

The Menorah

**Tifereth Israel
Congregation**
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המנורה

December 2010 Kislev / Tevet 5771

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

Notes from the Rabbi — My Discretionary Funds

By Rabbi Ethan Seidel



As I often do, I am using my December bulletin article to let you know (as much as I can without invading anyone's privacy) how I have spent my discretionary funds this past year (11/15/09 – 11/15/10). Here are the major categories, with a bit of narrative, and the approximate totals.

➤Money for poor Jews in the wider DC Jewish community. Most of this money went to individuals and families directly, but this amount also includes a contribution to the local Hebrew Free Burial society. Total: \$1297

➤Contributions to help Galaudet's Hillel programs. Total: \$500

➤Money for TI members going through rough financial times. I always treat such grants as gifts, but sometimes congregants are able to repay. Total: \$6300 (I received \$2700 over this period in repayments.)

➤Help for TI programs (flying in a candidate for the Life Long Learning Search committee, paying the travel expenses for the guest speaker about Spinoza, feeding Theatre J's actors at TI before they performed the Spinoza play for us, etc.,) Total: \$2008

➤Contribution to various Jewish groups (Avodah, Jews United for Justice, The Jewish Theological Seminary, etc.) Total: \$1130

➤Reduction of charges (for Shabbat meals and High Holiday tickets, mostly for non-members of TI – like the discounts I provided for Moishe House folks and other 20-somethings to join TI for Shabbat dinners). Total: \$1872

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for your past support of this fund, and encourage you, as you plan whatever end-of-the-year giving you are capable of this year to support the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

Thanks again!
Rabbi Seidel

Tifereth Israel Congregation

Synagogue Telephone: (202) 882-1605

Rabbi: Ethan Seidel, ext. 102

Rabbi Emeritus: A. Nathan Abramowitz

President: Susan Catler

Executive Director: David Zinner, ext. 103

Administrator: Sheri Blonder, ext. 101

Lifelong Learning Director: ext. 105

Bookkeeper: David Mackoff, ext. 110

Kitchen Manager: Roz Kram, ext 112

Facilities Manager: Steve Ross

המנורה של תפארת ישראל

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

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

T I 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

ADELE NATTER, LICSW, LCSW-C

announces the new location of her Washington, DC psychotherapy practice:

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Accepting new patients at this location.

Call (301) 509-4848 or visit www.adelenatter.com





Maxine Grossman is a TI member and Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and Religious Studies, Jewish Studies Program, University of Maryland.

10:15AM-12:15 PM in the TI Library.

TI Hanukah Boutique

By the time this article is printed, this year's TI Hanukah Boutique will have come and gone. Kol Nashim thanks Ruth Unterweger and Marge Rosenthal for directing this sale. We also thank Mark Lewis who came in to help.

Washington Jewish Film Festival

"Voices Unbound -- The Story of the Freedom Writers,"

produced and directed by **Daniel Anker** will be screened as part of the Washington Jewish Film Festival on December 12, at 4:00 pm.

February 6th Save the date :

Dr. Maxine Grossman will present "Women in the Biblical Tradition: What exactly is women's role"

Back in Hebrew School, we learned of "Jewish Heroes" and the role models they provided, but sometime in adulthood we may have come to ask precisely what sorts of behavior those figures were modeling. What kinds of "role models" do we find among the women in the biblical tradition? How do the heroines of the Hebrew Bible compare with those of the Christian New Testament? And what should we take away from a study of those roles?

*In view of the Chaverim-sponsored TI trip to the Jewish Film Festival on **December 4th** and the screening of Daniel Anker's film in the afternoon of **December 12th**, Kol Nashim has decided to **CANCEL** the movie viewing for December 12th in the morning. We will show "Making Trouble", a documentary film about the history of famous funny Jewish women, from Jewish Women's Archive at a future date.*



[Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers](#)

By Barbara Raimondo

Lots of exciting adventures this month!

Tough Stuff

At the Kaizen Karate Intramural Tournament, Meribor Matusow won first place in katas in her belt division. Jayden Matusow won first place in katas and third place in sparring in his belt division. I didn't know what katas was/were either, so I looked it up. According to Wikipedia katas are "detailed choreographed patterns of movements practiced either solo or in pairs." Kaizen Karate offers lessons at TI, so join up and take some belts of your own!

It is not known if Marjorie Rosenthal's grandson does karate – or if he knows what katas are - but he had a lovely bar mitzvah that Marjorie attended in New London, Connecticut. Joshua Harris Goldstein is the son of Amy and Adam Goldstein. He led the Friday night service and read the Torah parsha, Chaya Sara, and the haftorah. Marjorie sponsored the brunch on Sunday, October 31. Joshua is Marjorie's second grandson to become a bar mitzvah – the first in Connecticut. Marjorie has nine grandchildren, five of whom have celebrated a bar or bat mitzvah.

Sruly Elzufon, grandson of Barbara and Howard White, who does not do karate, greatly enjoyed crawling around the Cherner at Kiddush on his recent trip here from Israel. Sruly (short for Yisrael) brought along his parents Ilana and Michael Elzufon, who also went with him to visit his other US grandparents in California.

Nina Kellner and husband Ken went to Israel this summer, marking the anniversary of their meeting. Yes, a matchmaking trip to Israel! They met there 22 years ago on an

American Zionist Youth Foundation trip and this was their first time back -- this time with their two daughters, Elana and Talia. So much has changed and so little. It was a wonderful trip and they made lots of new friends as well. No word on whom the girls might have met.



**The Kellners at Tifereth Israel St.
experiencing happy days and memories**

But speaking of weddings, Martin Kessel was in Israel (yet again!) to celebrate the wedding of his niece, Keren to Elchanan Brown whose mother, Judy Brown, is one of the founders of the Ramot Zion Masorati Congregation on French Hill in Jerusalem. The evening wedding took place at Neot Kedumim, the botanical park near Modiin, devoted to the preservation of biblical flora.

(Nayes continued on page 5)



(Naves continued from page 4)

Simcha Kuritzky is leaving his stamp on the world. He turned his presentation on modern Zionism (which he gave at a TI Tikun L'eyl Shavuot a few years ago) into an article that is being published in three parts in *The Shekel*, the journal of the American Israel Numismatic Association, in the July-Aug., Sept.-Oct., and Nov.-Dec. 2010 issues. Daniel Anker, son of Jerry and Charlotte Anker, is also leaving a print. He won the \$30,000 first prize for best documentary at an important film festival in Spain for his film "Voices Unbound: The Story of the Freedom Writers." The film was shown locally last year at the "Docufest" festival, and will be shown again at the Washington Jewish Film Festival in December.



Maayan resting before her next literary adventures

already requesting that her book group read "Where the Wild Things Are."

Literary Women

Dina Kraft's story originally published in "O Magazine," titled 'A Slim Peace,' was published in this year's "best of O," a hardcover book titled "Love Your Life." Dina sat in and wrote about an unlikely weight loss program. In the account fourteen women - Israelis and Palestinians - participate in a weight loss program. They drop pounds and lose inches while gaining an immeasurable sense of humanity. Dina is the daughter of Lisa and Michael Kraft. She lives in Tel Aviv. The article was published in the June 2009 magazine. Marisa Schweber-Koren was featured in JH Weekly, Jackson Hole's Free Independent Newspaper, for her work on the Revolutionary Book Club, a "literary revolt for the now-generation." Read about it (maybe for your own book club?) at http://www.planetjh.com/music_arts_culture/A_106648.aspx. Future reader Maayan Dina Reisner, daughter of Lianna and Elnatan, was born October 15. Weighing in at six pounds, 10 ounces, she is doing great and

After reading, on Monday, November 1, Montgomery County Public Schools held its 11th annual Latin Dance Competition at the Strathmore Music Center. Strathmore donated the building and staff for this event. The competing high schools were Clarksburg, Einstein, Gaithersburg, Rockville, Seneca Valley, and Watkins Mill. Einstein took first place in seven out of eight categories, including Best In Show, but who do you think personally took first place for salsa? TI's own Gaby Goldring! Way to go Gaby! And on October 26th, Melanie Greenfield, an avid reader, became a great aunt when her nephew Josh Gross and his wife Natalia Swalnick became first-time parents in Denver. Carter Marshall Swalnick was born a healthy eight pounds, 11 ounces. All are doing great. Lynn Golub-Rofrano, Paula Flicker, Ellen Zwi-bak and Andrea Kline are all represented in

(Naves continued on page 6)



New Members

By Jared Garelick

Some TI members attend services almost every week, for years. Others don't. And some have life circumstances that bring them to TI only for limited periods. Get to know this month's featured new members while you can. Before you know it, they're likely to be thousands of miles away.

Emanuel and Marilyn Vegh – The Veghs were TI members many years ago, and have decided to re-join. They now live in Washington only a few months a year. The rest of the time they spend in various cities, usually in the southern hemisphere or somewhere else warm. Recent sojourns have included Sydney, Buenos Aires, South Africa, and Israel. Before retirement, Emanuel worked as a theoretical mathematician at various universities and the Naval Research Laboratory. Marilyn designed financial systems for large government agencies. The Veghs have three grown children and six grandchildren (five boys and one girl). When they are in town, you are likely to see them at services on Saturday morning.

Orna and Uri Levin – This branch of the Levin family normally lives in Sao Paulo, Brazil. They are in town for six months as Orna, on sabbatical from her home university, has a visiting professorship at Georgetown University. A literature professor, Orna is here doing research on 18th and 19th Century Spanish, Portuguese, and Brazilian dramatic literature. With her on this Washington adventure is her 15 year old son, Uri. A student since he was four at a small Jewish day school in Sao Paulo, Uri is navigating the crowded hallways of Blair High School during their stay. Uri is interested in sports, movies, and languages, and would appreciate meeting some other teens while he is here. Remaining in Sao Paulo are Orna's husband, a civil engineer, and an older son, currently in his first year of university. Orna and Uri are enjoying their opportunity to experience American Jewish culture at TI.

(Nayes continued from page 5)

the National Museum of Natural History's Hyperbolic Crochet Coral Reef on display now behind the Sant Ocean Hall until April 24. If you don't believe it, read their names on the signs next to the magnificent reef.

In sad news, Sheryl Gross-Glaser's father died at the age of 92. The funeral was held in Columbus, Ohio. May family and loved ones be comforted.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, vivacious: "lively in temper, conduct, or spirit." (Merriam-Webster Online.) Thanks to all who sent me news, sent me to others who sent me news, or otherwise helped sniff it out. Please send information for next time to baraimondo@gmail.com with "Nayes un Mekhayes" in the heading, or to P.O. Box 466, Washington Grove, MD 20880. This brings to a close an afflatitious edition of Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers.



VOICES UNBOUND:
THE STORY OF THE
FREEDOM WRITERS

USA, 2010, video, documentary

90 minutes

Director: Daniel Anker

Special Sneak Screening Sunday,

December 12 — 4:00 pm

Aaron & Cecile Goldman Theater, Washington DCJCC



One girl in the class came to school with her parole officer, many belonged to gangs and nearly all had friends who died in gang violence. Into this classroom in 1994 walked a new teacher, Erin Gruwell, wearing a pearl necklace and big smile that belied her tenacity, toughness and devotion to the kids. When she assigned reading The Diary of Anne Frank, they resisted. But once they did read the book, they began finding their own voices and eventually began writing their own stories. After 4 years, 75 of the students who had taken Ms. Gruwell's class journeyed together to see Anne's house, the concentration camp where she died and much more. Told by the students themselves, this documentary by Anker (Imaginary Witness: Hollywood and the Holocaust WJFF 2004, Scottsboro: An American Tragedy WJFF 2000) goes far beyond the 2007 feature film Freedom Writers, revealing the very real lives of the students then and now as well as the impact of knowing and telling your own story.

<http://washingtondcjjcc.org/center-for-arts/film/WJFF/films2010/freedom-writers.html>

POST-FILM DISCUSSION WITH
Daniel Anker*, Director
 and E. Ethelbert Miller,
 Author and Director of the
 African American Resource
 Center, Howard University

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH the 16th
 Street J's Leo & Anna Smilow Center for Jewish
 Living and Learning and the Hyman S. & Frieda
 Bernstein Jewish Literary Festival

***son of TI Members**
Charlotte and Jerry Anker

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Tifereth Israel will this year again serve 300 Xmas holiday lunches to the homeless

By Martin Kessel, for the TI Social Action Committee



As we have done for the past several years TI'ers will again be preparing and serving close to 300 Xmas holiday meals to the homeless of Washington DC.

There will be a change this year because Christmas falls on Shabbat. We will be serving our meals on Friday December 24th, the designated Federal Holiday for Christmas.

As a result of this change the 3rd Baptist Church has elected not to have a luncheon on Friday and we will consequently not be serving at this location this year.

In place of 3rd Baptist we will be serving 150 lunches at the Adam's Place Men's Shelter, 2210 Adams Place, NE DC.

We will again be serving approximately 80 meals at the John Young Center Shelter for Women, D St. NW, and 70 meals at the Harriet Tubman Shelter for Women at the old DC General Hospital.

Our Captains for the three locations are: John Young Center – Louise Weiner; Tubman Shelter – Gail Robinson; and Adam's Place –

Steve Harvey and Lisa Hack.

We will be cooking sweet potatoes (yams) and stuffing on Wednesday evening at TI starting at 5pm, and we need about 10 volunteers.

Our 18 turkeys will, as in previous years, be specially cooked for us by Ed Davis and the turkey carving will take place at the home of Esther and Gene Herman also on Thursday evening.

We are asking for volunteers for all of the above tasks and for those to serve the meals on Friday from 10am until 2pm in two shifts at our three different locations. Volunteers are also needed to help bring the food to the three locations between 11am to 12 noon.

The Social Action Committee would welcome

donations both in money and in kind earmarked for this project. We are in particular need of scarves, hats and gloves. These should be new and of acceptable quality. The basket at the Juniper entrance to TI will be available for the



Volunteers serving Xmas lunch at the Harriet Tubman Shelter

collection of these items.

If you have not already signed up and wish to do please contact

Martin Kessel at:

kesselm@mail.nih.gov



* * * DONATION FUNDS – DECEMBER 2010 * * *

GENERAL FUND

<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Honor of</u>
David & Stephanie Rubin	Rebecca Dorn's bat mitavh
Myrna Goldman	Ma'ayan Dina Reisner
<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Memory of</u>
David & Stephanie Rubin	Sylvia Kahn Forman
Linda & Arnold J. Goldberg	Carla Cohen

MOLLIE BERCH LIBRARY FUND

Donor	
Lionel Cherry	

YAHARZEIT DONATIONS

<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Memory of</u>
George & Marjorie Greenberg	Mildred Keshin
George & Marjorie Greenberg	Carla Cohen
Louis & Madge Spector	I. Al Spector, Mollie Spector, and Sandra Cohen
David & Judith Cohen	Michael Levine
Morris Klein & Naomi Freeman	Henry Freeman
Steven & Roberta Jellinek	Theodore Jellinek
Dr. Larry & Pearl Schinker	Louis Charnow
Nathan & Judith Halpert	Louis Silverman
Leslie Rod	Stephen Gordon Rod
Robert & Loretta Vitale Saks	Gorgina de Leon Vital & Luciano Vitale

YAHARZEIT DONATIONS continued

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Roz & George Zitelman	Fannie Barco
Paul & Annette Rosen	Abraham Rosen
William M. & Sue Heyman	Harry Lopatin
Roberta Schery	Joseph Schery
Louise Sidman	Samuel Corman
Anita Bolt	Theodore Bolt
Doris Silverman	Morris Silverman
Leonard Bachman	Bessie Bachman
Marilyn Feldman	Lillian Pittle Norris
Kenneth Peres	Irving Peres
Theodora Perry	David Cohen
Adele Goldstein Samler	Sadie Rosenthal
Sanford H. & Lynne G Vinick	Gloria Newman
Shirley Levine	Frances Stahl
Florence Berlin	Nathan Berlin
Florence Berlin	Haya Berlin
Denise & Sheldon Iskow	Leon Burka
Toby Friedman	David Friedman
Beverly Lehrer	Frederick Lehrer
Stefanie Levy	Benjamin Goodman
Leonard Raffel	Bessie Raffel
Steven & Roberta Jellinek	Irving Maydeck

YIZKOR DONATIONS

<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Memory of</u>
Myrna Goldman	Leonard & Lorraine Goldman





The Foundation for Jewish Studies

The Book of Samuel I

The Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum

Dates: Every Sunday, September 26, 2010
— June 26, 2011

Time: 10:30 am — 12:00 pm

Speaker: Gideon Amir

Gideon Amir received his master's degree in Judaic Studies from Baltimore Hebrew University.

The Books of Samuel describe the transition from a tribal system to a monarchy. In the Books of Joshua and Judges, the tribal system played a major role. The Book of Samuel shows the different efforts to create a central leadership for the whole of Israel. These efforts start with God's messenger Samuel, first of the major Prophets to prophesy inside the Land of Israel. Samuel was at the cusp between two eras, and was instrumental in establishing Israel's monarchy with the anointing of the first two kings of Israel, Saul and David.

Session Two — Saul, The First King of Israel Chapters 11-20

Sundays, January 9, 2011 to March 13, 2011

9 classes, excluding February 20 and March 20

Program is held at and co-sponsored by:

The Dennis and Phillip Ratner Museum

10001 Old Georgetown Road

Bethesda, MD 20814

301-897-1518

For directions, please click here:

<http://www.ratnermuseum.com/?page=contact>

Please bring your own Bible. No previous Bible study is required.

The cost is \$75 for FJS members & \$90 for non-members. More information can be found here:
<http://www.foundjs.org/calendar.php?eventId=1>

From Kabbalah to the Big Bang

Capital Camps

Dates: Every day February 20, 2011 - February 21, 2011

Time: 11:00 am - 3:30 pm

Speaker: Dr. Daniel C. Matt

Dr. Daniel C. Matt, one of the world's foremost authorities on Jewish mysticism, is creating a 12-volume, annotated English translation of the Zohar.



The Josephine F. and H. Max Ammerman Study Retreat

The Foundation for Jewish Studies

Presidents Day Weekend 2011

Topics will include:

- The *Zohar*: Masterpiece of Kabbalah
- *Shekhinah*: The Feminine Half of God
- Raising the Sparks: Finding God in the Material World

God and the Big Bang: Discovering Harmony Between Science and Spirituality

Cost includes one night's lodging, four kosher meals, all gratuities, and four lectures.

Retreat will be held at:

Capital Camps

<http://www.capitalcamps.org/index.php>
12750 Buchanan Trail East
Waynesboro, PA 17268
717-794-2177

For directions, please click here:
<http://www.capitalcamps.org/articlenav.php?id=9>

The Foundation for Jewish Studies does not provide insurance coverage and does not assume any liability. We recommend that you secure your own travel/medical insurance for the duration of the retreat.

Pricing is as follows: PER PERSON RATE for Double Occupancy before January 31 = \$175, Single before January 31 = \$250, PER PERSON RATE for Double Occupancy after February 1 = \$190, Single after February 1 = \$280.

More information can be found here:
<http://www.foundjs.org/calendar.php?evntId=559>

Heschel: A Modern Prophet & His Interpretation of Biblical Prophets

JCC of Northern Virginia

Dates: Every Tuesday, February 22, 2011 - March 15, 2011

Time: 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Speaker: [John Rybicki](#)

http://www.foundjs.org/current_speakers.php?spId=6

John Rybicki is a noted lecturer at various locations in and around Virginia.

Abraham Heschel was a 20th century Jewish religious philosopher. During his life, he came to the conclusion that the god of the philosophers was not the God of the Hebrew scriptures. Heschel's understanding of God was based on a "theology of pathos," in which God is a god of pathos, "revealed in a personal and intimate relation to the world ... He is also moved and affected by what happens in the world and reacts accordingly."

Heschel's book, *The Prophets*, is a fascinating exploration of a God of emotion - love and anger and compassion and chastisement.

Program is held at and co-sponsored by:
Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia
8900 Little River Turnpike
Fairfax, VA 22031
703-323-0880

For directions, please click here:
<http://www.jccnv.org/about-us/hours-and-directions.html>

