neighborhood on a hillside overlooking the Old City. Yemin Moshe was established by Sir Moses Montefiore in the 19th century and the Montefiore Windmill is its best-known landmark. From inside the shul they could see the Old City walls through the tall windows on the Eastern wall as *Hallel* rang out and as Boaz *leined* (chanted) all the Torah readings at the service. Boaz is a student at the SAR Academy in Riverdale, the Bronx. Joining in the *Simcha* in Jerusalem were Boaz's brother Ziv Pauli, 11, and his maternal grandparents, Rabbi Jules and Navah Harlow, of Manhattan. All of the family returned to New York for the end of Pesach to continue the celebration with more family and friends. Boaz led the service on the 7th day of Pesach, Friday,

April 26, at his home *shul*, Ramath Orah on the Upper West Side.

Mazel Tov to all.

Dergraykhungn (Accomplishments)

Rebecca Melsky and her Capitol Hill partner have an exciting children's clothing line that is getting a lot of attention. They founded **Princess Awesome** and are now starting **Boy, Wonder**. Princess Awesome sells girls' clothes with STEM themes, rocket ships, trains, and trucks on them. **Boy, Wonder** will be selling boys' clothes with unicorns, sparkles, and kittens. Through **Princess Awesome** and **Boy, Wonder**, these local entrepreneurs are working hard to make sure that girls can dress like girls and boys can dress like boys—without having to wear what someone else thinks is how a boy or girl should dress. **Well done!**

Mazel Tov to **Daniel and Wendi Abromowitz**, recipients of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington's 2019 Community Leadership Award. And Mazel Tov to their proud parents, our own **Rabbi A. Nathan (Buddy) and Mrs. Babs Abromowitz**. **Wendi and Daniel** have been very committed to multiple philanthropic causes including many local Jewish organizations. They have served in a variety of leadership and volunteer roles for numerous agencies and will be honored at the June 5, 2019 Gala at Congregation Har Shalom.

Meh Fort

Mike and **Lisa Kraft** spent February in Australia and New Zealand, visiting friends and brother, Ernie, and enjoying warm "Down Under" summer weather. Interesting times and an afternoon tea garden party were spent in Wellington, N.Z., **Lisa's** home town.

Mike was invited to speak at the Institute of Strategic Studies at Victoria University on the subject of the U.S. responses to terrorism, the subject of his most recent book. None of the academics or government officials present anticipated something like the Christ-

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Nayes un Mekhayes - continued

church mosque shooting happening in peaceful New Zealand.

Mike and **Lisa** spent a day in Christchurch—before the terrorist attack. They also visited a friend's sheep farm in the hills above Dunedin. Later, while driving north from Wellington toward Auckland, visiting friends in Taupo and Tauranga along the way. In Auckland, they wine, dine and partied with **Lisa's** Jewish friends from her youth. They toured "Shalom Court," the impressive Jewish retirement home with its modern medical wing where a fellow Habonim *madrach* may be moving soon.

Returning via San Francisco they spent a few days in Menlo Park with their two lively grandsons. Unfortunately they had to cut their CA visit short when **Mike's** brother Steven died in Clearwater, FL.

May his memory be a blessing.

Once again, **Claudine Schweber** and **Ed Koren** embarked on their 'annual pilgrimage' to the Virginia Book Festival in late March, in Charlottesville. This is the best book festival because it's not one person selling his/her book, it's mostly several authors on a panel discussing a theme. For example, writing historical fiction and how to research and develop characters and plot. They heard a discussion about "How Social Media Undermines Democracy" and Jonathan Weisman discussing his book (((*Semitism*))) *Being Jewish in America in the Age of Trump*. There were lots of good questions from the audience. The festival lasts for four days, is FREE, in downtown Charlottesville and on the UVA campus. <https://www.vabook.org/> Check it out--this is intoxicating and a literary addiction!

Alan Landay reports that he just got back from Brooklyn where he had the first Seder at his niece's apartment. She lives there with her husband and their almost 4-year old very cute daughter (his unbiased opinion). The idea originated with his sister Becky (from Tennessee) and other family attended, including Becky's husband and son, and another niece. Altogether there were 16 people at the seder in a not very big apartment.

He also ran the B & A Half-Marathon at the end of March. Most of the route was along a bike path that formerly was the right of way of the B & A railroad (part of the rails-to-trails program); it started and ended at Severna Park High School. **Alan** was very happy with how he ran, especially that he ran several seconds per mile faster in this race than he did in a 10K race the previous Sunday.

Sad News

Tifereth Israel member **Charlotte Gottlieb**, mother of TI member **Cyndy (Alan) Weitz**, and grandmother of **Joshua (Maira Goytia)**, **Rebecca Weitz-Shapiro (Daniel Shapiro)**, and **Bethanie (Joshua Costa)**, April 16, 2019, at age 96. She is also survived by her other children, Dr. Sheldon (Cass) Gottlieb of Baltimore, MD; Lorinda (Dr. Daniel) Weinstock of Geneva, NY; Dr. David (Dina) Gottlieb of Columbia, MD and Jonathan (Debbie) Gottlieb of Bethesda, MD, 15 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and her sister Henrietta Kiken of Hallendale, FL. She was predeceased by her husband of 66 years, Dr. Julius Gottlieb.

Funeral services were graveside at King David Memorial Gardens, 7482 Lee Highway, Fairfax County, Virginia, 22042, on Thursday, April 18.

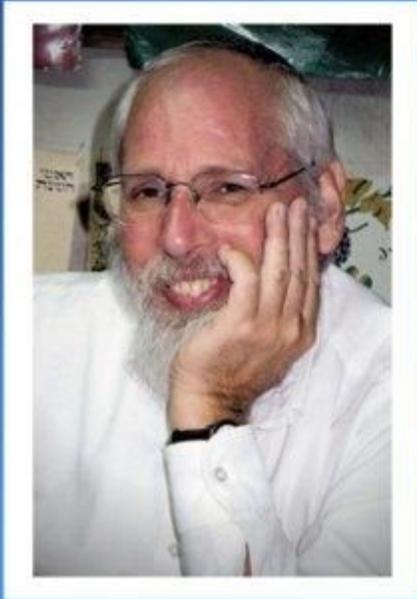
Former Tifereth Israel member **Gail Sue Phillips** died April 19, 2019, at age 70. Gail celebrated becoming an adult Bat Mitzvah at Tifereth Israel in 2014. Funeral services will be private. There will be a Memorial Service on Sunday May 5 at 2 pm at Mishkan Torah, 10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770.

May their memory be a blessing.

Last month's Yiddish idiom was *A gezunt dir in kepele*. It means: Aren't you a clever child!

It's been a pleasure getting and conveying your news – your nayes un mekhayes.

Editor's note: Many thanks to Diana for her years of service. If you have 3 hours a month and a love for getting the news first, you can be our next *N un M* columnist. Contact me at jweissmn@hers.com.



TIFERETH ISRAEL
CONGREGATION
PROUDLY
WELCOMES
**RABBI BARRY
SCHLESINGER**

FRIDAY JUNE 14
SATURDAY JUNE 15

Friday Night:

Dinner and talk

Saturday Drash:

Aaron, Bob, and the Two Leonards (Cohen and Nimoy)

Shalem (post-kiddush lunch):

Re-Reading the Isha Sotah - with the help of Dr. Ruth Calderon

Additional Program:

Jews - the People of the Comic Book (Date/Time TBD)

Sign up for dinner by June 10: www.tinyurl.com/SchlesingerDinner

IPAG Special Meeting Open to Congregation Members

Jevera Temsky

The Interfaith Preparedness and Advisory Group (IPAG) was recently formed by the DC government. The group is comprised of leaders from DC faith communities and is intended to streamline communications between congregations, city government and various security agencies. Most of the meetings will be attended by IPAG members, who will bring information back to their communities.

There will be a special IPAG meeting, open to members of congregations, on Monday May 13th from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at the National Cathedral. It will

feature faith leaders from across the country who will share lessons learned from shootings that have taken place at their places of worship. These will include the senior pastor from Emanuel AME church in Charleston, SC; the Senior Pastor and his wife at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, TX, and senior leadership from Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburg, PA.

This event is not open to the public, and requires advance registration. If you are interested in attending, contact me for registration information.

Rabbi Search Update

Sara Goldberg, co-chair

Our rabbinic search process is underway! The search committee will be providing regular updates via email throughout the coming months. These updates will be available for you to review at any time in the Member Resources section of ShulCloud. To access them, go to <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/> and sign in. Then, scroll down to the Member Resources Section and click **Rabbinic Search**.

In our April 12 email, we shared the full committee list and an overview of the process and timeline. This coming month, we will begin to schedule focus groups and other opportunities for congregants to provide their feedback and vision for TI and our next rabbi. Our goal is to gather input from as many TI members as possible, so keep an eye on your email for more details soon. If you have any questions, or if you are willing to host a focus group in your home or office, you can reach the committee via email at tidcrabbisearch@gmail.com.

Class on “Getting More Out of Services” Final Meeting

The final session of Barbara White’s class on “How to Get More Out of Synagogue Services” will be held Sunday, May 12, in the Chapel. We will continue our discussion of the Bracha, with particular focus on what it means to b-r-ch (“bless”) God. We will also consider any questions people may have from previous sessions or from their general davening experience. Please note that the class originally scheduled for May 5 has been canceled.

School Supplies Collection

Julius Cohen (son of Katie and Hal; brother of Asher) is collecting school supplies for low-income DC schools for his eighth-grade community service project. Please drop off new supplies like kid scissors, notebook paper, crayons, construction paper, pencils, markers, and glue in the box he has provided in the hallway by the elevator. Collections will be made until Monday, May 13. If you prefer to order online, a list can be found at: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3BSKGDMOQUC9D?ref=cm_go_nav_hz

Gevarim

Andrew Reamer



Talmud Study

Saturday, May 18 and 25, 1:00 PM. Rabbi Seidel leads the study of Talmud in English translation.

Movie Nite@TI w/the Himmelfarb School

On Sunday, May 19 at 6:15 PM in the Berch Library, in collaboration with the Himmelfarb School, Movie Nite@TI will show the animated **The Legend of King Solomon** (2018, Israel-Hungary, 80 minutes). Eager to impress the Queen of Sheba, a young Solomon accidentally releases the devil Asmodeus from his prison. With the Kingdom of Jerusalem in peril, Solomon and Princess Naama work together to find an end to Asmodeus' evil rule.

Director Hanon Kaminski said he wanted to portray mutual respect between the different cultures of the Middle East, and the fact that there have been long periods of peace and prosperity in the region.

Around TI - Tregaron Conservancy Tour

The Environmental Committee arranged for a special tour of Tregaron Conservancy in Cleveland Park on April 7. Tregaron Conservancy was designed by noted landscape designer, Ellen Biddle Shipman. Constructed in 1912, Tregaron comprises an historic woodland park featuring trails, wild gardens, open fields, meadows, and a lily pond. Photo by Laura Myers.



Cars N' Coby - Car Show/Fundraiser for the Humane Rescue Alliance - Coby Meytin

Hi! My name is Coby. I've been a member of TI since I was born and I'm celebrating becoming Bar Mitzvah in the fall. I have a fascination with supercars and I wanted to do something related to supercars for my Mitzvah Project. I decided to do a fundraiser car show to raise money for the Humane Rescue Alliance (formerly known as the Washington Animal Rescue League). The event will take place at Washington Hebrew Congregation's Bindeman Center on Sunday, May 19 1:30pm-3:30pm. Suggested donation \$10/person. I hope to see you there! For more information or to pre-register, please visit bit.ly/carsncoby.

Even if you can't attend you can still make a donation to the Humane Rescue Alliance in honor of this project by visiting their website <http://www.humanerescuealliance.org>.

Zemer Chai in Concert on June 2

Zemer Chai, the Jewish Chorale of the Nation's Capital, is performing a concert entitled "All You Need Is Love" on June 2 at 7 PM at B'nai Israel Congregation. Zemer Chai performances are always unforgettable musical experiences – not least because TI-ers Carla Ellern, Lisa Itkin and Alan Weitz are members.

The focus of this concert is on love -- romantic love, familial love, love across difference, love of nature, love of our traditions and values, love of life! More information at www.zemerchai.org or 301 963 3462

All You Need Is Love
Sunday, June 2, 2019, 7PM
B'nai Israel Congregation
6301 Montrose Rd, Rockville, MD 20852

Shepherd Park: History and Community

Several TI-ers including Carl Bergman took part in the recent Shepherd Park: History and Community event. Using materials from neighborhood archives like the collections at Tifereth Israel, along with items brought by participants, the event highlighted the ways Shepherd Park residents have preserved and shared parts of their history. Photos by Jevera Temsky.



TI Volunteer Spotlight - Shepherd Tutoring Program

Jared Garelick

This month's Volunteer Spotlight shines on a TI program you've likely heard about, but you might not know the details – TI's **Shepherd Tutoring Program**. The intention of this column is to describe the program, bring some well-deserved recognition to the volunteers who currently run it and, at least as importantly, to attract some new volunteers to take over the reins. The current team is hoping to hand the program over to new blood.

The tutoring program was begun more than twenty years ago by **Dan Nathan**, who steadfastly ran it until five years ago. That achievement alone merits some pause. The current team of five, which took over from Dan, consists of two couples, **Pam Stone and Chuck Rombro**, and **Jenny Goldstein and Dave Wachtel**, along with **Susan Catler**.

In short, the program offers one hour of tutoring, 5-6 pm, on Sunday evenings October through May, in the TI building. The tutees are mostly students at Shepherd Elementary School, a DC public school at Kalmia and 14th Streets, just around the corner from TI, which serves the neighborhood. They are asked to bring some math or reading with them reflective of their school work. This year there are about 20 regular students, with an average of about 15 attending on a typical Sunday. The program matches each tutee to a regular tutor for the year, creating continuity. Some tutor-tutee matchings continue over several years. This year, two former tutees in the program have come back as tutors, giving back to the program that served them.

The tutoring program helps TI to be a good neighbor in Shepherd Park, providing a useful service and bringing into the building neighbors who might otherwise never set foot in TI, or any synagogue. It also provides a good service project for TI's **B'nai Mitzvah kids**. Many start tutoring in their Bar or Bat

Mitzvah year and then continue on through their teens. This can help them grow in confidence and maturity even as they assist others (and can count for SSL hours).

Adults serve as tutors too. It can be a rewarding way to help the community in just one hour a week. After TI member **Princeton Lyman** died last year, Dan Nathan wrote a letter published in the Washington Post noting that in addition to helping end apartheid while Ambassador to South Africa, Princeton spent several years tutoring a Shepherd Park student in the program, bettering the world on a local individual basis as well as globally.

Of course, running the program involves some work. There's the initial organizing work each year of recruiting tutees and tutors, and matching them up. Then there are reminder emails, and a flurry at 5 on Sunday as the organizers see who shows up, and makes sure that every tutee who comes has a tutor. The biggest commitment is the regular fixed time, every Sunday evening during most of the school year, except for Jewish or school holidays. After five years the current team, whose kids have all now moved on to college or beyond, are ready to let someone new take over.

Someone in our congregation is going to read this and realize this is the volunteer opportunity they have been waiting for. It could be anyone. While parents with families often cannot commit to continuing outside responsibilities, this role is perfect for a family (or two families together) who have teen kids. The teens can tutor as the parents manage, making it a family project. Families are bound by the school calendar already. As **Pam Stone** notes, seeing the tutees rush into the TI lobby and brighten as they see "their" tutor makes it all worth it. And even if running the program is not right for you at this time,

(Continued on page 17)

B'nai Mitzvah



Hi, my name is Ely Snow. My Bar Mitzvah is on May 4, 2019. I go to school at the Ottawa Jewish Community School and am in the 7th grade. We are in Ottawa (the capitol of Canada) temporarily for my father's job.

Some of my interests are soccer, breakdancing, reading, and listening to music. I try every day to conserve energy and limit waste because fixing climate change is important to me. I have also been helping at the Ottawa Kosher Food Bank.

I am very grateful to Tamar Gasko, my amazing Bar Mitzvah tutor. She has helped me learn everything for this occasion.

I am looking forward to being with everybody in Maryland for my Bar Mitzvah! May the Fourth be with you.

TI Volunteer Spotlight - continued

consider signing up as a tutor next year. You could change somebody else's life for the better, and maybe your own as well. Contact any of the current team if you are interested, or email at shepherd tutoring program@gmail.com.

So a great TI thanks to the volunteers who have run the tutoring program for the last five years – **Pam Stone, Chuck Rombro, Jenny Goldstein, Dave Wachtel, and Susan Catler** – as well as to the **Regular Corps of Tutors**, and to the **Somebody** or **Somebodies** who step up to run the program beginning next fall (the current team promises guidance and support through the transition). Let's keep TI a great Shepherd Park neighbor.

May and June Birthday/Anniversary Kiddushim

Share your May or June 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/Tlbday. Sign up to help cook at: www.tinyurl.com/Tlcooking

May 18th - donate by noon on May 15th. Cooking on May 16th at 7pm.

June 15th - donate by noon on June 12th. Cooking on Thursday, June 13th at 7pm

Tel Hai

Simcha Kuritzky

When Eretz Israel was ruled by the Ottoman Turks, Jewish settlements hired local Bedouin or Circassian guards. In 1909, Jews founded the first all-Jewish militia, השומר HaShomer *the Guard*. During World War One, many HaShomer members joined the British Jewish Legion's 40th Battalion of Royal Fusiliers. The British quickly demobilized the Jewish Legion in 1919 after the Great War ended.

The Tel-Hai settlement was founded by Jews in 1918 while the area was still nominally under Ottoman rule, as an outpost to guard Jews living in the Khule Valley, which was claimed by both allied victors Britain and France. In 1920, violence broke out against French annexation among the Arabs, and, on March 1, 1920 (11 Adar 5680), Arabs protesting against French rule attacked Jewish settlements north of Lake Kineret, most notably תל-חי Tel-Hai. The Arabs overran the kibbutz and killed eight of the defenders, including Joseph Trumpeldor. [Trumpeldor was the first Jew given an officer's commission in the Czar's army, in recognition of his service attempting to defend Port Arthur (on the Pacific) from the Japanese. He also joined Jabotinsky in the Jewish Legion.]

In 1923, Ze'ev Jabotinsky founded the Revisionist Zionist youth movement Beitar, named both for the Bar Kochba stronghold and Trumpeldor (בית יוסף תרומפלדור) which was especially active in eastern Europe. As Arab attacks spread south in 1920, the Zionist Organization reorganized and expanded HaShomer into the הגנה Hagana *Defense*, which reported to the Jewish labor organization הסתדרות Histadrut. In 1931, the Jewish Agency (the internationally-recognized Jewish government in British Palestine) placed the Hagana directly under their control. Three years later, a roaring lion monument was dedicated to the fallen defenders of Tel Hai. This lion appears on many collectibles issued in Israel.



The Working Youth Agricultural Training Group (part of Histadrut) issued contribution receipts showing the roaring lion monument on Trumpeldor's Yartzayt (Adar 11). This 1945 receipt for 30 mils (15 cents US) includes the inscription *Year 25 of the Defense of Tel-Hai*. The only official Israel government issue to show the monument was the Valor medal. Issued in 1959 in 35mm and 60mm bronze and silver, it was only the second medal that Israel issued for sale to the public. Around the monument is the legend *For the Builders Every One Had His Sword Girded by His Side* (Nehemiah IV/12). The other side has the IDF sword and olive branch logo. No organization name appears on the small, plain Tel-Hai pin which just shows the

Tel Hai - continued

monument (though this is the one piece that does not hyphenate the name), but the seller assumed it was Beitar.



The Israel government has organized a number of hikes to promote good health. Participants receive small medals as mementos. The first medal shows the lion monument with a gear and wheat (symbolic of industry and agriculture) in a shield. Issued by the Galilee and Tel-Hai March on March 12, 1966, it honors the jubilee of Jewish kibbutzim in the Galilee. HaPoel *the Worker*, a sports group founded in 1926 by the Histadrut labor federation, issued a medal for the March of the Galilee in the Golan on 21 Nisan 5739 (April 18, 1979), with the same lion shield next to the doorway of an ancient building.



Hikers in 1964 received a large pin from the Regional Council of Upper Galilee using the same shield that appears in the medal above. The Working and Studying Youth - Professional Division issued a triangular medal for their sixth march to Tel-Hai in 1972. It features a disproportionate map of red-line (post-Six Day War) Israel with the organization's wheat and olive wreath logo to the right and a small lion monument to the left. Another triangular medal was issued in 1973 for the tenth Galilee Race. It shows a stylized runner

(Continued on page 21)

Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

May 10, 2019

Oscar & Amy Mann
 Sarna Marcus
 Stephen Marcus & Renee Matalon
 Ilana Marmon & Paul McLeary
 Joseph & Paula Martin
 Robert Mathis & Tali Stopak-Mathis
 David & Carla Matusow
 Rachel & Jackson McClam
 Allison & Colin McMillan
 Tobi McFarland
 David & Janice Mehler
 Stephen Meltzer
 Ethan Merlin & Joelle Novey
 David & Dana Mermelstein
 Sarah & Rachel Meytin
 Josephine Mickelson
 Michael & Barbara Milton
 Emily & Adil Moiduddin
 Jessica Morris
 Ken Morris & Terri Zall
 Jerry & Sharon Muller

May 17, 2019

Jonah & Stephanie Murdock
 Myron Murdock & Judy Herzog-Murdock
 Josh Nadas & Lillie Rosen
 Beth Naftalin
 Ray & Adele Natter
 Ari Ne'eman and Ruti Regan
 Sheridan & Dana Neimark
 Michael H. New & Linda Turnowski
 Stephen Nelson & Leslie Goodman-Malamuth
 Jeffrey & Lauren Nosanov
 David Ogilvie & Miriam Lederer
 Lee & Hedy Ohringer
 Sarah Osborne
 Larry Paul & Joye Newman
 Perry & Fylis Peckham
 Daniel Pederson & Dafna Spear
 David Pelzer & Ellie Tiemann
 Melissa Perera
 Adam & Jessica Perlmutter
 Jeff & Cynthia Peterman
 Michael Pitch & Elaine Weiss

Joshua Pitlick & Janet Blank

May 24, 2019

David & Laurel Rabin
 Glenn Rapoport
 Jacqueline Ratner
 Andrew Reamer
 Sanford & Shelley Reback
 Arnold & Naomi Revzin
 Ruth Reynolds
 Kelly & Stephen Rickard
 Howard Riker & Danielle Glosser
 Morris & Judy Rodenstein
 Joseph Rofrano & Lynn Golub-Rofrano
 Charles Rombro & Pamela Stone
 Chris Romer & Amy Nelson
 Elliot Rosen & Sharon Cohen
 Andrew Roshwalb & Jackelyn Lopez Roshwalb
 Aviel Roshwald & Alene Moyer
 Ari Roth & Kate Schecter
 Nancy Roth
 Marc Rothenberg & Ivy Baer

June 7, 2019

Robert Rovinsky & Renana Brooks
 David & Stephanie Rubin
 Howard & Hannah Rubin
 Stephen & Jill Saletta
 Mark & Diann Saltman
 Lawrence & Pearl Schainker
 Eric & Shira Schechtman
 Michael & Mical Schneider
 Keith Secular & Susan Catler
 Paul Seltman & Jeanne Ireland
 Hershel & Judith Shanks
 David & Lois Shapiro
 Phillip & Ruth Shapiro
 Yvonne Shashoua & Yochanan Sullivan
 Noam Shelef & Deborah Quint Shelef
 Jaclyn Shettler & Aaron Marx
 Randy Showstack & Michele Zador
 Nathaniel Shyovitz
 Richard & Marjorie Siegel

(Continued on page 21)

Friday Night Minyan Assignments - continued

June 21, 2019

Morton Simon
 David & Rona Siskind
 Steven Solomon & Cara Lichtenstein
 Sarah Sorscher & Marcus Hedrick
 Louis & Madge Lee Specter
 Phil & Dianne Spellberg
 Barry & Sari Siegel Spieler
 Jeffrey & Julie Steinberg
 Michael Stempel & Sheryl Frank
 Abby & Samantha Holtz
 Steven Stoller
 Jack Stone & Wilma Brier
 Herman & Malka Stopak
 Michael & Michelle Strollo
 Edwin Stromberg & Rose Ellen Halper
 Shelley Sturman

June 28, 2019

Marc Suddleson & Molly Surden
 Howard & Michele Sumka
 Michael & Adele Sumner
 JT & Naomi Taransky
 Kassahun Teffera & Melke Mengiste
 Jevera Temsky
 Glenn & Diane Thrush
 Neil & Rachel Tickner
 Michael Tilchin
 Peter & Rhoda Trooboff
 Paula Tucker
 Jonathan & Cathy Tuerk
 Daniel & Allison Turner
 Michael & Ruth Unterweger
 Mark Verschell & Elizabeth Leff
 Susan Vitale

Tel Hai - continued

holding a torch with a tiny lion monument before. At the bottom is the official logo for Israel's 25th anniversary.



The Maccabiah Junior Division issued pins to hikers in Tel-Hai. The round pin from 1967 (likely before the War) shows a large monument with the Golan and trees in the background, while the 1969 pin has a large monument with the Hebrew inscription *Rising to Tel-Hai*. In 1970, they switched to a shield-shaped medal with the same inscription and elements, though rearranged. All of these show the organization's Magen David shaped logo.

Most of these items sell for \$2 to \$20 each. The biggest expense is shipping from Israel, unless you're lucky enough to find a coin or second-hand jewelry dealer with some in stock.

May Highlights at Tifereth Israel

- May 4** Native American Shabbaton. 1:15 in the Reamer Chapel
- May 12** Class led by Barbara White on How to Get More Out of Synagogue Services. 11:00 am in the Reamer Chapel
- May 15** Meeting for families with 2020-2021 b'nai mitzvah. Parents and b'nai mitzvah are invited to attend the meeting, which will include a simple dinner. 6:30 pm
- May 18** Milton Shabbat to help the Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School of the Nation's Capital celebrate their 30th anniversary
- May 18 & 25** Talmud Study, 1:00 pm in the Reamer chapel. Study text provided.
- May 19** Kol Nashim complimentary brunch and discussion: Explore the Power of Gratitude. 10:15 am in the Emsellem Room
- May 19** Movie nite @TI showing The Legend of King Solomon. 7:30 pm in the Berch Library
- May 21** Kol Nashim Book Group meets at 7:30pm at the home of Jessica Weissman and Louise Kelley to discuss *The December Project* by Sara Davidson. RSVP to knbook@tifereth-israel.org

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

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Rabbi Ethan Seidel
Rabbi Ethan Seidel

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