

The Menorah

Tifereth Israel Congregation

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Inside this issue:

המנורה של תפארת ישראל 2

A Note from the Rabbi 2

Shepherd Park Yard Sale 2

קול נשים 3
Kol Nashim —
Women's Voice

Nayes un Mekhayes 4

New Members 5

B'nai Mitzvah 6

Social Action 7

A note for the Menorah 7

Donations 8

Jewish Women's Archive 11

Sukkoth in Spring 12



המנורה

June 2010

Sivan / Tamuz 5770

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

Speaking Presidentially — Committee Selects Rabbi

By Susan Catler



I am delighted to announce 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.

The process to get to this new agreement started in 2007 when the Rabbi Review Committee was established as provided in Tifereth Israel's Constitution and Bylaws "for the purpose of determining the view of the Congregation in guiding an effective way of discharging rabbinic duties and leadership." The committee's mission was to provide Rabbi Seidel with feedback. At the conclusion of their work, the committee – David Kritz, Paul Bardack, Franca Brilliant and Jennifer Kefer – presented a report and recommendations to the Rabbi in June, 2008 which was also placed in his personnel file.

At the September 2009 Board meeting, Franca Brilliant reported to the Board on the committee's work in 2007 - 2008. She described the process - Rabbi Seidel did a "self evaluation", the committee sent a survey to the entire congregation (using Survey Monkey which guarantees anonymity), and interviews were conducted by the committee with staff and some congregants. There were 118 responses to the survey. She reported that the committee found a high level of satisfaction with Rabbi Seidel.

Rabbi Seidel's current ten year contract with Tifereth Israel goes through July 31, 2010. After Franca Brilliant's report at the September 2009 Board meeting, the Board agreed that, rather than conduct a new review, the preceding committee should be asked to review their findings and report to the Board on any changes since that time. The Board also directed that the Congregation be notified in the Menorah that decisions related to Rabbi Seidel's contract would be made soon and that any comments or suggestions should be submitted to the President. The notice and request for comments was included in the President's October 2009 article. The responses were reviewed, and they overwhelmingly encouraged renewal of Rabbi Seidel's contract.

(President continued on page 3)

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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
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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

Get your "stuff" ready to go

JUNE 6 — Shepherd Park Yard Sale

On **June 6**, which is also the last day of Hebrew School, we are invited to participate in the community-wide yard sale in Shepherd Park. As in the past, TI will rent tables to members who want to sell their stuff to the crowd who come for the community-wide yard sale or to the end of year celebration. **Kol Nashim will coordinate** TI's participation in the yard sale. Watch for further information. This event is your chance to clear the house and help TI be a part of the community in which we are located.

A Note from the Rabbi By Ethan Seidel

Shalom Chaverim,

I regret that there has not been enough time to devote to my usual article this month — I'm very sorry, but the Life Long Learning Director Search is burning through all my time, not to mention preparations for Shavuot.



Ethan





May Program

Ben Fassberg from the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington gave a talk to TI members on May 16th entitled, "Are there horse thieves in your family tree" OR "How to discover if there are any". Ben spoke about how to start finding out about one's family history including anecdotes from his own experiences. Attendees chimed in with additional information and diverse questions. Ben suggested the book "From Generation to Generation" by Arthur Kurzweil as a good introductory guide. One key website that he repeatedly suggested is www.jewishgen.org.

Thanks to Debbie Pomerance for arranging this presentation.

June 6th Shepherd Park Yard Sale

TI is participating in the community-wide yard sale in Shepherd Park. TI members are "renting" tables to sell their goods. One person's junk is another person's treasure. Come buy a unique treasure.

June 13 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the home of Margie Odle

All TI women are invited to a Kol Nashim Salon at the home of Margie Odle and Carl Bergman.

There will be refreshments, entertainment, and discussion of future Kol Nashim activities, as well as time to get to know each other. The entertainment includes 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.

You have a chance to help plan next year's activities. One program we're sure of will be a seminar with Maxine Grossman, TI member and Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Maryland. Suggest topics for the seminar at the salon! Here's just one idea that we're considering: a year long monthly study group, topic TBD. We're also thinking about the TI epic, additional speakers, and possible group outings.

This is your chance to gather with other KN members and potential members.

(President continued from page 1)

At the November 2009 Board meeting, David Kritz reported to the Board on the Rabbi Review Committee's review and update of its findings. The Board then voted to empower a committee to negotiate with the Rabbi on a new contract. The Negotiations Committee of Mike Tilchin, Jon Alterman, Shelley Heller, and Bill Galston was then appointed and the Board discussed issues that should be addressed and their feelings on those issues, including the length of term of the contract.

Since November the Negotiations Committee has been meeting with Rabbi Seidel and briefing

the Board on progress. At meetings in March, April and May the Board reviewed draft documents and made suggestions to the Negotiations Committee on language and substance. On May 10, 2010 the Board voted to approve the proposed contract. On May 14, 2010 the new agreement was signed.

The committee and others worked hard, and I would like to thank everyone who enabled us to enter into this new contract with Rabbi Seidel – the Rabbi Review Committee; the congregants who participated in the survey and/or submitted comments; the Negotiations Committee; David Zinner, who crunched the numbers; our Board of Directors; and, of course, Rabbi Seidel.



Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers —

By Barbara Raimondo

If I had known how much fun grandchildren were I would have had them first.

Marcia Goldberg and grandson Samuel took a special trip to New York City in honor of his turning eight (last January). Per his fervent wish, they went via Amtrak. In New York, they attended Erev Shabbat services at B'nai Jeshuran (BJ's), walked through Times Square at night (the ball from New Years Eve is still at the bottom of the pole), and went to the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building and Dylan's Candy Store (an unbelievable huge candy emporium) and the Tenement Museum. Their big surprise was seeing "The Lion King" and, for a donation to HIV/AIDS work in South Africa, getting an autographed photo of the two of them sitting with the young Simba and young Nala after the show. Ask them for details. Samuel's dad Eliot lamented that he has never seen a Broadway show.

On May 6 a first grandchild was born to **Paul** and **Etti Bardack**, thanks to their son David and his wife Shani. Yes, it appears that some cooperation by one's adult child and another is necessary to obtain grandchildren. Stretching 19.75 inches, and weighing five pounds 15 ounces, Jesse Samuel Bardach, Hebrew name Yishai Moshe Shmuel ben David v'Shoshana, is a lifelong Mets fan although not yet much of a conversationalist. Eti and Paul visited the happy trio at their home in Lexington, KY. All, including Eti and Paul, are fine.

Marjorie Rosenthal's granddaughter Michelle Levine is graduating from Virginia Commonwealth University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Design. Marjorie's granddaughter Adrienne Rosenthal is returning from Israel after nine months in an Orthodox seminary. And Marjorie's granddaughter Rachel Goldstein, age 10, auditioned for and secured a place in the summer program of the Joffrey Ballet in New York City. So far, she and her mom will be in New York for two weeks this summer. No slouch herself, Marjorie is singing a solo, "This is My Country," with the Jewish Community Center Senior Chorus for Flag Day.

Congregation members who now can pay higher dues because their college obligations are over.

These include **Andrea Kline** and **Harvey Kabaker**, whose daughter Abigail Kabaker graduated from Beloit College on May 9. Also, **Bruce Heppen** and **Bonnie Suchman**, whose daughter Emily Heppen graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University with a B.A. in English and a sociology minor. Also, Rachel and Ethan Seidel, whose son Alex Seidel graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in Mechanical Engineering (and a minor in Spanish). Alex plans to hike a large chunk of the Pacific Crest Trail with a friend this summer and eventually to work in Guatemala for a non-profit as an "engineer without borders."

Also, **Lynn Golub-Rofrano** and **Joe Rofrano**, whose son Josh Rofrano graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology. On her way (sort of) to college graduation is Sarah Mehler, who graduated from Walt Whitman High School and will be attending University of Rochester in the fall. Hey, Sarah, talk to Josh about the famous Rochester weather before you begin packing your boxes, okay?

Josh Furman passed his comprehensive exams in Jewish history at the University of Maryland this semester, earning a Master's degree in the process. He will begin researching his dissertation on post-World War II American Jewish identity this summer, working in DC, Baltimore, and New York.

Shelly Heller has been awarded the George Washington Award at the University's commencement. This award, one of the most prestigious awards bestowed by the University, was established in 1976 to give special recognition to members of the GW community whose accomplishments on behalf of the institution have had a broad impact and whose service has been above and beyond that which is usual or expected.

(Nayes continued on page 5)



(Naves continued from page 4)

They go all over.

Claudine Schweber and **Ed Koren's** son Raphael Schweber-Koren, has been selected as Deputy Research Director of the Ohio Democratic Party. He has moved to Columbus from DC, where he previously worked with mediamatters.org. Marisa Schweber-Koren, their daughter, has been working at the Teton County Library in Jackson, WY, organizing reading groups, especially for those in their 20s, hosting a monthly radio program "From the Back of the Stacks" (www.tclib.org/radio) and more. She has now been promoted to also be the purchaser of the "large print" collection - I guess buying "large print" is a "big job" - and the cds for the library.

Judy and **Morris Rodenstein's** daughter Sarah will be attending a women's Yeshiva, Nishmat, in Jerusalem starting in September, as the beginning of her plans to make aliyah. **Les** and **Judith Turner** spent their vacation in Los Angeles with their daughter Carol and son-in-law Avi. Carol got them VIP tickets (their names were on their seats!) to see the taping of Dancing with the Stars, where the skater's tango got a score of 30. Wow.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, reconstituted: "to constitute again or anew; especially: to restore to a former condition by adding water." (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 "Naves un Mekhayes" in the heading, or to P.O. Box 466, Washington Grove, MD 20880. This brings to a close a burgeoning edition of Naves un Mekhayes for TI'ers.

New Members

By Jared Garelick

Some new members at TI are not new at all; they grew up here. Others find TI on their own, and still others are guided here by friends. This month's featured new members include some of each.

Daniel and Allison Turner – Dan knows from TI from way back. His parents (the Turners) are long time members, and he had his Bar Mitzvah here. Allison grew up in New Jersey, but some of her family has followed her to the DC area, and her mother, Ellen Zwibak, is now a TI member as well. Dan has an IT consulting company that does work for the federal government. He is also the author of a recent book, "ROAR: Get Heard in the Sales and Marketing Jungle." Allison has a master's degree in public health and works at the National Cancer Institute, where she helps run the cancer information service (1-800-4-CANCER). The Turners are kept busy by Miriam, their nearly two-year old daughter, and expect to become even busier with another on the way. Dan is an avid home cook, and reports that while he enjoyed cooking the food for Miriam's baby naming in TI's old kitchen, he finds the renovated kitchen even more inviting. Allison enjoys making creations out of fused glass, which she sells at art shows. In their division of home labor, Dan cooks the food, and Allison makes the plates he serves it on.

Rabbi Elizabeth Richman and Benjamin Dreyfus – Elizabeth and Ben moved to the area last year from New York City, where Elizabeth attended and received ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary. She is now rabbi in residence and program director for Jews United for Justice, a group engaged in social justice issues. She also was active in social justice projects before entering the seminary. Ben is working towards a PhD in Physics at the University of Maryland. He is specializing in

(New Members continued on page 8)



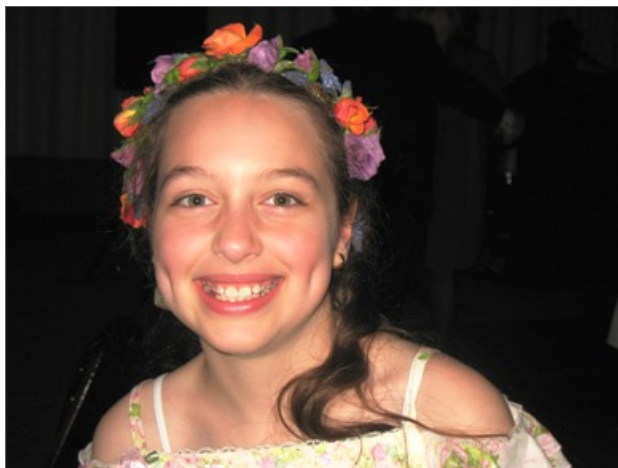
Bar Mitzvah — June 5, 2010

My name is **Aaron Mermelstein** and my Bar Mitzvah is on June 5, 2010. My Torah portion is Shelach Lecha (Numbers), which means "send for yourself." It is about Moses sending spies to the land of Canaan. And my Haftorah is from Joshua, about his spying in Jericho. I'm not sure what that means for my future! I am a seventh grader at the Field School, where this year I ran with the cross country team and the track team. I am also a whitewater slalom kayak racer, something I learned how to do at Valley Mill Camp in Germantown, Maryland. In the summer, I am on the Potomac River in a kayak at least 4 days a week! This summer I will compete in the Junior Olympics for the second time. For my mitzvah project I will volunteer with Team River Runner, an organization that helps injured veterans to learn how to whitewater kayak. I am also planning to make a donation to an organization that restores housing destroyed by hurricane Katrina. I hope to see you at my bar mitzvah.



Bat Mitzvah — June 12, 2010

My name is **Malka Himelhoch**. I am 12 years old and attend Eastern Middle school, where I am a student in the Humanities and Communications Magnet Program. My Bat Mitzvah is June 12th. I belong to two Synagogues, an Orthodox one



and TI, a conservative one. I am not quite sure that I am either Conservative or Orthodox. In fact I believe that I am more of something in the middle. I grew up keeping shabbos so I do not feel comfortable breaking it. It is part of who I am. But I also strongly dislike the mechitzah, which separates men from women as they pray. I am hoping that as I come of age I will have more of a concept of who I am. But it will be okay if I don't because I know I will have plenty of time and different Synagogues to work out what I want to be.



Social Action at Tifereth Israel

By Claudine Schweber

At TI, our Social Action volunteers' motto seems to be much like that of postal carriers for whom "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds" 📧 This year, even Mother's Day (May 9) could not stop the strong participation in the Sukkot in Spring event (which followed the work begun May 2).

Under the guidance, direction, coordination, support of Stan Grabia, "Tiers came out in droves." In Stan's own words:

"We plastered and painted; put in a temporary kitchen sink cabinet; and, replaced and installed ceiling lights and fans. Tiers worked hand in hand with Temple Micah volunteers (our partners) and with the homeowner, her daughter, friends, and two Emory teenagers who came with Pierre Dugan and did a great job. Pierre organized the painting crews while I went on supply runs and gave lessons on installing lighting fixtures. Oren was an invaluable helper installing the fixtures and it was a testament to his work that we both managed not to get zapped by a live wire.

We had plenty of food with Louise donating fried chicken and Rachel's boiled eggs. Tawanna Johnson said that they would be making and eating egg salad for the next few weeks. As far as the chicken went, it just went!



I want to thank all the volunteers who helped make this year a success again. First Carla Matusow and her son Jaden, my brother Ron, and Sheri Niemark came on May 2, 2010 and did some preparatory scraping, plastering, painting and hauling. On May 9, Rachel Tickner, Susan Vitale, Julie and Oren Steinberg, Rona and Noah Siskind, Pierre Dugan and Mamian and Alexander from Emory, Paula Flicker, Wilma Brier, Jack Stone, Carla Ellern and Jacob Dorn, and Kelley, Louise P. I am sure I missed the names of some of the volunteers, particularly the teenagers, and I apologize but [it was really busy]."

Well, Stan, the participants want to thank YOU. Here are some of their comments and compliments:

"I just wanted to thank you both [Stan and Pierre] for all your effort in making Sukkot in Spring so successful. I'm sure there was a lot of work done before we ar-

rived and a lot still to do, but it was great contribute a little yesterday and without your help and guidance it would have been impossible! And working side by side with the family was a lovely bonus! Thank you for everything!

"Your dedication and effort are fantastic and it was great to be allowed to participate!

"I wanted to thank Stan and Pierre for all their work and guidance.

"Stan did all the organizing ...I just showed up to help.

Thanks to everyone for your contribution and for continuing our tradition of acting in the spirit of Rabbi Hillel:

*If I am not for myself, who will be for me?
If I am not for others, what am I?
And if not now, when?*

A note for the Menorah

*My mother, Georgia J. Herron,
thanks the Tifereth Israel community
for all your meals, good wishes and
other assistance during her recent illness.
She is doing quite well now and
thanks all of you for your care.*

Carolina Herron



(New Members continued from page 5)

physics education research, learning how students can best learn physics. He has real world experience in the field, having taught physics for the previous six years in the New York City public schools, most of that time at Stuyvesant High.

James and Annie Hershberg – Jim is originally from New York, Annie from Portland, Oregon, and they met in Seattle. Jim is a history professor at George Washington University, specializing in the diplomatic history of the cold war era. Continuing new releases from archives

keep things new in that field. Annie stays home with their two children, Gabriel and Vera, who are also in second grade and kindergarten, respectively, at Hebrew Day Institute. The Hershbergs are big travelers, and have been to Europe a few times with their children. They joined TI after friends of theirs, who are not members themselves, visited and decided TI was just the right place for the Hershbergs. They agreed, and are now happily ensconced here. Thank you to the matchmaker friends!

* * * DONATION FUNDS – JUNE 2010 * * *

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(Donations — continued on page 10)



DONATIONS – (Continued from page 9)

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Jewish Women's Archive Selects Local Woman for 2010 Institute for Educators



Brookline, MA – May 21, 2010 – The Jewish Women's Archive has selected area resident Lynn Golub-Rofrano of Montgomery Villa as one of the 26 participants to attend its prestigious Institute for Educators in Newton, MA, July 25-29. Ms. Golub-Rofrano was chosen out of a competitive pool of 95 applicants from across the country. The 2010 Institute for Educators is the third funded by a grant to JWA from the Dorot Foundation.

Focused on the role of Jews in the Civil Rights Movement in America, the intensive professional development program will prepare educators to use JWA's new *Living the Legacy* social justice curriculum and to integrate women's stories and primary sources into their teaching.

Lynn Golub-Rofrano has been involved in Jewish education for close to twenty-five years in both formal and informal settings. She has worked at Tifereth Israel Congregation for 15 years, initially as the Hebrew School principal. Over time, the position was expanded to incorporate formal and informal youth and adult education and programming. Her current title is Director of Lifelong Learning. Ms. Golub-Rofrano is a true believer in learning as a life-long endeavor and is always on the lookout for opportunities to expand her personal knowledge and professional development.

Applicants to the Institute for Educators represented the rich diversity of Jewish education today, including educators from Jewish communities large and small in 14 different states, those who work in day schools, supplementary schools, service learning programs, community organizing initiatives, and summer camps; new teachers as well as those with decades of experience.

Participants will study with renowned scholars and master teachers as together they investigate themes in Jewish women's history and the history of social movements in the US; examine primary source documents and oral histories; explore multimedia resources, including JWA's new *Living the Legacy* social justice curriculum; and develop strategies for using the material with students.

Presenters include Dr. Joyce Antler, Professor of American Jewish History and Culture at Brandeis University; Rabbi Jill Jacobs, Rabbi-in-Residence

at Jewish Funds for Justice; Barbara Rosenblit, Humanities and Judaics teacher at the Weber Jewish High School in Atlanta; Dr. Debra Schultz, author of *Going South: Jewish Women in the Civil Rights Movement*; Drs. Deborah Cunningham and Susan Zeiger of Primary Source; independent oral historian Dr. Jayne Guberman; and Dr. Judith Rosenbaum, Director of Public History at the Jewish Women's Archive. In addition to a range of seminars and guided work time, the 2010 Institute will feature a special screening of the film *Freedom Riders*, produced by WGBH Boston, a conversation between oral historian Jayne Guberman and Freedom Rider Judith Frieze Wright, and a performance and workshop by educator and artist Yavilah McCoy.

In their applications, educators expressed their eagerness for high-quality professional development opportunities and their interest specifically in the *Living the Legacy* curriculum.

"I am very excited to have this opportunity to study with such high quality educators and instructors about such an exciting time in Jewish American History," Ms. Golub-Rofrano said. "I believe that Jewish involvement during the Civil Rights movement is an area that has not been highlighted enough in our schools, particularly the involvement of Jewish women at this time. This institute will allow me to enhance my own knowledge of the subject area in order to bring this knowledge to my congregation and community along with an increased understanding, awareness and access to the wonderful resources at the Jewish Women's Archive. Although social justice is a part of the curriculum in many congregational schools, the history of this involvement stemming from the civil rights movement is not illustrated and this educator's institute will give us the tools to draw these connections for our students."

For more information about the Jewish Women's Archive, go to jwa.org.

Contact Judith Rosenbaum

jrosenbaum@jwa.org

(617) 232-2258



Sukkoth in Spring is finally over, or is it?

By Stan Grabia

Former Baltimore Orioles' manager Earl Weaver once said "it ain't over til the fat lady sings." (although he did not originate the phrase).

May 9, 2010 was an exceptional day. Tiers came out in droves. We plastered and painted; put in a temporary kitchen sink cabinet; and, replaced and installed ceiling lights and fans.

Tiers and TMs worked hand in hand with the homeowner, her daughter, friends, and two Emory teenagers who came with Pierre Dugan and did a great job.

I want to thank all the volunteers who helped make this year a success again. There were so many on the second day that I lost count. I would have had to take off my shoes to count them all. First Carla Matusow and her son Jaden, my brother Ron, and Sheri Niemark came on May 2, 2010 and did some preparatory scraping, plastering, painting and hauling. Until Carla and Sheri showed up I felt like the Maytag repairman.

On May 9, 2010 all that changed as the cavalry showed up in droves. Rachel Tickner, Susan Vitale, Julie and Oren Steinberg, Rona and Noah Siskind, Pierre Dugan and Maiman and Alexander from Emory, Paula Flicker, Wilma Brier, Jack Stone, Carla Ellern and Jacob Dorn, and Kelley, Louise P. I am sure I missed the names of some of the volunteers particularly the teenagers, and I apologize but I was running around like a chicken without a head trying to keep things going.

Luckily Pierre organized the painting crews while I went on supply runs and gave lessons on installing lighting fixtures. Oren was an invaluable helper installing the fixtures and it was a testament to his work that we both managed not to get zapped by a live wire.

We had plenty of food with Louise donating fried chicken and Rachel's boiled eggs. Tawanna Johnson said that they would be making and eating egg salad for the next few weeks. As far as the chicken went, it just went.

While Sukkoth in May 2010 is officially over; the Grand Finale Aria has not yet occurred.

The ceilings and a kitchen wall needed to be repaired. A contractor did the work but the kitchen base cabinets totally disintegrated. I will hopefully be picking up kitchen cabinets in Skaggsville this weekend, transporting them to the Dexter Terrace house and with a little help from some friends, installing them and reattaching the kitchen sink. There are various other sundry tasks which need to be completed including installing a ceiling fan in Sierra Johnson's bedroom; picking up all the supplies and equipment and returning them to TM's storage area; and, also returning unused materials to the stores for refunds.

On top of it all as most of you and everyone in my e-mail address book including friends and relatives going back 10 years or more know, my hotmail e-mail address book was hijacked on or about April 26 or 27 in the early morning hours. This added to the confusion and many people stopped opening my e-mails. I am sadly informing TI that stangrabia@hotmail.com is no more, don't open any further e-mails from that account. I am now stangrabia@gmail.com that account appears to be safe (at this time).

Although I am not a great opera enthusiast, I truly am anxious to here the "Fat lady sing."

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