



# The Menorah

**Notes from the Rabbi: Ethan Seidel**

## Becoming an Expert Accompanist

Becoming an expert accompanist was once a life goal for me. When I began studying as an undergraduate pianist at Oberlin Conservatory, it became clear after just a year that I was not soloist material. But I loved to accompany musicians, especially singers, and that, it seemed to me, was a profession within my abilities. For various reasons (among them, an increasing level of observance which made me uncomfortable playing the piano on Shabbat) I gave up the idea of accompanying as a career.

And yet, on another level, accompanying remains crucial to who I am. I refer to the mitzvah of accompanying the wayfarer. If you have never heard of this mitzvah, I won't be surprised – it was new to me, too, before last week.

I encountered this mitzvah for the first time as I was preparing some of the texts that we'll be studying at the retreat this month.



“Creating A Caring Community” is our theme, and I was looking at texts related to the well-known mitzvah of *hakhnasat orhim*, welcoming the wayfarer, often translated as “welcoming the stranger”, or “welcoming guests”. Some TI'ers fulfill this commandment on a regular basis, inviting

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Inside This Issue\*

<a href="#">New Members</a>	4
<a href="#">Lilmod U'lilamed</a>	5
<a href="#">Lifelong Learning</a>	6
<a href="#">Adult Education</a>	7
<a href="#">Board Minutes Summary</a>	7
<a href="#">Kol Nashim</a>	8
<a href="#">Envir. Comm. Meeting</a>	8
<a href="#">Nayes un Mekhayes</a>	9
<a href="#">Friday Night Minyan</a>	
Assignments	10
<a href="#">Siskind Bat Mitzvah</a>	11
<a href="#">December Highlights</a>	11
<a href="#">Donations</a>	12

\* On-line readers can move directly to any page by clicking on the desired article title.

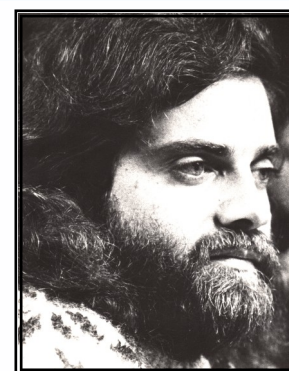
## President's Column: Joel Cohen

### Book Review

I do not often write book reviews. I think that the last time I wrote one I was in high school, probably more than 20 years ago. But when a book comes along that I think will be of interest to everyone in the synagogue, when the subject of the book is a friend of mine, and when the author is a TI member who has promised to take me to lunch, then I feel it is my duty to bring it to the attention of the congregation.

The author is Eric Weiner, better known as the father of first-grader, Sonya Weiner, of TI's Hebrew School. His new book is called [Man Seeks God: My Flirtations with the Divine](#), and will be published on December 5 (although I, your omnipotent president, have already read it). So hurry and reserve your copy. Eric's previous book (a *New York Times* best seller in

2009) was [The Geography of Bliss: One Grump's Search for the Happiest Places on Earth](#).



[Editor's Note: If TI members purchase either book through the links above, TI will get a small commission.]

*Man Seeks God* is a personal year-long journey that Eric undertook, going from country to country, immersing himself in a

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Notes from the Rabbi (continued)

congregants -- old friends as well as new folks -- to their homes for Shabbat and Holiday meals.

So *hakhnasat orhim* is a mitzvah we've all heard of. And many of you may know the example of Abraham, who, despite the fact that he was recovering from a little "operation," waited out in his tent in the heat of the day, greeting strangers and insisting that they stay for a meal (See Genesis chapters 17 and 18 for details).

But as I was studying the classical sources about *hakhnasat orhim*, I learned of the related mitzvah of *accompanying* wayfarers. As it turns out, we are required, when a wayfarer leaves our community, to accompany him or her a minimum distance (a distance that varies according to the status of the wayfarer and the accompanist).

At the retreat this month, we'll study the fascinating Talmudic text (Sotah 46b) in which this commandment is teased out from passages in Deuteronomy 21, Judges 1, Genesis 12, and II Kings 2. And we may take a look at Rambam, who, in his *Mishneh Torah*, appropriately codifies this obligation to accompany a wayfarer a certain distance as he leaves your town. Oddly enough, the later code of Joseph Karo, the *Shulhan Arukh*, omits any explicit mention of this mitzvah, and we'll think about why that might be.

Though the textual details are interesting, I want to dwell for a second here on a broader sense of accompanying, more directly relevant to our time (when travel is safe enough to exempt us from much of the requirement of accompanying wayfarers). If we are all travelers on life journeys, might we not have an obligation to accompany others at crucial junctures in their respective paths?

Isn't "accompanying the wayfarer," in some sense, an idea central to what it means to live in community? It's about being there for others in good times and bad. Visiting the sick, comforting the mourner, gladdening the bride and groom -- really any act of *hesed* could be subsumed under the obligation to accompany the wayfarer.

So, seen in this light, I might still be an accompanist after all, if not on the piano! And so might you be! I like this way of looking at communal mitzvot, because it helps me focus not on my solo work, but on helping others do *their* best work. It reminds me that my worth to the community is less about showcasing my talents, than about helping others realize *their* talents.

When we work together, we are so much more than when we work alone. And it's so much easier to be part of a team, than to go solo. Of course, I knew all this, as a musician, back in Oberlin. But it's nice to relearn it here!

Rabbi Seidel

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

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## Sign Up for Photos

Three days remain to have your family's picture taken for the TI photo directory. There is no cost and each family receives a free 8.5" x 10" picture.

Available days are Monday, December 5; Tuesday, December 6; and Sunday, December 18. To make an appointment go to <http://tinyurl.com/3wcokd7> or call the office at (202) 882-1605.

## President's Column (continued)

local religion. It is written with a self-deprecating sense of humor that reminds the reader both of David Sedaris and of your humble president. For a short (and free) sample of Eric's humor, read his *New York Times* op-ed on the Weiner scandal (Anthony not Eric).

### Bringing the Reader Inside Each Religion

Underneath the lightness of the prose, however, is a seriousness of purpose. Delving into varying types of spirituality – and occasionally mysticism – he is able to bring the reader inside as he examines other religions. "Examines" is too cold a word. The author does his best to embrace each religion, suppressing (but not losing) his skepticism, but viewing each group without cynicism.

Tasting and testing some of the world's major (and a few minor) religions in one year is a daunting task, so Eric chose only a part (sect, order, cult) of each religion to represent it.

For example, Catholicism is presented by a group of Franciscans who run a homeless shelter; Islam by Sufis; Buddhists by the Tibetans, Nepalese, and Wayne from Staten Island; polytheism by American Wiccans; and his "home" religion, Judaism, by Kabbalists in Tzfat. In the case of the Raëlians he goes to the heart of the religion, meeting Raël himself. (Raëlians believe that humans were created by extra-terrestrials called Elohim. Hmm... that name sounds familiar.) We also meet Taoists and Shamans.

For each of the groups, the author introduces us to two or three or more practitioners, sometimes with different takes on the religion. The book is not meant as a short course on religions of the world. It is meant to give us a bit of an understanding of what it is like to practice these religions.

If the title of the book, *Man Seeks God*, sounds like a classified ad, it is intentional. Each chapter is introduced with a classified-sounding introduction such as "CWM, feeling lonely, seeks a god who can ..." (CWM standing for "Confused White Male.")

### Wonderful Use of Language

The best part of the book is Eric's use of language. He is very aware of the sound of each sentence, perhaps a result of his many years as an NPR reporter. Every page is a delight. I started to write down some of my favorite quotes, but I shortly discovered that I was writing down about one out of every three sentences. I will leave you with just one: "Disappointment rarely shows its face before noon. At dawn anything seems possible."

I highly recommend this book for the above-average TI member (which of course is all of us).

## New Member Special

Do you know someone who might be interested in religious school for their children or a great Congregation to join? Tell them about our Fall Membership Package.

The Package includes half-price dues for the first year, free religious school for the first child and half-price for additional children, and two free Shabbat dinners at the shul for the entire family.

Give potential members' contact information to Sara Goldberg! Share Information about the New Member Special on Facebook.

## 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).

<b>Shelly Heller</b>	h: 301-942-1836 w: 202-242-6698
<b>Jeff Davidson</b>	h: 301-593-1335
<b>David (Judy) Cohen</b>	h: 301-652-2872
<b>Marcia Goldberg</b>	h: 301-589-0352

## New Members

### Jared Garelick

#### Herman and Malka Stopak

The Stopaks met in 1947 when Herman, a Baltimore native, spent the summer as camp director of a Habonim Dror camp near Malka's native Winnipeg, where she was on the camp staff. Together, they remained active in the national leadership of Habonim, which is a socialist Zionist movement.

After several years living and studying in New York, with summers spent running Habonim camps around the country, the couple made aliyah in 1951, settling on a Habonim kibbutz. In 1956 they took a leave of absence from the kibbutz to return home temporarily to visit Herman's ailing parents and help out with his father's business.

In the end, the Stopaks stayed here and took over the business, eventually becoming big local competitors in the promotional

products field. Although they sold that business several years ago, they continue to work in that field.

The Stopaks have two grown children and four grandchildren. Many of you know their daughter, Tali, and her family, who are longtime TI members. Herman and Malka are proud that their eldest granddaughter, Miriam, is currently on Habonim's one-year workshop program in Israel, a program Herman helped launch in 1951.

#### Gail Phillips

Gail, originally from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, moved to the Washington area over thirty years ago, and now lives in Greenbelt. She has an administrative position with Johnson Controls. For many years she had done similar work for CSC, but transferred over to Johnson Controls, which now maintains CSC's buildings.

Searching for a friendly synagogue that would not be too distant a drive, Gail remembered TI from her first years in the area, when she stayed with relatives who lived not far from TI. Gail looks forward to involvement in some of TI's varied activities.

#### Rachel and Richard Fieman

The Fiemans are transplanted Gators. They both grew up in the Fort Lauderdale area, and both attended the University of Florida for undergraduate as well as graduate studies.

Richard studied law at Florida and now specializes in patent litigation. Rachel earned a master's degree in special education, and now teaches third grade at Pinecrest Elementary School in Silver Spring.

They recently moved to downtown Silver Spring from elsewhere in the area, and found TI convenient and friendly in their shul shopping. If you haven't seen them yet at TI, you might see Rachel running along the roadside as she trains for her next marathon. Just don't expect to see them out and about while the Gators are playing.

#### Lawrence Baizer and Elaine Lewis

Larry and Elaine left bucolic Portland, Oregon, after 18 years to move to the Washington area about seven years ago. It wasn't the scenery; they came for jobs.

They now work as health science administrators at NIH. Elaine is at the National Institute on Aging, and Richard is at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Both have laboratory basic research backgrounds.

They have two grown daughters: one living in San Francisco, and the other a senior at Washington University in St. Louis. Richard enjoys singing with the Kolot HaLev choir led by Cantor Ramon Tasat.

Welcome to this month's featured new members!

### Clothing Collection

Tifereth Israel is still collecting warm clothing for Martha's Table. Please bring the following items, in good condition, for men or women: Coats, Jackets, Sweatshirts, Hats, Scarves and Gloves.

Place donations in the wicker basket at the Juniper Street entrance to TI. They will be distributed by our volunteers on the Martha's Table Van Run.

The clothing collection ends on December 11.

## Lilmod U'ilamed: Eitan Gutin #OccupyHanukkah

As a Jewish educator, I have to admit that the holiday of Hanukkah has always been a challenge for me.

Do I teach the Talmudic version of the story (the miracle of the oil) or the more historical version (a military version of David and Goliath)? At what age is it appropriate to reveal that if the Maccabees were alive today we would probably consider them religious fundamentalists? Or that the same people we consider heroes were willing to kill their fellow Jews if they had become too Hellenized?

Then there are the experiential aspects of Hanukkah, the hands-on practices that make the holiday tangible -- spinning the dreidel, cooking with oil, latkes and doughnuts. Of course, it would not be Hanukkah if we did not teach about and practice lighting the *menorah* for eight nights.

### Public Menorah Lighting

Lighting the *menorah* is an unusual law in a number of ways, but there is one aspect that makes it unique. According to the Talmud, we are obligated to light the *menorah* in a public place for the sake of *pirsumei nissa*, advertising the miracle that inspired the holiday itself.

Hanukkah is the only time that we are required to advertise to the world that we are Jews. This makes the holiday an annual public demonstration going back nearly 2000 years.

I have always wondered why the rabbis of the Talmud decided that we should advertise our Jewishness in public the way we do on Hanukkah. What, after all, is the point? I know that I'm Jewish, isn't that sufficient?

I was born in 1977. This means that while many of you reading this have memories of the demonstrations against the Vietnam war or in favor of civil rights I have no such memories.

Sure, there have been plenty of protests and even civil disobedience in my lifetime. It is just that none of them have really captured the nation's attention the way the movements in the 60s and 70s did. That is, until the Occupy Wall Street movement came along.

### The Occupy Movement

Politics aside, the Occupy movement has helped me to understand Hanukkah in a much deeper way.

The few thousand people camping out across the US have managed to transform the national conversation just by being there. Politicians and pundits have had to talk and answer questions about the income gap and corporate power in government, topics that were absent from the conversation just a few months ago.

In recent weeks various actions by police forces have begun a national conversation about just how much force governments should use against their own citizens who are non-violent in their behavior.

Occupy is a demonstration that is already having some successes after sustaining itself for a few months. Hanukkah is a demonstration that has lasted for close to 2000 years. What has it done for us? What is our demonstration's measure of success?

Most of the year, we are quietly Jewish. Our observances and celebrations are easy to hide from the world around us. While we may

be proud of our religion, heritage, and unique relationship with God, it is a quiet and comfortable sort of pride.

### Publicly Celebrating Hanukkah

I believe that the public demonstration of Hanukkah strengthens us as Jews while reminding the world around us that we are proud of our Judaism. This shared sense of pride can sustain us during dark times when it might be difficult to be and act Jewish in the non-Jewish world that surrounds us.

Every time we see a *menorah* in a random window we are reminded that we are not alone.

Every time we light the *menorah* in our own windows we sustain our 2000-year-old demonstration with a promise that we have been here for a while and we will be back, lighting the candles in the window, for many years to come.

Happy Hanukkah!

## TI Poker Night

On December 3, Chaverim will host its annual Poker Night.

All proceeds will go to TI, but there will be a prize for the best player! Chips, snacks and drinks will be provided.

Please let Ray Natter or Sheri Blonder know if you can join the game.

## Lifelong Learning

### Eitan Gutin

#### Family Education/Programs

**Hanukkah Party & Dinner.** Join other families with school-aged children on the second night of Hanukkah, 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 21. Watch your email for more information.

**Kindergarten - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Pajama Havdalah & Dinner.** Save the date -- January 21.

#### Himmelfarb & Chai Schools

Do you know a child in grades 3, 4, or 5 who has never had a Jewish Education? If so, please contact the family and tell them about our wonderful new class. This year we have enrolled three students in the Himmelfarb school who have never had a Jewish education.

This 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade class spends part of its time mainstreamed

with the rest of the school, but spends two hours a week learning Hebrew and Jewish culture in a small, warm environment. We hope to add two to three students to the group.

**There is Still Time to Register for Chai.** The Chai school is an excellent way for your 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, or 10<sup>th</sup> grader to continue his or her Jewish education. Please contact the office for more information.

#### TI Youth

**USY Shabbat Dinner.** Join us on Friday, December 2, at 6:00 p.m. for a song-filled Carlebach service followed by a great dinner (USYers will eat separately from the Carlebach dinner). RSVP to the TI office.

**Zoolight at Night.** Each year the National Zoo creates an amazing

holiday display that transforms the entire zoo into something completely different. TI's USYers will meet up at the zoo entrance on December 3, at 6:30 pm.

Parents can either pick up their children at the zoo at 9:00 or meet them at the Takoma Metro at 9:45 (teens will ride the Metro with one of our advisors).

#### We're Looking For Teen Leaders.

We would like to have as many 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders as possible involved in our USY Madrikhim. Madrikhim run Shabbat morning groups, coordinate Bonim and Machar, and serve as classroom aides in the Himmelfarb School.

Please contact Eitan for information. TI is able to offer service learning/ community service hours for students in both the Montgomery County and DC public schools.

Seven USYers from TI had a great time at the annual Fall Conventon in Virginia Beach the weekend before Thanksgiving.

In front: Ben Weinberger (9th). Bottom row, left to right: Amanda Rudman (USY Advisor), Jordan Fingerhut (10th), Claire Spellberg (11th), Aviva Blonder (10th). Top row, left to right: Adam Fingerhut (9th), Solomon Kritz (9th), Gabriella Pereira Feron (9th), Eitan Gutin.



## Adult Education

### Josh Furman

We are closing out 2011 with another month of interesting classes and discussions. Our SHALEM series continues with a talk on *Catholic-Jewish Dialogue Today: The Long Road from Vatican II* by **Cynthia Peterman** on Shabbat, December 3.

Cynthia is a TI member and a veteran Jewish history teacher at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. If you've never joined us after

Kiddush lunch for a SHALEM talk, don't miss this one!

The second of **Rabbi Gilah Langer's** classes on *Exploring Radical Judaism* will meet on Sunday morning, December 4, following morning minyan.

On Sunday morning, December 18, join expert davenner **Ethan Merlin** for a workshop on *Utility Niggunim*

*(Melodies) and Rhythmic Tefillot (Prayers)*. Learn some new tunes for Shabbat prayers that will allow you to lead services confidently and creatively!

In addition, our regular classes continue: Hebrew on Thursdays and Fridays, Lunch and Learn on Mondays, and the Rabbi's new Talmud class on Sunday evenings.

Looking forward to learning together!

## Summary of TI Board of Directors Meeting

### October 10, 2011

**Attending:** Renee Brachfeld, Susan Catler, Joel Cohen, Jeff Davidson, Deena Dugan, Sara Goldberg, Esther Herman, Paula Martin, Stephanie Roodman Murdock, Margie Odle, Debbie Pomerance, Naomi Revzin, Vivian Seidner, JeveraTemsky, Daniel Turner, Mark Verschell, Joshua Furman, David Levy, Ruth Shapiro, Susan Vitale, Lynne Snyder, Varda Fink, Chris Zeilinger

**Excused:** JeveraTemsky

**Staff:** Rabbi Ethan Seidel, Eitan Gutin, David Zinner

The meeting was called to order by President Joel Cohen at 8:05 pm.

**House Committee:** Electric Energy Report. The board passed a resolution encouraging members to participate in the Clean Currents Coalition, which will result in an approximate 10% saving in personal electric bills, and give \$20 to the synagogue for each participant.

**High Holidays:** Overall the services went well. **Ushers, Security, Greeters:** Having greeters on the

high holidays was new. **Survey:** A survey which was prepared by Howard White and Elizabeth Handwerker will be sent out in the next few days regarding the High Holidays. **Youth:** Twenty-five teens worked on both days of Rosh Hashanah helping with the younger kids. **Finances:** Income from the High Holiday ticket sales was down by over \$16,000.

**Membership Committee:** New Members: **Rob and Debbie Seidner** -- 3-year-old son Wesley + newborn Ruthe; **Lorien Abrams** and **Jonathan Fritz** -- three children between 5 and 11 -- Lailah, David, and Maya; **Jennifer** and **Naomi Taransky** -- infant son Benjamin; **Elaine Lewis** and **Lawrence Baizer**; **Steve LeVine** -- daughters Alisha and Ilana who are at Himmelfarb; **Dori** and **Shemaya Klar** -- 3-year-old Nava; **Heidi** and **Jon Anderson** -- 3-year-old son Joshua; **Herman** and **Malka Stopak**; **Stefan** and **Wilhelmina Gottschalk**; **Elliot Levine** and **Anna Howle** -- 8-year-old Miles; **Gail Phillips**; **Dan** and **Ariel Brandt Lautman**; **Dafna Spear** and **Daniel Pedersen** -- four children between 10 and 21 -- Rafi,

Yoni, Ariana, Keren. We now have 345 member families.

**Annual Appeal:** Status: We have about \$108,000, but some people still need to be contacted.

**Executive Director:** Contract: David Zinner has proposed reducing his time with others taking over some parts of his job. David would also like to retire in a few years so we need a transition plan and succession plan.

**Lifelong Learning Committee:** Himmelfarb Registration: Enrollment will be presented next month. Retreat, Dec. 9-11

**Fall Photo Directory:** A second round of photos will be taken in December.

**Rose Murdock Program:** An annual arts program will be sponsored by Myron Murdock and organized in part by Jonah and Stephanie Murdock.

**Adjourn:** The meeting is adjourned at 10:02.

## Kol Nashim

Helen Hovis



On November 13 **Naomi Reem**, a fellow TI congregant and head of the Jewish Primary Day School, spoke to us about the school's philosophy and mission statement.

JPDS is a unique school where children are taught from a very young age to be responsible and caring citizens in the best of Jewish traditions.

Diversity of religious observance, socio-economic standing, innate ability and racial origin is welcomed and is reflected in the composition of both the student body and staff. The children are taught to celebrate the unique quality of every student. Bullying and exclusionary behavior are not tolerated.

I have always felt it a great privilege to have a school of this caliber available to our kids. As I have grandchildren at the school, I can attest to the success of its mission.

### Upcoming Events

#### Hagbah Workshop, Saturday, December 17. Mark Verschell

will teach a women's *Hagbah* class in the sanctuary after Kiddush. This is the second workshop on the art and science of lifting the Torah. Do not be concerned if you missed the first workshop. Everything will be covered again.

#### Game Night, Saturday, January 21, 8 p.m.

By popular demand, due to the success of last year's event, Kol Nashim and Chaverim will again sponsor Game Night at TI. We will provide a large assortment of games, but if you have an unusual one of your own, please bring it with you. We will be serving drinks (including wine and beer) and snacks. This is a family event with games for all ages.

#### "Newish" Rituals, Sunday, February 12, 10:15 a.m.

TI congregant and scholar

extraordinaire, **Maxine Grossman**, will be back to talk about *Newish Jewish Rituals in Practice*.

Some rituals are a familiar part of Jewish culture: *brit milah*, bar and bat mitzvah, weddings and funerals. But Jewish religious practice is constantly changing, and contemporary American society lends itself to a host of new rituals.

Thinking about the invention of new rituals and the adaptation of old ones allows us to ask deeper questions about contemporary Jewish culture and the nature of ritual itself. Maxine is an associate professor of Jewish Studies and Religious Studies at the University of Maryland. Be sure to reserve the date.

**Entertainment Books** for Maryland/DC and Northern Virginia are still available in the office. The cost is \$30, a small portion of which goes to TI. The book easily pays for itself and now includes many online offerings, similar to other online discount deals.

If you are not a Kol Nashim member, please call or email Sheri Blonder in the TI office and join (only \$25 per year). We sponsor and support many synagogue programs.

## Environmental Committee Meeting

The Environmental Committee is starting up again! It is interested in greening the infrastructure of TI and its Kiddushes, as well as sponsoring movies and discussions. The committee is meeting **Thursday, December 1, at 7:30 p.m.** Everyone is invited to attend! Potential agenda topics include:

Landscaping/raingarden/native plants plan (Carla Ellern)

Green kiddushes--could all kiddushes be green? (Sylvia Horwitz)

Adding compostable paper goods (Sylvia)

Solar energy/dedicated funds (Joelle Novey)

Movies or other events for the Spring



# Nayes un Mekhayes for Tiers

## Barbara Raimondo

### Feet

Well, TI'ers, its been an interesting month, what with folks concentrating on that area below their ankles and all. **Les** and **Judith Turner** visited their daughter, **Carol**, in Los Angeles in early November and went to see *Dancing With the Stars*. (Editor's note: The stars in this case are heavenly bodies on the earth, not in the sky.)

Les was plucked from the audience to dance on the stage as part of the pre-show warm-up – probably because of the stars in his eyes -- and afterwards audience members gave him a '10.' Next stop, the Mirrorball Trophy!

**Judy** and **Morris Rodenstein** have been dancing together as husband and wife for a long time and will celebrate their 25th anniversary December 21.

High school junior, **Aylat Lifshitz**, daughter of **Lisa Traiger** and **Kobi Lifshitz**, will be dancing as a butterfly in the Moscow Ballet's *Great Russian Nutcracker* at the Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda. December 15-16.

**Hannah Garelick**, no stranger to feet herself, was a finalist in the recent Washington Post-FotoWeek DC Youth Photo Contest. She was awarded second place in the People category for middle school entrants. The winning photos were exhibited at the FotoWeek DC show at the old Borders store downtown during the second week in November.

Hannah's photo, *Fancy Shoes*, shows a colorful slice of life of the modern Jewish teen girl. It shows her feet (but nothing else) and those of several friends dressed up for a Bat Mitzvah party.

From the "Smelly Shoes" category come **Alan Landay**, **Dennis Kirschbaum**, and **Barbara Raimondo**, who ran the Rockville 10K on November 6. This prestigious race is known as "The Oldest Continuing Race in Montgomery County." Mazel tov to all whose toes are twinkling.

### Sweet

**Elizabeth Richman** reports a lot of good news in her life. She recently was awarded a \$20,000 Neta Fellowship from American Jewish World Service (AJWS) to help our local Jewish community transform how we celebrate lifecycle events such as b'nei mitzvah, weddings, and commitment ceremonies. She will be working on the project through her organization, Jews United for Justice.

Also, Elizabeth was interviewed for a project called Faith In Action DC, a multimedia project celebrating faith-based community service in our area. In addition, she appeared briefly in a *Washington Jewish Week* article about the Jewish presence at Occupy DC/Occupy K Street.

**Martin Kessel** and **Gail Robinson** spent Rosh Hashanah at the Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation in New Hampshire, where they are also members. Immediately after the holiday they traveled to Israel to celebrate the bar mitzvah of Martin's grandson, **Itai**, in Jerusalem.

Itai's father comes from the Bucharan Community, and the bar mitzvah was held in the Bucharan synagogue in Talbieh where Itai chanted his *parashah* in *nusach Sefarad* at the Thursday morning minyan.

Following the bar mitzvah Martin participated in Yom Kippur prayers by joining a minyan in the town of

Shoham where Martin's daughter, **Dalit**, lives. This was an ad hoc minyan of close to 700 men and women led by the "town" Rabbi. After Kol Nidrei services the Rabbi led a *shior* on a Talmudic story attended by 500 people.

Son **Jonathan Kessel** is working as a dorm counselor at the California School for the Deaf in Riverside (CSDR). He has also been appointed as the Head Coach for the CSDR wrestling team based on his previous high school, college and Deaf Olympics experience.

In Stamp Olympics, **Simcha Kuritzky** put up two exhibits in Pittsburgh at the first American Numismatic Association's autumn show. Because it fell on the first two days of Sukkot, for the first time he exhibited in absentia; a friend offered to place and take down the exhibits for him.

Simcha's exhibit on Pidyon HaBen tokens and coins won first place in Economics and third place Best of Show. His exhibit on modern Zionism (based on a talk he gave at a TI Tikun L'eyl Shavuot), which rarely wins awards, got first place in Geography and second place Best of Show.

### Petite

**Nora Sarit Rubin** was born October 26 to TI members **Hannah** and **Howard Rubin** and big sister **Sonya**. She weighed six pounds, 12 ounces and was 19-3/4 inches long. All are doing well.

**Jean Anna Berger** used to be a baby, but she is no longer (except to her parents), and on November 6 she married **Eyal Haim** here in Washington. Rabbi Seidel performed the wedding.

(Continued on page 10)

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

**Neilah Rovinsky** was chosen by her Middle school to attend a high-level conference for future leaders.

**Andrea Kline** is a docent for two temporary exhibits at the National Museum of Natural History: *The Bright Beneath* and *Race -- Are We so Different?* These exhibits end January 8 -- see them before they close.

**Marjorie Rosenthal** is home recovering after surgery and several weeks in a rehabilitation center. We wish her continued improvement.

### Sad News

**Naimah Weinberg's** mother, **Alezah Weinberg**, died after a long illness. Alezah lived in the Classic Residence on Connecticut Avenue, and came to TI for services now and again -- she made it to the High Holiday services at TI just a few weeks ago. The funeral was in Cleveland. Our condolences to her family and other loved ones.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *ab ovo*: "from the beginning" (Merriam-Webster

Online). Thanks to all who sent me news, sent me to others who sent me news, or otherwise helped indagate it.

Please send information for next time to [baraimondo@gmail.com](mailto:baraimondo@gmail.com) with "Nayes un Mekhayes" in the heading, or to P.O. Box 466, Washington Grove, MD 20880.

This brings to a close this edition of Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers.

## Friday Night Minyan Assignments

### December 9

Paul & Esther Bardack  
Burt Barnow  
Charles Baum  
Leonard & Joy Baxt  
Mark & Mona Berch  
Bruce & Laurie Berger  
Carl Bergman & Marjorie Odle  
Judith Berland  
Joseph Berman & Marsha Gentner  
Barbara Beuchert

### December 16

Dana Beyer  
Sean Blake & Larisa Aranbayeva  
Martin Block & Renee Comet  
Sheri Blonder  
Gideon & Lisa Blumenthal  
Ron & Dina L.G. Borzekowski  
Nat Bottigheimer & Eve Ostriker  
Ronald S. Bowyer  
Larry Bram & Lise Krantz  
Leonard Braverman

### December 2

Sharon Brown  
Stephen Burd & Laura Schiavo  
Josh Burton  
Susan Chapin  
Daniel Chazan & Ronit Eisenbach  
Nataliya Chernyak Cowen  
Todd Christiansen & Rebecca Pikofsky  
David Cohen  
Joel Cohen  
David & Judith Cohen

### December 30

Ann Cohen & Avi Dorot  
David & Elana Cohen  
Raymond & Rebecca Coleman  
Jeffrey Coleman & Ellen Nissenbaum  
Merry Danaceau  
Jeffrey & Miriam Davidson  
Joseph & Kathy Davidson  
Ronni Davis  
Adam Diamond & Rabbi Jane Berman  
Helen Disenhaus

### January 6

Stan Dorn & Carla Ellern  
Desire Douglass  
Lisa Drazin  
Susan Dreiband & Jackie Urbanovic  
David Drelich & Rabbi Gilah Langner  
Joel Dressler  
Ben Dreyfus & Elizabeth Richman  
Pierre & Deena Dugan  
Ernie Englander  
Chana Fedrick

### January 20

Miriam Feinsilver  
Joshua Felman  
Harvey Fernbach & Ann Birk  
Robert Feron & Dione Pereira  
Rona Fields  
Joshua & Lucia Filler  
Andrew & Anna Fine  
Eric Fingerhut & Karen Bailey  
Varda Fink & Stanley Grabia  
Jay & Rachel Finkelstein

## Bat Mitzvah

Hi. My name is **Lena Siskind** and my bat mitzvah is December 17, 2011, *Parashat Vayeshev*. Along with my parents, Rona and David, and my older brother, Noah, I live in Silver Spring, Maryland.

I went to the Jewish Primary Day School but left after 5<sup>th</sup> grade to start 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Sligo Middle School. Now, I am a 7<sup>th</sup> grader and very happy at my new school. During the summer I spend a month at Capital Camps. I have gone there for four years and I absolutely love it.

Some of my favorite activities are drawing and painting. I take an art class once a week and last summer I was a CIT at a local art studio. During the school day I love to play flute in the band at Sligo. I also love to read, ski, hike, and rock climb.

For my bat mitzvah project I am taking part in the Shepherd Park tutoring program at TI. Once a week I go to the synagogue and tutor a second grade boy. I had heard about it from a friend and thought that it sounded fun. I am glad that I am doing something that I really enjoy and that also helps someone in the community.



## December Highlights at Tifereth Israel

<b>December 3</b>	<b>Cynthia Peterman, <i>Catholic-Jewish Dialogue Today</i></b>
<b>December 3</b>	<b>Poker Night</b>
<b>December 4</b>	<b>Rabbi Gilah Langer, <i>Exploring Radical Judaism</i></b>
<b>December 5, 12, 19</b>	<b>Monday Learning <i>Parashat HaShavuah</i>, 11 a.m. Job Club, 1 p.m.</b>
<b>December 9-11</b>	<b>Annual TI Retreat at Pearlstone</b>
<b>December 17</b>	<b>Lena Siskind Bat Mitzvah</b>
<b>December 18</b>	<b>Ethan Merlin, <i>Utility Niggunim and Rhythmic Tefillot</i></b>

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William Silverman  
Her brother who perished  
in Auschwitz  
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