



The Menorah

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President's Column: Joel Cohen Aurora and Philadelphia

As we enter August, the news is overwhelmed by the tragedy of Aurora, Colorado. We are all asking why, how, what does it mean? My thoughts turn to a long ago afternoon in Philadelphia.

February 11, 1970 was just another Wednesday in the University of Pennsylvania math department. It was colloquium day: coffee and pastry, a talk by a visiting mathematician – Gerry Washnitzer of Princeton – and a party that evening in his honor.

I sat near one end of the first row. At the very end, on my left, was Oscar Goldman, a former chair of the math department. He had invented the mathematical concept of adele ring, which continues to be studied today.

On my right was my dear friend Gene Calabi, who had left Mussolini's Italy at 17 so he could go to college, which Jews could not do in Italy, and perhaps also because his father was a very outspoken anti-fascist. Gene is the Calabi of the Calabi-Yau conjectures, which have been major influences on differential geometry in the last 25 years.

Next to Gene was Walter Koppelman, a 40-year-old full professor, who had escaped Hitler's angeschlossen Vienna at the age of 11. A bachelor, he was a reserved, formal person, who had made the tough decision to become a mathematician instead of a musician.

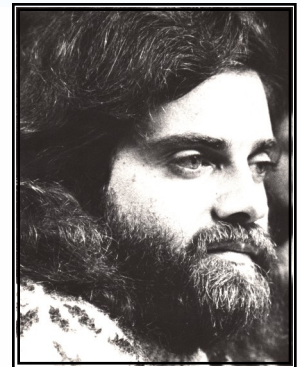
A few minutes into the colloquium talk, a grad student whom I didn't know walked through the door just to the right of the front of the room. He stood a few feet from the speaker. He was holding what I thought was a cap pistol and started firing

it. I remember thinking that he should not have been there.

S u d d e n l y Oscar yelled, "I'm hit," and dove forward so that the podium was

between him and the grad student. I ran around to the second row, hiding behind Oscar's seat. Gene just sat still. Walter was making gurgling sounds. There were a few more shots, and then a long pause, and then two more shots. And then nothing for a long time.

It seemed to be over so I got up and ran out of the room by a back door. I went upstairs and thought I had better tell my wife that I thought the party was likely to be cancelled. Clearly I was in shock. When I came back down the corridor was filled with police and reporters. Everyone else from the colloquium was still inside, so I was the only eyewitness available.



Notes from the Rabbi

Rabbi Seidel is still away. His monthly column will resume in the September issue of *The Menorah*.

I didn't realize until I saw the photographs in the next day's papers that my shirt was splattered with blood. I told my story to several reporters and then went back into the colloquium room since I thought I

(Continued on page 2)



President's Column (continued)

should see if the homicide detectives needed to talk to me (they did). I kept marveling at that word "homicide."

Oscar only lost part of his thumb, but somehow was never the same again. He retired in his 50's after a heart attack and died 16 years after the shooting at 61.

Walter had been shot in the stomach. He regained consciousness, but died two weeks after the shooting. There was a gathering for Gene Calabi's 89th birthday a few months ago. He remains an active mathematician.

Lasting Effects of Experience

It was a long time before I could sit in a colloquium room again, and when I did, it was, for years, only in the back row. I got mail from around the country, some of it urging

me to turn to Jesus. Although the story was hot news in the math world for a few years, by the time I came to Washington five years later, it was nearly forgotten and I have rarely discussed it.

The grad student was named Robert Cantor. After shooting the others, he went into the next room where he put the last two bullets into his brain.

Cantor had a list of six people to shoot, including Walter and Oscar. Walter was Cantor's thesis advisor. Cantor felt he had been doing good work, but Walter kept rejecting the drafts of his thesis. Oscar was the chair when Cantor started. At least two others from Cantor's list were at the colloquium, but they were not seated in the front row.

Cantor had been doing target practice for a while, and was very careful to shoot only his targets. Had he not been so careful, I might not have been able to recount this story. But had it been legal in those days to buy automatic weapons, I wonder if Gene and I would have made it out of the room.

Wall Street Journal Editorial

I thought of all this as I read an editorial in the Wall Street Journal four days after the Aurora shootings. The editorial noted with pleasure that the tragedy had not brought out the usual loonies who scream for gun control.

It congratulated Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper for the sensible observation that if the automatic weapons and the rifles and the thousands of rounds of ammunition had not been freely available, James Holmes would have built who-knows-how-big a bomb and killed many more.

But Hickenlooper and the Wall Street Journal don't know what they're talking about – they've never been in that room.

A few days later I heard that gun sales were way up in Colorado. It's as if people feel that had they been there armed they would have shot back. The fact that Holmes was wearing full body armor seems not to have made a difference in their visceral reaction.

The solution to too many guns is seen as more guns. With the present mood in this country, it seems as if the spiral of an ever-increasing number of weapons is unstoppable. That seems crazy to me. But what do I know about guns and shooting? Only what I learned in that colloquium room.

The Menorah Tifereth Israel Congregation

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New Members

Jared Garelick

Mark and Diann Saltman

Mark, who grew up in Connecticut, and Diann, originally from California, have been in Washington for many years. They now live in the Columbia Heights neighborhood of the District.

Diann, who has a law degree from Georgetown, works in the Health and Human Services Department's Office of the Inspector General ferreting out fraud and abuse in government health programs. In her spare time, she enjoys spinning. Not the current exercise fad, but the ancient art of turning fibers into yarn, and then turning that into clothing.

Mark is a musician, music teacher, and composer. He plays bass, can be seen around town playing jazz, and has recorded with the jazz combo SaltmanKnowles. He also writes neo-classical music and has been breaking into composing for film.

Mark and Diann report that they met at a friend's post-Pesach party here in DC, at which they found something even better than a first taste of chametz.

Neil and Rachel Hyman

Rachel and Neil ended up in Washington for a typical reason: they're both lawyers. Rachel, a Boston native, attended Suffolk Law School. Neil, from Greensboro, North Carolina, went to the University of Louisville's Louis D. Brandeis School of Law. (Trivia challenge: guess the home town of Justice Brandeis.)

Neil started his own solo practice in Bethesda three years ago, doing employment law and commercial litigation, and has found it a good fit. Frustrated firm lawyers should ask him how it's done.

Join Kol Nashim

Kol Nashim, the Voice of Women at TI, wants to hear from you! Join Kol Nashim now! Become a member for only \$25/year. Lend your voice and connect with the women of TI.

Call the office at (202)882-1605, or click on: <http://bit.ly/MZGr21>. Don't worry -- if you are already a member, you will not be billed twice.

Rachel and Neil have three children, Sadie (9), Sam (7), and Rebecca (2 ½). The older ones attend the Jewish Primary Day School, just down 16th Street from TI, and at press time Sadie had just left for her first summer at Camp Ramah in Palmer, Massachusetts, where her mom spent many happy summers herself. (This correspondent's children strongly recommend Ramah-Palmer as well.)

The Hymans live in Silver Spring near Dale and Piney Branch, and report that one of the ways they learned about TI was from their neighbors, Mike and Lisa Kraft. That is the second time in recent months that a new member from that neighborhood has cited the Krafts as an influence on their checking out TI.

If you have Jewish neighbors who are unaffiliated, or other friends or acquaintances, mention that you belong to a friendly and dynamic synagogue they might like. Suggest they come to a Shabbat service with you some time, just to see. Who knows? You could become a TI Magnet Member, like the Krafts.

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 June 4, 2012

Attending: Susan Catler, Joel Cohen, Jeff Davidson, Joe Davidson, Deena Dugan, Paula Martin, Stephanie Roodman Murdock, Margie Odle, Naomi Revzin, Daniel Turner, Chris Zeilinger, Vivian Seidner, David Levy, Cynthia Peterman, Joanne Hovis, Andrew Reamer, Sharon Brown, Mark Verschell.

Excused: Jevera Temsky, Esther Herman, Alice Burton, Jeffrey Colman, Sarah Meytin.

Absent: Varda Fink.

Staff: Rabbi Ethan Seidel, Eitan Gutin, David Zinner

Board: Joel Cohen welcomed new members Joanne Hovis, Sharon Brown, Cynthia Peterman and Andrew Reamer. Rabbi Sarah Meytin agreed to be nominated as Development Vice President. The President nominated her, Jeff Davidson seconded, and the board approved the nomination.

Vine and Fig: Rabbi Ken Cohen presented his new not-for-profit group, an interfaith educational venture to encourage Christians and

Jews to better understand the historical and political realities of the modern Middle East. He asked that the group be put under the umbrella of TI's 501C(3) for a one-to three-year period so donations to Vine and Fig could be tax deductible and that Vine and Fig could receive grants. TI would receive funds to cover reasonable expenses.

Margie Odle moved that a committee examine this question more closely. Seconded, the board voted that a committee be appointed to address this question and bring a proposal back.

Finance Report:

High Holiday Ticket Prices: The board voted to have a price differential of about \$40 between the upstairs and downstairs services.

Financial Update: Chris Zeilinger stated that TI would end the fiscal year with income and expenses closely aligned. The Spring Fling netted about \$16,500 as of now with some remaining items still to be sold.

Congregant Loan Fund: The Board approved a proposal to create

a fund for short-term loans for congregants in need. Fund coordinators will need to be appointed. They will create a policy, guidelines, process etc. to be presented to the Board.

Art Committee:

Donation: Shirley Rosenberg offered a painting by Mindy Wiesel to TI, but she later withdrew the offer due to a series of miscommunications. Jeff Davidson will write a letter both of thanks and of apology to Shirley.

New Art Policy: This will be proposed and discussed at next month's meeting.

Lifelong Learning: On May 20, about 30 people went to Richmond for a Jewish tour. The Monday Job club will continue through the summer.

Good and Welfare: The Hebrew Day Institute will be closing shortly and will not be paying its teachers through the summer. David Zinner will be coordinating the Chevra Kadisha conference in LA next week.

High Holidays Mailing

The Tifereth Israel High Holiday mailing has been sent to all synagogue members. If you have not received your packet by the end of the week, please contact the TI office.

Please look through the packet, fill out the necessary forms, and return the forms and payments to the TI office by the deadlines indicated. The packet includes descriptions of services in the Wolman Sanctuary and the Cherner Auditorium.

If you have any questions about which service would be best for your family, please contact the office.

If you would like to reserve specific seats in the Wolman Sanctuary, we need to receive your forms by August 15 to consider such requests.

Lifelong Learning

Eitan Gutin

Himmelfarb and Chai Happenings

It's time to register children and teens for the Himmelfarb and Chai Schools. Our schools are open to both members and non-members.

If you are a TI member and have a child or teen in or entering one of our excellent schools, you should have received your registration packet in the mail.

If you know someone who might be interested in our schools, which enroll students in grades K through 10, please put them in touch with Eitan Gutin, the Director of Lifelong Learning, Eitan@Tifereth-Israel.org, (202) 882-1605 x105.

Registration is also now open for our brand new (and as yet unnamed) **Wednesday Hebrew Enrichment** program in the Himmelfarb School for students in Gan, Aleph and Bet (K - 2nd grade).

The program will meet from 4:15 to 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons, the same time as the classes for the 3rd-6th graders. The program will reinforce the Hebrew that is taught on Sundays and add to the students' Hebrew repertoire. Silvia Edenburg will be teaching this group.

Introducing Jr. Chai

Another new addition to our offerings, Jr. Chai is for students in grades 7 & 8. Over two years the class will study four topics in depth.

In the 2012-2013 school year the class will first study Israel & Zionism with Eitan Gutin. In the second semester they will study the Jewish Life Cycle with Rabbi Seidel. Jr. Chai takes place at the same time as

the Chai School, from 6:15 to 8:15 on Wednesday evenings, and begins with a communal dinner for students in grades 7-10.

Family Education and Programs

Friday, September 7, 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. Check your email for links to both the services and to RSVP for dinner.

Community and Adult Education

The **SHALEM** program completed its second year with a well-attended session led by Ambassador Princeton Lyman, who discussed the situation in Sudan with more than 40 participants.

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.

USY and Kadima

We are proud to announce a new scholarship fund for TI children who would like to attend Shabbat

programs run by the Seaboard Region of USY and Kadima.

Households who would like assistance with registration fees for Region programs should contact Eitan Gutin for information. Please note that this fund is separate from the First Timer's Club, which helped 14 Tlers attend regional programs this past year and is still in full effect.

Watch your email and mail boxes for information about the amazing year that our youth groups have in store for TI's teens and tweens.

Juniper St. Collection

We are now collecting school supplies for our neighbor Shepherd School.

Please contribute new items suitable for elementary school use. Suggested items include:

- Pencils: regular and primary
- Pink erasers
- Pocket folders
- Crayons and Markers
- Glue sticks
- Notebook paper

As usual, place donations in the wicker basket at the Juniper Street entrance to TI.

Collection ends August 23. Thanks in advance for your help.

Lilmod U'ilamed

Eitan Gutin

Where will you be in 7 ½ years?

Aviva and I will be in our early 40's, Lev will be approaching his Bar Mitzvah, and the Cubs will be 111 years into their World Series drought. I hope TI will still be a part of my life.

7 ½ is a very important number this month, even though it is not a very Jewish number, like one God; the 7th day is Shabbat and the 7th year a Sabbatical; 13 is the age of Mitzvat; 18, to life! We are not so into fractions in Jewish numerology.

7 ½ is the number of years it takes to read the Talmud at the rate of one page a day. On August 1, one 7 1/2 year cycle ends and another begins. Some 93,000 people have paid \$54 to \$1000 to mark the milestone at MetLife Stadium (Giants/Jets).

Siyum HaShas

The event is the *Siyum HaShas*, which means the completion of *Shas*, a Hebrew abbreviation that refers to all 63 tractates (topical sections) of the Talmud. The *Siyum* marks the end of the 12th cycle of *Daf Yomi* (one page a day, in Aramaic), with the 13th cycle beginning just 24 hours later.

The Talmud is most often studied in a format developed in Vilna, Lithuania in the late 19th century, with a total of 2,702 two-sided pages. The Vilna has become the default edition of the Talmud. Even translations which don't use the Vilna's layout follow its pagination.

Some Sections More Popular

Given the Talmud's length, language (Aramaic with some ancient Hebrew) and complexity, it is not a surprise

that certain sections are more popular for study than others.

My personal Talmud knowledge matches many others' who went to Lithuanian-influenced Modern Orthodox day schools. Out of the 2,702 pages and 63 tractates, I have studied some 60 pages spread out over seven tractates.

Daf Yomi Approach to Study

Daf Yomi was invented in 1920's Poland by Rabbi Meier Shapiro as a way to unify Jews worldwide and to encourage study of less popular tractates. While *Daf Yomi* has been incredibly successful in fulfilling Rabbi Shapiro's second goal, it has, in large part, failed to gain traction outside of the Orthodox Jewish world and therefore has not served as the unifying force he hoped for.

It was initially very difficult to engage in *Daf Yomi* without a Yeshiva education. There were no translations of the Talmud and the Vilna edition had neither vowels nor full punctuation.

Many Resources Now Available

Today, resources for studying Talmud on a daily basis have expanded greatly. Three different recent English translations are available (TI owns one) and a free older translation is online.

One can read the entire Talmud with vowels, punctuation, and Hebrew translation. One can even listen to a recorded daily lesson on an iPod or iPhone in multiple languages. While daunting, Talmud study has never been easier.

I have decided to attempt *Daf Yomi* during its upcoming, Bar Mitzvah

cycle. It provides a set structure and schedule that I need. I also appreciate that it can be done at any point in the day, since my own schedule often changes from day to day.

I have chosen to do this because I love studying Talmud despite seldom being able to do so since high school. Studying every day will, with God's encouragement and support, enhance both the spiritual and mundane aspects of my life in unpredictable ways.

Join Me in My Talmud Study

I invite the TI community to be a part of my studies. First, you can follow my progress on Twitter or on a new blog I have begun (links below).

Second, I love studying with others, so please let me know if you would ever like to join me for a page or two.

Third, each time I finish a tractate I plan to hold a mini-Siyum involving at least part of the TI community.

Finally, please use my studying as an excuse to give *tzedakah* to TI by dedicating a day, a week, a tractate, or even the entire seven years with a donation to TI or the Himmelfarb Fund.

You can discuss such gifts with me and I will announce dedications when appropriate through my tweeting and blogging.

Twitter and Blog Links

You can find me on Twitter @A_Gutin_Daf, where I'll be posting with both #dafyomi and #dothedaf as my topics. The blog is GutinDaf.tumblr.com.

Adult Education

Cynthia Peterman

I would like to introduce myself as the new Vice President for Lifelong Learning. While I may be new to this role, I am no stranger to TI or to Jewish education.

I recently stepped down from my position as a Jewish history teacher at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School after more than 20 years. Prior to that position, I proudly served TI as its first full-time Education Director, following the long and rich tenure of Mollie Berch.

Eitan Gutin and I worked together prior to his coming to TI. I was impressed then and continue to be impressed by his creativity and enthusiasm, and by the positive role model he sets for children and youth. I am very excited to be working with him on educational and youth programs at TI.

In addition, Eitan will be an invaluable resource to me as I chair the Adult Education committee. I know that I cannot possibly fill the large shoes of Josh Furman, whose vision, leadership and inexhaustible energy helped to develop creative and original adult education programming at TI during his tenure as Lifelong Learning VP and Adult Education Chair.

I want to thank Josh for paving the way and being a role model for me. Josh has promised to come back next year to present a program on his research in American Jewish youth culture in the 1950's and 60's. We're so glad! Thanks, also, to all the committee members who devote their precious time and energy to making education at TI a priority. I am looking forward to working with all of you.

Many of our programs are already in the planning stages. A full roster of fall SHALEM speakers will be printed in the Fall Program Catalog, and they will be announced here in *The Menorah*, on the Listserve, and in the weekly newsletter.

Planning for the Annual TI Retreat (December 7-9, Shabbat Hanukkah) is well underway. This year's theme is "Mindful Living in the Internet Era: How to Create a Healthy Balance."

Please let me know how I can be of help to you. If you have ideas for Adult Education, would like to get involved in organizing the retreat, would like to be a SHALEM speaker (or suggest someone), or would like to talk to me about the school or youth programs, please contact me. You can reach me at 301-384-7277, or cynp25@gmail.com.

August/Early September Highlights at Tifereth Israel

August 6, 13, 20, 27	Monday Learning Parashat HaShavuah, 11 a.m. Job Club, 1 p.m.
August 18	Tot Shabbat Services, 11:10 a.m.
August 19	New & Prospective Member Wine & Cheese Party, 4-6 p.m.
August 20-26	USY Encampment
September 7	Family Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6 p.m., followed by Dinner, 7 p.m.

Social Action at TI: Stephen Nelson During Recession Participation Must Increase



A recent study conducted by the Pew Research Center illustrates that public support for the social safety net continues to erode. The study reported that 59 percent of respondents say it is the government's responsibility to take care of people who can't take care of themselves, down from 69 percent just five years ago.

The study further reported that only 43 percent say the government should help more needy people, even if means going deeper in debt, down from 54 percent in 2007.

While the results aren't particularly surprising, given the lengthy recession we've been experiencing, the real concern is whether such support for governmental action is accompanied by decreased interest in participating in charitable activities.

Since the private sector has to pick up the slack for decreased

government involvement, a decline in private social action could be catastrophic.

Most progressive Jews believe it is everyone's responsibility to contribute to *tikkun olam* (literally defined as "repairing the world"). Personally, Tifereth Israel's historic traditional dedication to *tikkun olam* was a major, if not overriding, reason for my joining the synagogue.

The members of TI's Social Action Committee are concerned that we don't see many new volunteers for our programs. In particular, we would like TI's newer (and younger) members to become more involved.

To that end, the Social Action Committee is investigating ways to increase participation in community-based activities. The initiatives that we're studying include:

- outreach to new members to inform them of our social

action program and options. For example, we will be at the upcoming New Member Wine & Cheese reception on August 19 to tell prospective members about our programs.

(If you are a new member and want to participate in our programs, please contact me at snelson@tmq-dc.com).

- re-instituting a regularly-scheduled "Social Action Fair" showcasing our projects.
- encouraging multiple families and other groups to work together on particular social action projects.
- cooperative ventures with Segulah and other independent minyans.
- better communication about Social Action Committee contributions to Jewish social service organizations, such as Yachad and the American Jewish World Services, in honor of bnei mitzvah.

In addition, we're considering new social action activities focused on, for example, returning military personnel and their families, and home repair for low-income residents.

Wine and Cheese Party

Are you considering membership at TI? Have you joined in the last year?

Come to a wine and cheese party on Sunday, August 19, from 4 to 6 p.m. to learn more about Tifereth Israel and to meet other new and prospective members.

Contact the office or e-mail TIMembership@Tifereth-Israel.org to let us know you would like to attend.

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Barbara Raimondo

Flame of Love

Yitzchak and **Betsy Lewis Yizraeli** are happy to announce the wedding of their daughter, **Maayan Lia**, to **Avi Davidovich**, on the shores of the Mediterranean just outside of Haifa, Israel in June. The wedding was attended by TI'ers **Mark** and **Mona Berch** as well as **Mary Jo** and **Gordon Glaser**, who all made it a real party!

Mira Schainker, youngest child of **Pearl** and **Larry**, married **Marc Kline** in July at Brookeville Farm Inn in Olney, Maryland. The couple had a three-day honeymoon in Belize. Marc departed 11 days after the wedding for his assignment at the U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt, Germany, and Mira will follow in August.

They are both working on their German and hoping to drink a lot of beer. They will be there for the next two years when they are not busy touring Europe and Israel. If you plan to spend some time in Frankfurt or need to be bailed out of an international situation while there be sure to contact them.

Fireworks

Barbara and **Howard White** are delighted at the 4th-of-July arrival of **Rivka Miriam Elzufon**, born in Jerusalem to their daughter, **Ilana**, and her husband, **Michael**. Rivka joins older siblings **Raizel**, **Orah**, and **Sruly**.

Closer to home and not as theatrical is the recent opening (in New Jersey) of a new affordable housing complex to replace a group of crime-infested high rises. This is all thanks to the efforts of the Orange Housing Authority, whose Board Chairman is **Avi White**, son of Barbara and Howard.

A baby girl was born to **Sharon Light** and **Gidon Van Emden**. She weighed in at 8 lbs., 0.5 oz. Mother, father and daughter are doing well.

And a baby boy was born to TI members **Sara** and **Joshua Goldberg**. The baby weighed 4 pounds, 10 ounces and measured 17.5 inches at birth. Baby,

mother, father, big sisters **Charlotte** and **Amelia** and grandparents, TI members **Joe** and **Dody Goldberg**, family dog Beau, and the goldfish are all doing well.

Judi Berland has been asked for the second time to lead Kabbalat Shabbat Services at Ring House. She says that being a regular at Kabbalat Shabbat services at TI really helps with knowing what to do. She also led the Second night Passover seder at Ring House and found a long lost colleague there. You just never know whom you're going to run into from Sinai.

Hot Time

Alan Landay had a great trip to California. He went to his niece **Annie's** graduation from the University of California (Berkeley). He and his sister and brother-in-law, **Gail** and **Gary Moore**, stayed at a boutique hotel, Hotel Majestic, in San Francisco. Apparently it was the only hotel to survive the 1906 earthquake and fire. Alan noticed that one of the flights of stairs was tilted – hmm, "earthquake damage?" or "too much graduation day partying?"

Alan attended the English Department graduation (Annie was an English major), a graduation genre which he highly recommends since English majors actually know how to express themselves. Alan and company also toured San Francisco and walked across the windy Golden Gate Bridge without falling off. All in all, a great trip.

In July, **Orna Gerling** and **Elizabeth Handwerker** attended a convening in New Jersey of the leaders of new models of complementary Jewish education. They attended on behalf of MoEd: A Jewish Afterschool Community, which is opening in Fall 2012 at Ohr Kodesh and Tifereth Israel Congregations.

Sad News

Selma Rubinstein, mother of member **Shira Rubinstein (Eric) Schechtman** recently passed. The funeral service was held in New York.

And **Kenneth M. Herman**, father of member **Mitchell (Patti) Herman** and grandfather of their sons, **Andrew**, **Tyler** and **Justin Herman**, died on June 21 after a long illness. The funeral service was held in DC. May their loved ones find comfort in their memories.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *bird-dog*: "to seek out : follow, detect." (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 your faithful columnist at baraimondo@gmail.com, with "Nayes un Mekhayes" in the heading, or to P.O. Box 466, Washington Grove, MD 20880. This brings to a close a trenchant edition of Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers.

New Member Package

Do you know someone who might be interested in religious school for their children or a great congregation to join?

Tell them about TI's Summer/Fall Membership Package.

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

Alternatively, give their contact information to Alice Burton, Membership Vice President.

Membership applications (yellow) are available on the kiosk in the Juniper Street lobby. Share Information about the New Member Special on Facebook.

Library News

Michele Sumka

Inventory Scheduled

As part of our efforts to make the library more useful to members, we are doing an inventory during the week of August 6-10. Louise Kelley, together with members of the Library Committee, has categorized all the books in librarything.com/catalog/TiferethIsrael so that we can search by category.

We hope to do a complete accounting of all the books owned by the Mollie L. Berch Library. **If you have any books that belong to the library please return them by Friday, August 3.** The library will remain open during the week for people to use books onsite.

We are looking for volunteers who are available during the day, between 9:30 a.m. and

4:30 p.m. We would like you to commit a minimum of one hour. Lunch will be served!

Please contact me at msumka@gmail.com or 301-589-4274 to sign up or if you have questions. Thanks in advance for your help.



Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

August 3

Louise Wiener
Peter Winch
Adam & Dorothea Wolfson
Marion Zatz
Christopher Zeilinger
Yohannes Zeleke
Diana Zurer
Ellen Zwibak
Alan & Judy Touching
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August 10

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August 17

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Paul & Esther Bardack
Burt Barnow

Charles Baum
Leonard & Joy Baxt
Bruce & Laurie Berger
Mark & Mona Berch
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Judith Berland
Barbara Beuchert

August 24

Dana Beyer
Sean Blake & Larisa Aranbayeva
Martin Block & Renee Comet
Sheri Blonder
Gideon & Lisa Blumenthal
Irving Borochoff
Lenora Borow
Ron & Dina L. G. Borzekowski
Nat Bottigheimer & Eve Ostriker
Larry Bram & Lise Krantz

August 31

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Michel Britton
Sharon Brown
Stephen Burd & Laura Schiavo
Susan Chapin
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Todd Christiansen & Rebecca

Pikofsky
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Joel Cohen

September 14

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Ann Cohen & Avi Dorot
David & Elana Cohen
Raymond & Rebecca Coleman
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Ronni Davis

September 21

Adam Diamond & Rabbi Jane Berman
Helen Disenhaus
Stan Dorn & Carla Ellern
Laura Dowling
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David Drelich & Rabbi Gilah Langner
Pierre & Deena Dugan
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Miriam Feinsilver
Joshua Felman

Jewish Art and Israel

Frank Solomon

Many Jewish artists in the Washington-Baltimore area devote their lives to the creation of all forms of Judaica. Yet one rarely finds Jewish art exhibitions outside of Jewish community centers. While galleries near DuPont Circle support African-American, Asian, Hispanic, Japanese, French and most other national or ethnic art, they are not interested in showing Jewish artworks.

One oft-quoted explanation is there is no audience for Jewish art, notwithstanding the considerable size of the Washington-Baltimore Jewish community.

Some artists say American Jews and Jewish institutions do not support Judaic art as they do other Jewish activities. Others claim that Jews have never made Jewish art relevant to the rest of the world.

American Jewish media rarely cover Jewish art. One reason is such coverage is more difficult for reporters than writing about events and people. Another is that it has minimal appeal to most readers.

Fewer Jewish Artists

Jews, it is often suggested, have historically not paid much attention to art. While we produce numerous playwrights, movie directors, screenwriters, comedians, politicians, scientists, professors, physicians and lawyers, we seem to produce far fewer artists, and few are well known in the Jewish community.

Perhaps this because we are uncomfortable defining ourselves as Jews. "Who is a Jew?" has haunted our people for millennia. The problem has been particularly acute for American Jews.

Geneticists' recent conclusion that Jews are in fact a race did not help. Most American Jews do not want to be identified as a race beyond religion, and younger American Jews are particularly uncomfortable with the land and people concepts of Judaism. Appreciating and accepting Jewish art is difficult for many who want Judaism to be no more than a religious *raison d'état* for their life and action.

A Higher Purpose

Smadar Livne, owner of Livne Fine Art Studio in Owings Mills, Maryland, and gallery director of the Baltimore Jewish Community Center, says that Jewish art "does have a higher purpose."

"Jewish art represents religious stories from the Bible, history and culture just like churches used artists for religious purposes," says Livne, who grew up in Israel. "I have a painting of the Wailing Wall and on the wall I used a poem by Yehuda Levi. The combination of his poem 'Zion' on this symbolic wall evokes a strong impact on the viewer. That creates the relationship between the subject and the viewer."

It is this relationship that Avrum Ashery, a Rockville graphic artist, is trying to build. For much of his life he has advocated using art to help connect American Jews to Israel.

"We too often see art as a decoration piece and rarely see it as an excellent tool for communicating Jewish values to non-Jews and to educate our own people as well," Ashery says. "African Americans express pride in their culture. Hispanics do the same. Asians also, but Jewish artists are often too afraid of doing things beyond challah covers.

"Judaic and Jewish art has a great potential role to play, but we as a community hardly ever see it as an excellent tool or use it to create a relationship between Israel and ourselves and between Jews and non-Jews.

"Too many non-Jews know little to nothing about Jews and too many Jews know little to nothing about Jewish life," Ashery says. "Judaic art can be a great teacher of Jewish life and link to Israel. We could use our arts to help combat the global anti-Israel wave."

While Ashery and some artists champion *hasbarah* [public relations] for Jews and leveraging art to link American Jews to Israel, others do not see that as their job.

No Need to Improve Israel's Image

"I don't think we have an obligation to improve Israel's image," says Melanie Grishman, a local fiber artist. "Jewish art is an expression of Judaism and need not reference Israel, in my opinion. My art reflects my life as a Jew in America."

"Why does art have to help Jews or Israel?," asks Shirley Waxman, another local fiber artist. "I think it's irrelevant."

Livne says that since the world is becoming "smaller and smaller" with the growth of global communications, a Jew can be anywhere on this planet and still be involved in all aspects of Jewish life and Israel. "Location today is not necessary for us to feel like a complete Jewish person," she says. "The Jewish artists, wherever they are, always bring sensitive subjects that connect them to their culture."

(Continued on page 12)

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Jewish Art and Israel (continued)

Does Jewish art have a role to play beyond religion on the issues of race, ethnicity, culture? Can Jewish art have meaning without referencing Israel and its people?

The questions are as thought-provoking and discomfiting as pulpit rabbis talking about God without

referring to Israel, or social activists talking social justice, immigrant rights, fair housing without any connection to Israel.

To many in the United States and at Tifereth Israel, the answers are affirmative. The proof, they say, is that Jews have lived in exile and

existed for 2,000 years without any de facto connection to Israel; many activists say the Torah, not Israel, suffices as the *raison d'état* for their love of Judaism.

To some artists, however, there remains a huge disconnect.

(Continued on page 13)

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