



# The Menorah

## Rabbi's and President's Columns Proposed Changes for Cherner HH Service

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*In lieu of the Rabbi's and President's regular columns, they are posting the following letter to the Congregation from the High Holiday Committee:*

We, the High Holiday Committee (Rabbi Seidel, Eitan Gutin, Susan Catler, Josh Furman, and Michele Sumka) are thinking about making some significant changes this coming year in the way we do High Holiday services at TI. But before we progress too far in our thinking, we wanted to run our ideas by you, and get your feedback.

### Summary

We are thinking about tweaking our downstairs service into an adult, family-friendly service, led by Eitan Gutin (with much participation, in the TI style, from TI'ers of all ages). We think we can develop a service that will work both for the regulars downstairs, as well as the families who have been enjoying the Family Service we have started in the past few years.

### History

We have had a downstairs service at TI for many years. The general pattern has been that these services were offered on the first day of Rosh HaShanah, Kol Nidre night, and Yom Kippur, and used the Harlow Mahzor, not the Silverman Mahzor that was used in the Wolman service. As some of you may remember, Rabbi Seidel, while still a Rabbinical student, was hired to lead these services a few times in the 1980's.

For many years these services were entirely lay-led (except for Rabbi Seidel's giving the drash on Kol Nidre), though Rabbi Seidel helped extensively behind the scenes, especially with finding volunteers to read Torah, give drashot, blow shofar, etc. During this period each of the three services had a

lay leader who was, overall, in charge of the service. And these lay leaders were themselves coordinated by a congregant.



A few years ago, the overall coordinator job passed to Rabbi Seidel. For the last two years, it has gotten increasingly difficult to find leaders for the three services.

Last year, TI'er Josh Furman led one of the services, but we had to hire TI'er Rabbi Jason Kimelman Bloch to coordinate and lead services on the first day of Rosh HaShanah and during the day on Yom Kippur. Also last year for the first time both services used the same Mahzor, the new *Mahzor Lev Shalem*.



Over these past two years another trend is apparent. The family High Holiday services started by Rabbi Seidel and Rabbi Jane Berman two years ago, and continued by Eitan Gutin last year, have been much appreciated, and have grown. These one-to-one-and-a-half hour services have started at 9 a.m. for all three mornings of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. This has not

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## Rabbi's and President's Columns (continued)

been the ideal start time, or length, for such services, but we had to start early and finish early so that the Cherner Auditorium would be available for the downstairs adult High Holiday service.

### Incentives to Change

1. Despite all of the excellent daveners-leaders in our congregation, it's become increasingly hard to find qualified leaders for the High Holidays. For one thing, most of our best daveners have their own paying gigs for the Days of Awe or are already leading parts of the services in the Wolman. For another, the liturgy is long and taxing, and a person who can do a good job leading, say, Musaf on a regular Shabbat, may not be up to leading Musaf on Rosh HaShanah.

2. It would be nice to be able to give families and our children a service that is more complete, with a better, longer time slot.

### Goal

We think that we can create an adult service that is both family friendly, *and* has all the traditional components that an adult expects. A service that has an energy level and pacing that will appeal to adults as well as young people. A service in which it is possible for kids to wander around and be themselves in a way that's not possible upstairs, given the architecture and the fixed seating in the Wolman Sanctuary.

We think such a service would be appealing to most, if not all, of the downstairs regulars, whether they have children or not. We think Eitan has the ability and the presence to pull it off. We understand that such a service, roughly the length of the downstairs services we've had in the past, would be too long for many kids -- so there would still be separate childrens' programming and childcare, especially for the younger children.

We also have a hunch that, though this change is meant for the betterment of our own community, it may end up attracting some unaffiliated families. An adult, family-friendly service would not be competing against the free services at 6th & I and Har Tzeon. It would be offering something different, something we have a sense that many people want — a chance to daven with their kids in a way that is satisfying to both.

We think it's worth a try this coming Holiday season.

### Logistics

Should we go ahead with this plan, we would need to be very clear to the entire congregation about the changes we would be making. There may well be some who have regularly attended the downstairs service who will want to switch to the Wolman. The Wolman (which has only a handful of unbought single seats in a typical year) may actually get sold out. Therefore, we would need to warn everyone who wants to sit in the Wolman to buy their tickets early.

Note also – our tentative plan would be to charge for this downstairs service about what we have in the past. We'd also need to coordinate with the Tot Shabbat services.

Moreover, we want to solicit your feedback about this idea, as we are doing with this letter.

Your High Holiday Committee

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

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## Lilmod U'ilamed (To Learn and to Teach)

Eitan Gutin

Lev decided he was a dinosaur. That would not have been so bad, except that he made this decision while sitting behind Rabbi Jacob as the rabbi led his weekly *parashah* discussion at Shaare Torah. The Rabbi was just getting to the heart of his lesson, and so it began:

"Raar!" said Lev as the rabbi asked a question, a huge smile on my son's face. "Raar!" he said again, as I got up from my seat to retrieve him and carry him out of the room. "Raar!" he said a final time (with a giggle) as we exited the Minyan.

### A Mix of Emotions

As I removed Lev from the room, and for some moments afterwards, a complete mix of emotions were going through me. Guilt and shame for my son's disturbing the Drash. Joy as my son remained a dinosaur for the next few minutes. Embarrassment at having to go to the front of the shul to retrieve my child. Frustration, for I knew that from this point on I would probably not make it back into services until *Ein Keloheinu*.

Aviva and I both care deeply about our *tefillot*. We are blessed to attend one synagogue and that I work for another, that both have services

which are spiritually fulfilling. We care about developing Lev's own spiritual connection to services as well.

Lev's first time in shul was at the age of three weeks, when we brought him to the Jewish Center in East Brunswick, NJ, so that Savta could show off the new grandson. I was called up for an Aliyah on the first morning of Shavuot and I brought Lev with me, curled up with his head resting on my left shoulder (still his favorite position when I rock him at night).

Like many infants, Lev found the songs and chanting of Jewish prayer soothing, and would often fall asleep as we sat in services. Holding my newborn son while praying *Shacharit* or listening to the Torah reading was a deeply moving experience on Shabbat and holidays.

### Son's Needs Vs. Spirituality

As our son has become more mobile Aviva's and my ability to balance his needs and our spirituality is sometimes a challenge. While we have all sorts of tricks to keep him with us and under a certain noise level there is always that point in the service where he has had enough, or needs a break.

It is at this point that one of us leaves to escort our son to the playroom. Sometimes he is happy to stay in babysitting, or I can rope an 8- or 9-year-old into watching him, and I return to the services. Other times, however, being an *Abba* is more important than the prayers, and I stay out for the rest of the morning.

Lev is a spiritual child who loves shul. Every Friday night, we ask him "where are we going tomorrow?"

"Shul!" he answers. "Who are you going to see in shul?" we continue. "Rabbi Jacob" or "Rabbi Seidel" is the answer, with a big smile.

Since we have sung with him in services so much, Lev can sing along with most of the parts that are out loud, including *Oseh Shalom*, taking out the Torah, and the *Aleinu*. When I walk him to his pre-school we will often talk about God and how *Hashem* expects us to behave. Often, when I play a role in the service -- whether it is leading, reading Torah, or teaching -- Lev is by my side, helping me out, strengthening my *kavanah* (spiritual focus).

### Striking the Right Balance

As more and more parents (including Aviva and me) want to pray with their children, our communities must constantly strike a balance between welcoming children and maintaining an atmosphere in which adults (parents or not) can have a spiritually fulfilling experience. This balance has been on my mind as we begin to discuss a new format for the High Holiday service that will take place in the Cherner Auditorium this year.

My goal in working on what I am currently calling the TI *B'Yachad* service is to create an atmosphere that is spiritually fulfilling for adults and both spiritually fulfilling and welcoming to kids. Over the next few weeks I will begin posting initial ideas for content and structure to the TI Blog in order to get comments and suggestions from the greater community.

Feel free to call or email me directly with questions and suggestions. I am looking forward to working with TI's members of all ages in creating this service.

## Board Minutes (continued)

TISA and includes links to the website for additional information.

7. We have more than \$22,000 pledged or in hand for a new sound system in the Wolman Sanctuary. We are getting second bids for the electrical and concrete work. Depending on the bids, we should have enough for the basic system and maybe enough for some additional features.



## Department of Lifelong Learning

Eitan Gutin

### Adult Education

#### Getting Ready For Pesach.

Preparing for Pesach does not have to be a chore. Join us for special adult education programming as we all get ready for the Feast of Freedom:

**Forget the Blowtorch: How To Prepare Your Kitchen For Pesach,** with Rabbi Seidel, Sunday, April 10, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Preparing for Pesach can be a daunting task. There are foods we only buy once a year, dishes we unpack once a year, and even relatives whom we only see once a year. Whether you are an old pro at Pesach prep, or you are making a kitchen Pesach-ready for the first time, Rabbi Seidel will walk you through the process of "kashering" your kitchen. This is a hands-on class that will take place in the Tifereth Israel kitchen.

**Kosher Cooking with Spice: Moist, Fluffy, Pesach Cakes,** with Eitan Gutin, Thursday, April 14, 7:00-9:00

p.m. \$18 per person, please RSVP by April 10.

"Leave the cake mixes on the grocery store shelf," is my advice for Pesach baking; and my great uncle invented those mixes! Join me for an egg- and potato starch-filled evening of baking moist, fluffy Pesach desserts. While you separate, mix, beat, and pour, I will share family stories of the commercial Pesach food industry going back to my great grandfather in the 1930's and 40's. Everyone will leave with one kosher-for-Passover (and tasty) cake.

**The Yiddish Seder.** with David Siskind, Shabbat, April 16th, 1:00 p.m. (part of the SHALEM program).

The Yiddish Passover Seder combines a thousand years of Ashkenazi Jewish tradition with the progressive politics of the Yiddish cultural movement in the early decades of the 20th century. As the first Jewish cultural stream to incorporate readings dealing with modern current events such as the Holocaust into the service, this Seder

has had an important influence on mainstream American Jewish practice.

In this talk, David Siskind will give some background to the development of the Yiddish Seder, an introduction to some of its readings and songs and provide some handouts for those who might wish to incorporate some of the material in their own Seder. David has been a TI member for 10 years and is a physicist at the Naval Research Laboratory. He is a grandchild of the Yiddish co-op movement and grew up attending a Workman Circle shule where he learned to conduct Yiddish seders.

### Purim Carnival A Success

Well over 100 parents and children came through the TI carnival on Purim day (see photos below). They bought over 2,100 game tickets, ate 80 slices of pizza, and went home with over 300 prizes. TI's teens, parents and staff did a great job setting up and running our annual Purim celebration. We can't wait to do it all over again next year!



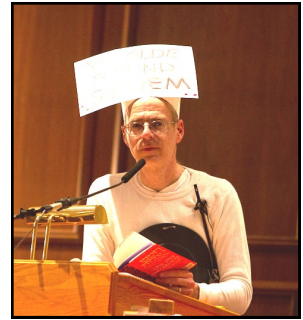
Aviva Blonder and Sam Borzekowski



Lena Siskind helps Naomi Garber "Primp for Purim"



## Purim Megillah Reading, March 19



## Kol Nashim

Paula Flicker



**February Follow-up:** Maxine Grossman has prepared resource materials on her February presentation, *Women in the Biblical Tradition*. Copies are available in the TI office. Alternatively, contact me at [pftoo@mindspring.com](mailto:pftoo@mindspring.com), and I will send you the list electronically.

**March 5 Kiddush:** Thank you to everyone who cooked for the Kiddush sponsored by Kol Nashim.

**Bookmarks:** Keep your eye out for the lovely bookmark designed for Kol Nashim by board member **Shirley Rosenberg** and her colleague Anne Woods.

**Washington Jewish Week Subscriptions:** You can make a donation to Kol Nashim by renewing, or starting, a subscription to *Washington Jewish Week* via the TI office.

**Mitzvah Knitting:** Upcoming knitting/crochet dates are April 4 and May 2, from 7-9 pm. Come and join us to knit, crochet, and chat. We have needles and yarn for a variety of projects. Contact **Ellen Zwibak** if you have any questions.

### April/Early May Highlights at Tifereth Israel

April 2	Family Service, 10:30 a.m.
April 3	TI Homecoming (Spring Fling), 6-9 p.m.
April 4 & May 2	Mitzvah Knitting, 7-9 p.m.
April 9	Hannah Garelick Bat Mitzvah
April 9	Book Club (Yehoshuah's <i>Mr. Mani</i> ), following Kiddush
April 10	Preparing Your Kitchen for Pesach, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
April 14	Kosher Cooking with Spice, 7-9 p.m.
April 16	The Yiddish Seder (SHALEM), 1 p.m.
April 18	First Seder
April 19-26	Pesach (Festival Services, April 19, 20, 25, 26, 9 a.m.)



## Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Barbara Raimondo

### Digging Deep

**Oren Steinberg**, son of **Jeffrey** and **Julie Steinberg**, was awarded his Eagle Scout rank at a moving Court of Honor on February 13. Oren earned 41 badges and served his troop in many leadership positions, including as Assistant Senior Patrol Leader for Scout Advancement.

Oren's Eagle project involved building a "bone pit" for use in children's nature programming at the Locust Grove Nature Center in Bethesda. (I didn't know what that was, either.) A bone pit is a place where children dig for bones that a naturalist buried previously.

Oren improved an existing hole with supports on four sides and built a small deck on top where people can kneel while digging. Word is that Oren is also available for deck repair, fence-fixing, and barn-raising.

**Michael Davidson**, son of **Kathy** and **Joe**, has achieved a Certified Sommelier designation – that's wine maven to you and me -- from the Court of Master Sommeliers. This is level two of the Court's four levels. I guess you can say it's the appellate level. In honor of this occasion, Kathy and Joe have given up drinking wine in a box.

The other **Davidson** family – **Jeff** and **Miriam** -- are happy to announce the birth of baby boy and grandson Davidson. Everyone is fine. They are drinking sparkling wine. That's champagne to you and me.

### Health Care Expansion

A number of TI'ers have made their way into the news. **Susan Morse** was quoted in *USA Today*, in an

article describing how the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is helping to improve the health of children and their families by encouraging doctors and other health professionals to "prescribe" outdoor activity on refuges and parks for their sedentary young patients. [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/environment/2011-02-25-nature28\\_ST\\_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/environment/2011-02-25-nature28_ST_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip).

**Howard Gleckman** was mentioned in a Paul Krugman piece in the *New York Times*, and the organization that **Iris Lav** and **Ellen Nissenbaum** have provided leadership for, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, was noted as well. [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/18/opinion/18krugman.html?src=ISMR\\_HP\\_LO\\_MST\\_FB](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/18/opinion/18krugman.html?src=ISMR_HP_LO_MST_FB).

**Iris Lav** was also quoted on the radio program "Marketplace" and was featured on C-Span testifying before a Congressional committee. Word is that her testimony was "coherent" and "understandable."

Your faithful columnist says anytime someone gives "coherent" and "understandable" testimony before Congress is the time the rest of us should start to worry. Iris's next project is to get the federal budget passed.

**Hilary Sachs** has left middle school teaching behind to begin her new position as a French Language Training Supervisor at the Foreign Service Institute of the State Department. Her first week at State began with flowers from her new department and ended with her truly understanding why our government moves so slowly, after it took four steps, three days and two different office visits just to get a parking

pass. Her next project is to get the federal budget passed.

**Jeff Peterman** took his citizenship test and is now a US citizen. His next project is – oh, never mind.

### Rocky Mountain High

**Alan Landay** just returned from his second ski trip of the winter to Copper Mountain, Colorado. It was an excellent time with very good skiing. He went cross-country skiing one day at nearby, beautiful Frisco. He even ran more than four miles the morning of the last day -- at an altitude of almost 10,000 feet! His nephew, Jeremy Moore, who is in graduate school in Chicago, recently visited him as well.

**Naomi** and **Arnold Revzin** visited Berlin, Germany in January, primarily to attend a ceremony honoring winners of the 2011 Obermayer German-Jewish History Awards. These awards are given annually by the Obermayer Foundation of Newton, MA to individuals (generally non-Jewish Germans) "who have made outstanding voluntary contributions toward preserving and recording the Jewish history, heritage, culture and/or remnants of local German communities."

Naomi, who has ongoing connections with Goettingen's Jewish community, had nominated awardee Brigitta Stammer. Frau Stammer was instrumental in relocating a mid 19<sup>th</sup>-century synagogue that survived the Holocaust, to Goettingen. The State of Berlin has made this event an important component of its observance of Auschwitz liberation day (January 27), and the

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

presentations are made in the German Parliament building under the auspices of the President (equivalent to our governor).

The Revzins also found themselves in Leipzig on Shabbat and went to services at an Orthodox shul there, another very interesting experience. Ask them about it.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *wallah*: "a person who is associated with a particular work or who performs a specific duty or service — usually used in combination." (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](mailto: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 plumply edition of Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers.

### Wear a Hat to Shul Susan Catler

April 2, in addition to being a Family Service, will also be the Second Annual Wear a Hat to Shul Day. Why? Because I like hats and I am the President. Wearing a hat is fun and more of you – men and women - should try it.

Also, there are very few things you can do by fiat as President of TI. Declare Wear a Hat to Shul Day is one of them. Also, it is Bella Abzug's Yahrzeit. Whatever you think of Bella Abzug, you have to admire her hats.

So there it is. April 2. Wear a Hat to Shul Day. As this is the beginning of the baseball season, I have heard that there will be some effort to encourage people to support their favorite team by wearing the appropriate headgear on the 2nd.

#### Lost Tallit Bags

Tallit bags are frequently left in the coat room. Unless they are identifiable, TI has no easy way to return them to their owners.

Members are urged to put their names inside their tallit bags.

### Foundation for Jewish Studies Events

#### Distinguished Scholar Series

All lectures free, on Tuesdays, from 7:30 to 9 p.m.:

**April 12:** *What's Portnoy Complaining About Lately?: New Voices and Themes in Contemporary Jewish-American Literature*, with Professor Faye Moskowitz, Washington Hebrew Congregation, 3935 Macomb St., NW.

**May 3:** *Jabotinsky: Enduring Insights*, with Douglas Feith, B'nai Israel Congregation, 6301 Montrose Road, Rockville.

**May 10:** *Do We Mean What We Pray, Do We Pray What We Mean?*, with Dr. Eliezer Diamond, Congregation Beth El, 8215 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda.

**May 17:** *Romancing the Stone: America's Embrace of the Ten Commandments*, with Professor Jenna Weissman Joselit, Beth Shalom Congregation, 11835 Seven Locks Road, Potomac.

#### Lunch & Learn Bible Study

\$45 (\$35 for Foundation members) for 4-session course. Advance registration encouraged. Classes from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., preceded by bring-your-own brown bag pareve/dairy lunch.

**Tuesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24:** *Psalms Through the Eyes of Jewish Composers*, with Cantor Sharon Steinberg, JCC of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax.

**Wednesdays, May 4, 11, 18, 25:** *Arguing With God: A Good Jewish Habit*, with Rabbi Jack Luxemburg, JCC of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville.

## Looking Back at a Year of Mourning

Loretta Vitale Saks

The year and a half since my mom's death has been a challenging grief journey. Judith Viorst says it so well in *Necessary Losses*, "We live by losing and leaving and letting go. And sooner or later, with more or less pain, we all must come to know that loss is indeed 'a lifelong human condition.'"

After observing *shiva* in her home in Branford, CT and then in our home, I said *Kaddish* daily for *shloshim*, the first 30 days after her death. I davened at TI on Shabbat and Sunday mornings, and went to Ohev Sholom or the University of Maryland Hillel during the week, sometimes in the mornings, sometimes in the evenings

The end of *shloshim* neared. Could I commit to saying *Kaddish* daily for the next many months? Would I follow our Jewish tradition's way of honoring my mother's memory? What would she have done in my place? What would she have wanted?

Allowing myself some flexibility within the traditional *halachah*, I decided to find my own way to honor my mother's memory, and to do so in a way that would help me in my grieving.

My husband, Bob, proposed that I study daily in memory of my mother. *Kabbalah* teaches that Mishnah is to be studied in memory of a loved one during *shiva* and on *yahrzeit*

anniversaries because the Hebrew letters that spell Mishnah can be 'shuffled' to spell *neschama*, soul, suggesting that such study will elevate the soul of the deceased.

### Studying Jewish Texts

Bob suggested that I study Jewish texts, Mishnah or other, in the 10 months following *shloshim*. That is what I eventually decided to do, while continuing to say *Kaddish* on Shabbat and Sunday mornings.

I studied every weekday morning, beginning with reciting the blessing one says on studying Torah, and then dedicating my study to the elevation of my mother's soul (though her soul surely soared to the highest heights as soon as she breathed her last breath).

This was extraordinarily meaningful. I chose texts we might have enjoyed studying together, related to *mussar*, Jewish spirituality and values. As I said the words, "*le'ilui nishmat imi, morati*," (for the elevation of the soul of my mother, my teacher), I felt her presence and daily acknowledged her as my nurturing mom and lifelong teacher.

My year of mourning has ended. Many mornings, I still begin my day with brief text study, now dedicating my study to the memory of my father and my mother, both my teachers. My life has been enriched by this path I chose; I share it so that perhaps it will help others on their own grief journeys

## Letter of Thanks

Bernie and I shall never forget the arrival of various wonderful home-made dishes to our home in response to my request for help during my recent illness.

Thanks to Claire Snyder-Hall's marvelous computer printout format for volunteers to sign up for specific dates, we were provided with offerings over a two-week period that not only nourished us in body but gave comfort to our hearts.

Eating food specially prepared for you by loving hands has an affect that stays with you long after the food has been eaten.

Our thanks to those listed here will not end with this listing of the names of the dear hearts of TI who responded, but does begin here. Given the upset of our household

during this time some names may have been lost, which we exceedingly regret. We hope they contact us.

We list them in the order in which they turned up on our doorstep, often during the worst weather: Jessica Weissman (who turned up twice), Michele Sumka, Carla Ellern, Beth Naftalin, Lisa Kraft, Rona Siskind, David Levy, Marcia Goldberg, Adele Natter, Lisa Goldring, Sarah Osborne, Judy Cohen, Cathy Tuerk, Sylvia Horwitz, Judi Berland, Shelly Heller, and Dana Neimark.

May they all be blessed by their good deeds.

-- Bernie and Deb Shleien



## TI Trip to American Jewish History Museum in Philadelphia





## Bat Mitzvah

Hi, my name is Hannah Garelick. My bat mitzvah is on April 9. The *parashah* is *Metzora*. It is not really a great *parashah* to talk about! Currently I am a student at The Siena School, which is a school that helps kids with language learning disabilities. I went to the Jewish Primary Day School (JPDS) for kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. I also go to Camp Ramah New England.

I am a really big Washington Capitals hockey fan. I also like to figure skate, play soccer and violin, which I have been playing for 5 years. I also really enjoy doing outdoor adventure and nature camps and hikes and rock climbing.

For my mitzvah project (which will happen after my bat mitzvah) I really hope to help make the synagogue more environmentally friendly. I hope you can all join me for my bat mitzvah.



## Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

### April 1

Susan Chapin  
Daniel Chazan & Ronit Eisenbach  
Nataliya Chernyak Cowen  
Todd Christiansen & Rebecca  
Pikofsky  
Ann Cohen & Avi Dorot  
David Cohen  
David & Elana Cohen  
David & Judith Cohen  
Joel Cohen  
Raymond & Rebecca Coleman

### April 8

Sara Collins  
Jeffrey Colman & Ellen  
Nissenbaum  
Merry Danaceau  
Jeffrey & Miriam Davidson  
Joseph & Kathy Davidson  
L. Ronni Davis  
Adam Diamond & Rabbi Jane  
Berman  
Helen Disenhaus  
Stan Dorn & Carla Ellern  
Laura Dowling

### April 15

Lisa Drazin  
David Drelich & Rabbi Gilah  
Langner  
Pierre & Deena Dugan  
Ernie Englander  
Miriam Feinsilver  
Joshua Felman  
Harvey Fernbach & Ann Birk  
Robert Feron & Dione Pereira  
Rona Fields  
Joshua & Lucia Filler

### April 29

Andrew & Anna Fine  
Eric Fingerhut & Karen Beiley  
Varda Fink & Stanley Grabia  
Jay & Rachel Finkelstein  
Anita Finkelstein  
Joseph & Rachel Firschein  
Paul & Susan Fischer  
David & Patricia Fisher  
Paula Flicker  
James & Carla Flug

### May 6

Claude Fontheim & Orit Frenkel  
Brenda & Lee Footer  
Ira Forman & Caryn Pass  
Henry Fox & Sarah Kagan  
David Freed  
Bruce Friedland & Jenny Bryant  
Ben Finkelstein & Laurie Hollander  
Naomi Friedman  
Joshua Furman & Melanie  
Bostwick  
Judy Galat

### May 13

William & Miriam Galston  
Stephen Garber & Lynne Snyder  
Jared Garelick & Ellen Kramarow  
Seth Glabman & Martha Hare  
Rick Glaser & Sheryl Gross-Glaser  
Howard Gleckman & Ann Kline  
Mimi Godfrey  
John & Marcia Goggin  
Marcia Goldberg  
Joseph & Dody Goldberg

## **Rabbi A. Nathan Abramowitz Fund**

The Rabbi A. Nathan Abramowitz Fund was established in 1980 to celebrate the Rabbi's 20 years of service to TI and was enlarged in 1996 when Rabbi Abramowitz completed 36 years of service. Part of its mission is to honor youth who spend their summer or part of a school year in a program to enhance their Jewish education.

To qualify, the child may attend a camp recognized for its Jewish educational component (such as Camp Ramah, Capital Camps, and Moshava), participate in an educational program in Israel (such as USY Pilgrimage or Ramah Seminar), or take part in a United Synagogue Youth Wheels Trip.

Awards are made each spring. The Fund depends on your support and welcomes contributions in any amount. Each year, all TI'ers who participate in a qualifying program are honored at a special Shabbat service and receive a gift.

The Fund also awards scholarships based on financial need to facilitate participation in qualifying programs. Families who wish information about scholarships should contact Rabbi Abramowitz. All such applications and inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

To apply for the award program, contact the TI office to secure an application. Applications for 2011 are due by April 30. An additional application is required for the scholarship program.

## Tifereth Israel Rabbinical Guide for Pesach

The following guide is adapted from a guide prepared for the Rabbinical Assembly Committee on Jewish Law and Standards by Rabbi Mayer Rabinowitz. I have made a few changes, eliminating a few of the recent leniencies, which permitted some packaged milk products without a hechsher.

If you'd like to see the original, you can find it on the web at the Rabbinical Assembly Website, at: <http://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/docs/Pesach%20Guide%202005.rtf>.

Have a happy and kosher Pesach!

-- Rabbi Seidel

### Sale of Hametz

The Torah prohibits the ownership of *hametz* (leaven) during Pesach. Therefore, we arrange for the sale of the *hametz* to a non-Jew. The transfer, *mekhirat hametz*, is accomplished by appointing an agent, usually the rabbi, to handle the sale. I will assist congregants in the sale of their *hametz* after minyan on the Sunday before Pesach.

This is a valid and legal transfer of ownership. At the end of the holiday, the agent arranges for the reversion of ownership of the now-permitted *hametz*. If ownership of the *hametz* was not transferred before the holiday, the use of this *hametz* is prohibited after the holiday as well (*hametz she-avar alav ha-Pesach*).

### General Guidance

Since the Torah prohibits the eating of *hametz* during Pesach, and since many common foods contain some admixture of *hametz*, guidance is necessary when shopping and preparing for Pesach.

During the eight days of Pesach, *hametz* cannot lose its identity in an admixture. Therefore, the minutest amount of *hametz* renders the whole admixture *hametz* and its use on Pesach is prohibited. However, during the rest of the year, *hametz* follows the normal rules of admixture, i.e. it loses its identity in an admixture of one part *hametz* and sixty parts of non-*hametz* (*batel be-shishim*). This affords us the opportunity to differentiate between foods purchased before and during Pesach.

What follows is a general guideline. However, feel free to consult me when any doubt arises. *Kosher le-Pesach* labels that do not bear the name of a rabbi or one of the recognized symbols of rabbinic supervision, or which are not integral to the package, should not be used without consulting me.

### Prohibited Foods

Prohibited foods include the following: leavened bread, cakes, biscuits, crackers, cereal, coffees containing cereal derivatives, wheat, barley, oats, spelt, rye, and all liquids containing ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol.

Most Ashkenazic authorities have added the following foods (*kitniyot*) to the above list: rice, corn, millet, legumes (beans and peas; however, string beans are permitted). The Committee on Jewish Law and Standards has ruled unanimously that peanuts and peanut oil are permissible.

Some Ashkenazic authorities permit, while others forbid, the use of legumes in a form other than their natural state, for example, corn sweeteners, corn oil, soy oil. Sephardic authorities permit the use of all of the above. Consult me for guidance in the use of these products.

### Permitted Foods

A. The following foods require no *kosher le-Pesach* label if purchased prior to Pesach: unopened packages or containers of natural coffee without cereal additives (however, be aware that coffees produced by General Foods are not kosher for Passover unless marked KP); sugar, pure tea (not herbal tea); salt (not iodized); pepper; natural spices; frozen fruit juices with no additives; frozen (uncooked) vegetables (for legumes see above); milk; frozen (uncooked) fruit (with no additives); baking soda.

B. The following foods require no *kosher le-Pesach* label if purchased before or during Pesach: Fresh fruits and vegetables (for legumes see above), eggs, fresh fish and fresh meat.

C. The following foods require a *kosher le-Pesach* label if purchased before or during Pesach:

all baked products (matzah, cakes, matzah flour, farfel, matzah meal, and any products containing matzah);

canned or bottled fruit juices (these juices are often clarified with *kitniyot* which are not listed among the ingredients; however, if one knows there are no such agents, the juice may be purchased prior to Pesach without a *kosher le-Pesach* label);

canned tuna (since tuna, even when packed in water, has often been processed in vegetable broth and/or hydrolyzed protein; however, if it is known that the tuna is packed exclusively in water, without any additional ingredients or additives, it may be purchased without a *kosher le-Pesach* label);

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## Tifereth Israel Rabbinical Guide for Pesach (continued)

wine, vinegar, liquor, oils, dried fruits, candy;

chocolate flavored milk; butter; cottage cheese; cream cheese; ripened cheeses such as cheddar (hard), muenster (semi-soft) and Camembert (soft); ice cream; yogurt and soda.

D. The following processed foods (canned, bottled or frozen), require a *kosher le-Pesach* label if purchased during Pesach: milk, juices, vegetables, fruit, spices, coffee, tea, and fish, as well as all foods listed in category C.

### Non-Food Items

**Detergents.** If permitted during the year, powdered and liquid detergents do not require a *kosher le-Pesach* label.

**Medicines.** Since *hametz* binders are used in many pills, the following guidelines should be followed: If the medicine is required for life-sustaining therapy, it may be used on Pesach. If it is not for life-sustaining therapy, some authorities permit, while others prohibit. Consult me. In all cases, capsules are preferable to pills.

### Kashering of Utensils

The process of kashering utensils depends on how the utensils are used. According to *halakhah*, leaven can be purged from a utensil by the same process in which it was absorbed in the utensil (*ke-voleo kakh poleto*). Therefore, utensils used in cooking are kashered by boiling, those used in broiling are kashered by fire and heat, and those used only for cold food are kashered by rinsing.

**Earthenware.** China, pottery, etc., may not be kashered. However, fine

translucent chinaware which has not been used for over a year may be used if scoured and cleaned in hot water.

**Metal.** All-metal utensils used in fire (spit, broiler) must first be thoroughly scrubbed and cleansed and then made as hot as possible. Those used for cooking or eating (silverware, pots) must be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned and completely immersed in boiling water. Pots should not be used for a period of at least 24 hours between the cleaning and the immersion in boiling water. Metal baking utensils cannot be kashered.

**Ovens and Ranges.** Every part that comes in contact with food must be thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned. Then, oven and range should be heated as hot as possible for a half hour. If there is a broil setting, use it. Self-cleaning ovens should be scrubbed and cleaned and then put through the self-cleaning cycle. Continuous cleaning ovens must be kashered in the same manner as regular ovens.

**Microwave Ovens.** These do not cook the food by means of heat. They should be cleaned, and a cup of water should be placed inside. Then the oven should be turned on until the water disappears. A microwave oven that has a browning element cannot be kashered for Pesach.

**Glassware.** Authorities disagree as to the method for kashering drinking utensils. One opinion requires soaking in water for three days, changing the water every 24 hours. The other opinion (and I agree with this leniency) requires only a thorough scrubbing before Pesach, or putting them through a dishwasher.

**Glass Cookware.** There is a difference of opinion as to whether it is to be kashered. One opinion is that it

must be kashered. After a thorough cleansing water should be boiled in them which will overflow the rim. The other opinion is that only a thorough cleansing is required.

**Glass Bakeware.** Like metal bakeware, it may not be kashered.

### Kashering of Appliances

**Dishwasher.** After not using the machine for a period of 24 hours, a full cycle with detergent should be run.

**Electrical Appliances.** If the parts that come into contact with *hametz* are removable, they can be kashered in the appropriate way (if metal, follow the rules for metal utensils). If the parts are not removable, the appliance cannot be kashered. (all exposed parts should be thoroughly cleaned.)

**Tables, Closets and Counters.** If used with *hametz*, they should be thoroughly cleaned and covered, and then they may be used.

**Kitchen Sink.** A metal sink can be kashered by thoroughly cleaning and then pouring boiling water over it. A porcelain sink should be cleaned and a sink rack used. If, however, dishes are to be soaked in a porcelain sink, a dish basin must be used.

### Hametz and Non-Passover Utensils

Non-Passover dishes, pots and *hametz* whose ownership has been transferred, should be separated, locked up or covered, and marked in order to prevent accidental use.

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