



# The Menorah

## Notes from the Rabbi: Ethan Seidel Balancing Seriousness and Informality

Like any human community, we are an assembly of contradictions: we guide ourselves with general rules that rest uneasily with one another. For example, we strive to be welcoming to all who join us, to anyone who comes into our sanctuary. At the same time, we do have certain standards that we adhere to, or at least proclaim—standards that are necessary for the continued health of our community.

Alas, the moment we proclaim an ideal, any ideal, we have made ourselves less welcoming to those who don't share that ideal. Of course, it's not just TI that is conflicted in this way. *Any* modern, open community is going to be fraught with this kind of tension. Balances need to be

struck, and what's more, the balance point itself may have to change over time.

Among the many balances we try to strike here at TI is between seriousness and informality in our services. On the one hand, we feel that what we do on Shabbat in our sanctuary is important. We may be there for many reasons—praying to God, feeling a connection to our community, listening to a particular

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## President's Column: Susan Catler End of One Year, Beginning of the Next

Tifereth Israel Congregation's annual membership meeting was held on Tuesday evening, May 25, 2010. At that time I reported to the Congregation that:

Rabbi Ethan Seidel and the Tifereth Israel Congregation have entered into a new long-term contract. Under the terms of the new agreement, Rabbi Seidel will work for TI for the next ten years and has a three-year option to remain beyond that. This contract provides us with the benefit of Rabbi Seidel's continued leadership and the stability that comes with his tenure.

TI has now hired a new Lifelong Learning Director, **Eitan Gutin**. He is coming to us with significant education

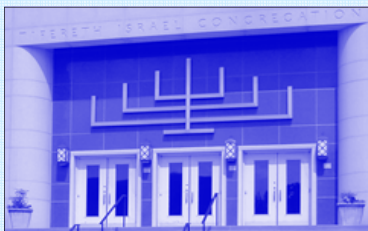


experience, most recently at the Jewish Day School. He will begin July 1, 2010.

I also reported on innovations in the last year:

The Membership Committee introduced a Summer Membership Promotion

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## Notes from the Rabbi (continued)

speaker—but whatever we're there for, we've made the effort to come, and we value what we do. On the other hand, we are a relatively informal bunch. Perhaps because we like to sing loud happy songs, we also like a service with a minimal amount of stuffiness and self-importance.

Now, on one level, there is no inherent contradiction between seriousness and informality. One could, say, study Talmud for an hour, and then take a break and ride the unicycle—only the most unimaginative could see those activities as incongruous. However, doing both of those activities at the *same* time is problematic. Both activities require (at least for me) full concentration to be done well—trying to do both at once would be at best, unproductive, and at worst ... well, I prefer not to think about it. The point is each activity has its time and place.

The same is true at services on Shabbat morning—not every activity is appropriate for every moment. There are

times to be informal and welcoming, and there are times to focus seriously on the davenning. I find this to be a constant tension. Upon seeing someone I don't know enter the sanctuary, my first instinct is to jump up and introduce myself. But I can't always do so. Sometimes it's in the middle of the *Sh'ma* or the *Amidah*, sometimes I'm listening to the *drash*, or maybe the Torah is being taken out of the ark. I make a mental note to say hello later in the service at a more appropriate point—after the *Kedushah* in the repetition of the *Amidah*, during one of the many reader's *Kaddishes*, during the Torah reading, or even during the first part of the Torah service before the ark is opened.

Similarly, not every moment is the right time for barging into the service. There are times to come right into the sanctuary and find a seat, and there times when it's most appropriate to wait near the entrance for a particular part of the service to run its course. Some of the times I just mentioned as times to avoid any conversation apply here as well, i.e. it's best to wait near the entrance if you come in during:

The first line of the *Sh'ma*  
The silent *Amidah*  
The *Kedushah* during the repetition of the *Amidah*  
The Torah service when the ark is open

And if the *drash* has begun, best to come in by way of the far entrance.

Obviously, there may be special circumstances when you just have to rush in—a sick or screaming child, for instance. I'm not proposing we set up a police force to monitor compliance with these guidelines. I'm not even suggesting that decorum is a paramount virtue in our community. However, decorum is not nothing. Children and adults parading in front of the speaker during a recent *drash* was, I thought, both disrespectful and distracting.

Our services are, on the whole, well-balanced. I find it's often possible to concentrate on the davenning, and at the same time it's not so stuffy that guests (and regulars for that matter) feel unwelcome. Nevertheless, I am making a plea: do be considerate of what's happening in the service when you enter the sanctuary, and when you welcome friends or guests to our service.

Thank you.

Rabbi Ethan Seidel

### ***The Menorah***

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## Reflections on 15 Years at Tifereth Israel

Lynn Golub-Rofrano

Dear TI Families:

I was invited to submit an article for the July *Menorah* although I officially left my position on June 30. I want to take this opportunity to reflect on my fifteen years of employment at Tifereth Israel. During that time I have made many wonderful friends and seen some incredible children turn into worthy adults who will shine brightly in the Jewish community.

When I first started at TI, as the part-time principal of the Himmelfarb School, there were fewer students in the school. The school size has more than doubled during my tenure and although we are not a 'large' school, for the past few years our numbers have been consistent. Families joining us from other congregational schools are always pleased with how much more their children have learned since the switch. Parents have also shared their appreciation for the values and warmth found in our school.

### Many Challenges and Opportunities

Although my position has changed dramatically during my time here, I have enjoyed the challenges and opportunities my work has afforded me. I have relished getting to know many of the adults in our congregation who don't have children in the school, but participate in Department of Lifelong Learning activities offered for adults. These activities and classes have certainly been broad and diverse! Never did I imagine that my responsibilities would include coordinating a Rosh Chodesh Drum Circle, or Jewish Yoga. Not to mention mitzvah knitting. Yes, the times and Jewish interests also changed during my tenure!

Clearly I did not work in a vacuum. I want to take this opportunity to thank the many members of our congregation who have helped me along the way. These people, who freely donated time, money, advice, ideas and support, helped me to create the broad range of programs that became the Department of Lifelong Learning.

### Special Thanks to Three Supporters

I hesitate to list names, because I fear I will inadvertently leave out someone. However, I do want to publicly thank Mollie Berch, Janet Nesse, and Deena Dugan whose years of unfailing support have meant a tremendous amount to me. Mollie welcomed me to TI when I first started and without her teaching and

mentoring, I would not have been able to do this job. Janet, was my first, and most active Education Vice President and her advice and insight to the congregation were invaluable. Deena, as a day school parent, offered advice and a perspective that was important to planning, and was the first day school parent to enroll her children in the Saturday morning class.

They were, of course, joined by many other congregants but I am limited in the amount of space I can take in the *Menorah*! I therefore hope that the many people who have been helpful to me and supportive of me are aware of my gratitude. I also want to thank the unsung heroes, the many volunteers, including our *Menorah* editors, who regularly work behind the scenes to make the work of the staff easier.

As of this writing I don't know what my future endeavors will be, but I do know that I will enter them a stronger, better person, thanks to my years at Tifereth Israel.

L'hitraot,  
Lynn

### **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, or the TI office (202-882-1605).

**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

## Remembrances and Appreciations of Lynn Golub-Rofrano

Mazal tov on 15 years of service! We really appreciate the work that Lynn has done on behalf of the kids at TI. She has been open to my (many) suggestions for programs and has helped to make them a reality. She has set a tone of *menschkeit* throughout the school and synagogue programming and she has been a very loving and welcoming face for our kids. Lynn has been an integral part of our experience here at TI and my kids are sad to hear that she will not be running the school next year. We wish Lynn only wonderful plans for the future and great adventures ahead. All the best.

**--Kim & Wylie Levone, Allegra, Raviv, Liat & Boaz**

This was my first year teaching Hebrew School as anything other than a music teacher, and also my first year teaching an adult education course at TI (the course on Darius Milhaud). Lynn was very open to my ideas and gave me the chance to put them into action. Her daily enthusiasm as she walked the halls of TI kept everyone on their toes! She will be missed.

**--Seth Glabman**

Perhaps as an outgrowth of the Sageing group, Lynn asked me to make calls on a regular basis to one of our older members who was not able to attend the meetings. That's how I became acquainted with Libbey Sussan and enjoyed several years of chats and notes with that remarkable woman. Her recent death has highlighted what knowing her has meant to me, all thanks to Lynn's determination to make learning a lifelong occupation.

**--Debra Shleien**

Lynn was essential in the activities of Café Israel. She supplied a list of films, often obtained them when I could not, helped with our discussions, and with supplying the refreshments. As with the Sageing group and the Jewish/Hebrew book/poetry discussions, for which she was always well prepared, Lynn contributed greatly to our lives through Life Long Learning.

**--Bernie Shleien**

Thank you, Lynn, for providing us with such a rich variety of learning experiences. We still can't figure out how you managed to cover so many programs. We really appreciated your interested involvement in the social action committee. Somehow a significant number of teens, under your direction, managed to begin and sustain an interest in serving the less fortunate.

**--Esther and Gene Herman**

I can honestly say that I don't recall ever picking up our son or daughter from Hebrew School and not seeing a smile on Lynn's face as she interacted with the children and parents, handing out flyers and reminding everyone of upcoming events. Lynn clearly enjoyed what she did and wanted the children to enjoy being part of the Jewish community and of TI in particular. I also have to admit that I made a point of going to the first Sunday back to school sessions in the auditorium to listen as Lynn would tell stories to the "children." I rarely left with dry eyes. We have been truly blessed these many years to have had Lynn present in our children's lives in such a vivid way.

**--Jay Renbaum**

Dear Lynn: You have been an incredible resource and help to our family ever since we joined TI 4 years ago. Your wisdom, sensitivity, insight, and kindness were very important when one of our children was having severe emotional issues. Hebrew school was one of the few places that she felt safe because you (and the excellent teachers you hired) were so gentle, accepting, and flexible.

You have been proactive in accommodating children's needs and creative in your approach, allowing our children to feel the appeal of Judaism and Jewish education. We also thank you for all of the personal encouragement and excellent advice you've given us, from matters ranging from synagogue etiquette to parenting problems to educational issues. We will miss you deeply and wish you all the best in your future endeavors! Toda raba.

**--Susan Vitale**

One of the most moving experiences for me was standing at the bima at my daughters' naming ceremony, with Lynn, who had her arms around Margaret and me, saying the blessings. Lynn has a way of making all families feel as if they are being hugged with the warmth of her presence. My kids have really enjoyed having her as the principal of the Himmelfarb School.

**—Dorothea and Adam Wolfson**

The **Beiley-Fingerhut** family would like to thank Lynn for all her support over the past five years. She was one of the first people we met at TI, and she was very warm and welcoming. Our kids have really enjoyed the religious school and Lynn helped guide us through a bar and bat mitzvah. We will miss you and wish you the best of luck.

**—Karen, Eric, Jordan, Adam and Ethan.**

## TI Welcomes Eitan Gutin as New Director of Lifelong Learning Lifelong Learning Search Committee

The Tifereth Israel community is very excited to welcome Eitan Gutin, our new Director of Lifelong Learning. Eitan comes to us directly from the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, where he was the Director of Programs and Jewish Life, and indirectly from the Schechter Regional High School, in Teaneck, NJ, where he was a founding faculty member.

Many of us had an opportunity to see, hear, and schmooze with Eitan when he visited TI in May. His strong background in Jewish education, Judaic knowledge, mastery of davening, and experience and love of working with children were quickly apparent to all of us.

### Educational Background

Eitan started teaching when he was in college, and is not only interested in lifelong learning, but is the epitome of a lifelong learner, himself. He is currently enrolled in the Jewish Spirit Maggid Certification Program with Reb Yitzhak Buxbaum, training to become a spiritual storyteller.

As he notes, “one of the reasons I am doing the Maggid program is that almost all the learning I have done has been to teach someone else—very rarely have I done my own *Torah Lishma*, learning for the sake of learning.”

Eitan studied at Hebrew University in Jerusalem as part of USCJ’s Nativ program, at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers, and received his BA from Rutgers. While there, he helped revitalize Rutgers’ nearly defunct Hillel program, and helped turn it into a flagship campus for the national organization.

### USY Leader and Environmentalist

Eitan has worked with USY since he was a child, and he is even trained as a Jewish Environment and Nature Educator. He is looking forward to taking TI members out on the trails! He has led many workshops on enticing topics such as “Get Them to Love Prayers in Six-And-A-Half Weeks.”

For over a decade, starting in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, he hosted a *Tikkun Leyl Shavuot* at his family’s home, with as many as 70 teens studying with him and his family. Eitan notes that he has “a deep interest in using prayer and prayerful experiences to connect with God, and [has] made a regular study of the history and structure of *Tefillot*.”



### Eitan’s Family

Eitan’s wife, Aviva, is a music and movement specialist, and their three-year old son, Lev (pictured above with Eitan during last year’s USY Encampment), is an “eating yogurt neatly” specialist!

Eitan comes from a family strongly committed to Conservative Judaism and education: his mother is also a Jewish educator, currently the Director of the congregational school at the Fair Lawn Jewish Center, and his father is the National Director of USY.

Eitan is a science fiction buff, and an aficionado of Jewish music, Jewish stories and jam-bands. He is looking forward to getting to know everyone at TI, and hopes that everyone will stop by and say hello. We welcome Eitan to Tifereth Israel and look forward to his leadership and contributions to our community.

### The Selection Process

Many members have inquired about the search process, so here are the details:

Rabbi Seidel assembled a group of about 12 TI members from different backgrounds and age groups, all of whom had a strong interest in diverse aspects of LLL. Joel Cohen was the head of the search committee, with Dan Handwerker as co-chair.

The 12 members were assigned to various sub-committees, including groups to identify the qualities we wanted in our new director, to read the résumés, to conduct preliminary phone interviews, to set up visits for finalists, and to contact references. The full committee was sent most email communications so that everyone would be able to provide input even if they weren’t on a subcommittee.

The committee received about 35 applications for the position by the closing date, and conducted

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## Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Barbara Raimondo

### Israel

**Howard** and **Michele Sumka** *et al.* are winding up four years in Israel. They had a slew of visitors, both friends and family, Jewish and non-Jewish, tall and short, with hair and without, funny and not-so-funny, and so on. They have traveled from the Galilee to the Negev, plus Jordan. They're leaving some places to come back to when they visit their daughter, **Ilana**, who is remaining in Jerusalem.

Ilana directs Encounter, an NGO that brings overseas rabbinical students who are studying in Israel for a year into the West Bank to meet Palestinians. Howard's work as Director of USAID for West Bank/Gaza has been challenging and rewarding. Michele has developed her practice of Hands-on Energy Healing and intends to continue it when she return to Silver Spring this summer.

**Simcha Kuritzky** recently returned from a ten-day trip to Israel which included family bon fires on Lag B'Omer. Simcha visited several museums and two zoos, and also flea markets and antique stores, where he bought some very nice amulets.

**Dennis Kirschbaum** also is back from two weeks in Israel, where he led a Taglit-Birthright Israel trip for Hillel, The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life. Dennis bought his wife a lovely shawl. He surely knows which side his bread is buttered on.

**Betsy Lewis Yizraeli** appeared in *Love Unrequited* (an evening of one act plays) with the Haifa English Theatre in June 2010, portraying Cornelia in *Something Unspoken* by Tennessee Williams. Daughter

**Maayan Lia Yizraeli** graduated with an MSc in Biomedical Engineering from the Technion in June, 2010, and son **Orr Yizraeli** will wed Shelley Matza of Haifa on July 21, 2010.

**Martin Kessel** visited Israel at the end of May to attend the Annual Meeting of the Israel Microscopy Society held at Tel University. Martin is an honorary life member of the Society. Son **Jonathan** has almost completed half of his Appalachian Trail thru-hike. Jonathan began in Georgia on March 14th and by June 14th he reached Harpers Ferry at Mile 1014! Read all about it at <http://jonathanat2010.blogspot.com/>.

### England

**Andrea Kline**, daughter **Abigail Kabaker**, and their friend, Arlene Schuchner, went to London in May. Arlene gave Abby her trip as a graduation present. They ate at The Gate, a vegetarian restaurant recommended by **Jeff Davidson**. The weather was lovely--around 70--a virtual heat wave for London. Since their last name is not spelled S-a-l-a-h-i they did not see the Queen, but they did see her jewels. It appears that she takes them off from time to time.

The **Petermans** have a busy summer ahead. **Cynthia** will be travelling to Prague and Vienna in July on her third trip with Centropa. When she returns she will begin her Museum Teacher Fellowship at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

In August **Jeff**, **Cynthia** and **Tania** head to England to spend a week in London with the Peterman UK branch. Jeff and Cynthia will also travel north to Manchester to visit Cynthia's 91-year-old aunt. They are

hoping to get some good frequent flyer miles out of this, but your faithful columnist can assure them that anyone who thinks they can make good on frequent flyer miles is in la-la-land. And they arrived there by Greyhound.

### Massachusetts

**John** and **Lynne List** attended their daughter, **Deborah's**, graduation from Harvard's Kennedy School. She earned a Masters in Public Policy and will be working in DC for the Department of Health and Human Services as a Presidential Management Fellow. After the graduation John and Lynne had several lovely days on Cape Cod visiting and staying with former TI'ers Liz and Manny Smith at their home in Wellfleet, MA.

**Anya Neimark Spector**, granddaughter of **Dana** and **Sheridan Neimark**, became a Bat Mitzvah on June 5, 2010, at B'nai Israel Congregation in Northampton, MA. Her parashah, *Sh'lakh L'kha*, was the same as her mother's (**Rebecca**) 30 years ago at TI. Tiers in attendance included **Rabbi A. Nathan (Buddy)** and **Babs Abramowitz, Esther** and **Gene Herman**, and **Hedy Ohringer**.

### Tennessee

**Alan Landay** traveled to Oak Ridge, TN for his nephew Zeke (short for Ezekiel) Charles's Bar Mitzvah on May 1. It was a wonderful event attended by a number of relatives from out of town, including his sister Dyanna (Brooklyn) and brother Isaac (the Boston area), aunt and uncle Gail and Gary (Pasadena, CA), and uncle Jay (from Atlanta) and his daughter Annetta (Tucson)

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

AZ). Zeke did very well including leading both Friday night and Saturday morning services. There was a party Saturday night at Norris Dam State Park (a family favorite when Alan was growing up during the dinosaur period). Family stayed in "luxury" cabins (oxymoron alert!) in the park overnight and spent Sunday in that lovely setting. This was the last Bar/Bat Mitzvah of that generation of Alan's family.

### Washington

**Bruce** and **Laurie Berger** announce the graduation of "awesomest daughter" **Jean Berger** from Catholic University's graduate school. Jean now has a masters degree in psychology. She marked the occasion by entering full-time employment with St. Luke's House as a Rehabilitation Counselor, helping people with chronic mental illness.

**Izzy Nathan** graduated from Banneker Senior High School in June and will begin her freshman year at Bryn Mawr College in the fall; sister **Louisa** graduated in May from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and on July 1 will begin teaching at the KIPP LEAP Academy, a DC public charter school for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students.

**Melanie** and **Larry Greenfield** are

proud to report that **Sammy** graduated from John F. Kennedy High School on June 7th at Constitution Hall. The event was shared by one of Melanie's high school friends, Alice Megaro, from New Rochelle, NY.

New TI member **Lisa Shawn Fogel** and husband **Timothy John Anderegg** welcomed newest TI member **Penelope Enid Anderegg** June 12<sup>th</sup>, weighing eight pounds, eight ounces, 21.5 inches long.

### Anywhere and Everywhere

Deserving practically a whole column of its own is the **Dave Silber/Eileen Rose** clan. Son **Alan** and grandson **Isaac** (Silber) rode in the MS 100 mile bikathon to raise money for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Granddaughter **Talia** (Silber) age seven, is in *Bye Bye Birdie*, a community theatre presentation being offered by Stroyka Theatre Group during June. Granddaughter **Rebecca** (Silber) came in second in a diving contest (ages 5-6) recently.

Grandson **Bret** (Harris-Gallahue) became bar-mitzvah on June 19th at Potomac Chabad. Grandson **Avrom-Tzvi** (Harris) celebrated finishing *B'reishit* at Yeshivah K'tana in New York City recently. Granddaughter **Leah** (Glicker), age 10,

recently ran her fourth five kilometer race. And your faithful columnist is going to take a nap.

### Sad News

Long-time member **Libbey Lewis Sussan** passed away at the age of 101. Libbey was the mother of Sid (Laura) Sussan and Sara Sussan and the sister of **Mollie Berch**, Rose Glaser and Phillip Lewis.

**Jack M. Pollock**, father of **David Pollock** and father-in-law of **Judy Kirpich**, also passed away. The family sat shiva in New York and asks that contributions in his memory be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

May their memory be for a blessing.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, burgeoning: "Growing or developing rapidly" (Merriam-Webster Online).

Thanks to all who sent me news, sent me to others who sent me news, or 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 a choreographic edition of *Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers*.

## USY Board Elected

Congratulation to our 2010 – 2011 USY Board:

**Myriam Rofrano**, President

**Darid Harrison**, Sports

**Joanna Kramer**, Religious Coordinator

**Deborah Secular**, NY Trip Planning

**Daniel and Ben Thale-Galat**, Senior Rep

**Claire Spellberg**, Sophomore Rep

**Jordan Fingerhut**, Freshman Rep

(Junior Rep position is still vacant)

## Social Action at Tifereth Israel

Carolivia Herron

In recent months the TI Social Action Committee has initiated several projects in support of Jewish cultural and racial diversity. We are also seeking new venues to assist the children of migrant workers and refugees in Israel.

### Jewish Racial and Cultural Diversity

Last December, during a visit to Emek Hefer, Israel, I met the anthropologist Malka Shabtay, who was teaching in the immigration studies program at Ruppin College.

Dr. Shabtay had her students interview Israeli immigrants from the Equitos of Peru, the Bene Menashe of India, and the Ibo of Nigeria. All of these groups identify themselves as Jewish and are working to be fully accepted as such within Israel.

I spoke to her class and shared information about Dr. Rabson Wuriga and the Jewish Lemba of southern Africa, Rabbi Gershon Sizomu and the Abayudaya of Uganda, and my own familial connection with the *Anusim* (hidden Hispanic Jews formerly known as Marranos).

### Social Action Initiatives

As a result of my collaboration with Malka, the TI Social Action Committee is expanding support of Jewish racial and cultural diversity through the following actions:

1. We invited Dr. Shabtay to Tifereth Israel during *Shavuot* to share her expertise at our *Tikkun Leil*

*Shavuot*, to consult with Karen Primack of Kulanu about Jewish communities removed from mainstream Jewry, and to attend the annual *Be'chol Lashon* conference on emerging Jewish Communities.

Our support of Malka's work significantly improves the knowledge of diverse Jewish communities in Israel through news media and through direct education of students. Dr. Shabtay is also a liaison for an *Anusim* initiative to have a grand return to the Kotel on Tisha b'Av of 2011.

2. We are refining preliminary plans for assisting the Lemba Jewish community of Zimbabwe to educate and/or hire a Jewish spiritual leader.

You may remember that a few years ago we gave Rabson Wuriga's community two computers for the Lemba school. Our purchase influenced the Zimbabwe government to send the school an additional ten computers.

Now the Lemba community wants to learn more about mainstream Judaism, and has asked for our help in acquiring a spiritual leader.

### Israeli Refugees and Migrant Workers

While I was in Israel I also was escorted around by Haggith Gor Ziv (you may remember that she visited TI while her son was at Gallaudet a few years ago), who introduced me to several Israeli groups that are working with non-Jewish refugee groups, including youth from Darfur, Somalia, and Nigeria.



In Tel Aviv I visited a small room with 40 children between the ages of 3 and 5. There were no books, toys, or other objects in the room. These were the children of migrant workers, and all donations of books and toys are sold to make money for the families back home.

### Next Steps

We have some ideas of ways to get books and toys to these children without having the items sold. For example, coloring books could be separated page by page, making them unsellable but still usable by the children.

I also collected some stories from teenage refugees and will share these stories with you during the Shabbat *drash* on August 7, 2010.

We give our thanks to Rabbi Seidel and Kol Nashim for their early financial support for these initiatives, and call on all of you to help as we design our new work. Please contact me (carolivia@carolivia.org) if you want more details.

We greatly appreciate your opinions, suggestions and donations. If you would like to give specific support for any these programs please make that designation to the office when you send in your donation. We thank you for your continued support of TI Social Action programs.



## Kol Nashim

Paula Flicker



### June 13 Kol Nashim Salon

The Kol Nashim Salon, at the home of Margie Odle, began with everyone meeting each other and visiting with TI friends whom they hadn't seen in a long time.

The entertainment included sharing a few TI stories and a brief reading of a song from the libretto written by Carolivia Herron, *Let Freedom Sing: The Story of Marian Anderson*, composed by Bruce Alophe.

A key goal of the gathering was to discuss possible Kol Nashim activities. It was agreed that a variety of activities through the year would increase the chances of a diverse group of

members participating in at least one program.

Many ideas were suggested, ranging from cooking with children or a canning workshop to cultural outings such as attending a Sunday open house at the Kreeger museum. One certain program will be a lecture by Maxine Grossman, purchased for Kol Nashim by Margie Odle at the TI Spring Fling.

### Ongoing Programs

Other activities will be ongoing, particularly the TI Epic! Useful ideas for the TI Epic were proposed and several people volunteered to work on the project. Kol Nashim, with Ellen

Zwibak in the lead, will take charge of TI's Mitzvah Knitting; we're not sure our new director of Lifelong Learning cares to coordinate Mitzvah knitting, although he reportedly does know how to knit.

We have more than enough ideas for the upcoming year. I took notes and typed them up.

Do not be offended if we do not propose your idea next year. They will not be forgotten. On the other hand, do not be surprised if you are called to help organize one of the programs that you suggested.

## Recent Additions to the Mollie Berch Library

Thank you to **Ruth Shapiro** and **Emily Goldman** for volunteering in the library and helping to make our space more inviting! Your help is much appreciated!

### Recent Acquisitions

Baron, Dvora, *The First Day and Other Stories* (2001)

Eisner, Will, *Life, in Pictures* (2007), an autobiographical work, and *The Contract with God Trilogy* (2005). Beware—these are huge books!

Gilmore, Jennifer, *Something Red: A Novel* (2010). Takes place in Washington, DC.

Litman, Ellen, *The Last Chicken in America* (2008). Stories about Russian-Jewish immigrants.

Radosh, Ronald and Allis, *A Safe Haven: Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel*. Mentioned by Richard Cohen in The June 8 Washington Post as a book that Helen Thomas should read.

Sabar, *My Father's Paradise* (2008). Replacement for lost copy.

Sarna, Jonathan, *A Time to Every Purpose: Letters to a Young Jew* (2008)

*Silber, Ami, Early Bright* (2008)

DVD: *Making Trouble* (2006). About six of the greatest female comic performers of the last century — Molly Picon, Fanny Brice, Sophie Tucker, Joan Rivers, Gilda Radner, and Wendy Wasserstein.

Please leave a card whenever you borrow a book so that we do not spend money replacing lost copies.

Also please return any books within a month that you have checked out so that others may use them.

## New Members Column

### Jared Garelick

#### Danielle Glosser and Howard Riker

Danielle and Howard have lived in Washington for many years, but only recently discovered TI. Howard, a Connecticut native, studied at Yale and received an MBA from Harvard, and now works for a commercial real estate developer.

Danielle, originally from San Francisco, worked her way eastward, attending the University of Arizona and then getting a masters degree in sociology at George Washington University, where she concentrated on race relations. She now stays home with their two boys, Seth, who is 6, and Adam, who is 2.

They look forward to participating in TI's children's programs beginning in the fall.

#### New member? Feeling dissed?

A large number of new members joined TI in the past year. Most have been featured in the New Member Column, but some were missed, either by their choice or through this reporter's lack of persistence. If you don't return that first phone message, you might find yourself skipped. If you're a newish TI member and haven't been profiled in this column, don't be shy. Contact the New Member E-mail Hotline at [jarelick@earthlink.net](mailto:jarelick@earthlink.net) and a member of this column's staff will give you a call.

## Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

#### July 2

Charles Baum  
Leonard & Joy Baxt  
Mollie Berch  
Mark & Mona Berch  
Bruce & Laurie Berger  
Carl Bergman & Marjorie Odle  
Judith Berland  
Joseph Berman & Marsha Gentner  
Dana Beyer  
Sean Blake & Larisa Aranbayeva

#### July 9

Martin Block & Renee Comet  
Sheri Blonder  
Gideon & Lisa Blumenthal  
Irving Borochoff  
Lenora Borow  
Ron & Dina L. G. Borzekowski  
Nat Bottigheimer & Eve Ostriker  
Ronald S. Bowyer  
Larry Bram & Lise Krantz  
Leonard Braverman

#### July 16

Michael Britton  
Sharon Brown  
Stephen Burd & Laura Schiavo  
Susan Chapin  
Daniel Chazan & Ronit Eisenbach  
Nataliya Chernyak Cowen  
Lionel Cherry  
Todd Christiansen  
Ann Cohen & Avi Dorot  
David & Carla Cohen

#### July 23

David & Elana Cohen  
David & Judith Cohen  
Joel Cohen  
Raymond & Rebecca Coleman  
Sara Collins  
Jeffrey Colman & Ellen Nissenbaum  
Jeffrey & Miriam Davidson  
Joseph & Kathy Davidson

#### July 30

L. Ronni Davis  
Adam Diamond & Rabbi Jane Berman  
Helen Disenhaus  
Stan Dorn & Carla Ellern  
Laura Dowling  
Lisa Drazin  
David Drelich & Rabbi Gilah Langner  
Pierre & Deena Dugan  
Ernie Englander

#### August 6

Miriam Feinsilver  
Joshua Felman  
Harvey Fernbach & Ann Birk  
Robert Feron & Dione Pereira  
Rona Fields  
Wolfe & Dorothy Filderman  
Joshua & Lucia Filler  
Andrew Fine  
Eric Fingerhut & Karen Beiley  
Varda Fink & Stanley Grabia

#### August 13

Jay & Rachel Finkelstein

Anita Finkelstein  
Ben Finkelstein & Laurie Hollander  
Joseph & Rachel Firschein  
Paul & Susan Fischer  
David & Patricia Fisher  
Paula Flicker  
James & Carla Flug  
Claude Fontheim & Orit Frenkel  
Ira Forman & Caryn Pass

#### August 20

Henry Fox & Sarah Kagan  
David Freed  
Bruce Friedland & Jenny Bryant  
Naomi Friedman  
Joshua Furman & Melanie Bostwick  
Judy Galat  
William & Miriam Galston  
Stephen Garber & Lynne Snyder  
Jared Garelick & Ellen Kramarow  
Seth Glabman & Martha Hare

#### August 27

Rick Glaser & Sheryl Gross-Glaser  
Howard Gleckman & Ann Kline  
Mimi Godfrey  
John & Marcia Goggin  
Marcia Goldberg  
Joseph & Dody Goldberg  
Eliot Goldberg & Traci Kammer  
Goldberg  
Joshua & Sara Goldberg  
Myrna Goldman  
Paul Goldman & Debbie Pomerance

## Chevra Kadisha and Jewish Cemetery Conference

Carl Bergman, Cemetery Trustee

I recently attended The Eighth National Conference of Chevra Kadisha and Jewish Cemeteries in Atlanta from June 6 to 8. Attendees come from all over the US and Canada to share their experience and seek answers to their problems. The conference consisted of several seminars, presentations and a small exhibitor show.

Audrey Smith and I represented TI. She focused on *chevra* topics and I followed the cemetery track. She will have a separate report about her experience.

The cemetery track concentrated on management and operations. While, cemetery organization, pricing and rules vary widely, cemeteries face similar problems. The conference organizers recognized the need to address these common issues as well as to identify unique characteristics. Here are some of the issues that interested me:

### Indigent Burials

In New York City, thanks to the Hebrew Free Burial Society, no Jew has been buried in Potters Field since the 1880's. The society pays \$990 for funeral, casket and plot.

### Perpetual Care

This assures families that a grave will be maintained. However, there is no common definition. It may mean no more than mowing the cemetery lawn three times a year. Responsibility for correcting subsidence, maintaining monuments, or trimming shrubbery depends on local cemetery policies.

### Green Cemeteries

The environmental movement and a desire for low-cost burials have led to

a growing number of green or natural cemeteries. They have no vault liners, use plain caskets, and do not allow embalming (forbidden by *Halakhah* in any case). Rather than a traditional marker, a local stone is carved. Many of these echo traditional Jewish practice, so it is not surprising that Jewish green cemeteries are a trend.

### State Regulation

Some states, such as New York, closely regulate cemetery finances, ensuring strict accounting of perpetual care funds. Others, such as Florida, permit operators to move perpetual care funds into corporate coffers at will. Maryland's regulators, who review our Mt. Lebanon Cemetery, have become more active in their fiscal reviews.

### Finances

Many Jewish cemeteries are in difficult financial shape. Sometimes the problem is demographic; the Jewish community has moved on. Other times, the managers--often part time volunteers--are dependent on contributions to make up the difference between prices for plots, etc., and escalating costs. Managers are desperate for help but rank low in community support. In some cases, a local town may assume responsibility for the cemetery, or the operation of two or more cemeteries may be merged, but there is no universal solution.

The conference drew cemetery managers from a variety of settings and ownership types. These include:

### Ownership

Some cemeteries are owned by a synagogue. Others, both profit and

non-profit, may be owned by an association of synagogues, or by independent corporations.

### Denomination

Cemeteries that serve more than one synagogue typically have sections for Orthodox, Conservative and Reconstructionist, or Reform-Renewal. Reform cemeteries often have an area for cremation remains.

### Intermarried

Intermarrieds are treated in different ways. Reform cemeteries allow intermarrieds in their main sections while a number of Conservative cemeteries have separate sections for intermarrieds.

For us, the conference raised several issues and helped us appreciate where TI stands compared to others. We are fortunate to have a high level of service at a moderate cost. Our members deal with our *chevra* for funerals and our office for cemetery matters. Few other synagogues act as the mediator between the family, the funeral home and the cemetery. Moreover, TI's members have free funerals and pay far less for plots.

At our main cemetery, Mount Lebanon, unlike almost all other cemeteries, TI and its members pay no perpetual care costs, as the result of the settlement of a 1960's law suit against the original owner of the cemetery.

The old owner is long gone, but Service Corporation International, Inc., (SCI) the current owner, inherited the obligation. In addition, the term perpetual care has been interpreted broadly to include maintaining markers, shrubbery, and other services.

## President's Column (continued)

Package which helped increase membership and enrollment in the school.

The Lifelong Learning Committee instituted Monday Lunch and Learn for Adults.

There were Family Services for the High Holidays.

An In-town Retreat was combined with the Social Action Committee Shabbaton.

The Environmental Committee is on the way to creating a rain garden.

The House Committee shepherded the completion of installation of a smoke detector system.

TI purchased enough copies of *Mahzor Lev Shalem* for all to use for the High Holidays.

After a lengthy and spirited discussion, the membership voted to approve the dues increase recommended by the Board of Directors. In addition, the membership directed that a thorough examination of expenses, especially personnel and ancillary expenses, be conducted in the coming year by the next Annual Meeting.

Finally, the membership elected our officers, cemetery and building preservation trustees, and one-third of our elected directors. Our leadership for the next year is:

President, Susan Catler  
 Administrative Vice President, Varda Fink  
 Communications Vice President, Deborah Pomerance  
 Recording Secretary, Margie Odle  
 Development Vice President,

Chris Zeilinger  
 Lifelong Learning Vice President, Hilary Sachs  
 Finance Vice President, Michael Tilchin  
 House Vice President, Mark Verschell  
 Membership Vice President, Sara Goldberg  
 Ritual Vice President, Francesca Kranzberg  
 Social Action Vice President, David Levy  
 Governance Vice President, Joel Cohen  
 Cemetery Trustees: Carl Bergman, Miriam Galston, Rabbi Gilah Langner and Audrey Smith  
 Building Preservation Fund Trustees: Eliot Goldberg, George Greenberg, Anita Kramer  
 Board members at-large, terms expiring in 2011: Mollie Berch, Sylvia Horwitz, Joshua Furman, Elizabeth Weber Handwerker  
 Board members at-large, terms expiring in 2012: Jon Alterman, Seth Glabman, Lynne Snyder, Ruth (Phillip) Shapiro  
 Board members at-large, terms expiring in 2013: Irv Borochoff, Renee Brachfeld, Paula Martin, Susan Vitale

One of the joyful jobs of the President is to thank people on behalf of the Congregation. At the end of my first year as President, as I begin the second year of my term, I have many people to thank on behalf of the Congregation.

I thank all of you who have agreed to serve the Congregation as officers, board members and trustees for the coming year. I also thank those who have served our Congregation well and are stepping down after years of service on the Board – Laurie Berger, David M. (Judy) Cohen, Adam Diamond, Howard Gleckman, Eliot

Goldberg, John List, Rona Siskind, and Adam Wolfson.

It is important to thank all of the members who served on ad-hoc committees that made it possible for us to sign a new contract with Rabbi Seidel, find a new Director of Lifelong Learning and nominate a full slate of officers.

With the help of two of them, the Rabbi Review Committee (David Kritz, Paul Bardack, Franca Brilliant and Jennifer Kefer), and the Negotiations Committee (Mike Tilchin, Jon Alterman, Shelley Heller, and Bill Galston) we have now entered into a new long-term contract with Rabbi Seidel.

With the work of the Lifelong Learning Search Committee (Joel Cohen, chair, Daniel Handwerker, vice-chair, Hilary Sachs, Kim Levone, Jane Berman, Judi Berland, Rabbi Ethan Seidel, Lisa Blumenthal, Beth Naftalin, and Esther Herman) we have now hired a new Lifelong Learning Director, Eitan Gutin.

And with the effort of the Nominating Committee (Len Bachman, Jeffrey Davidson, Carla Ellern, Jennifer Kefer and Adele Natter) we were able to elect a full slate of officers and Board members for the coming year. Without their work on behalf of all of us, we would not be moving forward into the new year on such a positive footing.

Finally, I want to thank Lynn Golub-Rofrano for all her years of service to Tifereth Israel. She came to TI 15 years ago as the part-time principal of our Himmelfarb Religious School. Gradually she has taken on more and more roles and responsibilities, culminating in her becoming our first full-time Director of Lifelong Learning. She has served us with dedication and care. I thank her and wish her well in her new pursuits.

## Donations

### GENERAL FUND

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### Welcome to Eitan Gutin (continued)

telephone interviews with 10 candidates. From that group, the committee invited three excellent candidates to visit TI, and spoke with all of the references for each candidate.

During each visit, we tried to provide multiple opportunities for the congregation to interact with each candidate. After each visit, congregants were asked to fill out a survey so that the committee could get their input and feedback. The committee met after the third visit, discussed the feedback from the surveys, the references, and our own observations of the candidates' various activities during their visits.

The search committee received extremely positive feedback from almost every congregant who met Eitan and responded to the survey. Based on this feedback and the committee members' own observations, Eitan was the first choice of the selection committee. Susan Catler then offered Eitan the position, negotiated a contract with him, and we are now very happy to welcome him to TI!

### KITCHEN RENOVATION FUND

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*(Continued on page 14)*

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Aron Atlas  
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