



The Menorah

Notes from the Rabbi: Ethan Seidel Seeing Ourselves as Others See Us

Butterflies in the wild are hard to look at closely. Some enthusiasts catch them with a net and put them in a little bottle to study, but I prefer not to confine such delicate, free-flying creatures. I try to get within 6 or 7 feet where I can get a very detailed view through my close-focusing binoculars.

This summer, I realized I hadn't set the eyepieces the right distance apart, and so I wasn't really seeing in three dimensions—I was getting a good picture, but it was flat. Once I made the correction, the subtle effect was lovely, even breathtaking.

Such stereoscopic vision is often tricky to achieve. It's easy to imagine we are seeing the full three-dimensional picture, when all we are seeing are only stick

figures. How often have I heard someone tell of the wrong done them by another, and sympathized, only to later hear the other side of the story and realize that my first impression was a stick figure, not the whole picture.



It's a humbling experience, discovering how much less I had really seen. On the other hand, finally seeing the whole
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President's Column: Susan Catler Tifereth Israel—a Participatory Synagogue

One of the adjectives we always use to describe TI is "participatory." By this we usually mean that we have broad participation in *leyning* and leading services as well as in our volunteer activities for the community and for the congregation. We need to broaden what we mean by participatory to include participation in the Annual Appeal.



Tifereth Israel has three major types of revenue—dues, High Holiday tickets and the Annual Appeal. In order for us to have enough money to keep the synagogue running at a level we seem to desire, we need to raise sufficient money each year from these three sources. Last year our Annual Appeal results fell below expectations. This year we need to do better.

Those of us on the Board are challenging ourselves and the entire congregation—we need to not only reach our dollar goal, but also to increase the number of TI members who give to the Annual Appeal. We are looking to have everyone make commitments, commitments they are comfortable with. We know it takes everyone's participation to keep our

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Notes from the Rabbi (continued)

picture, whether of nature or others' lives, is a blessing that reminds me of God's presence in our world. At this time of year, as I think about repentance, I'm reminded how hard it is to view my own life with any sort of depth. I wonder: is there any way we could see ourselves through several vantage points, so as to bring some accuracy to our self-understanding?

Like many others I have several different caricatures of myself. Perhaps you have such caricatures: you may see yourself as a Don Quixote-like stick figure of righteous (if ineffective) zeal, battling against the forces of ignorance at work and (perhaps) at home. Or you might imagine yourself as a deeply sensitive (alas, even too-sensitive!) creature, open to all who come for solace, a light (if only others could see it in all its glory!) unto your family and community.

And maybe you sometimes see yourself, God forbid, as worthless, unable to live up to God's dreams for your life,

a pathetic, helpless mess. Frankly, I don't find any of these caricatures very helpful in my attempts to generate a balanced picture of myself.

So, how *can* we see ourselves as others see us, to get a more accurate, three-dimensional image? Most helpful at this time of year, I find, is paying attention to *others'* views of me. I don't actually have to ask anybody—they've let it be known, though often indirectly, what they think. I may have initially ignored these views, but now is the time to give them the consideration they deserve. None of them are absolutely right in and of themselves—they all need to be put together, edited in a serious and careful way, for me to get outside myself and develop a reliable picture.

This is very hard work, I find, to look carefully at the picture others paint of us. And, to be sure, some of those pictures, if provided by "frenemies," are best completely discarded. And yet, just as often, the pictures our critics paint of us include truths necessary for our repentance. We must be open to others' vantage points if we are to maintain a stereoscopic view of the world.

I was inspired when I came back from vacation to learn that Rabbi Shmuel Herzfeld (of Ohev Shalom, across the street from TI) had marched in front of the Israeli Embassy protesting Anat Hoffman's arrest for the "crime" of carrying a Torah at the Kotel. (You should take a look at the Youtube video of Anat's arrest, which also features TI'er Michelle Sumka). Rabbi Herzfeld stood out there defending the rights of us non-Orthodox Jews, despite his love for the State of Israel, and despite little support from the rest of the Orthodox world.

Though Rabbi Herzfeld is avowedly Orthodox, he is unflinching in his respect for the other streams of Judaism. Though he doesn't approve of everything that is done in the non-Orthodox world, he has a kind of stereoscopic vision, a broad-mindedness that emboldens him to act in daring, clear-thinking, ways. His own vision of Judaism, he realizes, is not the only vision—thus the whole of Judaism comes into focus for him.

Getting outside of ourselves is an essential precondition of *Teshuvah*, it seems to me. For how do we know what to repent of, if we don't really have a balanced picture of who we are? At this time of year, we take out our close-focusing binoculars, and we try to see the world as it really is, ourselves as we really are, Judaism too, in all its variety. And if we don't like what we see—well, our tradition tells us that it is in our power to change! L'Shanah Tovah!

Rabbi Ethan Seidel

The Menorah

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Lilmod U'ilamed (To Learn and to Teach)

Eitan Gutin

A few months ago my son, Lev, added a new element to our nighttime routine. "Ima," he said, "tell me a story."

We have read to Lev since the first night we spent with him at a hotel in Youngstown, Ohio. The first book I read to him was *Goodnight Moon*. Soon we switched over to Hebrew books, including one that would become his favorite, *HaTzav Bitzbutz* (Bitzbutz the Turtle), by Rinat Hoffer. At five months he knew the book so well that just reciting the opening lines to him could elicit a giggle, or get him to calm down if he was becoming upset.

Asking for an oral story, however, was new. And so a fresh element was added to his routine. At some point after the lights are turned out, in the middle of singing to Lev, he asks us to tell a story. First I tell one, usually about a boy named Lev and his latest adventures. Then Aviva, my wife, tells one, coincidentally also about a child named Lev. Then (and this is my favorite moment) Lev tells us a story, often including whatever adventures he had that day.

There is a difference between a story that is read and a story that is told. Perhaps it is due to the formality that reading imposes on one's voice, or perhaps it is because soul connects with soul when I speak directly to him without a book in between.

In our sacred texts there is a strong emphasis given to those stories that we say out loud. For example, in *Sh'mot* (Exodus), chapter 13, verse 8, we are commanded by God to "tell your child on that day" about God rescuing the people from Egypt. In some ways the

President's Column (continued)

synagogue running smoothly and providing the quality and quantity of services, events, food and education we all want.

The Board of Directors began this year's Appeal early, at the July Board meeting. Board members made their own pledges and agreed to make the first batch of calls to members, seeking pledges to the Annual Appeal. Additional cards for calls were distributed at the August meeting. On Kol Nidre, pledge cards will be distributed for the Annual Appeal. If needed, more calls will be made after the Kol Nidre Appeal.

We need every household to participate in this year's Annual Appeal—those who have participated before and those who have not. Let us be a fully participatory synagogue in the New Year.

Sh'ma itself is a one-line story that must be heard--*Adonai* is our God, *Adonai* alone. One of the only actual prayers that we are commanded by the Torah to say begins with a story--"my father was a wandering Aramean" is how the prayer opens in *D'varim* (Deuteronomy), chapter 26, verse 5.

One of the most important ways in which we use stories, both in our classrooms and in our homes, is to teach moral and ethical lessons. The American legend of George Washington and the cherry tree is meant to teach the value of honesty. The folklore stories of Johnny Appleseed match up with a Talmudic story about leaving a good world for the next generation--in the American legend carob trees are replaced with apple.

Even our own families' stories, good or bad, easy or difficult, often contain moral lessons. In my family we use stories of my grandfather to illustrate honor, and stories of my grandmother to illustrate dedication to family and community.

Due to the incredible power of stories we must also be careful about which ones we tell, which narratives we adhere to.

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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

Department of Lifelong Learning

Eitan Gutin

Himmelfarb School News

We would like to welcome **Silvia Edenburg** to the Himmelfarb school team. Silvia will be serving as our Kindergarten teacher. She brings with her two decades of experience as a teacher in both religious and day schools. In addition to her skills as a classroom teacher she is an experienced Jewish song leader. Join us from 12:00 to 12:15 p.m. on Sundays to see her in action as part of our weekly Ruach and Prayers.

The Himmelfarb School Opening Celebration and first day of classes for students and their families will be on Sunday, September 12. All religious school families are invited to join us for this special program which will include:

- **Shehechyanu 5771**, a welcoming ceremony.
- **Classroom Introduction**, during which you will meet your child's teacher, learn about this year's program, and help to decorate your child's classroom for the coming year.
- **Nosh Reception and Parent Information Session**.

- **Tefillot and Ruach** (prayers and spirit), during which parents and children will gather together for our first weekly closing prayers.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington has once again awarded us a grant to continue our efforts to create a more immersive Hebrew environment for our younger students. Part of the grant will be used to develop the Hebrew curriculum that will be implemented in this year's Gan class (Kindergarten).

Come Live The "Chai" Life!

At TI Jewish learning does not end with 7th grade, but is something we do throughout our lives. We are once again offering **Chai School** for students in 8th-12th grade.

The school meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:15-8:15 p.m. in the Mollie Berch Library. We begin each Wednesday with dinner, followed by one and a half hours of exciting, intense study led by some of the best teachers TI has to offer.

The first meeting of the Chai School will be on Wednesday, September 15. This will be a special session which I will lead, and will serve as an

introduction and orientation to the upcoming year, including a preview of all the teachers and topics.

Got a Case of the Mondays?

Start your week off right with the Monday Lunch Program at TI. Every Monday at 11 a.m. we offer two valuable programs:

Rabbi Seidel and I lead a one-hour discussion of the *Parashat Hashavuah*, the Torah portion that is read in synagogue that Shabbat. The topics discussed this summer have already included leadership, biblical authorship, Israel, Jewish belief, and spirituality. All learners at all levels are welcome to join us for this lively exchange of ideas.

For those who are between jobs or want to hone their job-seeking skills, Tifereth Israel offers our Monday morning **Job Club**. Come share experiences of looking for work. Help and be helped by others who are seeking work and make connections that will aid your future success.

At noon both groups gather together for a complimentary lunch in the Emsellem Room.

Lilmod U'ilamed (continued)

Stories have just as much power to hurt as they do to heal. This is why political consultants and PR professionals know that it is so important to control the narrative about any given situation, since the narrative becomes what is believed, even if it is not the truth.

We Jews know how potent stories are as they have been one of the most useful weapons in the arsenal of those who seek to do us harm.

As we enter this new year, 5771, I hope to bring many new stories into the congregation and into our members' homes. Stories that can inspire, stories that can teach, stories that make us laugh and even, sometimes, stories that make us cry.

As you go through your year I hope you will think about the stories that you tell among your friends and family, to your parents or to your children. Are they stories that contain a posi-

tive lesson? Will they inspire those to whom they are told to make the world a better place? How can you use stories to repair the world?

My *bracha* (blessing) for the TI community is that in the coming year all of our stories should be good ones, full of great lessons and joy, and that through our stories we will help to change the world for the better.

Shanah Tovah!

Social Action at Tifereth Israel

Seth Glabman

This is my first time writing this column and I am honored to do so.

My wife Martha and I just got back from the National Havurah Institute in New Hampshire, where I taught a workshop and led a musical *Minchah* on clarinet and piano. We are both brimming with enthusiasm about being Jewish and what can happen when everyone contributes.

I mention these things because there were so many people who helped make the week-long Jewish experience work, by leading workshops or services, working with the kids, or helping with meals and housing. That inspired me to invite you to participate in one of the many activities organized by the TI Social Action Committee.

If you do, you will feel that special connection I felt at the Havurah Institute. There is a joy that comes from helping others, making new

friends, and generally improving the world.

As we enter this New Year, I would like you to keep in mind one of my favorite Ralph Waldo Emerson quotes: "Make yourself necessary."

Please take a look at the activities below to see the choices you have. You can also join us at the Social Action Committee meetings to identify, plan, develop, implement and evaluate projects—enjoying each other's company and the delicious food. Contact co-chairs **Claudine Schweber** (pariscs@gmail.com) or **Gene Herman**, (Gene511@aol.com).

Social Action Activities and Coordinators

Monthly Family Activities: Martha's Table Van Run (Gene Herman); Luther Place Dinners (Marjorie Siegel), SOME Casseroles



(Stephanie and David Rubin); Hazon-Environmental Activities (Devora Kimmelman-Block).

Seasonal Family Activities: Rosh Hashonah/Passover Food delivery (Martin Kessel, Ray Natter); Winter Dinner for the Homeless (Gene Herman); Food & Clothing Collections (Judy Rodenstein).

Weekly/Periodical Adult/Young Adult Activities: PAUSE Writing Club (Carolivia Herron); Emory Shelter Overnight (Pierre Dugan); Shepherd School Tutoring (Dan Nathan); Abayudaya Coffee Sale (Carolivia Herron & TI office).

Martha and I wish *L'Shanah Tovah* to you and your families.

Bat Mitzvah

Hi! My name is **Rebecca Dorn**. As a seventh grader, I am starting Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School this year. Some of my favorite things to do are playing my drum set, listening to music and hanging out with my friends.

My *parashah* is *Nitzavim-Vayelech*. It's a double *parashah*, which means (sorta) double the work.

I hope you can come to my Bat Mitzvah, September 4, Labor Day weekend—save the date!



Kol Nashim

Paula Flicker



Kreeger Museum Visit

Our first Kol Nashim program this year is a trip on September 12 to the Kreeger Museum for their bi-annual Sunday open house. Our Kol Nashim member—and Kreeger Museum docent—**Hedy Ohringer** has the latest information.

In addition to the opportunity to view the museum, open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., a number of special activities are scheduled. There will be art workshops for children, kindergarten through high school, and storytelling for the younger children. For adults, there will be Gallery Talks and Art Chats.

Activities Schedule

The following is the schedule of activities for children and adults:

Art Workshops: 11:15 a.m., 12 noon (mural making), and 12:30 p.m. (3-D sculpture).

Storytelling: 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 1:30 p.m. Children will do a mini-tour of the museum and listen to stories related to the works of art.

Gallery Talks: 11:30 a.m., 12 noon, 12:30 p.m. and 2:15 p.m.

Jazz Guitar Performance: 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

The Kreeger Museum is located at 2401 Foxhall Road, NW. Parking is limited. We will provide parking information on a map that will be available soon.

Given the range of activities at the open house, we propose two

different times to carpool from TI: 10:45 a.m. and 1:45 p.m. Call or e-mail the office if you wish to carpool and include what time you wish to go.

We also look forward to seeing others at the museum who go on their own. Note that the Kreeger Museum has no elevator so that only the first floor is accessible to those for whom stairs are difficult.

To find out more about the Kreeger Museum ask Hedy or check the website:

<http://www.kreegermuseum.org/index.asp>

New Members Column

Jared Garelick

Lee and Tim Anderegg

Lee and Tim are among TI's newest members, and parents of one of the youngest. Their daughter, Penny, was born this summer, soon after they joined. Lee is from Chicago originally and Tim from North Dakota.

They met in California where they both attended the Claremont colleges. They moved to Washington "temporarily" when Tim had an internship in a Senate office, but soon developed Potomac fever and found themselves staying.

Tim is now with the Center for Community Change, a non-profit

group that works on issues like health care and immigration reform. Lee worked as a social worker with battered women and troubled youth, before working with happier children as a pre-school teacher. Right now she is staying home caring for one happy and lucky baby.

The Andereggs are serious outdoorsy hiker types. How serious? They registered for wedding gifts at REI, and their dog has her own tent.

Lee and Tim found TI through word of mouth; they are back-alley neighbors of member Ronni Davis, who suggested TI was the right place for them. They visited and agreed.

Spring Fling

It's never too early to begin planning for the Spring Fling. The first planning meeting is being scheduled for early September.

If you want to get involved and help make it a fun and successful event check the TISA for the exact date and time.

To volunteer or get more information, contact Rona Siskind at rsiskind@gmail.com, or 301-589-8799.

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Barbara Raimondo

Ah, the pleasures of quiet time. Your faithful columnist is writing this the day after one of our heavy-duty summer storms blew down trees, flooded streets, and knocked out electricity. How wonderful to have these events to help us appreciate our normally predictable routines. The mystery of nature and all that.

Speaking of which, because of the very hot weather and mainly due to poor water sources along the Appalachian Trail, **Jonathan Kessel** and his dog, Yolo, have taken a break in his Appalachian Trail thru-hike after reaching the New Jersey border at 1350 miles.

Jonathan will now do a flip-flop hike (Note: that is not a hike in which one wears flipflops, despite Jonathan being the appropriate age for such a phenomenon). On August 19 he began hiking south from Mt. Katahdin, the northern terminus of the AT. He will hike 850 miles through Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and New York and hopes to complete the trail in November.

Biking Enthusiasts

Another nature lover, **Ray Natter**, participated in the 38th RAGBRAI bike ride across the State of Iowa. RAGBRAI stands for the Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa, sponsored by the *Des Moines Register*. Over 10,000 riders participated in the 450-mile ride. That's some serious leg muscle. Later in August Ray and **Adele** plan to ride from Erie, Pennsylvania to Wilkes-Barre, as part of a group ride sponsored by Pedal PA.

Two other bicycle riders, **Justin Levy**, **David Levy's** son from his first marriage, an acupuncturist, and Justin's wife, **Ilana**, a doctor of

naturopathy, took a cross-country tandem bicycle trip this summer. Yes, they're still married! Their three-month schlep took them from Portland, Oregon, to Brooklyn, where they now are living.

They are closer to family, including **Diana Levy**, David and **Ellen's** daughter, who works at a public high school in Brooklyn. She served a year for Avodah there in 2007-2008, and the school hired her after she completed her time. Diana is studying for a master's degree at New York University so she can teach high school social studies.

Lacking bikes, David and Ellen drove 1,500 miles up the California coast in February from Los Angeles to Portland, and David and a friend took a train trip across Canada from Toronto to Vancouver in May.

Northeastern Travelers

Also travelling hither and yon is **Carolivia Herron**, who visited the small Jewish community in Bethlehem, New Hampshire to talk about her literary work and to share how her life experience led her to become a Conservative Jew.

Carolivia gave the drash at both the Friday evening and Shabbat Morning services and also chanted a portion from the Torah *parashah* of *Ekev*. Her successful visit was in part hosted by TI members **Gail Robinson** and **Martin Kessel**, who also are active members of the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation.

Another TI'er who spent some time in the northeast United States this summer was **Lynn Golub-Rofrano**, one of 26 Jewish educators who gathered in July in Newton, Massachusetts for the Jewish Women's Archive's (JWA) summer

Institute, Jews and the Civil Rights Movement.

Yet another TI'er in the northeast is **Emma Glaser**, daughter of **Sheryl Gross-Glaser**, who will be directing activities for new Jewish students at Smith College. She has been an active member of the Smith Hillel, which is a warm and welcoming group.

A French Connection

Claudine Schweber did not visit the northeast United States this summer, but she did spend two weeks in southwest France (town of Pau, near the Spanish border) teaching in the Masters in Business Administration program of the business school of Universite Pau, the Ecole Superieur-Pau. The students were from France and India, as part of a joint program between the university and the business school in Bangalore. It was a very special experience.

And **Rabbi Ethan Seidel** and **Lianna Reisner** had the special experience of being featured in a *Washington Post* article on communication styles changing between the generations. I would tell you about it, but I'll let you read the tweet instead.

Mona and **Mark Berch** are delighted to announce the engagement of their son, **Joshua**, to **Dinah Goldberg**. Joshua is a Software Engineer for Lockheed Martin. Dinah is in the eighth generation of her family from Burlington, Vermont. Who knew Burlington has been around so long?

Dinah is the Web Advocacy Assistant for The Israel Project. She got the original lead for that job from a job opening listing on the TI listserv by Sheridan Neimark. Joshua and

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Yiddish-Related Books in the TI Library

Diana Zurer

Es iz laichter tsu zein a mekaver vi a mechaber (It is easier to be a critic than an author). That's just one of the Yiddish folk sayings to be found in *Yiddish Wisdom: Yiddische Chochma*, collected and illustrated by Kristina Swarner, which can be found in our library

Mollie Berch and I want you to know about a specialized section of the library devoted to Yiddish. The shelves with these books are in the downstairs hallway, just to the left of the stairs, across from the library. Many other related books on the Holocaust and Literature are in those sections inside the library itself.

The collection ranges from two copies of Weinreich's *College Yiddish* and one copy of his dictionary (should you like to learn a little), to books in English about Yiddish theatre and film, and translations of some of the classic authors such as Sholem Aleichem and I.L. Peretz.

Yiddish Poetry

I recommend *A Treasury of Yiddish Poetry*, edited by Irving Howe and Eliezer Greenberg. This 1969 classic of English translations includes works by poets ranging from Abraham Reisen (1876-1953) to Abraham Sutzkever (1913-2010).

There's an excellent introduction and the poets are divided into traditional categories such as "Di Yunge and Their Contemporaries," including such notables as Mani

Leib and H. Leivick; "Modern Yiddish Poetry in America," which includes works by Jacob Glatstein, Itzik Manger and others; and "Yiddish Poets in Israel." Translators include Cynthia Ozick, Adrienne Rich, and Marie Syrkin.

National Yiddish Book Center

Another recommendation would be Aaron Lansky's *Outwitting History*. This book is subtitled *The Amazing Adventures of a Man Who Rescued A Million Yiddish Books* and that's indeed what it is. Lansky, the founder and president of the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA, is a thoroughly engaging, delightful writer and his book is terrific.

For a somewhat snarky but also erudite examination of the Yiddish language, I'd suggest *Born to Kvetch: Yiddish Language and Culture in All of Its Moods*, by Michael Wex. It's a funny, well-written book that's broad in its scope. No footnotes, but comprehensive—and very entertaining.

I decided to check out Ruth Wisse's *A Little Love in Big Manhattan*. It's about two Yiddish poets in New York, Mani Leib and Moishe Leib Halpern. I'll let you know whether I think it's any good, but meanwhile, go to our library, take a look, and check out a book.

Laig nit op oif morgen vos du kenst heint bazorgen! (Don't put off 'til tomorrow what you can do today).

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers (continued)

Dinah met (in Israel) via Habonim Dror. A wedding next fall is planned.

Fylis Peckham's brother, **Dave Birnbaum**, and his wife, **Julia**, former members of TI, welcomed a baby boy in early August. All are doing well. The *brit* was held in Brooklyn.

Mazel tov also to **Allison** and **Daniel Turner** on the birth of their son on August 9. Proud grandparents are **Judith** (grandmother) **Turner**, **Les**

(poppa) **Turner** and **Ellen** (grandma) **Zwibak**.

In sad news, **Paul Rosen**, father of **Elliot Rosen**, passed away this July in Maine. **Shirley Kadushin**, mother of **Mona Berch**, passed in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. May the loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, "nonpareil": "having no

equal; peerless." (Merriam-Webster Online).

Thanks to all who sent me news, sent me to others who sent me news, or otherwise helped sniff it out. Please send information for next time to baraimondo@gmail.com with "Nayes un Mekhayes" in the heading, or to P.O. Box 466, Washington Grove, MD 20880. This brings to a close a youthquake-inspired edition of Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers.

Retreat, November 5-7, to Highlight Ethics, Spirituality

Rabbi Bob Saks

Do ethics and spirituality sometimes get lost in Judaism--always there but not really emphasized? Should they be more in focus than they sometimes seem to be?

Rabbi Israel Salanter, a leading figure in 19th century Lithuanian Orthodox Judaism, thought so.

Salanter traveled the length and breadth of the Litvak--north central European--Jewish world preaching the need to restore ethical and spiritual values to the center of Jewish life. He didn't want to replace prayer and Torah study but to enrich and broaden them.

Message of Mussar

Salanter developed a message and a methodology to help his followers deepen their relationship to God and to each other. His approach mined a rich vein called *mussar* within traditional Judaism and utilized the classic works of Jewish spiritual and ethical guidance to reach these goals.

Within a generation many of the great *yeshivot* of Latvia and Lithuania were led by his disciples and *mussar* had taken root deeply within Jewish life.

In our retreat, November 5-7 at the Pearlstone Retreat Center north of Baltimore, we'll explore the history of *mussar* within Judaism, and learn and practice Salanter's methodology for deeper self-understanding and growth. We'll learn why *mussar* is enjoying a revival of interest among all denominations of Judaism.

Program Structure

Cynthia Peterman will place *mussar* within the broader trends in 19th century Jewish history. Rabbi Seidel will engage us in discussion of *mussar* texts and stories.

As the retreat coordinator, I will review the roots of *mussar* in Judaism and teach the *mussar* methodology for self-knowledge and transformation. A number of congregants who have a personal *mussar* "practice" will tell us what they do, and encourage us to explore a path for ourselves.

Finally, we'll move from the personal to the communal, and take a look at TI, asking ourselves how we might turn our community in all its facets into a place where Jewish values and spirituality are fully at home.

Volunteers Needed

Do you have a personal *mussar* practice? If you'd like to share it with the group, please contact me at rabbibobs@aol.com. Would you like to join the Sunday morning TI-focused discussion by giving a five-minute presentation on one of five values that we'll consider on the way to choosing a value to emphasize at TI this coming year? It might be welcoming others, or honoring the elderly, or Torah study, or acknowledging the good deeds and work of those in our midst, or...or...

We need five people to take one of five topics and present it to the group. I will work with you in advance. Interested? Let me know...

Traditional Retreat Highlights

And, of course, all of these conversations about *mussar* will take place alongside the usual much-loved retreat highlights--Shabbat dinner and singing, Shabbat worship and Torah reading, Saturday afternoon walks in the woods, and Saturday night skits to send us to bed laughing.

High Holiday Memories

Lisa Traiger

I grew up in a very small congregation in southern PG County --Shaare Tikvah. Following *Neilah*, the congregation stayed for *Havdalah* where the children, led by the USY teens, would march up the aisle to the bimah, the USYers holding candles, the younger children holding small flashlights. The lights dimmed as the congregation sang

Eliyahu Ha'navi. USY would lead *Havdalah* and then the shofar blower would sound a final *t'kia gedolah*. The children all looked forward to marching and the USYers aspired to lead the service.

There was no education director, so all the planning was done by the USY who managed the children and

were also fully responsible for leading Junior Congregation services downstairs. We would plan for the High Holidays throughout the summer and the rabbi would check to make sure the USYers had assigned all parts. Many competent daveners and service leaders arose from that congregation during that period in the 1970s.

The Havurah Service: A Retrospective

Jeffrey Steinberg

The monthly Havurah Service, long a hallmark of TI, will not continue this year, a decision the service's leadership reached with great reluctance. The history of this service tells us much about TI, and its discontinuation says something about where we are now.

In the 1970s, a group of congregants began a monthly Alternative Service in the hope that a more varied and participatory service would fill unmet spiritual needs. At the outset, one member (Phil Shandler) developed a prototype, which included room for English readings, a short-talk explanation of one prayer, a truncated Torah reading, a member-led discussion of some aspect of the Torah reading, and in general a shorter, more varied service.

Although many of the Alternative Service leaders used this prototype, the services varied because of the choices made by the leaders and service participants. The *Musaf amidah* was almost always omitted.

Service Discontinued, Revived

At some point, interest in the Alternative Service waned, and it was discontinued. Some time later, it was revived. Each month, an interested group of perhaps 8 or 10 members got together to plan the coming service: its focus, theme, possible leaders, etc. Interested attendees later formed a "*makheilah*" (Hebrew for "choir") to learn new melodies and introduce them to the rest of us. Instrumental music was also permitted, if its inclusion were announced in advance.

When people no longer wanted to attend monthly planning meetings, a new approach was found: two or three members would plan a

particular service and enlist other participants as needed.

Over the years, the Havurah Service has exhibited great variety, including at various times guided meditation, an emphasis on a Yiddish theme, a focus on the new psalms of Debbie Perlman, a dramatic reading of the "Song of Songs," or a discussion of some theological question. Usually, a central theme or question was at the heart of each service. Often the Torah portion suggested the theme and became the focus for animated discussion.

Teen Participation

In recent years the Chai School students—under the leadership of Lynn Golub-Rofrano (our former Director of Lifelong Learning) and Janet Nesse—led one service each year, both to expand their own horizons and to teach the rest of us what their generation is bringing to Jewish prayer and thought.

Teens and adults with limited experience found the Havurah Service to be a good place to chant a very brief selection from the Torah. And some congregants who now regularly lead services in the Sanctuary developed their davening skills in the smaller, less-intimidating atmosphere of the Havurah Service.

Varied Reasons for Attending

Some congregants attended the Havurah Service for the surprise of not knowing what the service might bring and for the possibility of learning something of value to their lives. Others treasured the new melodies or the more intimate atmosphere.

For me, the Havurah Services formed a link to the "creative

services" with which I came to Jewish adulthood at my Reform synagogue youth group and the Reform Havurah at my college. Given the varied and sometimes experimental nature of the services, probably no congregant found every one of them fulfilling. But we all found value in the experiment itself and in experiencing it together.

Decision to Discontinue

The decision to suspend the services was not an easy one. Many of us enjoyed Havurah Services to the end, and found that, at their best, they added meaning to our own prayer. But the service lost much of its energy in recent years.

Perhaps this is due in part to the evolution of the main service, which now seems to have more variety and general appeal and which often incorporates discussion. Also, many more service options are now available, ranging from our Friday night Carlebach services to minyanim outside TI. Some Havurah Service leaders have also moved on to a different place, either physically or spiritually.

The Havurah Service provided many wonderful experiences and has contributed to the growth of its participants as well as of the congregation as a whole. However, the congregation's spiritual energy is now focused in other directions, and it is appropriate for the Havurah Service to yield. This congregation, being TI, will continue to evolve. Perhaps some day a new version of the Havurah Service will fill a need. Until then, we have our appreciation and our memories.

I would like to thank the many members who have contributed their

(Continued on page 11)

Help TI Promote Our Special Summer/Fall Membership Package

Do you have friends who have enjoyed visiting TI occasionally and are not members of another shul?

Do you have neighbors who are thinking about joining a synagogue now that their children are reaching school age?

Do you have relatives who have moved to the area but not yet affiliated with a congregation?

Do them a favor. Tell them about TI's **Summer/Fall Membership Package!** This is a **limited time offer**.

From now until the end of December 2010 we are offering new members:

- 50% reduction off full regular dues in the first year
- Free 2010-2011 Himmelfarb school tuition for the first child and 50% off tuition for other children
- Free High Holiday tickets for the Cherner Auditorium service and children's services
- Two free Carlebach Friday night dinners for the entire family

You are our best salespeople because you know TI and you know the person you are talking to.

If someone is interested in finding out more about TI, have them call the office at 202-882-1605 x101 or email at tiadmin@tifereth-israel. Or you can call or e-mail with contact information and a clue about what the potential member might find most interesting about TI.

The membership committee will call people who contact the office and follow up on names members suggest.

Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

September 10

Tom & Lisa Goldring
David Goldstein
Lee & Jennifer Grabel
George & Marjorie Greenberg
Larry & Melanie Greenfield
Abraham & Dena Greenstein
Seth Grimes & Franca Brilliant
Robert & Audrey Halper
Alex Halper
Jonathan Halper

September 24

Daniel & Elizabeth Handwerker
Elliot Harrison & Wendy Coleman
David Hart & Lois Frankel
Steve Harvey & Lisa Hack
Stephen & Shelly Heller
Matt & Linda Heller
Bruce Heppen & Bonnie Suchman

Eugene & Esther Herman
Mitchell & Patti Herman
Irma Herr

October 15

Andres Jaime and Hedy Howard
Leonard Jewler & Andrea Rosen
Harvey Kabaker & Andrea Kline
Steven Kalish & Anita Bolt
David Kass & Iris Amdur
Joshua & Jennifer Kefer
Kenneth & Nina Bronk Kellner
Martin Kessel & Gail Robinson
Rabbi Jason & Devora Kimelman-Block
Dennis Kirschbaum & Barbara Raimondo

October 22

Morris Klein & Naomi Freeman
Roger Kohn

Allan Kolker
Edward Koren & Claudine Schweber
Michael & Lisa Kraft
Anita Kramer
Joshua & Francesca Kranzberg
David & Amy Kritz
Richard Kruger & Naimah Weinberg
Matthew Kunkin & Hilary Sachs

October 29

Simcha Kuritzky
Susan Laden
Alan Landay
Robert & Jeri Roth Lande
Hayim Lapin & Maxine Grossman
Michael & Iris Lav
Mitchell Lazarus & Judith Shapiro
Beverly Lehrer
Elihu Leifer
Stephen Lerner & Marilyn Sneiderman

Havurah Service (continued)

thoughts as we have gone through the difficult process of deciding whether to continue the Havurah Service. Your input has been very

valuable. Thank you also to all who have organized, led, and participated in the Havurah Service over the years. You have enriched my life and

those of many others. *Thanks to Barbara White for editorial suggestions and for filling in the early history of the Alternative Service.*

Days of Awe Schedule

Saturday, September 4, 2010 – S'lichot

10:30 PM – S'lichot program

Midnight – S'lichot Service

Sunday, September 5, 2010

10:45 AM – Cemetery Service - Mt. Lebanon Cemetery

Sunday, September 5, 2010 and Monday, September 6, 2010

10:00 AM – 3:30 PM - Jeremy Goldberg Synagogue Clean up

Please sign up by 9/1 by calling the office

Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 8, 2010 - Erev Rosh Hashanah

6:30 PM – Ma'ariv - Wolman Sanctuary

Thursday, September 9, 2010 - Rosh Hashanah - Day 1**Wolman Sanctuary**

8:45 AM – Psukei D'Zimrah & Shacharit

10:00 AM – Torah Reading

11:00 AM – Sermon, Musaf - Rabbi Ethan Seidel

Cherner Auditorium

10:15 AM - Torah Reading

11:00 AM - Sermon, Musaf

Family Service

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM – Cherner Auditorium – Ages 6 - 9, their parents & siblings

Tot Service

10:15 AM - 10:45 AM – Reamer Chapel – Ages 18 months through 5 and their parents

Childcare and Supervised Activities

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM – Ages 18 months through 5 years, Haifa Room

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM – Ages 6 - 9, Safed Room

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM – Ages 10 thru 12, Emsellem Room

Tashlich Walk

5:00 PM – from TI into Rock Creek Park, followed by potluck supper at the home of Lillian Kronstadt, 1733 Juniper Street, NW, Washington DC 20012

Reamer Chapel

7:30 PM – Ma'ariv

Friday, September 10, 2010 - Rosh Hashanah - Day 28:45 AM - 1:00 PM - **Wolman Sanctuary**

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM – Family Services, Childcare & Supervised Activities as above

Days of Awe Schedule (continued)

Yom Kippur

Friday, September 17, 2010 - Erev Yom Kippur

6:30 PM – Babysitting and Youth Programs

6:40 PM (*sharp!*) - Kol Nidre Services in both Wolman Sanctuary and Cherner Auditorium

Saturday, September 18, 2010 - Yom Kippur

Wolman Sanctuary

9:00 AM – Psukei D'Zimrah & Shacharit

10:30 AM – Torah Reading

11:30 AM – Sermon - Rabbi Seidel

NOON – Yizkor Memorial Service

12:30 PM – Musaf

4:00 PM – Mincha

5:30 PM – Talk and Discussion

6:35 PM – Neilah

7:55 PM – Shofar & Ma'ariv

Break Fast – immediately following the Service.

Advance Registration is required by August 31st.

A reservation form is included in your ticket packet.

Cherner Auditorium

10:15 AM - Torah Reading

11:00 AM - Sermon/Discussion

11:30 AM - Yizkor Memorial and Musaf Services

Services for the remainder of the day in the Wolman Sanctuary

Family Service

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM – Cherner Auditorium – Ages 6 - 9, their parents & siblings

Tot Service

10:15 AM - 10:45 AM – Reamer Chapel – Ages 18 months through 5 and their parents

Childcare and Supervised Activities

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM – Ages 18 months through 5 years, Haifa Room

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM – Ages 6 - 9, Safed Room

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM – Ages 10 thru 12, Emsellem Room



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Mona & Mark Berch's
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Harold Greenberg
Lynn Golub-Rofrano
Bat Mitzvah of Neimarks'
granddaughter, Anya
Our grandchildren

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George & Marjorie Greenberg
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(Continued on page 16)

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