

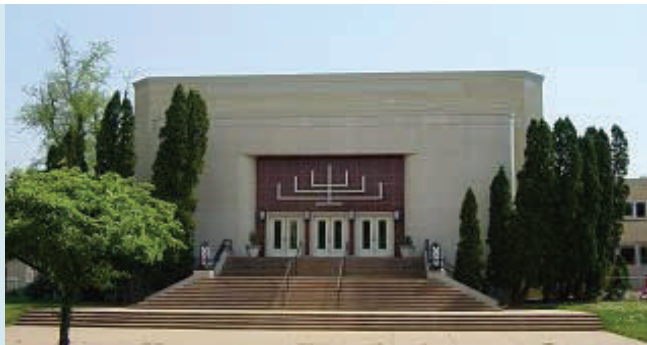
# The Menorah

**Tifereth Israel  
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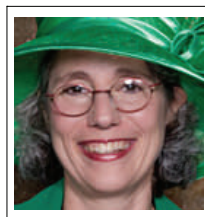
# המנורה

October 2010 Tishrei / Cheshvan 5771

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

## On Behalf of the Congregation, A Thank You to Rabbi Ethan Seidel

By Susan Catler



On Saturday mornings I begin the announcements by speaking on behalf of the Congregation.

I welcome people. I congratulate those with *simchas*. I thank the people who sponsored the Kiddush, or cooked it, and those who participated in the services. I often thank Rabbi Seidel for giving the drash. But I think we have much more for which we should thank Rabbi Seidel. I would like to take this opportunity to do so on behalf of the Congregation.

I thank Rabbi Seidel for the things we all see him do – lead services, *leyn*, chant the *Haftarah* and give *drashot* – on Shabbat and Festivals. We appreciate his beautiful voice and the effort he puts in to use old and new melodies to enhance our services. He teaches the 7th graders in the *Zayin* class every Wednesday afternoon and teaches a unit to our *Chai* School each year. We see him bake with various groups

throughout the year. We see him teach adults, whether in the *Parashat HaShavua* class or in his many adult education courses at TI. We see him officiate at joyous events and sad ones, and we appreciate the personal remarks he prepares for each. And we see him greet visitors and welcome them as he walks around the sanctuary on Shabbat morning.

I also thank Rabbi Seidel for the things we don't see him do. He schedules the people who lead *Shacharit* and *Musaf* and read *Haftarah*, regularly reaching out to our teens. He meets multiple times with each child and family before a Bar or Bat mitzvah is celebrated. He visits the sick and the bereaved. He provides financial assistance, or finds help, for people in dire straits. He learns with individuals and provides spiritual guidance to individuals and families in times of joy and in times of trouble. He works with potential converts and reaches out to other parts of the Jewish community and to the wider community as the Representative of our community.

*(President continued on page 2)*

## Tifereth Israel Congregation

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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: Eitan Gutin ext. 105

Bookkeeper: David Mackoff, ext. 110

Kitchen Manager: Roz Kram, ext 112

Facilities Manager: Steve Ross

### המנורה של תפארת ישראל

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 Photography Editor: Jeff Peterman

**Menorah submissions: [menorah@tifereth-israel.org](mailto: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**

(President ,continued from page 1)

I am sure that there are things that many of you could add to the list. Even though as President of the Congregation I meet with Rabbi Seidel often and discuss what he is doing, there are things he is doing of which I am unaware that help to make us a better and stronger community. On behalf of the Congregation, I would like to thank Rabbi Seidel for all those things and for his presence in our lives.

Finally, I would like to thank Rene Feinstein, the President of Moreshet Yisrael in Jerusalem, for reminding me, and all the other presidents of Conservative congregations, of the importance of taking time to publicly thank our Rabbis for all that they do for us.





Although it was a rainy day, those of us who went to the Kreeger Museum enjoyed seeing this real gem. Thank you again to Hedy Ohringer for encouraging us to attend.

The date for Lynn Golub-Rofrano's talk has been changed to 10:15-12:30 pm on November 21st in the library. Her talk, "Jews in the Civil Rights Movement-

Moments of Personal Resistance", will discuss individuals who took stands against racism and injustice, using some primary source materials, including an essay by Grace Paley. We will also listen to and discuss some relevant music. If time permits, we will share our memories and impressions of the time and the changes we have seen. This program is based on the program that Lynn attended this summer in the Boston area, Jewish Women's Archive's "The Power of Our Stories: Institute for Educators."

Ruth Unterweger and Marge Rosenthal will direct the Hanukah Boutique November 14th and 21st. Those dates are early due to Thanksgiving.

Margie Odle is figuring out which film we will show on the morning of December 12th. She may be contacting known movie buffs for reviews or recommendations.

## New Members

By Jared Garelick

**Elizabeth and Dan Sokolov** – Elizabeth and Dan met here in Washington, where they had both moved in the mid-1990s. Elizabeth is originally from Amherst, Massachusetts, and Dan from Irvine, California. Dan, a lawyer, has been working on financial regulation since early in the Obama administration at the Treasury Department. Elizabeth teaches high school English. For the past five years she has taught at the Madeira School. Previously she taught at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. She was happy to see some of her former JDS

students, now college graduates, at TI on Rosh Hashanah. The Sokolovs are both musical: Dan enjoys singing, and Elizabeth plays the violin and is learning guitar. They are also the proud parents of a 3 ½ year old son, Avi. They decided to join TI after attending a tot Shabbat and Purim services this past year. (Those critically acclaimed TI Purim spiels really pull in members!) When time permits, they enjoy hiking and cooking.



## Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers —

By Barbara Raimondo

### Best Superhero

**Lois Steinberg** reports that she is working as a librarian at the National Defense University Library (NDUL). She had been volunteering there since last October. She most enjoyed seeing Colin Powell's very own action figure, which she describes as a guy version of a Barbie doll. As described at its website <http://www.ndu.edu>, NDUL's mission is to "prepare military and civilian leaders from the United States and other countries to evaluate national and international security challenges through multi-disciplinary educational and research programs, professional exchanges, and outreach." And if you can understand that, you will be as smart as Beth **Davidson**, daughter of **Joe and Kathy**, who received a Graduate Tax Scholars scholarship from Georgetown Law School. She is leaving her position as a staff lawyer for Elizabeth Warren's Congressional Oversight Panel to study for a Master of Law in Taxation. Also smart is **Claudine Schweber**, who attended the Academy of Management conference in Montreal this past August. Besides eating delicious French and Chinese food, seeing the magnificent architecture of Moshe Safdie, and going to a special art exhibit about the influence of Rabbi Heschel on leadership, Claudine presented a workshop on "the Business of Teaching about Business to Adults." Continuing with the smart theme, Neshama **Rovinsky** entered ninth grade at the George School, located just north of Philadelphia. Joining her in her class of 100+ are students from 36 other countries. Neilah Rovinsky, along with many other TI students and parents, attended the 75th anniversary celebration of Camp Moshava. Neilah said every year except 1935 was represented by at least one attendee, which made for very long class cheers.

### Cutest Kids

Nathan Zwibak Turner, son of **Allison and Daniel Turner**, brother of Miriam Zwibak Turner, and grandson of Ellen Zwibak and Les and Judith Turner, was born August 9th. Abe **Schinker** (son of **Larry and Pearl**) and his wife, Denise, welcomed a son, Noah Louis Schinker, on August 26. Noah is Larry and Pearl's first local grandchild. And **Cyndy and Alan Weitz** are proud grandparents again with the birth of a grandson to their son Joshua and daughter-in-law Maira.

**Esther and Gene** Herman spent a week in the Poconos near Wilkes Barre, PA, with granddaughters Talia and Arielle Liu and their mom, Alisa. Highlights were Knoebel's Amusement Park, an old park with the old and new rides. They also toured an old mining town in Jim Thorpe, PA. The trip's theme was ice cream, and lots of it. In May, Jonah Murdock and Adam Heller (son of **Shelly and Steve Heller**) relived a bit of their cross country bike ride from their tweens with a shorter ride from Pittsburg to DC. And, since you really cannot go home again, they chose to rest in 'real beds' rather than camp in the woods or farmers' fields. They are already planning their next ride.

**Susan and Michael Malbin's** eldest child, Joshua Malbin, married Rachel Spector on September 26th in Brooklyn, New York, where they now reside. Josh is a writer and Rachel is an attorney with a legal services corporation, providing civil assistance to needy clients. The Malbins' other children, David (and spouse Abby Coleman) and Rachel Malbin also live in New York City. (Susan is the Director of Library and Archives at the American Jewish Historical Society.)

(Nayes continued on page 5)



(Nayes continued from page 4)

### **Longest Note**

**Alan Landay** reported that he "had a great time" visiting his sister Becky, her husband George, and their recently Bar Mitzvah-ed son Zeke. The visit included a Labor Day eve cook-out/party on land they have in the "country." Alan also attended Rosh Hashanah services in his hometown, Oak Ridge, TN, including the children's service with his sister and nephew. That service's *Shofar* blower performed what Alan believes is the longest Tekiah Gadolah ever heard.

Too early for the *shofar*, **Barbara and Howard White** again had a wonderful time in August at the National Havurah Institute in New Hampshire. They took great classes, reconnected with old friends and made new ones, enjoyed wonderful singing after meals on Shabbos, and heard a beautiful five minute Shabbos *drash*. They invite you to join them and the many other Tiers next summer. On another topic, Barbara reports that her poem "The Teterev River — As My Mother Might Have Told It" was published in the latest issue of Kerem: Creative Explorations in Judaism. Barbara is particularly pleased to have a poem appear in a journal she and Howard have been reading since it began. TI'er **Gilah Langner** is the co-editor of Kerem.

Another TI'er recognized for his accomplishments is **Simcha Kuritzky**, who just came back from the annual American Numismatic Association (ANA) convention, which this year was held in Boston. (Don't feel bad, your faithful columnist can't pronounce it either.) He gave a talk on Jewish Taxation at the annual meeting of the American Israel Numismatic Association (AINA) which the AINA taped and will soon distribute on DVD. He placed three exhibits in competition. "Zulu Love Token" won second place in the

Engraved Coins class. "Feline Species Numismatic Type Set" won first place in the Modern World Coins and Medals class. "The Jewish Lion" (money and medals of Israel portraying lions) won first place in the Africa and Middle East class, and also won third place (second runner-up) for Best of Show, the first time he has won any of the Best of Show awards. Impressive!

And now for the meaning of last month's word, youthquake: "a shift in cultural norms influenced by the values, tastes, and mores of young people." (Merriam-Webster Online.) Thanks to all who sent me news, sent me to others with news, or otherwise helped find a story for me. Please send information to baraimondo@gmail.com with "Nayes un Mekhayes" in the heading, or to P.O. Box 466, Washington Grove, MD 20880.

### **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.

Ethan



## Bar Mitzvah — October 9, 2010



My name is **Daniel Lutze** and my *Bar Mitzvah* is October 9, 2010. My *parsha* is *Noach*, which is the story of Noah and the ark. Since it will also be the start of the month of *Heshvan*, I will chant the *Rosh Chodesh haftorah*.

I am an eighth-grade student at Westland Middle School. I enjoy listening to music, playing and creating video games, and playing the saxophone. I also like to fence, and take classes at the DC Fencing Club. For the past 4 years, I have participated with other members of Tifereth Israel in the monthly van run from

Martha's Table. My father is from Germany and we visit Berlin every year. It's a great city and I really look forward to being there. I hope to see you at my *Bar Mitzvah*.

## Ethiopian Shabbat Dinner — 10/8/10

**Join the 92Y Resource Center for Jewish Diversity and the Ethiopian Jewish community in New York** for a festive and authentic Ethiopian Shabbat dinner. Come feast on traditional Ethiopian dishes such as Doro Wat (chicken stew), Injera (pancake bread) and much more, as you learn about Ethiopian Jewish history and traditions from Prof. Ephraim Isaac of the Institute for Semitic Studies, Princeton, N.J. We will also be joined by special guests from Israel, Kessotch (Ethiopian rabbis) Pirdo Imhara and Vanda Eli Mentesenout and members of the renowned Ethiopian-Israeli Beta Dance Troupe. Encounter the way Ethiopian Jewry lived and celebrated Shabbat for centuries – a singular Shabbat experience not to be missed!

[http://www.92y.org/shop/event\\_detail.asp?productid=T-BL5SB01](http://www.92y.org/shop/event_detail.asp?productid=T-BL5SB01)



[http://www.92y.org/shop/event\\_detail.asp?productid=T-BL5SB01](http://www.92y.org/shop/event_detail.asp?productid=T-BL5SB01)

## Ethiopian Hebrew holiday of Sigd — 10/10/10

Join us on **Sun, Oct 10, 1pm** to Sigd: Ethiopian Jewish Festival and Dance Performance. Hear a re-telling of the history of Ethiopian Jewry and their miraculous return to Israel. Featuring the renowned Ethiopian-Israeli Beta Dance Troupe from Haifa performing the traditional art of eskesta (Ethiopian shoulder dancing) and many more. For more information please visit [www.92y.org/Sigd](http://www.92y.org/Sigd).



(Ethiopians continued on page 7)



## Social Action at Tifereth Israel

By Claudine Schweber

If I am not for myself, who will be [for me]?

And when I am for myself, what am I?

And if not now, when? (Pirkei Avot, 1.14)

Rabbi Hillel

On New Year 5771 we begin the fifth decade of the community-oriented social action tradition at TI, still guided by the words of Rabbi Hillel. For forty years we have focused on families and individuals and worked throughout the greater Washington community, at the monthly Martha's Table Van Run, the dinners at Luther Place, Rosh Hashanah and Passover food deliveries, the casseroles for SOME, and tutoring for Shepherd Park elementary students. Internationally we purchase Miremebe Kawomera Coffee from the Uganda cooperative and computers for the Lemba high school in Zimbabwe. We have a dozen projects in all. In the process, we pass on a generational gift of commitment to Tikkun Olam.

What will you be doing this year to 'repair the world'? As you mark the social action 'pledge' card (known as the Personal Commitment card—in your holiday packets), or think about which projects fit your interests, consider these experiences of Tlers:

**Beiley-Fingerhut family - Shepherd Park tutoring:** Karen Beiley (mother) and Jordan have tutored children in reading and English language skills; brother Adam tutored a boy in math, even developing charts, flash cards, and pictures of coins to help the boy learn to count. **Coordinator: Dan Nathan**

**Miller-Lutz family - Martha's Table Van Run:** Neile Miller and sons Max, Daniel have distributed food at the two DC locations. Max once left his sneakers for someone without shoes; Daniel wrote that he learned 'that even a small kindness can not only make a difference for someone else, it can make a difference to you.' **Coordinator: Gene Herman**

**Sieradzki family - Luther Place dinners:** Once a month a family brings food and serves dinner to about 30 women at the shelter. In the course of the evening, there can be a lot of conversations with the women diners, which is part of what appealed to Rachel Sieradzki: "they are really interesting...I can't wait for the next time." **Coordinator: Marjorie Siegel**

**Holiday dinners** at 3rd Baptist church and Young shelter: TI families serve about 300 dinners on Christmas day at two locations. There's a job here for every age! **Coordinator: Martin Kessel**

**Walk for the Homeless,** with Emory Beacon of Light Methodist Church: TI joined with others to support Emory's transitional housing project fundraising. Each Fall. **Coordinator: Pierre Dugan.**

As the sun sets on Yom Kippur, what commitments will you have made for the year?

"Beware the perils of indifference"  
Elie Weisel;

instead,

"Be the change you wish to see in the world"  
M. Gandhi

*L'shana tova.*



(Ethiopians continued from page 6)

The SIGD event will feature performances by BETA, the Ethiopian Israeli Dance Troupe as well as a special performance by Hasidic Ethiopian Hip-Hop artist Y LOVE who is composing a unique piece especially for the SIGD! We will also hear prayers and ancient traditional Ethiopian chants from the Kessoch.

Note: All food for both Shabbat meals prepared by an Ethiopian chef and glatt kosher caterer under glatt kosher supervision.

Children under 2 are free.

Before you purchase your tickets to the SIGD, you can now put in the **discount code SCS** and **receive a 25% discount on tickets** for the performance on Oct. 10th!

[http://www.92y.org/shop/event\\_detail.asp?productid=T-BL5SB01](http://www.92y.org/shop/event_detail.asp?productid=T-BL5SB01)



## Lilmod U'lilamed

By Eitan Gutin

### What is more important - learning or action?

On Yom Kippur I told a story by I.L. Perets called "If Not Higher." (If you have never read the story, and do not want it spoiled, feel free to skip to the next paragraph.) The story features a rabbi who, instead of attending his own synagogue on Friday mornings, is engaged in a great act of Hessed, kindness. When I solicited responses to the story there were many strong points made by people in the congregation; There are two, however, that I would like to emphasize. First, Stephanie Rubin pointed out that, in general, the story was about taking action. Second, Howard White questioned the rabbi by asking why the rest of the congregation was not there with him.

In *Pirkei Avot* the rabbis of nearly 2000 years ago attempt to make the point that study alone is not enough to lead a full life - good deeds matter as well. While there are many statements in the book that cover this ground, the following from Rabbi Eliezer Ben Hyrcanus is one of my favorite:

*"When a person has more wisdom than good deeds, what is he similar to? He is similar to a tree with many branches, but few roots. If a wind blows, it will topple the tree.*

*When a person has more good deeds than wisdom, what is he similar to? He is similar to a tree with few branches but many roots. All the winds of the world can blow against such a tree, but they will not uproot it." (Pirkei Avot, Chapter 3, Mishnah 22)*

One of the greatest challenges in Jewish education is the question of what to teach, and what lessons we want the students to learn. There is such a long list of topics including holidays, Israel, Hebrew both spoken and read, Shabbat, keeping Kosher, Tzedakah... the list goes on. In a Jewish day school such as JDS or JPDS there is an ongoing discussion of what to cover and what to leave out; This discussion is made even more intense when you cut down the amount of time in which Jewish studies take place to the 3 to 5 hours that students study in the Himmelfarb School at Tifereth Israel.

Judaism is not a set of beliefs and ideas; It is instead a set of actions based on that set of beliefs and ideals. We learn Hebrew in order to use it. We learn about Israel in order to get people to go there and see it for themselves and to actively support the well being of the Jewish State. We teach Tzedakah and Tikkun Olam not just because they are nice ideas, but because we consider ourselves successful only when we have produced students who leave our institutions giving Tzedakah and performing acts to repair the world on a regular basis.

Abraham Joshua Heschel once stated that we do not need text books as much as we need "text people." There are two steps to becoming a text person. The first is learning the text, but the second is acting on that learning. My personal goal while working for TI is to help create through the Himmelfarb School, adult education, and other programs a congregation that is full of text people - members of all ages who perform good acts inspired by the knowledge they have gained through their involvement in the community.





## **ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS are HERE!**

It's time to buy your Entertainment Books. Your purchase helps the synagogue; it's an easy way to contribute to TI and Kol Nashim.

Each Entertainment Book costs \$30, and \$6 of each book sale goes to the synagogue. The Entertainment Book has a card, so that you can use it on-line, and more than once. We have books for Maryland and books for Virginia.

The book gives you hundreds of dollars of discounts! Examples are:

Dry cleaning coupons

Movie tickets - \$1.50 off AMC theaters

Safeway coupons - \$5 off, quarterly = \$20 savings

Coupons for stores: Radio Shack, car washes

Travel: hotels, resorts; airline discounts, rental car discounts

Tourist attractions

Theaters, restaurants, fast food outlets

And for families w/children: amusement parks, miniature golf

If you don't think you would use the Entertainment Book yourself, it could be a terrific gift. I'm thinking of getting one for my neighbor who cares for my cat, during my travels for work (or fun).



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