



The Menorah

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Notes from the Rabbi: Ethan Seidel Making it Easy to Make Music

Since it has been some time since I last wrote about the music I have recorded for the benefit of the congregation, I want to repeat my offer to put any of this music on a CD for those of you who wish to enjoy or learn from it.

You've probably heard a small sampling of my singing if you've ever called the shul, and been put on hold. Because the playlist for our telephone system is random, it can be a little disconcerting—you may hear me singing Yom Kippur melodies in the spring, or Pesach melodies in the fall.

But it doesn't have to be that way. You can hear what you want, whenever you want (this is the 21st century, after all) because all of these tunes are saved in an electronic

database at the shul, and I can make CD's for you of whatever you'd like.

I should also mention that there is much online nowadays, and I encourage you to browse—as I do—for new and old melodies. But sometimes, you want to learn precisely what's already being done in your own community. And for that, my database can be a better fit than what you'll find on the internet.



(Continued on page 2)

President's Column: Susan Catler Volunteering Helps TI and Builds Connections

Without volunteers, Tifereth Israel cannot function. But volunteering is not just a necessary duty for those who can, but also an opportunity to connect to others, to widen your world, and most importantly, connect to our community. Many of the close friendships in our congregation develop when people meet while volunteering together.

At TI we need all types of volunteers so whatever your interest, there is a volunteer opportunity for you.. Below I give examples of volunteer slots we are currently seeking to fill.

Would you like to help the less fortunate? If so, consider becoming the next coordinator for the donations we collect in the wicker basket in the Juniper Street

lobby. The coordinator works with the Social Action Committee, deciding what we should collect and when, and makes arrangements for publicity and delivery of the collected items.

Would you like to help our members attend our services? We need someone to join the Gimilut Chesed Committee and

(Continued on page 2)



Notes from the Rabbi (continued)

To begin, I have CD's of many services: Friday night, Saturday morning (Pesukei D'Zimrah, Shacharit, Hallel and Musaf), and the daily services (Ma'ariv, Minchah, and Shacharit).

I also have CD's that can help you learn Torah trope and Haftarah trope, not to mention Purim Megillah trope, High Holiday trope, the trope for reading Eichah (the book of Lamentations, read on Tisha B'Av), and the special trope for reading Ruth, Song of Songs, and Koheleth.

Do you have relatives coming for your Bar or Bat Mitzvah who have trouble saying the blessings for taking an aliyah? I have a special instructional CD that can help them.

Do you yourself feel a little insecure about singing Kiddush on Friday night? Or maybe you know Kiddush, but don't know the bentshing, the grace after meals?

Or maybe you know Kiddush, and the bentshing, but not the tunes for Shabbat z'mirot (songs customarily sung on Shabbat at home)? Or maybe you'd like some tunes for parts of the Pesach seder? I've got all of this in my database!

Maybe you're an expert, and you know the Shabbat and daily services, but a relative has just called to ask you to sing at a funeral or a wedding in the family.

Or maybe there's something that I haven't thought of, that you could use some musical help with—if so, let me know, and I will try to help you.

When our new website comes online, you may be able to put these tracks directly onto your own electronic devices, without having to go through me. But even now, this music is amazingly easy to access. (It wasn't so long ago that I had to make copies with a tape-dubbing machine in my office—a machine that was barely functional.)

Please give me a call, or send me an email, if you think any of what I have mentioned might be helpful to you. It gives me a lot of pleasure when people ask for my music.

When I hear that they have learned from it the pleasure is doubled, and when I hear them actually sing it....that is true naches!

Rabbi Ethan Seidel

The Menorah Tifereth Israel Congregation

7701 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20012-1495
Voice: 202-882-1605 FAX: 202-829-0635

info@tifereth-israel.org
Office hours: M-Th 9-5; F 9-3
(Often open in evenings and on Sundays.
Appointments are recommended.)

Rabbi: Ethan Seidel, ext. 102
Rabbi Emeritus: A. Nathan Abramowitz, ext. 106
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. 101
Facilities Manager: Steve Ross, ext. 114

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

Menorah Editor: David (Judy) Cohen
Copy Editors: Robert Rovinsky, Lionel Cherry
Photography Editor: Jeff Peterman

Menorah submissions:
menorah@tifereth-israel.org

President's Column (continued)

arrange for rides to services for those who need them. The coordinator fields requests for rides and finds congregants who live nearby who can provide a lift.

Would you like to help decide who will govern our congregation? If so, consider serving on the Nominating Committee that recruits candidates for our board of directors. We select the Nominating Committee in February or March, so if you would like to serve on the committee or on the board, now is the time to let it be known.

If you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, or any other type of volunteering at TI, please contact me. And thank you for considering doing this vital work for our congregation.

New Members

Jared Garelick

Allan and Judy Tulchin

Allan and Judy have had a soft entry into TI membership. They began coming a few years ago, but since then have spent as much time away from the Washington area on various academic leaves as they have been here.

Both of them are academics. Judy is in the math department at Georgetown University, where she specializes in mathematical population biology. She uses mathematical methods to model things like the spread of invasive species.

Allan, who has a long commute to Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania, teaches French history, specializing in the period from the Renaissance to the Revolution. He published his first book this

summer, *That Men Would Praise the Lord: The Triumph of Protestantism in Nimes, 1530-1570*.

Allan notes that in addition to being the most Protestant city in France, Nimes holds some interest for its Jewish history, but that would be another book.

Allan and Judy have two children, Hillel, who just turned three, and Lena, who is 18 months old.

Besides his research, Allan enjoys cooking, and especially baking. Judy has had a sideline as a noted Lego sculptor, for which she has won a number of prizes.

Welcome to TI to the Tulchin family!

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

Upcoming Carlebach Services

Carlebach-style Kabbalat Shabbat Services are scheduled for the Friday evenings of February 25, March 25, April 22 and May 27.

These services feature spirited congregational singing and a relaxed atmosphere. They are followed by a Shabbat family dinner.

Participation in the dinner requires advance reservations. The cost is: adults - \$18, youth (8-12) - \$13, and children (3-7) - \$8.

Mark your calendars now and call the synagogue office for dinner reservations.

Lilmod U'ilamed (To Learn and to Teach)

Eitan Gutin

There is a story told of a man who yearned to study Torah. He had not studied a lot yet, did not even have most of the basic skills that such study required, but his love of Torah was like a fire burning inside him.

Unfortunately, there were only two ways to get into the yeshiva in his town—one had to either be a great scholar already (which he was not), or to pay an entry fee (which he could not afford). For many days he tried everything he could to convince the guards at the door of the yeshiva to let him in. He tried reasoning with them, he tried begging and pleading, once he even tried bribing them with what little he had, but to no avail.

Climbing the Roof

One day, in the middle of summer, the man noticed that there were windows in the roof of the yeshiva, placed there for ventilation. Since the man wanted to learn Torah no matter the obstacles in his path, that evening he brought a ladder to the back of the building and climbed the roof to listen in on the lessons of Torah being taught below him.

At first the man was nervous, fearing that he would be caught. However, as the hours sped past and he listened in on secrets of the Torah that he had never dreamed possible, he realized that no one could see or hear him. He cried tears of joy that he had finally found a way to study Torah.

As the months passed the man returned to the roof of the yeshiva every night except Shabbat. There was always something new to learn, and he could not bear to miss a lesson. As summer turned into fall, and fall became the cold of winter, the man continued to climb the roof and

listen as the scholars below him taught and argued about the Torah.

One night a great snow storm arrived just as the man was settling in for another night of study, taking him by surprise. It got so bad that he could not see his own hand in front of his face! Realizing that he was in danger, he moved to climb down from the roof, but slipped and fell through the skylight and into the yeshiva below. Miraculously, no one was hurt, though a few scholars and books did get wet.

Immediately the questions started. Was he OK? Where did he come from? What was he doing on the roof? Slowly the man's story emerged, about wanting to be part of the house of study and being denied entrance, about discovering the skylight and listening in for days on end.

Throughout the questioning, the Rosh Yeshiva (head of the yeshiva) listened quietly. As the man finished his story everyone looked to the Rosh Yeshiva, wondering what he would do about this stranger who fell through the skylight.

The Rosh Yeshiva Responds

The Rosh Yeshiva sat for a few minutes with a serious look on his face, then began to smile. "We were wrong," he said. "We were wrong to make this yeshiva one with closed doors. How are we to know how many other Jews like this man are out there yearning to study but lacking the knowledge or means to enter?"

From that day forward, the yeshiva opened its doors to all, and the study of Torah spread throughout the village and the surrounding countryside

with a strength and passion that had been unmatched before. The man was welcomed into the house of study with open arms, and many years later became one of its most beloved teachers. Word spread, and from that time on Jews worldwide did their best to make Jewish learning open to all.

TI's Open-Door Policy

Here at Tifereth Israel we pride ourselves on providing as many opportunities for study of Jewish texts and concepts as possible. In the winter and spring of 2011 TI is offering over 100 separate opportunities to study Jewish text, Jewish values, or to build on your Jewish skills. We have an open-door policy so that anyone who wishes to is welcome to join us for learning.

Through the TI Adult Education Catalog, Tifereth-Israel.org, and other forms of communication we are doing our best to make sure that all of our members know what we offer and when we are offering it. Learning at TI is accessible regardless of background or experience with Jewish texts and concepts.

Even though we have only just started the winter/spring learning season, Joshua Furman and the Adult Education Committee are already looking for teachers and possible classes to offer in the fall of this year. If you have something you would like to learn or teach, please do not hesitate to contact either me or the Adult Education committee with your ideas.

In the meantime, watch your emails and read the catalog, and join us for some high-quality Jewish learning. You will not be disappointed!

Department of Lifelong Learning

Eitan Gutin

Adult Education

Here are some highlights of the February adult education calendar. Check the TI website and watch your email for even more opportunities to learn:

Biblical Heroes: Role Models for Contemporary Women? with Maxine Grossman. Sunday, February 6th, 10:15 - 11:30 am • Sponsored by Kol Nashim.

One of the reasons we return to the text of the *Tanakh* time and again is that each time we re-examine it, we understand the world and our place in it in a new way. By looking at some examples of famous women in the Bible, we will try to answer the question "How does the Bible imagine possible roles for its women characters?"

Maxine is a TI member and an associate professor of Judaic Studies at the University of Maryland.

From Silver Spring to the Western Wall: My Four Years in Israel with Michele Sumka. Shabbat, February 12, 1:00 pm • Reamer Chapel • Co-Sponsored by Kol Nashim.

Michele will be speaking about some of her personal experiences during her years in Israel. In particular, this session will concentrate on her davening with the Women of the Wall, *Nashot HaKotel*, and with finding her great-grandfather's grave on the

Mount of Olives, *Har HaZeitim*. Both of these activities came together in her last months in Israel, which she left in August 2010.

Michele had been a tourist in Israel seven times before she moved there, but living there was a totally different experience. She has been a member of TI since 1977, was on the committee that established the TI Nursery School in 1986 and was Director of the Nursery School from 1988 to 1989, when her family moved to Kenya. Before moving to Israel in 2006, she and her husband lived in Sarajevo, Bosnia for four years.

Abraham Joshua Heschel: A Life of Compassion, Commitment and Responsibility with Rabbi Abramowitz. Shabbat, February 26, 1:00 pm • Reamer Chapel.

There is no question that the voice of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel is just as important today as it was during his lifetime. His was a voice that called on us to think about God in a real and meaningful way; a voice that challenged the leaders of our nation to heed the call of true leadership through justice, humility, compassion and righteousness; a voice that still calls on us to embrace and love Shabbat, mitzvot and the uniquely Jewish path that the Torah, interpreted for our day, invites us to live.

Rabbi Abramowitz took every class with Heschel that he could

during his five years of rabbinical school, and even served for a time as Heschel's secretary. Join Rabbi Abramowitz as he shares a selection of Abraham Joshua Heschel's teachings and his own memories of what it was like to learn from this great man. Special focus will be given to Rabbi Heschel's passion for taking action on issues of civil rights and equality.

The Chai School

The Chai students are just now completing a unit on Jewish Values taught by Mollie Berch. In this unit Mollie has confronted the students with statements about Jewish values, in particular values related to service. The students are finishing this unit by deciding how to best implement the values they are studying within the TI community. We are very excited to see what ideas for serving the community the Chai class comes up with.

Family Service

Our second Family Service of the year is scheduled for the morning of February 5. We welcome you and your children's participation. The TI Family Service is open to day school and public school families alike, and is led by the children of TI. Join us for this unique service. Then join the entire TI community afterwards for a kiddush prepared and partially sponsored by a number of TI's families with school-aged children.

Social Action at Tifereth Israel

Stephen Nelson

When my wife and I joined Tifereth Israel more than 20 years ago, one of the deciding factors was TI's commitment to social action. While I have been an active member of the Social Action Committee over the last few years, and we have participated in programs such as the Martha's Table Van Run and the Luther Place dinners, for one reason or another, we have missed most of the Social Action Shabbatons.

However, after an inspiring program, January 15, on Julius Rosenwald and the story of the Rosenwald schools, I'm going to make it a point not to miss any more.

Julius Rosenwald was the son of German Jewish immigrant parents. He was born in 1862, during Abraham Lincoln's first Presidential term, in Springfield, Illinois, Lincoln's home.

A Career of Philanthropy

After earning millions of dollars as an executive and part-owner of Sears, Roebuck & Co., he turned his attention to the plight of black Americans suffering under Jim Crow. His philanthropy in that area was extensive, and his creation, the Rosenwald Fund, helped sponsor a number of African American writers, artists, and musicians.

Rosenwald is best known for his alliance with Booker T. Washington, and his sponsorship of more than 5,000 schoolhouses for black schoolchildren facing exclusion from public schools under the "separate but equal" standard set by the now-overruled and discredited Supreme Court decision of *Plessy v. Ferguson*.

In recent years, there has been a renewed interest in Rosenwald's contributions. Two participants in the

January 15 Social Action Shabbaton are in the process of completing retrospectives of his work.

Deutsch and Kempner

Washingtonian Stephanie Deutsch is completing the book *You Need a Schoolhouse: The Story of Booker T. Washington, Julius Rosenwald and 5,000 Rosenwald Schools*. At the same time, filmmaker Aviva Kempner (*Partisans of Vilna*, *Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg*, *The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg*) is finishing a documentary film on the Rosenwald Schools.

Joining Ms. Deutsch and Ms. Kempner on the dais were Ralph Eubanks, Director of Publishing at the U.S. Library of Congress and an author in his own right (and a student at a Rosenwald School in Mississippi), and Erika Scott, Rosenwald's great-great granddaughter, who largely rediscovered him during her college years, and wrote a thesis on his philanthropy.

Key Issues

At the discussion, several important points were brought out. One was that most of the teachers at these schools were graduates of Tuskegee University, the school that Booker T. Washington founded. Another was that Rosenwald set up a program of "matching funds," so that his contributions had to be complemented by monetary and other contributions from the largely-destitute communities in the South. In this way, those communities would gain "ownership" of the schools.

Finally, these schools would in most cases become the public schools for the black community in the "separate-but-equal" education system in



these Southern states. As a result, educators were faced with another significant challenge--to develop a curriculum that had integrity but would not run afoul of the white power structure.

Influence of Rabbi Hirsch

Kempner referred to Rosenwald as "one of the unsung heroes" of Judaism. But interestingly, both Kempner and Deutsch pointed out that there was an "unsung hero" responsible for the making of that "unsung hero."

In his early days of social conscience, he was befriended by Rabbi Emil Hirsch, the Rabbi of Chicago's Sinai Congregation, who provided much of the impetus behind his contributions to the African-American community. Rosenwald did not appear to be a particularly observant Jew, but Hirsch provided that important anchor in leading Rosenwald to accomplish tremendous results in the world at large.

The Role of Social Action Today

That leads us back to the role of social action in the modern synagogue. In today's world, where poverty and joblessness seem to be on the rise, Judaism must continue to be in the forefront in making this world a better place.

Today's injustices may be a bit more complicated than those faced by Julius Rosenwald, but they are still out there, and need to be addressed.

Tlers Serve Lunch to Shelter Residents “Erev” Christmas



At Adams Place



At Harriet Tubman



At John Young

Kol Nashim

Paula Flicker



Wine, Cheese, and Games

Thank you to Ray Natter and Margie Odle for organizing the Wine, Cheese, and Games night on January 8. Over 40 people attended. Many intensely concentrated on Boggle, Scrabble and bridge, while the rest of us focused on less intense games such as Jewish Apples to Apples. Thanks to Mark Verschell for the lovely and informative wine tasting.

February 6 Brunch and Lecture

Dr. Maxine Grossman will present *Women in the Biblical Tradition: What Exactly is Women's Role*, Sunday, 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., in the TI Library.

What kinds of "role models" do we find among the women in the biblical tradition? How do the heroines of the Hebrew Bible compare with those of the Christian New Testament? And what should we

take away from a study of those roles?

Dr. Grossman is an Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and Religious Studies, University of Maryland. It will be a real treat to hear and talk with Maxine, a professor described by her students as "a wonderful teacher".

February 12 SHALEM Program

Michele Sumka will present *From Shepherd Park to the Western Wall: My Four Years in Israel*, Saturday, 1:00 p.m., in the Reamer Chapel.

This is a SHALEM (Shabbat Afternoon Learning Monthly) program sponsored by the TI Adult Education Committee and Kol Nashim.

Michele will speak about some of her personal experiences during her four years in Israel. In particular, she will

concentrate on her davening with the Women of the Wall, *Nashot HaKotel*, and with finding her great-grandfather's grave on the Mount of Olives, *Har HaZeitim*.

Michele has been a member of TI since 1977 and was Director of the Nursery School from 1988 to 1989, when her family moved to Kenya. Before moving to Israel in 2006, she and her husband lived in Sarajevo, Bosnia from 2002-2006.

Mitzvah Knitting

Upcoming knitting/crochet dates are **February 7** and **March 7**, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Join us for knitting, crocheting, or just some good conversation. We can teach you to knit or crochet. Contact **Ellen Zwibak** if you have any questions.

February Highlights at Tifereth Israel

February 5	Family Service
February 6	Brunch and Lecture on Women in the Biblical Tradition
February 7	Mitzvah Knitting
February 12	SHALEM Program, Michelle Sumka's Experiences in Israel
February 25	Carlebach Kabbalat Shabbat
February 26	Adrienne Goldstein Bat Mitzvah
February 26	Rabbi Abramowitz on Abraham Joshua Heschel

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Barbara Raimondo

Travels Far and Wide

Diana Zurer reports from Los Angeles on the birth of a new granddaughter, Anja Marie Swanson Zurer, daughter of second son, Michael, and wife Monica. Anja joins 2 ½-year-old big sister Noa. All are doing well and Diana and Jim are loving their grandparenting duty.

Diana just spent two weeks in Israel, traveling with her sister from Dayton, Ohio, on a family mission group sponsored by the Dayton Federation. It had been too long--15 years--since the last visit. Diana reports that it was great being in Israel, seeing family and seeing some of the changes that have taken place. Not so great traveling with a group with many kid-oriented activities, as Diana's fondly remembered days of camel- and donkey-riding are over. The blizzard in the northeast U.S. postponed their return, but it was not so bad to have an extra three days in Israel.

Diana and Jim will be staying put for a while, with a trip to Florida for spring training planned for March, and the usual wonderful month in Italy after Pesach. Ah yes, the usual wonderful month in Italy.

Jessica Weissman and her partner, Louise Kelley, spent the last wonderful week of 2010 in Barcelona, exploring the city with a side trip by train to the Pablo Casals museum in a lovely seaside town.

Claudine Schweber and **Ed Koren** survived the secular holiday season by going to Philadelphia, visiting the new Jewish Americans Museum and attending the "MooShuJew Show" on Christmas Eve sponsored by the Kimmel Y. Two hundred fifty people gathered in a Chinese restaurant to eat, talk, and be entertained by three

comedians. Line of the evening: "Jewish guy walks into a Chinese restaurant . . ." This was the third year of the event. Check it out: <http://www.mooshujewshow.com>.

Pearl and **Larry Schainker** spent some time visiting their daughter, Rachel, her husband, Yossi Shanava, and two grandchildren in California. A focal point of the trip was skiing at Heavenly Mountain in Lake Tahoe. According to Pearl and Larry, the scariest image seen on the mountain was Israeli-born Yossi Shanava skiing down a blue slope while talking on his cell phone. Guess you could say he was talking a blue streak while skiing a blue peak.

Travels of the Heart and Mind

Some of you may remember **Joanie Chase**, a member of TI until about seven years ago, when she moved to Santa Fe. She was ordained as a rabbi on January 9 in Boulder, Colorado, through Aleph: The Alliance for Jewish Renewal. **Michele Sumka** attended the ordination, as well as the Shabbaton leading up to it and was very moved by the *kavannah* and singing.

Dennis Kirschbaum will have three poems appear in a poetry anthology, *Life in Me Like Grass on Fire*, being published by the Maryland Writer's Association. He also wrote the introduction for the section of poems on first love, lost love. Looks like that English degree paid off.

Aylat Lifshitz, daughter of **Lisa Traiger** and **Kobi Lifshitz**, performed in the Musical Theater Center's "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" at Olney Theater Center, where, as the smallest cast member, she played a

mother. Aylat is a 10th grader at Walter Johnson High School.

Rona Fields was a special guest speaker at "For the Love of a Son" at Busboys and Poets. The event was part of the YWCA's efforts around "Gender Genocide: Combating Violence Against Women."

Barbara Raimondo's next-door-neighbor's vet's mother-in-law recently returned from a trip to Iowa City. She pronounced it "better than applesauce cake!"

Sad News

Martin Israel Leff, father of **Elizabeth Leff**, died in Brandon, Oregon, after a long illness. The funeral took place in Oregon.

Maxine Grossman's father, Gilbert P. Grossman, also passed away. The funeral was in Richmond.

And **Howard Sumka's** mother's husband, Norman Steinberg, passed away in Boston. The funeral and shiva took place there.

May the loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *wisenheimer*: "smart aleck." (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 fulsome edition of Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers.

Bat Mitzvah

Hi, my name is **Adrienne Goldstein** and my bat mitzvah is on February 26. My parashah is *Va-Yakhel* and is about the building of the Tabernacle.

I am in 7th grade at Washington International School. In my free time I like to play soccer and basketball. I also like cross-country skiing. I enjoy reading realistic fiction and being with my friends. I am a very big fan of the University of Maryland women's basketball team. For my bat mitzvah project, I am tutoring a second grader in the Shepherd School program, and plan to continue after my bat mitzvah. I hope you can attend my bat mitzvah.



Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

February 4

Samuel & Heinke Waldbaum
 Harry Waldman & Susan Morse
 Marc Warshawsky & Vivian Seidner
 Matthew Watson
 Deborah Weilerstein
 Marc & Deborah Weinberger
 Jon Weintraub
 Michael Weiss & Phyllis Stanger
 Jessica Weissman

February 11

Dov Weitman & Sylvia Horwitz
 Alan & Cynthia Weitz
 Howard & Barbara White
 Howard Wial
 Louise Wiener
 Jonathan Wilkenfeld
 Peter Winch
 Adam & Dorothea Wolfson
 Marion Zatz
 Christopher Zeilinger

February 18

Yohannes Zeleke
 James & Diana Zurer
 Ellen Zwibak
 Luis & Karen Acosta
 Andrew Afflerbach & Joanne Hovis
 Miriam Alpern
 Jon Alterman & Katherine Lariviere
 Timothy Anderegg & Lisa Fogel–Anderegg
 David & Felice Anderson
 Jerry & Charlotte Anker

March 4

Leonard Bachman
 Jessica Badt
 Sidney & Heike Bailin
 Ethan & Jodi Balis
 Mr. Justin Bank
 Paul & Esther Bardack
 Burt Barnow
 Charles Baum
 Leonard & Joy Baxt
 Bruce & Laurie Berger

March 11

Mollie Berch
 Mark & Mona Berch
 Carl Bergman & Marjorie Odle
 Judith Berland
 Barbara Beuchert
 Dana Beyer
 Sean Blake & Larisa Aranbayeva
 Martin Block & Renee Comet
 Sheri Blonder
 Gideon & Lisa Blumenthal

March 18

Irving Borochoff
 Lenora Borow
 Ron & Dina L. G. Borzekowski
 Nat Bottigheimer & Eve Ostriker
 Ronald S. Bowyer
 Larry Bram & Lise Krantz
 Leonard Braverman
 Michael Britton
 Sharon Brown
 Stephen Burd & Laura Schiavo



TI Homecoming: Celebrating the People and Spirit of TI



Cocktails, Dinner, Silent Auction, Live Music & More...

April 3, 2011
5:30pm - 9:00pm

You won't want to miss it! Share the joys of the past, celebrate the present and think about the future. We'll have delicious food, wine, the amazing TI auction, a one-of-a-kind raffle, and special "spring fling" programming for kids!

What you can do now!

Tell us whom you know! Send an e-mail to rsiskind@gmail.com with the name, address, & e-mail of former members and your children who grew up at TI.

Help solicit donations – Ask your favorite restaurant, store, salon, fitness center, etc. if they'll make a donation (actual item or gift certificates welcome!). Donation forms will be available on the TI website and in the TI office.

Donate something yourself – Be creative. Have a skill or service to offer or teach? Like to cook, bake or host a party? Want to lead a hike, bike ride or nature walk? Have a vacation house you can offer? Fill out a donation form and submit it to the TI office.

Buy a raffle ticket! Buy a chance to win Bernie Shleien original art work! Three pieces of his beautiful artwork are being raffled off. Tickets: \$10 each or 3 for \$25. 1st winner, 1st choice; 2nd winner, 2nd choice; 3rd winner, 3rd choice! Empty wall space? Need to upgrade your décor? Original artwork by Bernie is the way to go! E-mail tiadmin@tifereth-israel.org to purchase your tickets now! The more you purchase the better your chances to win!

Summer Camp Recommendations

A lively Listserve conversation resulted from a request for feedback on the experience of members' children at Jewish summer camps. Here are some of the responses, grouped by camp.

Camp Moshava

My daughter Rebecca ADORES Mosh. It's an absolutely highlight of her year. We chose it in part because it's not at all a materialistically oriented group of kids. The basic orientation is countercultural.

But you need to know that it's not a highly structured, academic environment in this camp, which is run by people in their early 20s. Sometimes, it's pretty disorganized. Also, as you'd expect, given the camp's labor-Zionist origins, Mosh is not a very religiously-oriented place. Shabbat is special, but that specialness can involve Friday night movies, for example. Instead of "ruba-dub-dub, thanks for the grub, yea God!" the abbreviated bentching ends with, "Yeah, workers!"

Here's what Rebecca says: "Mosh is the best place ever. It's like my second home. Once you go there, you'll be going back every year. I don't know anyone who went there one year and didn't come back. Everyone's so nice and welcoming. Everybody's there for you. Also, after the first two weeks, your parents come, so you get to see them, which is really fun."

--Stan Dorn

I am partial to Moshava because all three of my children went there, as well as their mother in the 1950s. My youngest met his wife there, proposed to her there, and married her there--so now there are four children in my family with Moshava experience.

It is not religious, but does promote some traditional Jewish practices

(Friday night kiddish, oneg shabbat, fast on Tisha B'av,) but it is primarily secular and Zionist in orientation. There is (was?) work every day--not onerous, but hopefully engaging--plus discussions, singing, dancing, scouting, sports, and hikes.

[Once] there was a three-day Maccabiah with two other Habonim camps...As with Ramah, there is a great deal of *ruach* among the campers and most of the staff have been campers themselves. [A] lot... depends on the child-camp fit, but in my experience, which ended some 50 or so years ago, the vast majority of campers liked it enough to think 10 months ahead to the next year.

--David Silber

[W]e are also a Habonim family. Both my children went to Mosh, Josh went on to become *tzevet* at Galil, and Myriam was a *madatz* last summer at Mosh...I'd like to add some more information.

First..., there is Avodah every morning. Campers have the option of working in the garden, where they grow the vegetables for dinner, working with animals, cleaning, building something for the camp, painting murals, or buildings, etc. Years later, they still point to what they've done with pride.

Second, Shabbat is observed through a Friday night dinner and different programming on Shabbat itself. The day ends with Havdalah...Shabbat services are... [offered]...,but they are optional.

Third, the [summer] between 10th & 11th grade the campers join with their age *kvutza* from throughout North America ...[for most] of the

summer in Israel. [They] tour and learn about Israel [and] participate in Yom Habonim where they meet members from all over the world.

This past Friday night we hosted Myriam's *kvutza*...of 48 teens...from the MBI trip.... [T]his spoke to the bonds that are formed through the Habonim connection...[The way] they interacted and cared about one another spoke volumes....32 of them stayed over, and the next morning I woke up to find the Habonim "elves." had cleaned my kitchen and basement.

Lastly, the fact that neither my 22-year-old nor my 17-year-old has yet outgrown their involvement speaks to the ability of the movement and camp to reach the children on many different levels.

--Lynn Golub-Rofrano

Joshua was sent off to Habonim camp Moshava with instructions to return exhausted, filthy and taller. And so he did. He also returned each year a little more self-reliant and self-confident, and that continued through the summers in which he worked for Habonim (albeit at a different camp, Na'aleh). He made friends through Habonim that he (at age 27) has to this day, including his fiancé. Sending him there was one of the best decisions we made for him.

-- Mark L. Berch

My daughter also went to Mosh and absolutely loved it. She had a loft bed at home and put her Mosh pictures on the ceiling so that the first thing she saw every morning and the last she saw at night were Mosh pictures. She is 28 now and is still close to her Mosh *Kvutza*. She not

(Continued on page 13)

Summer Camp Recommendations (continued)

only went on the 11th grade summer program but to the Habonim Workshop (a year in Israel following high school graduation).

Because of her Mosh experiences she became politically involved in college, forming a group on her college campus called the Union of Progressive Zionism, and went on to become the Executive Director of the organization on a national level when she graduated. Mosh not only involved her summers but her life experienced since then.

-- **Ruth Shapiro**

I want to second [the] recommendation[s] about Mosh. It's definitely modeled a kibbutz-like atmosphere, and the kids have chores. Ben was painting murals, and Hannah was tending the garden. They are going back this year for a month.

As for the Zionist Worker things, Hannah came home telling us we can't shop at WalMart because they don't treat their workers right.

One of the most amazing things to me was not just how much the kids we spoke to loved it, it was just how much the Mosh experience became a lifelong one.

The daughter of our CSA farmers rooms at college with a couple of Mosh buddies, goes on trips with others, and worked there every summer. This year she aged out of being a counselor, and so she went back as kitchen staff for part of the summer (and kept an eye on our kids).

-- **Mark Verschell**

My son, now 31, went to Mosh and it became the center of his life, first as a camper, then to Workshop in Israel, then as a counselor and camp cook. My daughter, now 35, went to Mosh for 4 years...and liked it, but

she did not get heavily involved. [T]hen at a friend's urging, [she] went to a Ramah camp on the upper Delaware River. She said the Ramah camp was good and all the kids loved it, but they didn't know what they were missing. The camp had much less "spirit" than Mosh.

The camp has had good years and less good ones, but the former outweigh the latter.

-- **Joe Davidson**

Camp Ramah

Our two kids (almost 13 and almost 16) have had great experiences at Camp Ramah in Palmer, which is the highlight of the year for them.... [I]t is the opposite kind of place [to Moshava] in most respects.

Because it is connected to the Conservative movement, it is more religiously oriented, including daily davenning (spirited and led by enthusiastic young people). It is more structured, and has lots of organization and oversight by a large staff of trained adults. Most of the direct supervision, of course, is by teen/young adult counselors, whom our kids have loved.

There are the usual kind of outdoorsy camp activities, like swimming, archery, and a rope-climbing course, and there is also free time for kids to spend with their friends. Shabbat is made special, with kids dressing up for Friday night and Saturday morning, and a Saturday afternoon of quiet down time.

In common with Mosh, the kids who go to Ramah generally love it and feel strongly connected with their camp friends. Some of that probably reflects that camp generally is just so much more fun than real life, and some reflects the self-selection (or careful selection by parents) that sends kids to the place that fits them

best. Another consideration is how much Jewish observance is already in the kids' lives. Kids who go to day school might love the davenning, or they might be so tired of it that it isn't special.

Kids in public school might find the spirited praying by their peers a revelation, but others might not. Our kids have friends who have loved Young Judea as well. In sum, there are good choices available, and you have to think of what your own kids' needs and interests are.

--**Jared Garelik**

Our two children spent their summers at Ramah. It was a great experience for them.

--**Naomi Revzin**

Camp Shomria

[T]here are great options out there. You need to choose...based on your politics/philosophy, desire for religiosity, level of supervision, location, and not to mention, budget.

My kids do NOT go to Moshava, but rather Camp Shomria. This is a Hashomer Hatzair (socialist Zionist youth movement affiliated with the Kibbutz Artzi) camp in Liberty, NY. More liberal (yes!) than Habonim, and less religious. They have a working farm that the kids tend to and rely on for many meals. Hebrew and *avodah* are part of every day. Music, art, *teva* and hiking trips. My kids adore it and the deep friendships they have made.

I sent them because I, along with my brother, sister-in-law and many, many life-long friends, attended. By the way, another TI member, Melissa Perera, was in my *kvutza*; we've never lost touch and still cherish our times at Shomria.

-- **Dina Borzek**

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