

The Menorah

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Congregation**
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המנורה

April 2010 Nisan / Iyyar 5770

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

Notes from the Rabbi —

Connecting With One Another



Is it just me, or has it gotten harder to connect with people in the last few years? When I first came to TI in 1992, I spent a fair amount of time on the phone. It wasn't always easy to reach people, but even in the worst cases, a game of "phone tag" was short by present-day standards. I won't claim that business was done in the most efficient manner back then. In particular, discussions involving complicated issues, or which had many little pieces (for instance, dividing up a Torah portion into special aliyot for a Bar Mitzvah) left no paper (or electronic) trail, and misunderstandings were not uncommon. Also, phone calls, especially way back in the nineties, began with (at the very least) several minutes of pleasantries, which, while good for our community as a whole, did not advance the specific agenda that had prompted the call.

However, despite the admitted inefficiency of the phone call (in comparison to email), it was easier to reach people then. It was very unusual for a congregant not to return my phone calls – and in those rare instances when my

(Continued on page 3)

Notes from the President —

What can you do?



On the evening of April 18th we will Swing Into Spring! Tifereth Israel's major fundraising event of the year will feature a lovely dinner and the music of Dan Nathan and District Jazz. We'll have a silent auction, too. Celebrate the end of winter (we are pretty sure there will be no snow) and the beginning of Spring. Bring family, relatives and neighbors for a great night out. Dine, visit, talk, even dance!

Every year we do something different, but every year we have some sort of Spring Fling. Why? We do like an excuse for a party, but that is only part of the reason. We have a Spring Fling every year because we need to raise a significant amount of money each Spring in order to pay for our programs. This is because we have always set our dues and fees lower than our actual costs and planned on making up the difference with contributions.

This year we budgeted that we would raise \$20,000 with Spring fundraising. In order to make this goal, we will need broad participation. It would be great if everyone in the TI community could come together and party on the 18th. The

(Rabbi continued on page 4)

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Rabbi Emeritus: A. Nathan Abramowitz, ext. 106

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Lifelong Learning Director: Lynn Golub-Rofrano, ext. 105

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המנורה של תפארת ישראל

Menorah Editors: Morton Simon, David (Judy) Cohen
Robert Rovinsky, Lionel Cherry
Jeff Peterman

Menorah submissions: menorah@tifereth-israel.org
Submission deadline: the 15th of the month

TI 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. Prior to contacting the funeral home, please contact one of the following *chaverim*, Rabbi Seidel, Rabbi Abramowitz, or the synagogue office.

Shelly Heller h: 301-942-1836, w: 202-242-6698

Jeff Davidson h: 301-593-1335

David (Judy) Cohen h: 301-652-2872

Marcia Goldberg h: 301-589-0352

Introducing Our Gemilut Chesed Coordinators By Lynne Snyder

Root canal? Surgery? Physical therapy? Temporarily unable to drive or fix a nutritious meal? These and other situations can present logistical challenges to congregants who have limited mobility, live with a disabling condition, or who are facing a crisis. Fortunately we have within our congregation many who are glad to offer a home-cooked meal or a ride to or from the doctor's office. Yet oftentimes we need a matchmaker, to connect the congregant in need with congregants who would like to help. Sometimes what begins as a short term crisis may last months or stretch into a year, requiring a different set of negotiations to establish a regular ride, meal, or other support. In his recent drash, Bernie Shlien spoke to the importance of simple things like transportation that allow older congregants to remain in their homes and active in our community, able to weather short-term medical crises as well as longer-term situations.

Over the past five years, TI volunteers have developed a new function that we've come to call Gemilut Chesed, or lovingkindness, to describe our coordination of short-term and longer-term supports like meals and rides for congregants. This coordination involves fielding queries and referrals that come in from congregants, Rabbi Seidel, and the TI Office; identifying a liaison, if not a Gemilut Chesed volunteer, to navigate between the congregant and those who

would like to help; figuring out what kind of help can be offered and how (i.e., one meal a week? to be requested via the listserv or privately among friends or regulars?); putting out a call for volunteers to take on specific tasks; and following up. Through these arrangements we've been able to meet a modest number of needs, and Tlers have been quick and generous in responding to requests. However, there is much more that we could do, if we had greater volunteer involvement.

Toward this end, it is my pleasure to introduce three congregants who will be taking on Gemilut Chesed coordinating duties:

- for meals, Claire Snyder-Hall (claire_snyder@msn.com)
- for rides, David Hart (dhart@gmu.edu)
- for rides to and from TI, Heinke Waldbaum (heinkewaldbaum@yahoo.com).

All can also be reached through the TI office, at 202-882-1605. You are likely to hear from one or more of our coordinators as Gemilut Chesed activities expand to build even stronger bonds of community among Tlers.



(Notes from the Rabbi continued from page 1)

attempt to reach out was ignored, the message was clear: the congregant did not wish to talk to me. I didn't like being snubbed, but at least I knew where I stood.

Things are quite different today, at least from my vantage point. During the first part of this year, 5770, there have been a good number of times (about ten?) where my phone calls to new congregants or even to friends have gone unanswered! It's now not at all unusual for me to leave a voice mail inviting a new congregant to a Friday night dinner at our house, and never get a return call.

And email is scarcely better. I used to think that it was only folks of my generation that had trouble keeping up with email because we're too old to really grok the new communication styles. Now I'm not so sure. I've found that it's not just me who says (at least several times a month) "Gee, I'm real sorry, but I don't remember getting that email from you" – only later to find the email in question buried in my inbox unread behind several hundred newer emails. Often it's 20-somethings talking to me who are forced to make this confession, folks who presumably know how to work the system, who don't seem to have noticed important emails I have sent them. And to top it off, they display not the slightest embarrassment admitting that they missed my email.

And on the general theme of connecting, I note that appointments are often not kept. Despite the ubiquitous electronic calendars that everyone (except me) seems to own, many people seem to think that an appointment made with me is only provisional, and that if I do not "confirm" the appointment closer to the event, they can ignore it with impunity. (In truth, missed appointments have always been a problem, but it has gotten worse of late.) Of course with the difficulty of actually reaching folks nowadays, confirming appointments can be tricky. For instance, people will send me (who downloads email but once a day, at most) an email a few hours before we're supposed to meet, with a question about our upcoming meeting. And so my inbox fills inexorably, with messages that are read too late if at all, and I am filled with a sense of futility.

I think that there are so many ways to connect nowadays (cell phone, home phone, work phone, texting, land mail, email – often several different accounts) that few people are able to cover all modes of communication effectively. Many never listen to their land line's voice mail anymore (though they've never bothered to change its now deceptive message: "I'll get back to you as soon as I can!"). Others, like myself, are good about getting back to those who have left voice mails, but often fall way behind responding to email.

I have no solution to this fast-worsening mess. And I don't mean at all to downplay the positive features of voice mail and email - I'm not "against" email, or voice mail, or any one mode of connection. But I do try to emphasize the most important connection style of all – face-to-face conversations. Such conversations are not the most efficient, but they have the highest chance of reflecting God's presence. Consider Exodus 33:11 "God spoke to Moses face to face, as a person speaks to his friend." That's the p'shat, the "plain meaning" of the verse. However, there is a midrash which notes that the word I translated "as" in that verse (Hebrew: "ka'asher") just as commonly means "when". So the verse might also be read: "God speaks to Moses face to face whenever a person speaks to his friend." In other words, if you're looking to experience a glimpse of Moses' experience of God at Sinai, sit down and have a conversation with a friend, face to face. Other forms of connection may be better if all you need to do is transmit information, but a sense of God's presence requires two people to be truly in each other's presence..

Rabbi Seidel



Notes from the President (cont)

Spring Fling is most fun when we have a good crowd. Adult Tickets are \$72, of which \$50 is a contribution.

We know that some people cannot attend the Spring Fling. We know that some people want to make other types of contributions either in addition to or instead of going to the Spring Fling. There are ways everyone can contribute this Spring. The important thing is that we cannot reach \$20,000 and pay for our programming unless everyone in our community contributes.

What can you do?

— Donate items to the auction -- Do you have a craft, skill or service that you can donate? Can you teach someone to leyn or daven or bake or compute? Want to knit a hat or scarf to be auctioned off? Do you have a vacation house or time share that someone might enjoy for a week or a weekend? How about some serious Art or Craft that you are willing to donate? Would you bake challah for another family? Or invite 6 people to your home for Shabbat? Or drop off a Shabbat meal, or just a weekday meal so someone doesn't have to cook? Teens could help by contributing babysitting or mother's helper time. You can also help by soliciting gift certificates from local businesses - hair cuts, restaurant meals, groceries, books, kosher items and Judaica.... even summer camps sometimes donate, if approached. Or an after school class somewhere where your child is very happy.

— Be a Patron of Swing Into Spring - Patron tickets are \$125 (contribution of \$103) and include a special Patrons' Performance by Rabbi Seidel on a separate night. He will perform and discuss some of Bach's Goldberg Variations.

— Dedicate a copy (or two or three) of the new prayer book for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Mahzor Lev Shalem, to TI. Help us purchase these books and we'll acknowledge your donation with a special bookplate. A copy can be dedicated for \$36. Order forms are in the lobby or call the office. Act now! Our goal is 360 books dedicated by the end of April.

— Make your 5770 Annual Appeal pledge – For those who could not or did not make a pledge to the Annual Appeal last Fall, we would still be delighted to have you participate in the Annual Appeal this Spring.

— Sponsor the Kiddush during Pesach – Think how much everyone in the Congregation will appreciate having a nice Kiddush lunch during Passover!

Details to follow on the listserve.

Save the Date -

Chaverim is planning another fishing trip on the Chesapeake Bay

May 16. This will be a great trip on a charter boat.

Everybody is guaranteed to catch something!



TI WOMEN TOGETHER קול נשים

By Paula Flicker

Looking ahead: May 16 10:15 AM

What do you know about your family's history? Where would you start to find out or augment what you already know? Sunday morning May 16, Kol Nashim will present a program on genealogy featuring Ben Fassberg, from the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington. The title of his talk is

"Are there horse thieves in your family tree? Or how to find out"

Interested in TI history?

TI's cemetery trustees have photographed all the grave markers at the Mt. Lebanon Cemetery and put them up on the web. These images will be used to identify each grave directly, monitor the cemetery's care, and will serve as a good source of genealogical information.

The trustees have asked Kol Nashim and Chaverim for volunteers to enter each grave's information, including name, dates, etc. into a database. There are 1,000 graves and each takes about half a minute to enter, so we need several volunteers. If you can help with this project, contact Margie Odle or Paula Flicker.

Thinking ahead: The Kol Nashim board members already are digging out slips of paper on which we had jotted our ideas for future programs to start planning next year's schedule. We welcome additional suggestions. Contact program chairs Margie Odle and Debbie Pomerance or any other member of the board.



Culinary maven, teacher, and cookbook author Sheila Kaufman of Potomac, here at TI taste-tasting one of her chocolate creations.

Past Programs: All in attendance enjoyed Sheilah Kaufman's presentation entitled "Taking the Fear out of Cooking and Entertaining". If nothing else, when do TI'ers not enjoy tasting food? Sheilah demonstrated her mantra for keeping calm in the kitchen: prepare fuss-free dishes that are delicious and elegant, too. A history buff, she also traced the origin of chocolate which was distilled from the local cacao bean by Jewish refugees fleeing to the Caribbean isles from the Inquisition. Her recipes and tips will be used. Thank you to Shirley Rosenberg and Debbie Pomerance for organizing the program as well as working hard in the kitchen with preparations. Thanks also to Roz Kram and the entire Kol Nashim board members (and family) who assisted with preparing the program.



Department of Lifelong Learning —

By Lynn Golub-Rofrano

As I'm sure most of you have heard by now, I will be leaving Tifereth Israel at the end of June which is the end of my contract year. I have made many good friends here and I want to thank the congregation for sharing your families with me through the years. I have been honored and proud to watch the youth of this congregation turn into young adults who are participating members of Jewish communities throughout the country. I know from what many of you have told me, that I have made an impact here and I want you to know that this congregation has also made an impact on me.

Himmelfarb Happenings

As I write this the halls of the Himmelfarb School are filled with the sounds of Passover; mah nishtanah is being sung, seder plates are being made, and frogs are jumping all over the classroom. These are happy sounds of learning that take place in the spring! I hope you've had the opportunity to see the pictures we post periodically through the building highlighting our school and youth programs. As we are coming through the final part of the school year we have many exciting programs still to come!

Our April course for the Hebrew Chai School students is being taught by Ira Weiss who has also taught Adult Education Classes here at Tifereth Israel as well as other Hebrew Chai School courses. He will be teaching a multi-media course about Israel –Pre-Statehood. Ira is the father of TI member Elaine Weiss and his granddaughter Kayla Pitch attends Himmelfarb Religious School. The students always enjoy his classes and we are grateful he is willing to spend his time and energy at our school!

We have had two family services so far this year and I wanted to publicly thank Kim Levone and Carla Matusow for their help in organizing these services. Kim, in particular, spent many an evening on email and the telephone lining up students and parents to participate! Todah Rabah! These services were really nice and all of our

participants did a great job. It has been wonderful that so many parents have also been willing to get involved in the service. This has definitely created a FAMILY service here at Tifereth Israel.

Youth Group News

Bonim

Bonim has a very special Red Balloon Tzedekah Program planned for April 18. We will be making and decorating balloon shaped cookies to deliver to Emory House Family Shelter. While the cookies are baking the children will learn the story of the Red Balloon and discuss the many aspects of the story and Jewish values. This activity will be followed by a trip to see the show on May 16 at Glen Echo Park. Tickets are \$15 for kids and \$18 for adults and non-registered youth group members, if you have not already ordered your ticket and you would be interested in going please let Lynn know and I will check if there are any more tickets available. Marci made phone calls to get ticket orders from the Bonim-aged families.

Machar

Machar, our youth group for 3rd-5th Grade students is also doing a Tzedekah project on April 18. Come join us on Sunday, April 18th as we tie-dye t-shirts for children at the Emory Family Shelter. And the special bonus? You can make one for yourself too! Cost is \$5 for Machar members, \$8 for non-members. Please bring a dairy bag lunch to eat. We will meet at TI at 12:15pm and we should finish by 3pm.

USY

April 10-Yom Hashoah Program

Our USY group will be commemorating Yom Hashoah on the evening of April 10 with a discussion of the Shoah and a look at contemporary tragedies in Darfur and other areas.

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As of press time there was a possibility of watching and discussing the movie Hotel Rwanda as part of the program.

April 25-Regional Kings Dominion Day

Seaboard Region is again running a trip to Kings Dominion for registered Kadima and USY youth group members in grades 7-12. This is an all day trip with buses leaving at about 8 am and returning at approximately 7:00 pm. The cost of the trip is \$60.00 which includes transportation, and admission tickets to the park. Participants are to bring a pareve/dairy lunch. If you have any questions you can call Lynn or contact Shira Kaplan-301-230-0801 or email Kaplan@uscj.org.

Politics & Prose Annual Fundraiser

April 18

The Department of Lifelong Learning is once again partnering with that fabulous book store, co-owned by TI member Carla Cohen, Politics & Prose. This is a fun opportunity for you to stock up on your summer reading books. If there are books you've been waiting to purchase and haven't gotten around to buying yet, this is your chance. Politics & Prose has a great selection of Judaica books and Mollie Berch has made up a list of recommended books from their stock. If you want a copy of her list please let me know. Copies will be available at the TI table that will be located downstairs during the Bookfair; stop by and say hello to our friendly TI volunteers and they will be happy to give you a copy of the list and maybe a little treat too!

Politics and Prose has two author events that day: at 1 PM Erica Perl, author of Vintage Veronica and other children's books, has expanded into writing for teen audiences and will be reading from her latest book. This is a great opportunity for those of you who loved her previous books for younger children, or high school students who are looking to meet an author writing for them!

Also, that day, at 5 PM hear Jacqueline Winspear, author of Mapping of Love and Death. Those of you who enjoy the Maisie Dobbs novels can hear her read from her latest book in the series.

As of press time I am still waiting to hear whether we will be able to host TI authors as well, watch for flyer with more information. Last year we did very well with this fundraiser and made over \$500; with your help we can do even better this year!

Adult Education Opportunities

A Literary Look at the Holocaust

April 11-10:15 AM

This session will be presented by Mollie Berch on April 11 from 10:15 am-12:00pm. She will highlight and discuss newer youth and adult books on the library shelves that deal with the Shoah. These books have all been published during the past few years and will be available to those who are interested. Come observe Yom HaShoah by learning about new books dealing with this subject. From 10:15 to 11:00 Mollie will be highlighting books for children in middle school and older and from 11-12 she will be discussing adult books. There is no charge to attend this session.

Yoga

Mondays, April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, June 7 6:30-7:30

TI Member Amy Dara's yoga classes incorporate her academic knowledge of physical therapy with a playful emphasis on alignment and intense relaxation. She applies her philosophy of being flexible while maintaining a sense of humor both on and off the mat. Her strong background in Vinyasa, Restorative, and Ashtanga yoga results in a seamlessly flowing sequence, be it slow or vigorous. Seeing her students' blessed smiles upon concluding her class is Amy Dara's greatest reward. More about Amy can be found at www.amydara.com The cost is only \$75.00 for all 9 sessions or a drop in rate of \$10/ a session. We need a minimum of six people in order for this class to take place. 10% of the proceeds will be donated to Tifereth Israel Congregation.

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(Lifelong Learning continued from page 7)

A Unique Look at a Jewish Jazz Musician-Darius Milhaud

April 14, 28, May 5 Taught by Seth Glabman 6:30-8:00 pm

Pianist/Clarinetist and TI member Seth Glabman presents an exciting class about a fascinating period between the two World wars in which French classical composers combined classical music with American jazz to create some sumptuous and unforgettable pieces. This class is a hands-on /class participation format in which we focus on the only Jewish member of "Les Six", Darius Milhaud. He wrote music well worth exploring, including music for piano and clarinet.

Seth will perform excerpts from Milhaud's music as well as other examples from the period covered. He will touch on musical concepts to help us enjoy not only this music, but any music you wish to listen to with greater understanding. The class culminates with a trip (you provide your own tickets and transportation) to hear the Annapolis Symphony Orchestra perform one of Milhaud's most famous works, "Le Boeuf Sur Le Toit."

The Thirties: American Jews and the Great Depression-Sundays

April 25, May 2, & 23 Taught by Mollie Berch 10:30am -12:00 pm.

In this new course, which brings together historical and literary works we have not previously studied, we will look at the influence of the 1930s on Jewish life in America. Although Mollie will touch on many aspects of the popular culture at the time her main emphasis will be on the literary culture, especially the 'proletarian' writers of the period. As we limp through the current 'Great Recession' it will be instructive to see how American Jews shaped life in the first Great Depression, and how that crisis affected us then and now.

Fiction Book Discussion: Sarah's Key

Sunday April 25 Led by Lynn Golub-Rofrano

On Sunday, April 25 we will be discussing the book Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay.

Set in Paris this book takes the reader from July 1942 when Sarah, a ten year old girl and her

family are brutally arrested during a Vel' d'Hiv roundup, but not before she locks her young brother in a cupboard in the family's apartment thinking that she will be back in a few hours. In May 2002 on Vel' d'Hiv's 60th anniversary, journalist Julia Jarmond is asked to write an article about this black day in France's past. Through her contemporary investigation, she stumbles onto a trail of long-hidden family secrets that connect her to Sarah. Julia finds herself compelled to retrace the girl's ordeal, from that terrible term in the Vel d'Hiv', to the camps, and beyond. As she probes into Sarah's past, she begins to question her own place in France, and to reevaluate her marriage and her life.

Tatiana de Rosnay offers us a brilliantly subtle, compelling portrait of France under occupation and reveals the taboos and silence that surround this painful episode. The book has been described as shocking, profoundly moving, and morally challenging. Join us to share your thoughts on this moving book that is sure to leave a lasting impression.

mark your calendar

TI's Spring Fling

Who: Everyone is cordially invited. Bring your family, relatives, and neighbors for a great night out.

What: Our annual fundraiser, to celebrate our newly renovated kitchen and support TI programs. Dinner, dancing with live music by Dan Nathan and District Jazz, childcare, and more!

Where: Tifereth Israel Congregation.

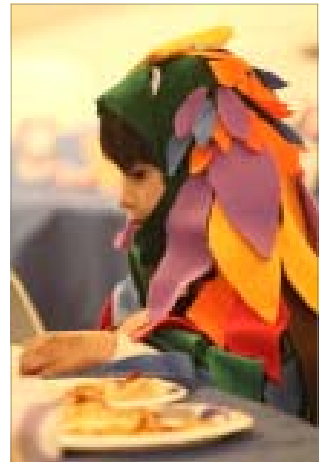
When: Sunday, April 18th, 6 pm to 10 pm.

Bring your appetite, your dancing shoes, and your checkbook. Tickets may be purchased from the TI office (202-882-1605, tiadmin@tifereth-israel.org). Check our weekly TISA announcement for the latest.

Questions? Please contact Chris Zeilinger, Development Vice President, at czeilinger@earthlink.net.



Purim Carnival — February 28, 2010



Photos by Jeff Peterman

<http://www.pbase.com/ticwdc/purimfeb2010>



Bar Mitzvah — April 10, 2010

My name is Emil Zvi Kunkin and I am going to be called to the bimah as a bar mitzvah on April 10th, 2010. I am in the seventh grade at Sandy Spring Friends School. I



I love to read, and my favorite subjects at school are math and science. I enjoy solving Sudokus and I also create my own original ones. I love to play and watch baseball, and for the last three summers I have been a batboy for the Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts baseball team. I am also an avid Phillies fan; you may have seen me wearing my Phillies kippah at TI! We have two toy fox terriers that we adopted almost three years ago, and I am a member of the American Humane Society.

For my Mitzvah project, I have been visiting and playing cards with an elderly holocaust survivor, through the JSSA. My parsha is Shmini and is about the rules for the sacrifices and the rules of kashrut. At my school I had a weaving class where I wove my own tallis and atarah. Please come to my bar mitzvah and see me wear my tallis for the first time!

mark your calendar

Please mark your calendar for **Sunday April 18 from 12:30-2:00** to help clean Sligo Creek. As many of you know, Friends of Sligo Creek is organizing a creek-wide clean-up that Saturday; however, I am working with Friends to organize an alternative Sunday clean-up to allow Jewish members of the community to participate. In the past, we've had as many as 100 volunteers working on the section from Wayne to Piney Branch. I'd love to guarantee a good base of volunteers next month. As always, we'll be meeting by the track at Wayne and Sligo (313 Wayne Avenue). I'll provide bags, gloves and water. Students can receive school-community service credit.

Jennifer Kefer
202-365-2194



Hadashot Shelanu חדשות שלנו – Our News

By Julie Steinberg

Rabbi Jason and **Devora Kimmelman-Block** announce the birth of their son Mica, born March 4 and weighing 8 lbs 11 oz. Mom is doing great and siblings Esther, Natan, and Simone are thrilled.

Jonathan Kessel, son of **Martin Kessel** and **Gail Robinson**, began hiking the Appalachian Trail in mid-March. He hopes to finish the 2,200-mile hike from Georgia to Maine in September

Barbara and **Howard White** traveled to Jerusalem for three weeks in January to see their new grandson, whose name is Yisrael Mordechai Elzufon.

Cynthia Peterman sang with the Rockville Community Chorus March 7 in a concert that benefited the Rockville Community Ministries Emergency Assistance Program. The Emergency Assistance Program provides financial assistance to individuals and families to help cover costs for rent, mortgage, utilities, or prescriptions.

The Jewish Primary Day School (JPDS) honored **Stan Dorn** and **Carla Ellern** with the "Kol Ha-Kavod" award for their many services to the school. Stan and Carla have served on committees and the JPDS board, helped with recruitment, improved the JPDS grounds, and directed a campaign to engage the local community.

Carolivia Herron was one of six women honored by Ward 4 Women in the Arts for writing a libretto about Marian Anderson called "Let Freedom Sing". The Washington National Opera premiered the work last year at the Atlas Theater.

Hadashot is sad to report that Lillian Kensky, long-time former member of TI, died February 21.

Starting next month, we welcome back **Barbara Raimondo**, who returns as editor of this column and who looks forward to reading and reporting your news.

**Free Yourself from
Passover Fake Foods**By Emma Rose Borzekowski
and Holly Shere

Think back to the last time you escaped slavery and were wandering in the desert. Did you carry cotton candy with you? What about cake mixes or dinner rolls?

Every Passover, Jews remember the Exodus from Egypt and as a reminder eat matzo, unleavened bread symbolizing the haste with which the Hebrew people fled slavery and perhaps also the flat and monotonous desert in which they wandered. Recently, however, matzo has become a side attraction among Passover foods. Grocery store shelves are packed with neon boxes of products like chow mein noodles, chocolate chip cookies, and blueberry pancake mix, all kosher for Passover, meaning that they contain no leavening.

Kosher for Passover products that imitate foods not Kosher for Passover are fake foods. The practice of eating these fake foods during this holy week takes us away from the meaning of Passover, and the important role of the special Passover diet in creating a feeling of difference from the rest of the year. If we can eat macaroni and cheese during Passover, even if the noodles are unleavened, the sense of liberation that we get from this holiday and its unique traditions are diminished

So this seder time, and the days following, **don't buy** Fudgy Goopy Brownie Mix or Potato Chips from the Kosher for Passover section. Instead, spend your time thinking about what it really means to enjoy and celebrate Passover by eating traditional foods --- perhaps even foods that are truly traditional -- ones that are grown pesticide-free on land near you. Allow these eight days to feel different from the rest of the year and "kickstart" you towards finding freedom and liberation in your food choices.



Social Action at Tifereth Israel

By Claudine Schweber

As you know Social Action at TI is, "We Care & We Take Action". What does this mean for the people who volunteer? Who are they? What are the specifics of their involvement? How long have they been doing this and why?

In the following stories you will hear about a few volunteers with the Martha's Table Van Run and the Shepherd Park tutoring programs (which we discussed in the March column). You will read here about and from others whose commitment to social action make our shul unique in the DC area.

The Miller-Lutz family and Martha's Table Van Run

Neile Miller and sons Max (age 16) and Daniel Lutz (12 ½) have been participating in the food distribution for about 3 years. Neile had been a president of Hadassah in Albuquerque and wanted the family to see a world beyond their own community, to know they can do something for others, so they find the time for Tikkun Olam.

At the MT Van Run Neile helps with giving out the sandwiches and the boys may distribute fruit, bags, or talk with some of the homeless people they've gotten to know over the years. One time Max left his sneakers with one of the people who had no shoes. Here's how Daniel described his experience in a school essay in October:

"A Small Kindness Can Make a Big Difference"

I believe that it is important to be kind to other people because even a small kind-



ness can not only make a big difference for someone else, it can make a difference to you. Once a month for about three years now, I have been helping out on a van operated by Martha's Table that delivers meals to homeless people in downtown Washington, DC. Martha's Table is an organization that helps poor and homeless children and adults by providing food, clothing and other support. One Sunday evening a month, a group of mostly adults from my synagogue drives the van to deliver dinner at two downtown parks where homeless people gather. My brother and I usually roll our eyes at the thought of having to take time away from what we want to do in order to take part in this van run. Normally, I come to the van run thinking, "do I really have to do this?" and in the end, it's actually worth it. I really feel like I've done something to help other people.

The most recent van run was especially impor-

tant to me because I walked away feeling that I had made a difference in someone's life. We were at the second stop and my brother and I were giving out extra bags while my mom helped hand out food. I went over to a woman who was sitting on a bench because she had trouble walking. I asked her if she needed an extra bag. She said no, but struck up a conversation with me. Normally, I don't converse with the people at the stops, but I still treat them respectfully. I talked with the woman about different things, like language, because coincidentally we both speak another language, and how one language can bring you so many places in the world. She also told me about what she's noticed around her area, and some funny things that have happened since she's been there. I enjoyed having this moment to talk to her, and she thanked me for it.

I didn't realize this at the time, but after a couple of days I felt like I had really done something big for her, and it made me feel good. The woman I talked to, I suspected, did not have many friends, so taking time out from what I was doing to come and talk with her really made her feel special, and it made me feel like I had done the

(Social Action continued on page 13)



New Members By Jared Garelick

This month's column features lovers in the laboratory, lovers of labor, and lovers of an energetic toddler.

Andrew Fine – Andrew has lived in the Washington area for only seven months, after being born, raised, and schooled in Chicago. He moved here for a combination of career and marriage. Trained as a pharmacist, Andrew works for the FDA assessing the safety of drugs. His wife, Anna, is currently a conversion student studying with Rabbi Seidel. She too is a pharmacist at the FDA. In a classic case of love in the lab, they met at an FDA training program, returned to their respective universities to finish their degrees, and agreed to settle together in Washington. Andrew is a big sports fan, particularly of baseball (White Sox), and hockey (Blackhawks, naturally), and enjoys playing golf.

Marilyn Sniderman and Stephen Lerner – Marilyn and

Stephen are long-time Shepherd Park residents ("forever" in Marilyn's words) and returning TI members. They have spent most of their lives in the labor movement. Stephen is currently Assistant to the President of the Service Employees International Union, and formerly headed the national Justice for Janitors program. Marilyn formerly held positions at the Teamsters Union and at the AFL/CIO, and is now Deputy Director of BBYO, a major Jewish youth group, whose thousands of members worldwide include this correspondent's own son, as well as several other TI youth. She also volunteers with Avodah, the Jewish service organization. Marilyn and Stephen were first attracted to Shepherd Park as an integrated city neighborhood, and have been active in Neighbors, Inc. and other local civic groups. They have three grown sons, two in college and one finished, each

of whom attended DC public schools throughout their educations, beginning with Shepherd Elementary.

Joshua Pitlick and Janet Blank – Josh is a Silver Spring native, and Janet, originally from New Jersey, moved to the area around twelve years ago. They've been married for two and a half years. Josh, who graduated from Columbia, is an IT systems engineer who works for a small company, but whose worksite, on a long-term contract, is the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Janet, who attended Brandeis and GW Law School, is a human resources manager for a medical billing company. Josh and Janet have a newly walking 16 month old daughter, Rachel. They have become regulars at the TI tot Shabbat services, and enjoyed the family service at Purim.

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right thing. It also showed me that doing something that small made a big difference for her. It showed her that someone was willing to share a few moments with her, because people usually ignore her due to the fact that she sits on a bench, unable to make her way to the food line or to a group of people."

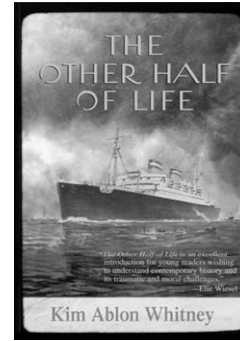
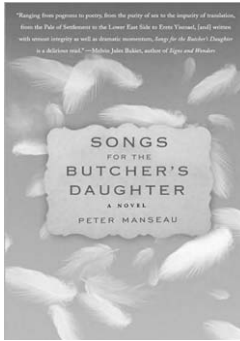
Adam Dorn and Shepherd Elementary School Tutoring

Adam (14) has been tutoring elementary school children for the past two years, having begun this as his bar-mitzvah project. He is now working with a boy in 5th grade, helping with homework as well as reading and math skills. He goes over the reading content with his "tutee",

often reading out loud, using a book such as Time for Kids. It is math, however, that is Adam's specialty, one which he really enjoys. He's helping the boy with math concepts, long-division, and algebra. Adam is especially focused on making sure that this boy has the skills needed for the transition to 6th grade and another school. And although making an annual commitment for Sundays from 5-6 might seem too much for some teenagers, Adam has stayed because he likes to talk to young people and help them learn; "it's fun and rewarding".

Next month: The Bailey-Fingerhut family and Shepherd Park tutoring—read about the creative charts Adam Fingerhut made for his student to help the boy learn about coins.





The Tifereth Israel Department of Lifelong Learning Presents:

A Literary Look at the Holocaust By Mollie Berch

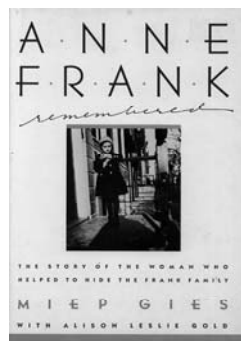
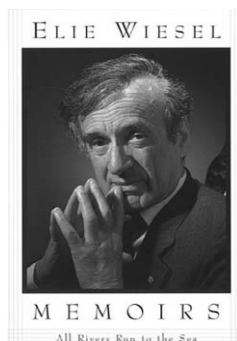
Sunday April 11th
10:15 – Noon

Join Mollie Berch as she takes you through newer youth & adult books on the shelves of the Mollie Berch Library that deal with the Holocaust. These books have all been published during the past few years and will be available to borrow. Come observe Yom HaShoah by hearing about these newer materials. There is no charge for this class.

10:15am-11am Books for Young Adults (6th Grade and up)

11am-Noon Books for Adults

Questions? Please contact Lynn Golub-Rofrano at TILearning1@tifereth-israel.org or 202-882-1605, ext. 105.



The Tifereth Israel Department of Lifelong Learning Presents:

The Thirties: American Jews and the Great Depression

Taught by Mollie Berch

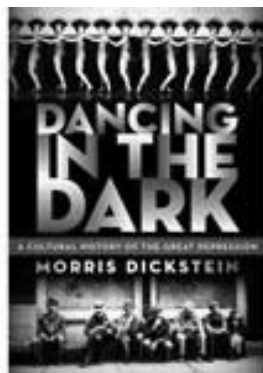
Course fee \$50/ person.

Sundays April 25, May 2, and May 23

10:30 am - Noon

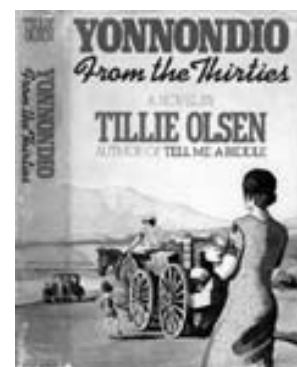
Reservations required by April 11th to the Tifereth Israel office.

Minimum class size of 8.



In this new course, which brings together historical and literary works we have not previously studied, we look at the influence of the Thirties on Jewish life in America. While this will include a look at popular culture-- music, films, radio, and even social crazes like ‘dancing in the dark’ and the Rockettes—our emphasis will be on the literary culture, especially the ‘proletarian’ writers of the period. We will discuss the works of Henry Roth, Michael Gold, Nathanael West, Tess Slesinger, Clifford Odets, and Elmer Rice, as well as the radio work of Molly Goldberg, the music of the Gershwins, the role of the *Forward*, and even the impact of gangster films.

We will explore the influence of the Depression on the labor union movement, the changing role of the synagogue, and the influx of urban Jews into the Democratic Party. While the Depression had an impact on all Americans, did it, in fact, slow down the entry of American Jews into the middle class? Did the Depression create a new generation of radical Jews? How did the American Zionist movement change over the decade? What was the reaction of American Jews to the developing crisis in Europe, particularly the plight of refugees and news of the Holocaust? How did we try to influence F.D.R.’s response?



As we limp through the current ‘Great Recession’, it may be instructive to see how American Jews shaped life in the Great Depression, and how that crisis affected us.

Please contact Lynn Golub-Rofrano at TILearning1@tifereth-israel.org or 202-882-1605, ext. 105 with any questions.



The Rabbi A. Nathan Abramowitz Fund was established in 1980 to celebrate the Rabbi's 20 years of service to TI and was enlarged in 1996 when Rabbi Abramowitz completed 36 years of service. Part of its mission is to honor youth who spend their summer or part of a school year in a program to enhance their Jewish education.

To qualify, the youngster may attend a camp recognized for its Jewish educational component (such as Camp Ramah, Capital Camps, and Moshava), participate in an educational program in Israel (such as USY Pilgrimage or Ramah Seminar), or take part in a United Synagogue Youth Wheels Trip.

Awards are made each spring. The Fund depends on your support and welcomes contributions in any amount. Each year, all TI'ers who participate in a qualifying program are honored at a special Shabbat service and receive a gift.

The Fund also awards scholarships based on financial need to facilitate participation in qualifying programs. Families who wish information about scholarships should contact Rabbi Abramowitz. All such applications and inquiries are kept strictly confidential. To apply for the award program, contact the TI office to secure an application. Applications for 2010 are due by April 30. An additional application is required for the scholarship program.

A. NATHAN ABRAMOWITZ FUND 2009 REGISTRATION

Participant's Name: _____

Israel Summer Experience: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

Who is sponsoring the program? _____

City, State, Zip: _____

How many weeks does the program run? _____

Telephone: _____ School & Grade: _____

Describe the educational or religious activities that are included in this program.

Does the participant attend T.I. Religious School? Y / N

Does the participant attend another religious school or Jewish Day School? Y / N

If yes, please specify: _____

Does the participant belong to a Jewish youth group? Y / N

If yes, please specify: _____

Summer Camp Program: _____

Name of camp: _____

Who sponsors the camp? _____

Length of session: _____

Does this camp have an organized Jewish education program? Y / N

If yes, please describe: _____

Have you been an ANA Fund honoree in the past? Y / N

I would like to apply for scholarship funds.
Please send me an application.

Return completed application to:

Rabbi A. Nathan Abramowitz

Tifereth Israel Congregation

7701 16th Street, N.W.

Washington, DC 20012

Please respond by April 30 or call, 202/882-1605 ext 101



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(Donations — continued on page 18)



DONATIONS – (Continued from page 17)

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(Donations — continued on page 19)



DONATIONS – (Continued from page 18)

Yahrzeit Donations continued

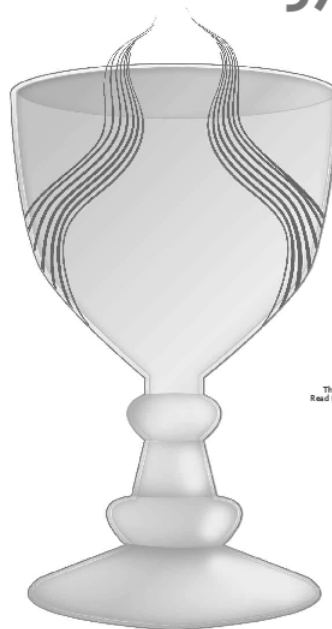
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