



The Menorah

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President's Column: Joel Cohen Building a More Caring Community

First, I want to thank the Congregation for giving me the opportunity to serve as President. I also want to thank Susan Catler for all she has done in the past two years, especially in implementing the new congregational structure.

When I was first nominated, fellow congregants asked me what my plans were for my time in office. To tell the truth, I had not given it much thought. My hopes could probably have been summed up as: "Get through the term, leaving TI no worse than when I started." It is a synagogue version of the Hippocratic Oath.

But starting from the time I was elected I found myself cc'd on many issues that I had not really considered. I discovered a lot about TI, and maybe a few things about myself. I came to realize that there are some issues that are important to me, and a few specific things I would like to get done. Since I believe that change can only come if the whole congregation is on board, I would like to start this conversation now.

Making TI More of a Community

I hope to make the congregation even more of a community. We certainly are a community in many ways. For example, the number of congregants who regularly attend Shabbat services is about the number one expects to see in a Conservative synagogue of about three times our membership.

Another example of community is our pioneering Funeral Practices Committee, which helps members cope with the emotional and financial burdens resulting from the death of a loved one. Working

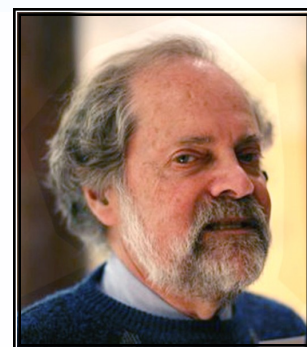
under a metro-wide contract with a local funeral home, our Rabbi and the Funeral Practices Committee arrange low-cost,

traditional funerals for our members and their dependents. Congregational volunteers assist the bereaved by handling all funeral details, planning meals, and arranging minyanim during the week of mourning. This committee, which is so integrated into the TI congregation, did not arise by itself fully formed. It came as the result of a congregational retreat many years ago.

Where Community Spirit is Lacking

There are, however, some ways in which the community spirit is lacking. One example: I know of at least three cases during the past several months where a member has been confined to the house or a hospital room, and had almost no visitors or callers except the Rabbi.

The changes that I want to propose can be summed up by the phrase, "a caring community." This is a very broad and general term. Who wouldn't want to be part of a caring community? We would all like to be cared for, and it might be nice if David Zinner and his staff would take care of every one of us, but that is not quite what I had in mind.



(Continued on page 2)

President's Column (continued)

The idea of a caring community came from discussions of the committee set up to implement the suggestions voted on at the last retreat.

A few years ago, we started several *havurot*. Some of these took off and have continued to be active, while others have fallen by the wayside. Part of the idea of the *havurah* was that everyone in one would feel a responsibility to everyone else in that *havurah*. If someone did not to show up in shul for some length of time, someone would check to see if there were a problem.

Gemilut Chesed Committee

We have had a committee called *Gemilut Chesed* (which means "lovingkindness"), whose principal mitzvah is *Bikkur Holim* ("visiting the sick"). In fact the committee

has gone under both names, *Gemilut Chesed* and *Bikkur Holim*. It hasn't been as active recently as in the past. Rabbi Seidel has been working with a group to reactivate it.

The *Gemilut Chesed* Committee can help build community by making sure that there is someone to help the sick, the injured, the elderly, the families with new babies, and anyone else who needs a hand. It will arrange for visitors, and for help to members in getting to appointments, doing errands, and even putting food on the table.

But the committee will not do all the work. It will, rather, act as a central clearinghouse for all requests for help and offers of assistance. Its work will involve the whole congregation. By making this committee strong, the situations that I described earlier will no longer occur.

The theme of this year's retreat (December 9 – 11) will be based on these ideas. I hope the retreat will build a foundation for using the *Gemilut Chesed* Committee to help make Tifereth Israel a more caring community, just as the Funeral Practices Committee arose out of a retreat.

Let Me Hear from You

Now that I've told you what I want to achieve during my presidency, I'd like to hear what you think I should be doing. You can talk to me or e-mail me at TIPresident@Tifereth-Israel.org with suggestions as to how we can implement these ideas or with ideas of your own. Every one of you can be a part of these changes, whether or not you are able to come to the retreat, by letting me know what you think about the TI community.

Moonlight Hike, August 14

Hike with Chaverim under a full moon! Hikers will go 3.5 miles roundtrip along the C & O Canal from the Old Angler's Inn to the Great Falls overlook. Participants should wear comfortable shoes and bring water, flashlight, bug spray and snacks.

Hikers can join a carpool leaving Tifereth Israel at 7:50 p.m., or meet at the parking area across from the Old Angler's Inn, 10801 MacArthur Blvd., Potomac, Maryland.

For more information, contact John List at 302-656-7623 or listfam@gmail.com.

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New Members

Jared Garelick

Susan Dreiband and Jackie Urbanovic

Susan, originally from Baltimore, and Jackie, who grew up in southeast Michigan, moved to Washington together ten years ago from Minnesota. Susan, who had been a knowledge management officer with the Forest Service, is now retired. She remains busy performing and teaching *Reiki* therapy, which promotes healing through a practiced form of touch that engages energy channels in the body.

Jackie is a children's book illustrator and author. Her picture books include a series featuring "Max the Duck." They were drawn to TI by fellow children's book author, Carolivia Herron. Susan is an active photographer, and they both enjoy reading as well as collecting books and found objects. They live in Silver Spring with their two vocal dogs.

Rachel and Ken Lemberg

Rachel and Ken are Delaware Valley natives, she from Philadelphia and he from Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

Rachel works as an early elementary teacher at Paint Branch Elementary School in College Park. Ken works in the apprenticeship office at the Department of Labor, where he is a training representative.

They both enjoy dancing, and have taken ballroom dance classes together. For the last several years, though, their free time together has been limited. Ken just finished law school in May, taking classes at night while working full-time during the day.

They both like to tutor on the side. Rachel tutors elementary school students in any subject, with a specialty in reading. Ken provides adult career counseling.

They found TI by shul-shopping, charmed by a *drash* Rabbi Seidel gave and impressed with the conversational give-and-take it sparked. Rachel is also an enthusiastic participant in the Rabbi's Hebrew class, where she has made inspiring progress.

Welcome to this month's featured new members.

Jeremy Goldberg Day

Each year on the Sunday prior to Rosh Hashanah, the congregation honors the memory of Jeremy Goldberg -- past president, frequent floor gabbai, house chair extraordinaire, one-man team for High Holiday changeover, and greeter to all -- by inviting volunteers of all ages to help prepare the synagogue for the holidays. This means that children are welcome.

This year the Commemoration Day will take place on Sunday, September 25, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be inside and outside work, sitting and standing responsibilities, and schlepping and stuffing. You do what you can do. Among the tasks are changing the Torah mantles, removing the regular *siddurim* and *chumashim* from the book racks and replacing them with the High Holiday *machzorim*, helping set up for the Cherner service, getting the outside grounds in shape and stuffing folders.

We will have food, of course, for all workers. There is no charge, but you must register by contacting the TI office by September 19.

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

Lilmod U'lilamed: Eitan Gutin

High Holidays Together -- The B'Yachad Service

B'Yachad means "together," and it is the name we chose this year for the High Holiday services in the Cherner Auditorium. Since we are modifying the service, and High Holiday ticket orders are due at the end of this month, I thought it would be a good idea to let the community know what to expect in the Cherner Auditorium throughout the High Holidays.

First, you can expect a **full service**. This is not a learners service, although there will be explanations and discussions. This is not an abridged service. The prayers will be led in the special melodies of the High Holidays and we will be using the exact same *Mahzor* (High Holiday prayer book) as the rest of the congregation.

Child-Friendly & Multigenerational

Even though we will run a full service of prayers, there will be some changes compared to what you have come to expect at the Cherner service. These changes are to **help children feel more welcome** in the service and to enable **multiple generations** to enjoy the High Holidays together in one room.

There will be a number of moments in the B'Yachad service that will be about making TI's children feel welcome. When we take out the Torah we will bring in TI's plush Torahs for a Torah parade. All the children in the building will be invited into the auditorium for one of the sets of Shofar blasts. There will even be a few parts of the services that will be led by TI's skilled teens.

We will, of course, continue to have youth activities and babysitting in other parts of the building. We are even expanding the options this year, with longer babysitting hours

and a quiet reading room for children in grades 4 and above.

More Freedom of Movement

Anyone praying in the Cherner Auditorium will probably notice more movement around the room and even some younger children hanging out near me as I lead the service. Part of making children feel welcome in the space and even enjoy the adult services is giving them a certain amount of freedom to move around.

Along with movement around the room there will probably be slightly more background noise than most Tiers are accustomed to. I will be working with parents and greeters in order to make sure that any additional noise does not reach the point where it distracts us from having a meaningful service.

More but Shorter Discussions

You should not expect a traditional 15-to-20-minute *Drash*, possibly followed by other speeches such as appeals. Instead, there will be a number of short 5-to-7-minute discussions spaced throughout the service. In general we will be trying to limit the amount of speaking in order to keep the service moving and focused as much as possible on the beautiful liturgy of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur.

Involving Children in Yizkor

Yizkor on Yom Kippur morning will offer a special opportunity to invite children and grandchildren who are in at least the 4th grade to be a part of remembering those whom we have lost. Before we begin *Yizkor* everyone in the B'Yachad service will be asked to share one memory --

one story -- of a loved one with someone sitting nearby.

You may end up telling your story to a spouse or a friend; you could also tell the story to your daughter, grandson, or niece. In this way we will enter the *Yizkor* prayer holding on to these important memories and using them to strengthen our memorial prayer.

Unanswered Questions

I am certain that there are still plenty of unanswered questions about the B'Yachad service. If you have questions, please contact me. My email is eitan@Tifereth-Israel.org, or you can call (202) 882-1605 x 105 to discuss the service.

I am honored that TI has offered me the opportunity to work on this new offering for the community. I look forward to running a meaningful and joyful service on Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur.

Dedicate a Prayer Book

Tifereth Israel has purchased 30 more copies of ***The Bond of Life***, the prayer book used for *Shivah Minyanim* at the homes of bereaved congregants.

These books are available to be dedicated.

If you would like to dedicate a copy in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one, fill in an on-line form at [The Bond of Life](#), or call the TI office.

Lifelong Learning

Eitan Gutin

Himmelfarb & Chai Happenings

Registration is now open for the 2011-2012 school year. Families who are currently registered should have already received their packets in the mail. Our enrollment increased by 11 students this year. We plan to continue growing our wonderful school.

Sample Gan and Alef Classes

Do you know a Jewish family who has children in either Kindergarten or the 1st grade, but who are not attached to a particular synagogue or school? If the answer is yes, please send us their contact information so we can invite them to a sample Gan and/or Alef class on **Sunday, August 14**.

The children will get a chance to meet both **Sylvia Edenburg** (Gan) and **Seth Glabman** (Alef). The parents will see the teachers in action, spend time with the Director of Lifelong Learning, and get a full picture of the wonderful experiences that their entire family can have as part of the Himmelfarb School.

Please send information to **Marla Sevi**, TILearning2@Tifereth-Israel.org

Family Service

Save the date. Friday, September 9, will be the first family service of the year, and the kickoff for a full year of great family and youth programs. We will have family-led Kabbalat Shabbat services at 6:00 p.m., followed by a community dinner at 7:00. Watch your email for more information.

Community & Adult Education

The SHALEM program completed its inaugural year with a well-attended session led by Sheila Jelen on S. Y. Agnon. More than 50 congregants gathered in the Reamer Chapel to read Agnon's *Fable of the Goat* and learn about how his unique life influenced the writing of one of Israel's greatest authors.

SHALEM will resume in September with a new schedule of topics and presenters. We promise to make it worth your while to stick around after lunch.

There is no summer break for Monday Learning. Every Monday at TI begins with *Parashat HaShavuah* Class at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at 12, and the Job Club at 1 p.m. All are welcome to join the crowd -- no experience necessary.

Annual Retreat, December 9-11

This year's retreat theme will be about **"Creating A Caring Community."** Registration is now open. At the TI website you will find a link to the retreat information under the "Adult" section of the menu.

Of course, the retreat is not just for adults -- we want to have parents and children together. Throughout the weekend, we will run a high-quality children's program that parallels the adult experience.

If you know you are going on the retreat, **please register before the end of August**. While the retreat is still months away, in the first week of September we will be making important decisions, based on registrations at that point, about how much of the facility to rent.

USY and Kadima

We are gearing up for a great year of youth programs for all ages. The calendars are not yet complete, but here is a taste of what we will be offering this year for **USY** (9th-12th grades) and **Kadima** (6th-8th grades) at TI:

September 9. Opening Shabbat Dinner and Services for TI youth, students, and their families.

September 17. USY Regional Fall Kickoff Dance (Bnai Israel).

October 9. USY Pizza & Sukkah Decorating Party.

October 15. USY overnight under the stars (8th graders welcome).

October 16. Kadima Pizza In The Hut.

October 28-30. Regional Kadima Kallah.

November 4. TI USY hosts teens from around DC for a Shabbat Service and Dinner (tent.).

November 18-20. USY Regional Fall Kinnus in Virginia Beach.

December 9-11. TI Annual Retreat, with special programs for children and young adults.

December 22-29. USY International Convention in Philadelphia, including final 60th Anniversary celebrations.

For information about these or any other programs please contact Eitan Gutin.

Summary of TI Board of Directors Meeting June 6, 2011

Board Orientation

Legal Obligations. Matt Watson, former TI President and expert on the legal obligations of non-profit boards, spoke on the rights and duties of board members: The two rights are to vote and the opportunity to influence other board members. The three duties are care, loyalty, and obedience & cohesiveness.

Board Tasks. At-large members without specified tasks are encouraged to join a committee and to help out when called upon. Each board member then described his or her committee.

Rabbi Consultative Committee

As specified in the Rabbi's contract, the President recommended that the Board confirm the following as the initial members of the Rabbinic Consultative Committee: Susan

Catler (3-year term), Rochelle Heller (2-year term) and Daniel Handwerker (1-year term). The Board confirmed the recommendations.

Building/Fundraising Projects

Second Floor Multipurpose Room.

Eitan Gutin would like to turn the upstairs into the TI Center for Jewish Life and Learning. He distributed a handout with his proposal to turn the three classes on the 16th Street side of the building into a multi-purpose room. The board voted to create a steering committee to study the subject and start talking to major donors for the TI Center for Jewish Life. The Board also voted to create another committee to prioritize potential projects.

Rain Garden and Ramp. Mark Verschell proposed: (a) changing the entrance to the ramp to Juniper

Street rather than the alleyway; (b) adding a curb cut; and (c) adding new native plants and a rain barrel. A landscape drawing was presented.

Memorial Boards. Mark Verchell said that the memorial boards are failing and presented some proposals.

The president proposed creating a **Communications Task Force** to look at several different areas: (a) Communications with the Membership; (b) Communications to the outside world; (c) The Website - Internal and External Communication.

The motion was seconded/passed and the president named Debbie Pomerance, Susan Catler, Dan Turner, Frank Solomon, and David (Judy) Cohen to the task force, and said that others may be added in the coming weeks.

Shepherd School Supplies

Tifereth Israel is collecting school supplies for our neighbor, Shepherd Elementary School. The school has requested the following items:

- Pencils - regular and primary
- Pink erasers
- Marble composition books
- Pocket folders
- Fat crayons
- Glue sticks
- Notebook paper

Place donations in the wicker basket at the Juniper Street entrance to TI.

The collection ends August 19.

Kol Nashim

Paula Flicker



Getting Ready for 2011-2012

The Kol Nashim board has several tentative programs on the TI calendar. We hope to start in September with a talk by **Devora Kimmelman-Block** on her experience starting her own kosher meat business.

Naomi Reem, the Head of School at JPDS-NC, will speak November 6 on building community with children.

We again will brighten up the winter with a Saturday night **Games Night** in January, co-sponsored with Chaverim.

A lecture by **Maxine Grossman**, purchased at the TI Spring Fling, will be presented in February or March. We also hope to have either a panel or speaker on Pesach.

Dates and details will be provided in flyers in the lobby, TI Newsletters, the TI listserve and *The Menorah*. Most of the programs will be Sunday morning at 10:30 and will finish in time so attendees can pick up their children from Hebrew School.

Men are always welcome at all Kol Nashim programs. Sunday mornings aren't just for the New York Times crossword puzzle or book reviews! Attend a Kol Nashim program for education and to get to know TI'ers and your community.

Join Us

Dues: \$25 a year. Call the TI office or sign up on-line. Our dues support our programs and also go to TI projects overall, such as the kitchen renovation.

Mitzvah Knitting

Mitzvah Knitting will **not** be meeting in August. Have you thought about coming to Mitzvah Knitting, but the night we've met hasn't worked for you? Have you come in the past and would like to start coming again, perhaps on a different evening? Would you like to learn to knit or crochet?

Attendance has fallen off recently, so **Ellen Zwibak** would like to know if another night would work better. Is there a night during the first week of the month, or a different week in the month, you would prefer? Please let Ellen know, at ellen.zwibak@aig.com or 202-686-7171.

Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

August 5

Fylis & Perry Peckham
Melissa Perera
Adam & Jessica Perlmutter
Jeff & Cynthia Peterman
Michael Pitch & Elaine Weiss
Joshua Pitlick & Janet Blank
Marjorie Plesset
David Pollock & Judy Kirpich
Aron & Karen Primack
David & Laurel Rabin

August 12

Glenn Rapoport
Jaqueline Rater
Marisol Ravicz
Naomi Reem
Jay Renbaum & Shannah Koss
Arnold & Naomi Revzin
Ruth Reynolds
Howard Riker & Danielle Glosser
Morris & Judy Rodenstein
Joseph Rofrano & Lynne Golub-Rofrano

August 19

Charles Rombro & Pamela Stone
Elliot Rosen & Sharon Cohen
Jerome & Shirley Rosenberg
Merilee Rosenberg
Aviel Roshwald & Alene Moyer
Ari Roth & Kate Schechter
Nancy Roth
Marc Rothenberg & Ivy Baer
Robert Rovinsky & Renana Brooks
David & Stephanie Rubin

August 26

Barak Sanford & Ariana Kelly
Lawrence & Pearl Schainker
Eric & Shira Schechtman
Michael & Mical Schneider
Devorah Schoenfeld
Keith Secular & Susan Catler
Paul Seltman
Hershel & Judith Shanks
Phil & Ruth Shapiro
Yvonne Shashoua

September 2

Bernard & Debra Shleien
Nathaniel Shyovitz
Richard & Marjorie Siegel
David Silber & Eileen Rose
Morton Simon
David & Rona Siskind
Aaron & Reva Snow
Dan & Elizabeth Sokolov
Frank Solomon & Laurie Russell
Louis & Madge Lee Spector

September 16

Phil & Dianne Spellberg
Masha Spiegel
Gregory Stackel & Genevieve Sapir
Jeffrey & Julie Steinberg
Lois Steinberg
Mitchell & Amy Stoltz
Jack Stone & Wilma Brier
Noam Stopak & Shelley Sturman
Edwin Stromberg & Rose Ellen Halper
Jonathan Strum

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Barbara Raimondo

Fireworks

Hey, hey, hey, TI'ers, July's fireworks weren't the only ones seen by our illustrious members! **Barbara White** turned 75 in late June. She celebrated at TI on July 2 by sponsoring the Kiddush, doing part of the Torah reading, chanting the haftarah, and leading musaf -- incorporating both "Yankee Doodle" and "It's a Grand Old Flag." Son **Avi** came in from New Jersey, and daughter **Ilana** and family came from Israel.

Grandson **Sruly** liked trying out the TI playground as well as dancing on the bimah to *Adon Olam*. Later in the week, one granddaughter enjoyed the Takoma Park parade, and the other gave Barbara an excuse to attend a teen movie. Now that visiting family has left, Howard and Barbara are busy trying to stop their computer from inexplicably switching to Hebrew. Ah, yes, the pernicious Hebrew computer bug!

Birthday boy **Chris Zeilinger** celebrated a so-called "landmark" birthday this summer. To ease his transition from one half-century to the next (you call that landmark?), he and his family enjoyed traveling from Alaska to British Columbia with a side-trip to Yukon.

And for his mother-in-law's 90th birthday, family members whisked her away from Missouri and treated her to a vacation in Michigan, where she'd spent some memorable summers back when she was in college. All were inspired to be celebrating 90+ years of vim, vigor and healthy, independent living!

Marcia Goldberg's grandchildren recently passed some major milestones, albeit none of them being their 90th birthday. **Samuel Goldberg** (9) won a bike race against 49 other kids. **Jaren Goldberg** (6-1/2) rode without training wheels for the first time. Wait, it gets better! **Jerusalem**

Weiss (4) put her face in the water and swam. And -- **Shalom Weiss** (12 months) started to walk!

A few weeks later, Samuel and Jaren spent time at Fort McHenry with Savta Marcia. Jaren was given the honor of placing a full-size replica of the Star Spangled banner into a tote bag. Samuel was given the honor of helping to lower a small flag and raise the larger flag that flies over the fort. Never a dull moment with the grandkids!

Written Works

Adult kid **Bruce Berger** reports that, while two of his stories now appear for sale for the Kindle on Amazon's website, including "In Pursuit of Happiness," the story of Rabbi Elliott Bernstein at the fictional Congregation Rodef Simcha, he is preparing his own website and arranging some of his other stories for indie publication as well.

Noting that "Bruce Berger" is an uncommonly common name, he uses "Bruce J. Berger" when he writes fiction. Your faithful columnist asks, really, whose middle name begins with "j" anyway? A new story is coming out in print this month, in *Black Magnolias Literary Journal*, titled "Back to the Front," about racial discrimination in the U.S. military in the lead-up to World War II.

In further military news, **Lafayette** (aka **Ronni**) **Davis** recently graduated from the U.S. Naval War College (NWC) in Newport, Rhode Island. Ronni completed the NWC dual degree program (Joint Professional Military Education/M.A. in National Security Studies in Irregular Warfare).

As a successful graduate student, Ronni was invited to attend the 62nd annual Current Strategy Forum (CSF) at the U. S. Naval War College, exploring the theme of "Energy and

U.S. National Security: Vulnerability and Opportunity."

The JPME Fleet Seminar Program and National Security Studies dual program is a mix designed to provide a broad scope of the future joint force including interagency and multinational cultures and capabilities. The curriculum focus is on how the unified commanders, Joint Staff, and the Department of Defense use the instruments of national power to develop and carry out national military strategy, develop joint operational expertise and perspectives, and hone joint war-fighting skills.

Jobs with Perks

In August, **Loretta** and **Bob Saks's** son, **Daniel**, and wife, **Nikkia**, will move to Mexico City for about two years because of Nikkia's job with Colgate-Palmolive. Looks like Loretta and Bob will be visiting Mexico in the coming year! Better brush up on your Spanish!

Carolivia Herron will also be doing some travelling. She has accepted a position as Project Humanities Distinguished Visiting Scholar at Arizona State University (ASU) for the 2011-2012 academic year. Carolivia will visit ASU four times during the year to work on the *Nappy Hair Handbook* supplement to her children's book, *Nappy Hair*.

Locally, **Rabbi Sarah Meytin** has been appointed to serve on the Montgomery County Public Schools Citizens Advisory Committee on Family Life and Human Development.

Sad News

The father of former member **David Sieradzki**, Benjamin Sieradzki, passed on. Funeral services were held in Richmond, CA, with a shiva

(Continued on page 9)

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers (continued)

minyana at David and wife **Emily Novick's** home. Contributions in Ben's memory may be sent to: U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Western Region; Young Judaea; or the Berkeley chapter of Hadassah.

Chana Berliant, TI's third grade teacher (Kitah Gimel), has lost her father, Mr. Samuel Pinsker. The

funeral took place in New York. May their memories be for a blessing.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, glean: "to gather (as information) bit by bit." (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 being bruited about 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 of Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers.

Wine & Cheese for New and Prospective Members

Tifereth Israel will host a Wine and Cheese Get Together for new and prospective members on **August 7, 4:00-5:30 p.m.** Children's activities will be available.

Members are urged to spread the word to friends, relatives, neighbors or co-workers who might be interested in TI membership. Attendees should RSVP to the TI office **ASAP** (deadline was August 1).

Members who know someone interested in High Holiday tickets, or religious school for their children, or in possibly joining a synagogue, are also encouraged to tell them about TI's Summer/Fall Membership Package.

The package includes: half-price dues for the first year; free High Holiday tickets for the Cherner Auditorium; free religious school tuition for the first child and half-price

for each additional child; and two free Shabbat dinners at TI for the entire family.

Contact information about prospective members should be given to **Sara Goldberg**, at saradgoldberg@gmail.com, or 301-920-1767, so they can be invited to the Wine & Cheese, and for further follow-up.

August Highlights at Tifereth Israel

August 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29	Monday Learning <i>Parashat HaShavuah</i> , 11 a.m. Job Club, 1 p.m.
August 7	Wine & Cheese Get Together for new and prospective members, 4-5:30 p.m.
August 8	Tisha B'Av services, 9 p.m.
August 9	Tisha B'Av Mincha service, 7:30 p.m.
August 14	Sample Gan and Alef Classes
August 14	Hike Under a Full Moon (see box, page 2. for details)

Brainstorming About a Caring Community

Susan Catler

In anticipation of our congregational Retreat on Creating a Caring Community, Rabbi Seidel convened an open brainstorming meeting on July 21. Mona Berch, Susan Catler, Danielle Glosser, Sheryl Gross-Glaser, David Hart, Margie Odle, Ruth (Phil) Shapiro, Michele Sumka attended.

The meeting began with a discussion of the possible scope of TI's efforts. It was noted that several years ago we changed the name of the *Bikkur Holim* (Visiting the Sick) Committee to *Gemilut Chesed* (Acts of Lovingkindness) as this more accurately encompasses what we do.

Goals from Last Year's Retreat

It was also noted that current efforts are an outgrowth of last year's Retreat on Mussar and the two goals we adopted for the community to work on for the following year -- *lifnei seivah takum* (rise up before the elderly) and *mekabel kol adam b'seiver panim yafot* (greet everyone with a friendly face).

It was agreed that we should not duplicate what is available in the larger community and that we need to educate ourselves to know what is available.

Building on Current Activities

The group brainstormed about things TI might possibly do in addition to what we have done in the past – arrange rides to medical appointments, to services or events at TI, and organize meals.

Ideas included: picking up groceries for homebound congregants, and arranging e-mail buddies (someone who gets TI e-mail to regularly call someone who doesn't have e-mail to let them know what is happening at TI).

How to Prepare

The group also brainstormed about how as a community we will need to prepare for taking on more tasks. Training of different types was discussed, as was having in-town sessions to get the input of those who cannot get to the Retreat (or choose not to go).

Just as we need to know what resources are available in the Jewish community and the several jurisdictions where our members live, we need to be aware of the resources within our own community.

Members of our congregation have been hotline volunteers for particular issues or have participated in

support groups. It would be incredibly helpful for Rabbi Seidel to know which congregants who have experience with particular issues are willing to talk to other congregants should those issues arise.

Within our community there has been a reluctance to reveal illness or the need for help. If we are to become a community that is more involved in caring for those who are ill and in need this reluctance needs to be addressed.

First Steps

In the coming weeks two members of the committee, David Hart and Sheryl Gross-Glaser, will be calling congregants who don't have e-mail addresses on file to discuss the best ways for them to keep abreast of what is happening at TI in a timely manner. Rabbi Seidel and Susan Catler will begin putting together a Skill Bank – a listing of people who would be willing to talk to fellow congregants on issues – for the rabbi's use.

If any congregants have suggestions on things the planning group should address, please contact any member of the group. Congregants who would like to be included in future meetings should contact Rabbi Seidel or Susan Catler.

Lotsa Helping Hands

As part of its efforts to Create a Caring Community, Tifereth Israel is using Lotsa Helping Hands, a computer service that makes it easy to both schedule help and alert people that help is needed.

The service can be used to schedule meals for a family with a new baby, visits to a congregant, rides to a service or event at TI, or picking up groceries for a homebound congregant, whenever congregants request such assistance. Over 55 TI'ers signed up the first week registration was open!

To sign up to help someone already on the list, or to be alerted when someone in our community needs assistance, go to <http://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/642923>. For additional information contact Susan Catler at TIIPP@tifereth-israel.org, or 202-277-0119.

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