



The Menorah

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President's Column: Joel Cohen Persona

You might notice that my picture has changed. The previous picture was the respectable one, one that looks a little more like a synagogue president's picture than this one. But this picture is the REAL me.

This is my true persona: the long-haired hippy politician. (Ask our fellow congregant Len Bachman. In the old days, we were hippy politicians together – except that his hair was always short.) Now that it is too late to replace me as president, it is safe for me to share the REAL me with you.



Two Photos, Two Eras

But before I get to the point of my article, if there is one, please allow me to digress – not only are the two pictures of me symbolic of the two eras in which they were taken, but the photographers themselves are sort of symbolic of the two periods, the 70's and our new century.

Photographer Peter Cunningham and his girlfriend, singer-songwriter Janis Ian (the little Jewish girl who was famous by the age of 13) were neighbors of mine in the 70's. If you know Peter's work, you know that his iconic album covers of Janis are as typically 70's as her music. Peter was the one who took the above photo of me.

to start a business with a friend of his. The business was Google, which probably symbolizes the 21st century more than any other single venture. This is undeniable proof that, in the span of years between the two photos, more than just my hairline changed.

How Others See Us

In his poem *To a Louse*, Robert Burns said, "O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us, to see oursels as others see us. It wad frae monie a blunder free us." The last line might be right, that it might save us from more than an occasional blunder, but I'm not sure that overall we want or even need to know how others see us.

In contrast, I have known the photographer of my previous Menorah photo, Sergey Brin, since he came to the US at the age of six when his father became my colleague at the University of Maryland Math Department. As a young man, Sergey earned a degree from Maryland in Math and Computer Science and started graduate work at Stanford. He quit school

Despite the fact that my son Sam refers to me constantly as "bald," this new picture is exactly how I imagine myself, and it is what I point to in order to show Sam how wrong he is.

Speaking of how others see us, several years ago, a teenage girl wrote to Ann Landers for advice about what to do about

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President's Column (continued)

another girl in her school who, because of some birth defect, wore a leg brace and walked funny. The letter writer explained that this girl acted completely normal and didn't seem to pay any attention to the fact that she wore a brace, and she fooled around and joked with all the other kids just as if she were normal.

The girl wanted Ann Landers to tell her how to get this girl to start recognizing her handicap and stop pretending to be normal. I don't remember exactly how Ann replied, but she probably handled the situation with her usual iron-fisted finesse, pointing out that the writer was more "handicapped" by her limited viewpoint than was the girl by her braces.

I imagine the girl in the braces was a lot happier not knowing how at least one person saw her. Here is a case

where someone's self-image was healthier and more accurate than the vision another had of her.

Since we are now approaching the High Holy Days, the period of deep introspection and also the period in which TI holds its annual appeal, you should know that scientific studies have proved conclusively that the single most important positive measure of self-image depends on the amount that one donates to his or her synagogue. Psychologists recommend at least a 10% increase each year.

I know that for each of us, our self-image – our personal persona – is extremely important and just as complex. How do we see ourselves? How do others see us? How do we compare to who we used to be? These are good questions to be asking now, not only of ourselves, but also of our community.

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Social Action Sunday October 9

Join other Tiers in Social Action!

10 a.m.

Bake a casserole for the shelter operated by So Others Might Eat (SOME) and drop it off at TI. The Tuna Casserole recipe is now on the TI website!

4:30 p.m.

Support those who are hungry. Join us as we drive a soup-and-sandwich van for Martha's Table, serving dinner to homeless men and women on the downtown DC streets.

6-8:30 p.m.

Cook and serve dinner to 25 women living in Luther Place Church's N Street Village.

New Members

Jared Garelick

Alexander Laufer and Jennifer Siegel

Alex and Jen, both originally from the Boston area, moved to this area a few years ago, after spending time in San Francisco and other places.

Jen is a tax attorney with a Masters Degree in Law (LLM) from NYU in that interesting specialty. After having been a clerk at the US Tax Court, she is now a staff attorney there.

Alex has spent the past 15 years working as a lab manager in the biotech industry. He was recently downsized from his last job and is actively looking for a new one. TI members in the lab business might give him a call.

Alex and Jen live in Silver Spring with their two sons, Jonas, 6, and Abraham, 4. Jonas has just begun learning at TI's Himmelfarb Religious School.

They are a rather outdoorsy family, and Alex has a special interest in cooking, having dabbled in catering at various times.

Desiré Douglas

Desiré found TI after feeling lost at a different synagogue. She called and asked if TI welcomes people of color. The answer, of course, was "yes."

She visited, liked the service, and became a member after completing her conversion. She is happy to find a friendly place with the feeling she was seeking.

Desiré grew up in Cameroon, where her grandfather was Jewish. She came to this country in her early 20's, around 20 years ago. She has eight children, although they spend much of their time in Africa for school.

Desiré has started her own moving company, and also does hair braiding and weaving on the side.

Welcome to this month's new members!

Natrasand Paintings

Julie Steinberg's fall Judaica art show is now hanging in the Cherner auditorium until the end of December.

Eighteen of the paintings are part of the series *Life Passages in the Torah*. Come participate in the *Life Passages* challenge by guessing which Torah *parashah* or story each painting represents.

The other half of the show features a variety of subjects from nature in Israel to holidays. Media include pastel, prints, fabric painting (challah covers), and more natrasand paintings, including clocks.

For more information contact the TI office or Julie at jsteinberg2@zzapp.org.

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

Summary of TI Board of Directors Meeting August 8, 2011

Attending: Renee Brachfeld, Susan Catler, Joel Cohen, Deena Dugan, Josh Furman, Sara Goldberg, David Levy, Paula Martin, Stephanie Roodman Murdock, Margie Odle, Debbie Pomerance, Naomi Revzin, Vivian Seidner, Lynne Snyder, Jevera Temsky, Daniel Turner, Chris Zeilinger.

Excused: Varda Fink, Esther Herman, Ruth Shapiro, Frank Solomon, Mark Verschell, Susan Vitale.

Absent: Jeff Davidson, Seth Glabman

Staff: Eitan Gutin, David Zinner

The meeting was called to order by President Joel Cohen at 7:03 p.m.

Approval of Agenda. Without objection, the agenda was approved.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes. The minutes of the July 11, 2011 Board Meeting were adopted without change. Chris Zeilinger moved adoption of the summary. Without objection the summary as amended was adopted.

Membership Report. One new couple has joined, and the New & Prospective Member event last night had three couples who were very positive.

Middle East Panel. J St. Metro and TI will sponsor a panel on the September Situation – Palestinian and Israeli Initiatives at the UN, four speakers, Thursday night, September 8.

Ritual Committee. Jevera Temsky reported on progress. Master spread sheet seems to be working. We will do a survey after Yom Kippur. Friday night attendance continues to be way up.

High Holiday Committee. Susan Catler reported on training sessions.

High Holiday Food. We will sell takeout food for Rosh Hashanah.

Executive Director. Jeff Davidson and Varda Fink are doing a survey in preparation for a contract renewal. Joel Cohen, Chris Zeilinger and Susan Catler will work on negotiating the contract.

Finance Committee. Chris Zeilinger reported on designated funds. He reviewed the history of income and expenses of designated funds from 1997 to the present. We have a Fund Policy that covers creation and management of designated funds. Questions should be directed to Chris Zeilinger.

Project Coordination Committee. President Joel Cohen announced that he was appointing the following to the committee: Devorah Kimelman-Block, Louise Wiener, Deena Dugan, and the Vice Presidents for House, Building Preservation, Finance and Development. Chris Zeilinger will chair. It is hoped that they will report by the end of the calendar year.

Annual Appeal. Naomi Revzin kicked off the Annual Appeal by distributing pledge cards to the Board. TI depends on a successful annual appeal to do the things we want it to do. Suggested amount is 10% above highest amount given in last 3 years.

Lifelong Learning Committee Reports. Josh Furman discussed the new Youth Committee. On Adult Education, many Fall events are planned. Our Fall catalogue will be ready after Labor Day. Eitan reported that we will be hosting two concerts in the next two months. Himmelfarb registration is

progressing nicely. Eitan encouraged attendance at the retreat. Eitan also reported on the New CAJE conference. He will co-chair the event next summer.

Photo Directory. Prior ones were in 2006 and 2009, so we plan to do one in 2012. We will take pictures in September 2011. There is no budgetary cost to TI.

Good and Welfare. Eitan appreciated that TI uses realistic budgeting. David Levy reported that Irv Borochoff would appreciate telephone calls and rides to shul. Lionel Cherry would like calls and visits. David Levy had successful surgery and his daughter will be married this weekend.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned without objection at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Catler, Acting
Recording Secretary

Food for Shepherd's Table

Until Sunday morning, October 23, TI will be collecting non-perishable food for Shepherd's Table in the wicker basket in the Juniper Street lobby.

Especially needed are: pepper, salad dressing, hot sauce, canned vegetables, canned soup, spices, coffee, creamer, and Sweet-N-Low or other sugar substitutes.

Kol Nashim

Paula Flicker



September Program

Devora Kimmelman-Block gave a fascinating talk entitled *KOL Foods and the New Jewish Food Movement*. Kol Foods, Devora's business, started out of her own interest in purchasing *glatt* kosher, 100% grass-fed meat.

What she started as a hobby turned into her full-time job. She found herself immersed in the politics and intricacies of both the food industry and kosher-certification.

She now is working towards selling her meats to institutions such as hospitals or universities. These markets have their own challenges.

After all, she cannot simply provide hundreds of "minute steaks," for example.

If she gives another talk at TI, such as a SHALEM presentation, don't miss it! It will be more interesting than you might expect. Thank you, Devora.

Upcoming November Program

On Sunday morning, November 13, **Naomi Reem**, head of The Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capital, will be speaking on building a caring community among young children and with the adults working with them. Save the date and watch for additional details.

Entertainment Books

Entertainment Books are not just paper! They can provide more than just the coupons in the book. Register your Entertainment Book online and you will receive additional coupons by e-mail.

We have Entertainment Books for both Maryland and Virginia. The cost is \$30. These books contain discount coupons for a wide range of places and services such as car wash, movies, and hotels. Pick one up at the office or at TI events this fall.

Friday Night Minyan Assignments

October 14

Daniel & Allison Turner
Ruth & Michael Unterweger
Emmanuel & Marilyn Vegh
Mark Verschell & Elizabeth Leff
Rachel Vile & Michael Gotthelf
Susan Vitale
Nancy Voisin
David Wachtel & Jennifer Goldstein
Harry Waldman & Susan Morse
Marc Warshawsky & Vivian Seidner

November 4

Matthew Watson
Marc & Deborah Weinberger
Jon Weintraub
Michael Weiss & Phyllis Stanger
Jessica Weissman
Dov Weitman & Sylvia Horwitz
Alan & Cynthia Weitz
Howard & Barbara White
Howard Wial
Louise Wiener

November 18

Peter Winch
Adam & Dorothea Wolfson
Marion Zatz
Christopher Zeilinger
Yohannes Zeleke
Diana Zurer
Ellen Zwibak
Alan & Judy Tulchin
Luis & Karen Acosta
Andrew Afflerbach & Joanne Hovis

November 25

Miriam Alpern
Jon Alterman & Katherine LaRiviere
Timothy Anderegg & Lisa Fogel-Anderegg
David & Felice Anderson
Charlotte Anker
Leonard Bachman
Jessica Badt
Sidney & Heike Bailin
Ethan & Jodi Balis
Justin Bank

Join Kol Nashim

Shirley Rosenberg and **Anne Woods** designed the lovely bookmarks that will be, or have been, sent to you with your TI bill. The bookmarks are a reminder to you to contact the office to join Kol Nashim if you're not already a member.

Membership in Kol Nashim is \$25 per year and supports our activities at TI.

Mitzvah Knitting

The Mitzvah Knitting group has plenty of wool, but without your help we CANNOT continue! PLEASE let us know if you are interested in participating and if so, what night would work for you. Contact **Ellen Zwibak** at ellen.zwibak@aig.com or 202-686-7171.

Nayes un Mekhayes for Tiers

Barbara Raimondo

Just Like Dad

Sam Cohen, in his first year at Saint Anselm's Abbey School, was the first sixth grader to receive the "Sartorial Splendor Award" for best-dressed student. Pretty good for a kid who wears a uniform to school!

Mike and **Lisa Kraft** returned from helping their daughter, **Dina**, and family move in August from Tel Aviv to Cambridge, Massachusetts. Dina, a journalist who has written for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, The New York Times, Associated Press and other publications from Israel and Southern Africa, won a Nieman Foundation Journalism Fellowship at Harvard.

Her husband, an architect, has a fellowship in urban and transportation planning at MIT. Their two children enrolled in a synagogue nursery school. Earlier, with their son, **Daniel**, a physician scientist, and granddaughter, **Alex**, from Pal Alto, Mike and Lisa spent a reunion week in Vermont.

In August, **Ophir Lifshitz** was a member of the U.S. team in the International Linguistics Olympiad, held at Carnegie Mellon University, where he received an honorable mention. The worldwide competition brought together 102 high school students from 19 countries. Ophir is a freshman at the University of Maryland College Park.

Lisa Traiger and **Kobi Lifshitz**, along with daughter, **Aylat**, will be visiting relatives in Haifa during Rosh Hashanah. Aylat spent a great summer as a leader in training at Capital Camps.

Just Like Mom

Marisa Schweber-Koren, daughter of **Claudine Schweber** and **Ed**

Koren, has expanded her radio repertoire: she continues her monthly book talk and interview show, "From the Back of the Stacks" (which she also edits), is developing a music/DJ radio program, and shares Teton County (WY) Library events in a creative way.

You can hear Marisa's program on topics such as evil characters, rock memoirs, literary magazines, and -- her mom's favorite -- books you loved but whose main character you hated, at <http://tclub.org/index.php/books/audio-reviews/>. Looks like being in Jackson, Wyoming has been an air-raising experience for Marisa!

Abby Dugan is engaged to **Gabi Weisel**, who was in her grade at JDS, though they apparently didn't notice each other until senior year. They've been together ever since. Gabi works at M&M/Mars and lives in New York. Abby just started her third year teaching first grade in New York. The whole Dugan family loves Gabi and is looking forward to an enhanced home chocolate supply.

Just Like Their Plain Ol' Selves

Inspired by the movie, **Steve Heller** is working on his "bucket list." He managed to get into sea-plane school this summer, and after 47 take offs and landings -- presumably in that order -- he is now a certified air and sea pilot. He is waiting for water in the reflecting pool to show off his skills. The FBI is standing by.

In the meantime Steve has been taking small flights to see the sights from the air -- most recently Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse in the West, and of course, the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

Closer to the ground, **Bruce Heppen** once again finished the Parks Half-Marathon, a 13.1 mile run that is not exactly a walk in the park. Go Bruce!

The **Levones** made their big summer getaway camping out at Letchworth State Park in upstate New York. Letchworth is a beautiful spot recommended by the nature-loving **Kimelman-Blocks**. Hiking, s'mores, and hot dogs on a stick were highlights -- along with making and eating dinner in the pouring rain, experiencing Niagara Falls -- wait, that "pouring rain" was Niagara Falls! -- and visiting the Glass Museum in Corning, New York.

And added to that long list of names of folks who attended the National Havurah Institute with **Howard** and **Barbara White** (see the previous N un M) are TI'ers **Naomi** and **Dinknesh**. Howard and Barbara apologize for the omission and offer a second prize if you can guess the last names!

Sad News

The granddaughter of **Ruth Speight**, who has helped in the TI kitchen for many years, passed away recently. She was buried in Maryland.

Evelyn Brown, mother of TI'er **Sharon Brown**, died at age 93 after a long illness and was buried in Wilkes Barre.

And **Julia W. Fernbach**, mother of longtime member **Harvey Fernbach**, died after a long illness. Condolences to the family and loved ones of all who have passed.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *canicular*: "of or relating to the dog days (the period between early July and early September when the hot sultry

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The Future of the Mollie L. Berch Library

Michelle Sumka

Last spring, after Mollie sent a letter to the listserve expressing her concerns about the management of the library, I offered to help. She accepted my offer, and I went in periodically to shelve books and perform other tasks.

After she became ill, I intensified my involvement and attempted to learn everything I could about the library. Mollie explained how she selected, ordered and categorized new books.

Agreeing to Run the Library

When it became clear that she couldn't continue working with the library she asked if I would take it

over, and I agreed. I will try to live up to Mollie's confidence in me and continue to run the library that bears her name.

I intend to do so in Mollie's spirit as much as possible. However, there was so much that Mollie did that I can't possibly do it all by myself. I need some help.

I need a committee that will advise on book purchases, how to maximize the number of people who use the library, and on possible improvements, such as putting a computer back in the library so people can search for books.

Volunteers Needed

I also need volunteers who can come in one day a week for an hour to enter books into our computer catalog, <http://www.librarything.com/catalog/TiferethIsrael>, shelve new and returned books, and remove any cups, napkins, or other "stuff" that have found their way into the library.

A few people have already agreed to help with some of these tasks, but I need more. If you are able to help out, or have suggestions about how to manage or improve the library, please contact me at msumka@gmail.com. Thanks very much. Shanah Tovah.

Foundation for Jewish Studies Courses

Aggadah's Influence in Development of Law in the Torah, Rabbi Ita Passing, Tuesdays, October 18, 25, November 1, 12:00-1:30 p.m., JCC of Northern Virginia, Fairfax, 703-323-0880. \$35 for FJS members & \$45 for non-members.

An Overview of Jewish Liturgical Music, Cantor Sharon Steinberg, Tuesdays, November 8, 15, 22, 12:00-1:30 p.m. JCC of Northern Virginia. \$35 & \$45.

Responsa of the Holocaust, Rabbi Nissan Antine, Wednesdays, October 26, November 2, 9, 12:00-1:30 p.m. JCC of Greater Washington, Rockville, 301-881-0100. \$35 & \$45.

Ezekiel: Prophet of Majesty, Mystery, and Hope, Rabbi Joshua Maroof, Wednesdays, November 16, 30, December 7, 12:00-1:30 p.m., JCC of Greater Wash. \$35 & \$45.

Three German Jews Rediscover Their Judaism: Scholem, Rosenzweig, and Buber, Dr. Michael Berenbaum, Monday, October 17, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Ohr Kodesh Congregation, Chevy Chase, 301-589-3880. Free

Between History and Memory: Rethinking the American Jewish Past, Dr. Hasia Diner, Thursday, October 27, 7:30-9:00 p.m., JCC of Greater Washington. Free

Did Women Study Torah in the Talmudic Period?, Dr. Judith Hauptman, Thursday, November 3, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Temple Shalom, Chevy Chase. Free

Looking in on Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, Dr. Ziony Zevit, Thursday, November 10, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Agudas Achim Congregation, Alexandria, 703-998-6460. Free

Mystics as Legal Scholars; Legal Scholars as Mystics

The Villager and the Flute: Hasidic Tales that Contravene Jewish Law, Washington DC JCC, Thursday, November 17, 7:30-9 p.m. Free

Rabbi Akiva: The Mystical Prayer of a Legal Authority, Ohr Kodesh Congregation, Chevy Chase, Sunday, November 20, 7:30-9 p.m. Free

Maharal: The Mystic as Legal Scholar, Temple Shalom, Chevy Chase, Tuesday, November 22, 7:30-9 p.m. Free

Nayes un Mekhayes (continued)

weather of summer usually occurs in the northern hemisphere)." (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 this edition from your favorite purlieu of Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers.

Bat Mitzvah

Hi. I'm **Esther Kimelman-Block** and my bat-mitzvah is on October 29 (also known as my sister's birthday). My *parashah* is *Noach*. I live in a place called Eastern Village Co-housing in Silver Spring, not far from TI, with my awesome parents, my older little brother, Natan, my sister, Simone, and my younger little brother, Micah.

I like dancing, acting, and playing sports, especially soccer. I play the piano, but I am starting to think about playing another instrument. I am really into the clarinet and the fiddle. I like to hike and go camping and I really like adventure.

I go to school at the Takoma Park Middle School. I started in seventh grade because I just graduated from the Jewish Primary Day School (JPDS) last year. I went to a new camp called Eden Village Camp. They had a cooking class with a chef who was awesome, and put on a play (*Peter Pan*) and I was Michael.

My bat mitzvah project was the National Walk for Epilepsy which raises money for the National Epilepsy Foundation. It was fun to do it with my Aunt Jessica. She wanted to do a fundraiser for epilepsy after I got epilepsy in the beginning of school last year. I raised \$2,800 dollars and was totally amazed.



October Highlights at Tifereth Israel

October 1	Egalitarian Hagbah Class, 1 p.m.
October 2	Introduction to Family Genealogy, 10:15 a.m.
October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Monday Learning, <i>Parashat HaShavuah</i>, 11 a.m., Job Club, 1 p.m.
October 7-8	Yom Kippur (see page for full YK schedule)
October 9	Social Action Sunday
October 13-14	Succot I and II
October 15	Tot Shabbat Service, 11:10 a.m.
October 16, 23, 30	American Jews and the Civil War
October 20	Shemini Atzeret
October 21	Simchat Torah
October 29	Esther Kimelman-Block Bat Mitzvah

Memories of the Middle East Situation

Michael B. Kraft

The dispute over the efforts by Palestinian Authority President Abbas to obtain UN recognition of a Palestinian state reminds me of some of the often-overlooked history of the long running Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

I was too young when the State of Israel was created in 1948 to now remember more than my parents' pleasure and their worries when the Arab states rejected the original United Nations effort to create two states in the former British mandate and invaded the new Jewish state.

Judging, however, by the lack of context and sense of history in most of the commentaries and blogs about the current dispute in the UN, a lot of writers and pundits seem to have forgotten the Arab rejection of the U.N. partition plan that would have given the Palestinians their own state sixty-three years ago.

The Suez Crisis

I viewed the 1956 Suez crisis through the prism of a college student. I still remember Arab and Israel students coming into the offices of *The Michigan Daily*, the college newspaper where I was a sophomore assistant night editor, with their heated complaints about one story or editorial or another.

Of greater importance, was the anger of President Eisenhower (remember him?) against the British-French-Israeli operation and his pressure on Israel to pull back.

The Six Day War

The 1967 Six Day war is more pertinent to what is happening now.

Following assignments in Africa and a trip back to London via Israel before that war, I was a young editor on the Africa and Middle East Desk of United Press International in London. We handled the raw cables and telexes coming in from our correspondents in the Middle East, rewriting them into polished stories. I was to be in the second wave of correspondents sent to the front but the war ended before we could get transportation.

Diplomatic Maneuvering

During the buildup to the Six Day War, with the reports and television footage of mass demonstrations in the Arab capitals and the frantic diplomatic maneuverings, the tension was palpable. It escalated after UN Secretary General U Thant acceded to the Egyptian blockade (an act of war) of the Israeli port of Eliat by withdrawing UN "peacekeeping" forces from the Straits of Tiran, the gateway to Israel's only port outlet to Asia and Africa.

In London at the time, a major effort was being made with Washington to form an international fleet to steam through the waters and break the blockade. The Johnson administration was telling reporters that several nations agreed to take part, including the Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand.

A couple years later when I was working in Washington, I ran into the Australian Foreign Ministry official who headed their Middle East section. He told me that his government had not actually agreed to send ships, but were still trying to figure out how long it would take for their frigates to reach the Red Sea.

Arab Game Plan

Israel's pre-emptive air strike on June 6 against the Egyptians came after the diplomatic efforts failed and a tremendous emotional wave for war was roiling the Arab "street."

The basic Arab game plan called for Egypt to attack from the south, Syria from the north and Jordan across the narrow waist of Israel, cutting it in two. Jordan ignored the Israeli warnings to stay out of the war and the Israelis first blocked the attacks and then counterattacked, focusing on the main road junctions and Jerusalem itself.

My teeth grind whenever I read a press article, including in the "quality" papers, that just flatly says Israel "seized" the West Bank, as if it woke up one day and decided to move against the Jordanians, whose Arab Legion grabbed the West Bank and the Western Wall in Jerusalem during Israel's 1948 War of Independence.

Michael Oren Book

Must reading for anyone who wants to understand the situation is *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East*, by Michael Oren, written when he was a history professor, before becoming the Israeli ambassador to the U.S.

It is an excellent account of how Egyptian President Nasser, with Russian prodding and misinformation mischief-making, set into motion the events that led to the war and the Arab loss of the West Bank and old Jerusalem.

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American Jews and the Civil War

Josh Furman

This past April, Americans across the country marked the 150th anniversary of the attack on Fort Sumter, the first shots fired in the Civil War. Between 1861 and 1865, soldiers from the Union and Confederate armies fought over the issue of slavery as an American institution and way of life, as well as the issue of national unity versus states' rights.

When Confederate general Robert E. Lee surrendered to the Union at Appomattox Court House in April 1865, and when President Lincoln was assassinated just five days later, while enjoying a play at Ford's Theater, the course of American history was changed forever.

Jewish Role Underappreciated

We all acknowledge that the Civil War and its aftermath constitute a central, defining event in American history on multiple levels. However, because the war ended some twenty years before the ancestors of most

American Jews arrived in this country, the Jewish experience during the Civil War unfortunately remains an understudied and underappreciated subject.

Correcting the Slight

Luckily, both on the national scene and here at TI, we will be working to correct this slight over the next few months.

After all, about 10,000 Jews fought in the Civil War -- 7,000 for the Union Army -- and Jewish women raised money and provided care on the home front. During the Civil War years, American Jews demonstrated patriotism and bravery, confronted anti-Semitism, and fought for their rights and equality beside other Americans on the battlefield.

Interestingly, they also debated the morality of slavery, turning to Judaism and the Old Testament to justify their positions.

Three-Session Class in October

This month, I'll be teaching a three-part class on the Jewish experience during the Civil War. We'll meet on the Sunday mornings of October 16, 23, and 30 to discuss how Jews experienced the Civil War, and how the Civil War changed Jewish life in America. We'll read the words of soldiers, rabbis, and sympathizers on both sides to try to capture what the Civil War meant to those Jewish men and women who lived it.

In the winter of 2012, we'll have a screening of the new documentary film, *Jewish Soldiers in Blue and Gray*, which dramatizes Jewish life during these turbulent years. We are working on organizing other events as well.

I hope you can join us for some or all of these programs, and I look forward to doing my part to increase awareness of American Jews' connections to this pivotal moment in our nation's history.

Memories of the Middle East Situation (continued)

Yom Kippur War

During the 1973 Yom Kippur War, I was covering Congress for Reuters. Based on a leak from a State Department briefing, I filed one of the first reports that the tide had decisively turned when General Ariel Sharon crossed the Suez Canal with his tanks.

A good portion of the Egyptian army that had crossed into the Sinai was cut off. But to this day, the Egyptians ignore the second part of the war and many believe they won it.

Two decades later, when my daughter, Dina Kraft, started working for the AP bureau in Jerusalem, I had an email exchange with a friend who had been the Reuters bureau manager in the 1973 war. We observed that there was now a second generation of journalists covering the conflict.

My former colleague and I both noted that we could almost brush off our old stories, just change the names of the Secretary of State or the Israeli and Arab leaders, and the articles would hold up pretty well.

A Third Generation

Now, with little sign of progress (as of this writing) we wonder if there will be a third generation.

How many more persons will lose their lives because the Arab governments rejected a separate Palestinian state in 1948 and said "no" when Israel offered to give the West Bank back in exchange for peace after the Six Day War.

Book Review: Frank Solomon

A Prophet's Wife, An Unfinished Novel by Milton Steinberg

Milton Steinberg, the late rabbi of the Park Avenue Synagogue in New York, died before I was born, but he continues to live in the world of serious Jews as an intellectual, teacher, philosopher, theologian, and writer. Had he not died prematurely, he could have supplanted Mordechi Kaplan as the founder of Reconstructionist Judaism.

Called a “prodigy of prodigies, genius of geniuses” in his New York City College class yearbook, Steinberg is best known for his *As a Driven Leaf*, which portrays the inner conflict of the modern, secular Jew torn between Western cultural values and Jewish loyalties. Six decades after his death in 1950, the novel has become a must-read for every serious student of Judaism and rabbi-wanna-be.

An Unknown Second Novel

While Steinberg wrote other well-received books, including *Anatomy of Faith*, *The Making of the Modern Jew*, *Basic Judaism* and *A Partisan Guide to the Jewish Problem*, *As a Driven Leaf* was thought to have been his only novel. Few people knew that Steinberg was working on another novel when he died.

The Prophet's Wife was released last year with an unfinished ending. From its title and luscious jacket, one might expect this new novel to be another attempt to cash in on the trend of recent sexually-suggestive fiction using biblical themes. But this is not trashy fiction that tries to appeal to our senses.

Like *As a Driven Leaf*, Steinberg's second novel is another attempt to fuse literature, theology and Jewish traditions to delve into the mysterious relationship between human beings and God, and continues the same

intellectual, metaphysical-like dialogue.

Hosea and Gomer

The prophet Hosea is the novel's protagonist. He lived in the northern kingdom of Israel in the mid-8th century BCE. Little is known about his personal life other than that God commanded him to marry a woman who he knew would be unfaithful, symbolizing the unfaithfulness of the Israelites to God. Hosea marries the beautiful Gomer and starts a family, but she betrays him by having a relationship with his brother.

The core of the novel is the relationship between Hosea and his beautiful but unfaithful wife. While Hosea lusts after Gomer, she confesses she does not love him, but only marries him to escape her miserable home life. After Hosea divorces her, Gomer goes to live with Hosea's brother. Hosea is not sure if he is the father of her two children.

Steinberg weaves a plausible biography of Hosea, painting him as having doubts about the conventional religion of his contemporaries, its focus on animal sacrifices and its polytheistic assumption that the Israelite God is a national deity rather than the supreme ruler of the world.

Influence of Amos

Steinberg uses the account in the Book of Amos to elaborate the prophet's denunciation of the sacrificial cult in Beth El and his subsequent banishment by the high priest. Hosea encounters Amos and is profoundly affected by his prophetic fervor.

The book leaves us with a heartfelt, ironic, even comic-tragic scene—

Hosea helping to defend the king's palace against an attempted coup led by his brother, countering bows and arrows with his own flesh and blood.

We do not know how the book would have ended. As he lay dying in his hospital sickbed, Steinberg continued to work on the novel, describing an impending battle scene and premonitions of the angel of death.

How It Might Have Ended

One could imagine that Hosea would defeat his brother and reconcile with Gomer, make a public declaration that God had arranged all these events, and, as in the words of the real Hosea, that Israel would be scattered into the wilderness as punishment for being unfaithful to the Lord. With repentance, God would take the Israelites back in love, as Hosea takes back Gomer. (The final chapter of Hosea is recited in the synagogue on Shabbat Shuvah, the Sabbath of Repentance before Yom Kippur).

While we will never know how Steinberg would have ended the novel, we do know that by the time he died, he was less interested in philosophical threats to Judaism than in the mystery of the relationship between man and God, through the metaphor of the relationship between husband and wife. We also know that his beautiful words in the novel, his last public utterance, would live long after his death.

Steinberg legacy looms much bigger than his short life. His works continue to infuse, enliven and clarify our lives with his unique combination of deep God-centered piety, his philosophical brilliance and lucidity, and his warmth and compassion.

Yom Kippur

Friday, October 7, 2011 - Kol Nidre

- 6:00 PM Activities and Babysitting for children 18 months to grade 3
- 6:15 PM Services in both Wolman Sanctuary and Cherner Youth Activities for grades 4-7 begin after Kol Nidre chanting

Saturday, October 8, 2011 - Yom Kippur

Wolman Sanctuary

- 8:45 AM P'sukei D'Zimrah & Shacharit
- 10:30 AM Torah Reading
- 11:30 AM Sermon - Rabbi Seidel
- 12:00 PM Yizkor Memorial Service
- 12:30 PM Musaf
- 3:30 PM Mincha
- 5:00 PM Talk and Discussion – Stan Dorn
- 6:05 PM Neilah
- 7:25 PM Shofar & Ma'ariv

Break Fast Immediately following the Service, by advance reservation only (required by August 31)

B'yachad - Cherner Auditorium

- 9:30 AM Shacharit
- 10:15 AM Torah Parade & Torah Reading
- 11:15 AM Yizkor (children 10 and up are welcome) followed by Musaf

Services for the remainder of the day in the Wolman Sanctuary

Reamer Chapel

- 10:30 AM Tot Service, following the *B'Yachad* Torah Parade (time approx.), for children 18 months to 5 years together with their parents

Youth Activities & Babysitting

- 9:30 AM Babysitting opens for children 18 mos. to 5 years
- 10:00 AM Quiet room (reading, studying) opens for children grades 4 to 7
- 10:30 AM Youth activities begin for children grades K to 2
- 11:00 AM Youth activities begin for children grades 3 to 7
- 12:30 PM Activities end; supervised play begins for all ages
- 1:00 PM Babysitting and supervised play ends

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