



The Menorah

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President's Column: Joel Cohen

Veterans and Veterans' Day

On the Shabbat of Veterans' Day weekend, we had a lovely ceremony at the end of services that was only partly planned. The Rabbi read the names of the veterans in the congregation, and then the names of veterans who are relatives of some of our congregants. Then a few people called out the names of their relatives with the Rabbi repeating the names.

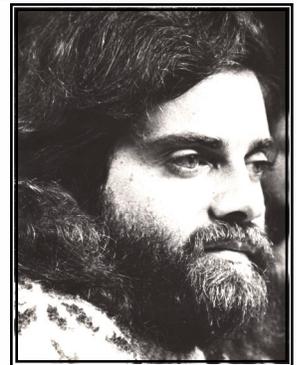
As the number grew, it was decided to ask people to line up at the mike and say the names of their relatives and where they served. It seemed as though each new name reminded congregants of someone else. When ancestors who fought in the Russian or Italian armies were named, it reminded people of their own relatives from some time ago, and it reminded several of our congregants whose own children serve or served with the Israel Defense Forces.

Many came to the microphone more than once, as one name from the past called up another name from the further past. I had mentioned my father's brother, at first forgetting my father-in-law and my mother's two brothers. And then my grandfather, who served eight years in the Russian Army before escaping to the US rather than serve another eight years.

And lightheartedly (but truthfully), I mentioned my wife Susan's ancestor of perhaps 45 generations earlier who left Normandy (Chapin was originally a French name) to march with William the Conqueror and join in the victory at Hastings on October 14, 1066, and go on to found the English branch of the Chapin family.

But I wasn't ready then to talk about my Italian ex-father-in-law, Vito. "Ex" is a matter of degree.

I have spent a great deal of time with him and my "ex"-mother-in-law, Mima, over the years they became "exes." Until a couple of years ago he would pick us all up at the airport in Bari at the beginning of our Italian sojourn, deposit us at the airport at the end and in between we would have many meals at their house. Mima and Vito became grandparents to my children, and close friends to Susan.



Vito joined the Italian army (not exactly voluntarily) and fought in Greece and Yugoslavia under the toughest of circumstances. In 1943, the Italian government dumped Mussolini and switched over to the Allied side. The Italian soldiers, surrounded by the German army, were given a choice of fighting alongside the Germans or being sent to a concentration camp. Vito, like most of his buddies, chose the concentration camp.

They lived almost without food and shelter for more than two years. He returned to Bari almost 100 pounds thinner. He and I talked many times about wars and politics, but he talked very little about his life in the concentration camp.

(Continued on page 2)



President's Column (continued)

I have read many accounts of war veterans, especially those from the Civil War. Frequently they said that the war was the central part of their lives, the most real and unforgettable part. I had not seen that so much with Vito. Over the past couple of years, his mind had started to slip. At first it was forgetfulness and irritability, but dementia set in as he turned 90 this past April.

Mima and Vito moved to a nursing home this year. This summer, as Mima and I were sitting in her room talking, Vito passed by in a wheelchair. He looked at me and came in with a broad smile on his face. Mima said, "Do you recognize who this is?" He said, "Of course. Filippo, my army buddy. Filippo, do you remember the time...."

Mima interrupted, "Nooo. This is Joel, who was married to your daughter for ten years." He insisted that I was Filippo. After Mima repeatedly corrected him, he finally

figured it out: "I get it. Filippo wants to be called Joel. OK I can live with that. I'll call him Joel. ... Filippo, do you remember the time we...." But it wasn't until Veterans' Day at shul with the reminiscences of perhaps a hundred veterans, men and women, that I put it all together. I finally understood that with Vito, as with the Civil War veterans I had read about, his experiences more than 65 years earlier had become more real and more vivid than those of the past 35 years; and the hundreds of meals he and I had shared, talking and talking as if we would go on forever, have all disappeared from his memory.

Few Younger Congregants are Veterans

The program brought another surprising realization. It wasn't the large number of congregants' relatives who were veterans; it was the small number of congregants who are themselves veterans. I think that no one in the congregation that day under the age of 65 was a veteran of the American military. Some are veterans of the Israeli army, but none of the American army. The end of the draft has isolated most Americans from the 1% who serve. It is not just that we ourselves have not served, but that so few of our friends or relatives have been in the post-Vietnam American military.

Looking at the photos of those who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan, I almost never come across a Jewish name. But it is not just Jews who are missing – throughout all the middle class communities of the country it is rare to find anyone who has served, except perhaps as officers. We have had two wars in this new century for which the American people not only did not pay in cash, but 99% did not pay in blood.

It is easier to support a war when no one you know will be affected, even financially. I recall the words of the military super-hawk Dick Cheney when asked why he kept seeking and getting deferments from the draft during Vietnam. "I had other priorities in the '60s than military service." How much of our foreign policy has been driven by the idea that someone else will fight and someone else will pay?

The Menorah **Tifereth Israel Congregation**

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

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

Rabbi: Ethan Seidel, ext. 102
Rabbi Emeritus: A. Nathan Abramowitz, ext. 106
President: Joel Cohen
Executive Director: David Zinner, ext. 103
Administrator: Sheri Blonder, ext. 101
Lifelong Learning Director: Eitan Gutin, ext. 105
Bookkeeper: David Mackoff, ext. 110
Kitchen Manager: Roz Kram, ext. 101
Facilities Manager: Steve Ross, ext. 114

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

Menorah Editor: David (Judy) Cohen
Copy Editor: Robert Rovinsky
Photography Editor: Jeff Peterman

Menorah submissions:
menorah@tifereth-israel.org

December 1 Family Service

The second family service of the year is scheduled for Saturday, December 1, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. It involves both parents and kids.

Please join us!

New Members

Jared Garelick

TI is fast becoming “the synagogue that counts.” Perhaps because its President, Joel Cohen, is a math professor, TI recently seems to have attracted a large number of math educators. Two more are among this month’s new members.

This helps provide balance with TI’s large population of math-illiterate lawyers, this correspondent included. Whether good at math or not, all our new members are welcome additions.

Barry and Sari Spieler

Barry and Sari moved to the area in 2011 from Birmingham, Alabama. Barry, a Long Island native, had been in Alabama since 1994, teaching math at Birmingham-Southern College. Sari, who grew up in northern New Jersey, moved down there in 2008 when they married.

While in Alabama, Sari telecommuted to a Washington-area job she had held before. Now she works as a government consultant directing evaluation projects for HHS relating to patient safety and comparative effectiveness research. Barry teaches at the Germantown campus of Montgomery College.

Barry and Sari are parents to three-year-old David and one-year-old Hannah, as well as Barry’s older sons, Gabriel, 19, and Daniel, 15. The Spielers live in University Park in Prince George’s County.

Disappointed to find little Jewish infrastructure nearby when they moved in, they asked on their neighborhood listserve what synagogues people might recommend. Members Bob and Loretta Saks answered with a pitch for TI. Soon after, they met member David Levy at the local pool, who added his own enthusiastic recommendation.

Barry enjoys cooking and baking, especially challah. Sari, a member of the distinguished sorority of female Star Wars fans, is interested in genealogy as well as child rearing.

Jackelyn Lopez-Roshwald and Andrew Roshwald

Jackelyn and Andrew are both life-long Marylanders. She grew up in Waldorf and he in Kemp Mill. They met as undergraduates, both studying mechanical engineering at the University of Maryland. Jackelyn went on to obtain a master’s degree in math education at Johns Hopkins, and now teaches math, and sometimes physics, at the Bullis School in Potomac. For those not counting, that makes

the second of this column’s new math educators. Andrew works as a mechanical engineer at a company in Rockville that designs HVAC systems for large buildings.

They found TI when Jackelyn was searching for a synagogue and rabbi to work with for her conversion. Members Dov Weitman and Sylvia Horwitz, who are cousins of Andrew’s father, gave good reviews of TI. Jackelyn enjoyed studying with Rabbi Seidel and found TI warm and welcoming, and they have decided to stay. After Jackelyn’s conversion, they had a Jewish wedding with a uniquely Latin flavor that helped bond their two families.

Jackelyn and Andrew live in the Dupont Circle area of DC, and enjoy outdoor activities such as backpacking trips and rock climbing.

Tobi McFarland

Tobi was born in Southern Illinois but grew up as a military child moving among many different places, landing in the Washington area in middle school. She has been here since, doing undergraduate work at George Mason University and earning a master’s degree at not-so-far Virginia Tech.

Tobi works as a software developer for a small consulting company doing work mostly for various government agencies. Tobi converted to Judaism around ten years ago. Member Rabbi Bob Saks (see above) was on the Bet Din that certified her conversion. This qualifies Bob as Magnet Member of the Month.

Tobi more recently took the adult Bat Mitzvah class led by member Rabbi Avis Miller, which attracted her to TI. She has enjoyed the feeling of belonging and sense of community she already has found at TI. Tobi lives with her wife, Susannah, in the Indian Springs neighborhood of Silver Spring.

Welcome to this month’s new members!

Trivia Night at TI

USY invites the whole TI Community to a Trivia Night, Saturday, December 1, at 7:30 p.m. Activities for all ages. Proceeds will benefit Hurricane Sandy Relief and the Tikkun Olam Tzedakah Fund.

Summary of TI Board of Directors Meeting October 15, 2012

Attending: Susan Catler, Joel Cohen, Jeff Davidson, Joe Davidson, Deena Dugan, Paula Martin, Stephanie Roodman Murdock, Naomi Revzin, Vivian Seidner, Debbie Pomerance, David Levy, Andrew Reamer, Sharon Brown, Mark Verschell, Jevera Temsky, Alice Burton, Varda Fink, Cynthia Peterman, Renee Brachfeld, Sarah Meytin.

Excused: Margie Odle, Joanne Hovis, Jeffrey Colman, Sharon Brown, Chris Zeilinger, Esther Herman.

Absent: Daniel Turner.

Staff: Eitan Gutin, David Mackoff, Rabbi Ethan Seidel, David Zinner.

President's Report: Mark Verschell will be starting a committee to work on the old memorial boards. Deena Dugan will chair a committee to improve the downstairs bathrooms, with Renee Brachfeld, Varda Fink, and Stephanie Roodman-Murdock also on the committee.

Community Photography Show: A community photography show will be in the Cherner Auditorium starting in December. All members will be able to submit up to six photos.

Membership Committee: There are five new member families.

Social Action Committee: We need to have more casseroles to donate to SOME each month. People can make any casserole in a 9x11 pan. Let Gene Herman know.

Vine and Fig Report: Joanne Hovis and Andrew Reamer moved that TI

act as the fiscal agent for the Vine and Fig. Rabbi Seidel stated that the relationship will be mainly administrative. The board approved the motion with no negative votes, but two abstentions.

Finance Committee: Over 90 families have joined over the last four years. This year's annual appeal has exceeded budget. High Holiday tickets were below budget but expenses were also below budget, although about the same number of tickets were sold as last year. The School income is approximately \$13,500 below budget, but lifelong learning expenses are projected to be \$7,000 lower than budget. The total member of household units is now 358, and the total number of adult members is 569. There are not many b'nai mitzvot this year so food income will be lower than in recent years.

High Holiday Report: Jevera Temsky stated that the services were beautiful and, logistically, very well coordinated. The new sukkah was big, and accommodated the whole congregation before the sukkah walk and during the Shabbat Kiddush. The home sukkahs on the sukkah walk did not have to provide as much food because we were able to serve the main course in the new TI sukkah.

Retreat: The retreat will have some Hanukkah themes. There will be a variety of workshops.

Segulah: Following a discussion of Segulah, the board decided to invite Segulah for kiddush lunch one time.

Lifelong Learning Committee: Hoshanah Rabah had a great service

led by Rabbi Seidel, and Hallel was led by Eitan Gutin. Some parents have formed a school board that will look at the school from a more global perspective. The Gan students will be going to the Great Students Read at the DCJCC. Eitan Gutin will be looking for more field trip opportunities.

Annual Appeal Update: Sarah Meytin stated that we have already met our goal. She said that there are still members who need to be called to give to the annual appeal.

Administrative Committee: The Administrative Committee under Jeff Davidson is working on developing a job description for the Executive Director, as David Zinner will step down by July 1, 2013. He and the president will begin to put together a search committee.

Executive Director's Report, David Zinner: The new directory is out and a supplement will be mailed in the next few weeks. David wants to customize the acknowledgement letters for the donations sent to a particular fund. Coordinators for Funds will be asked to help draft the language.

Tot Shabbat Services

Join with other families with tots (5 and under) for a special service on Saturday, December 15, at 11:10 a.m. A parent led activity, Tot Shabbat includes *tefillah* (prayer), songs, Shabbat stories, Torah parade and mini-kiddush. Then stay for Kiddush.

Adult Education

Cynthia Peterman

We may be closing out 2012, but the TI calendar is still full of great opportunities for adult learning.

In addition to the weekly *Parshat haShavuah* class, a new group is forming on Mondays to read fiction in Hebrew, beginning December 3 at 1:00 (see below).

There are three other opportunities each week for Hebrew study: Intermediate Hebrew/Beginning *Tanakh* on Thursday mornings with Stephanie Rubin; Intermediate Hebrew on Sunday mornings with Rabbi Seidel; and advanced Hebrew/*Tanakh* (currently Kings I) on Friday mornings with Rabbi Seidel.

Our Sunday mornings, at 10:15 a.m., workshops continue in

December with two great offerings. On December 2 Joelle Novey will share her repertoire of chants and melodies for Shabbat. Come and learn some new songs in the Jewish Rounds Workshop.

On December 16, Carla Ellern will offer a workshop on Rain Gardens and Beyond. Carla will present the plans for the TI rain garden, for which we have received a District DOE grant. She will also discuss plans and plants for creating a rain garden at your home.

On December 15 our fall SHALEM programming wraps up with Bruce Berger's talk on becoming a creative writer. He will discuss where his story ideas come from, and how he develops them into a final, published work.

Bruce will also read some selections of his works.

Please refer to the Fall Course Catalog for all of these programs. You can pick up a copy of the catalog in the TI lobby or find it online at <http://tifereth-israel.org/adult-education-and-programs>.

Look at the menu labeled Programs and click on Adult Education Catalog PDF.

The Adult Education Committee is busily preparing our Winter/Spring catalog. If you have suggestions for upcoming courses or programs, please get in touch with Cynthia Peterman (cynp25@gmail.com).

New Book Group on Israeli Fiction in Hebrew

An informal book group is forming to read Israeli fiction in Hebrew. It will meet at TI on Monday afternoons at 1:00 p.m.

The first story to be read is *Bein Chaverim* (Between Friends) by Amos Oz, from his book by the same name. Other details, such as what will be read or at what pace, has not yet been determined.

Don't feel you have to read the whole story -- try for a page or two. The book is available on the internet, or contact Stephanie Rubin about getting a copy of the story.

You can reach Stephanie at 301-587-2868 or rubisteph@gmail.com.

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'ilamed: Eitan Gutin

The Problem With Falafel

There is a common trap awaiting those of us who choose to teach about Israel here in the United States.

This trap is directly related to the deep passion that Israel stirs in so many of us. That passion sometimes presents itself in a positive way but often, especially in recent years, it can bring out the worst in American Jews. Discussions about Israel can quickly descend into name calling and accusations of being a self-hating Jew or a racist; in a worst case scenario they can hurt the unity of a community such as ours.

The trap can be called the Falafel Trap and is both a cause and a result of the difficulties that arise when Israel is discussed. Many Israel curricula for both adolescents and adults fall into this trap when they choose to simply ignore any area where there is major disagreement in the Jewish community.

Learning Only Part of the Story

Students who learn about Israel from Falafel Trap curricula learn about Israeli culture, diversity, and technological achievements (every curriculum like this mentions drip irrigation, for example). They learn about the pioneers, without much mention of disputes with Arabs, and learn about religious, ethnic, and racial diversity while skipping over the tensions that such diversity often brings.

Anything about Israel's security, when it is mentioned at all, is very basic: It is acknowledged that Israel has security issues and that there are arguments over how Israel has chosen to deal with those issues.

Falafel-style curricula are great up until about 7th grade. At that point,

as our student's brains become capable of handling much more complex ideas and situations, the Falafel Trap becomes a liability in the Jewish community's efforts to help our students form a bond with Israel.

Falafel Trap Poses Problems

Whether we are teaching adolescents or adults, there are numerous problems with the Falafel Trap type of learning. First and foremost, it is dishonest. To really teach this way is to claim that everything is and was fine when it is not and was not.

Second, the facts about Israel that our students learn in Falafel curricula do a poor job of preparing our students to encounter the aspects of Israel that show up in popular culture, in the news, and in political forums such as Presidential debates.

Third, when the relationship between Israel and North America is mentioned in a Falafel curriculum it is all about how Israel needs our support. There is no room for criticism of Israel, even private criticism, in the Falafel Trap.

Anat Hoffman and Women of the Wall have no place in the Falafel version of Israel. They cause discord. They ask difficult questions. They challenge the Israeli status quo. They make the *Kotel* into a place of conflict instead of a place of peace.

We will not be discussing Anat Hoffman's recent arrest with students in the Himmelfarb School.

A Different Approach in Jr. Chai

In the Jr. Chai School, however, it is a different story. This semester TI's 7th and 8th graders are learning about Zionism and Israel. The goal

of the semester, which I am teaching, is to produce students who are capable of discussing Israel intelligently and respectfully with others both in the Jewish and non-Jewish worlds. I want to help our students form a complex bond with the State of Israel that leaves them space for both support and criticism. It is my opinion that a complex bond will be one that is stronger and more productive than a simple one.

At some point this semester we will be discussing religious freedom in Israel for Jews. The discussion will cover a number of topics including government regulation of *kashrut*, funding for synagogues, conversions and weddings, general church/state issues, and the treatment of women in religious situations. It is in the context of studying and discussing that big picture that we will debate Women of the Wall and Anat Hoffman's arrest and treatment at the hands of Israeli police.

The Complexity of the Truth

I expect the students to be upset that a Jewish woman was arrested at our holiest site for, essentially, wearing the wrong piece of clothing and praying too loudly. However, their being upset could lead to their wanting to distance themselves from Israel instead of drawing closer.

There is a question for all of us who think that Women of the Wall are in the right -- what do we do about it? The answer that the North American Jewish community comes up with today will have a direct bearing on whether or not my students want to keep their complex connection to Israel in the future. They are being trained to watch what we do, and how we react. For their sake, and Israel's sake, let's make sure we get it right.

Social Action at TI: Stephen Nelson Holiday Meals for the Homeless

Every December, Tifereth Israel conducts its largest social action project of the year when it organizes holiday meals at homeless shelters in the District of Columbia. The meals are usually served on Christmas Day, with the exception of years when December 25 falls on Shabbat. (This year, December 25 falls on a Tuesday.)

Because of the overwhelming support of TI congregants, the Holiday Meal program has expanded rapidly over its 12-year existence. This year, we are expanding the program to serve a fourth shelter, the Open Door Shelter for Women at 4th and D Streets, NW. According to the Holiday Meals coordinator, **Martin Kessel**, an additional 80 meals are expected to be served to the residents of that shelter.

With the additional shelter, Kessel is estimating that 300 homeless people will be served a traditional holiday meal. Other shelters served are the John Young Center for Women (1st and D Sts., NW), the Harriet Tubman Emergency Women's Shelter (19th St. & Massachusetts Ave., SE, at the old D.C. General Hospital site), and the Adams Place Emergency Shelter for Men (2210 Adams Place, NW, near Bladensburg Road). The Adams Place project is a joint project with Adat Shalom Congregation of Bethesda.

According to Kessel, who has been coordinating the Holiday Meals project for the past three years, it is an elaborate operation that involves weeks of planning and many volunteers. Each shelter has a captain (or captains), who makes

sure that the food and utensils are available, and coordinates the servings. Those captains are:

- Louise Wiener:** John Young Center Women's Shelter
- Gail Robinson:** Harriet Tubman Emergency Women's Shelter
- Lisa Hack and Steve Harvey:** Adams Place Emergency Shelter
- Frank Solomon:** Open Door Women's Shelter

TI provides a traditional holiday menu for these meals, with all the trimmings. The meals include turkey (including gravy and stuffing), cranberry sauce, broccoli, yams, cabbage, macaroni & cheese, salad, rolls, and dessert. TI members do all the cooking, much of it the night before.

Among those who have volunteered to cook are **Carolivia Herron** and her mother, **Georgia, Varda Fink, Janet Nesse, Deena Dugan, Andrea Kline,** and **Janey and Ricky Harris.** Longtime Social Action leader, **Gene Herman**, who was the original coordinator of the Holiday Meals program, is responsible for the turkey preparation, including purchasing and carving. His friend,

We Care



& Take Action

Ed Davis (not a TI member), deep-fries the turkeys.

In charge of purchasing utensils and supplies is **Roz Kram** (who is in charge of the kitchen at TI). Food is distributed to the shelters by **Aron** and **Karen Primack** and **Andre Harris.**

Overall, Kessel expects that 70-80 volunteers are needed, mostly to help deliver the food and serve the meals to the residents of the shelters. Meal servings are generally done in two shifts, ranging from noon to 2 p.m. Whole families often work together for a great charitable purpose. Indeed, children are responsible for wrapping and distributing small gifts to the residents. Those who are unable to volunteer can also contribute to defray the costs of this elaborate project. Congregants can sponsor a meal for \$18 and/or a turkey for \$54.

The growth of the Holiday Meals project has been one of the success stories of TI's Social Action program. It's been a testament to the charitable spirit and volunteerism of our congregation.

As we expand the program, we ask for your continued help and support. Please sign up and volunteer for this year by sending an email to **Martin Kessel** (Kesselm@mail.nih.gov) indicating how many people are volunteering and their ages.



From Broken Homes to the Street

Frank Solomon

Damian, Ace and Aaron have something in common. They are all truants and high school dropouts. Their math and reading skills are below eighth-grade level. They have mental challenges, emotional instability and scrapes with the law. But if you find time to talk to them, these young men have dreams that have not been broken, dreams like your children's.

Since leaving the Emory Beacon of Light transitional housing with his mother, Damian has been trying to find work to support himself. His cousin Ace, like Damian, is from Jamaica and aspires to be an athlete and musician. Aaron is a 22-year-old native Washingtonian and father of a 2-year-boy who lives with his mother and her boyfriend.

All three are among the dozen or so young men who have found hope with an organization that several TI members founded.

Founded by TI Members

Street To Street began more than two years ago, founded by TI member **Pierre Dugan** with the help of fellow members **Ronnie Davis**, **Carolivia Herron** and **Lynn Golub-Rofrano**.

Its mission is to give young men like Damian, Ace and Aaron a chance to develop self-supporting skills, self-respect, and a sense of worth that comes from an honest day's work. They are learning to trust that there is hope and loving-kindness beyond the world of a troubled past, poverty, broken homes and ghetto life.

Since last January, Street-to Street has developed a fully insured lawn-care company that employs young adults from the DC area. The group seeks to expand its client base by

asking businesses and members of local faith communities to give these young men the opportunity to learn about dignity in work. Principals of the organization regularly mentor these young people, tutor them, invite them home for meals, and take them to outings such as Six Flags.

A 20-Year Commitment

Pierre Dugan has been involved with community service organizations in the District of Columbia for the past 20 years. He has spearheaded multiple social action programs for the homeless and disadvantaged, and has served on the Board of the Emory Beacon of Light, a nonprofit providing transitional housing, jobs and training programs.

Pierre is a man of deep faith. "I have found the study of Torah to be extremely compelling and I have found the social action at TI to be inspiring to me," he said one afternoon while supervising the three young men on a garage-painting and patio-regrouting job at a TI member's home.

"My father died when I was 7 years old and my older siblings spent a lot of time helping to raise me. I was very positively influenced by my Little League baseball coach, high school teachers and one college English professor," Pierre said. "This stepping in for a missing father is a big part of my psyche and has driven me to get involved in this type of program."

Pierre is not alone in his dream to help lift disadvantaged young men and women off the bottom of our society. Street to Street is a diverse group of business leaders, activists, lawyers, doctors, economists, educators, health care professionals and concerned citizens who are

working together to reduce poverty in the Washington DC area.

Ronni Davis is a veteran of the U.S. Navy, an accountant and auditor. He has participated in numerous charitable activities and advised multiple nonprofits in the areas of fiscal management.

Lynn Golub-Rofrano has supervised foster care placements for children in New York, has served as the director of lifelong learning at TI, and is currently executive director for a D.C. nonprofit working with senior citizens.

Carolivia Herron, a former Ivy League professor, writes fiction and scholarly works, and develops multimedia educational products. She directs the Potomac Anacostia Ultimate Story Exchange, which pairs young writers with e-mail mentors from community service organizations.

Jews and Social Action

Jews have always been in the front line of social change, and social action comes naturally to us. While many Jewish groups talk and hold conferences on how to combat poverty and social injustice, Street to Street tries to live by example by giving young people a job. By doing so, Street To Street is generating hope, beginning where it counts most: one person, one customer, one street at a time.

"All we are asking for is the opportunity to work, to show that we can do the work, and get a fair share through our own labor and sweat so we can earn an honest day's living," said Damian while taking a water break. He and his co-workers do a marvelous job at a surprisingly fair price.

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Barbara Raimondo

Fellas

Joel Cohen, a guy, was selected as a Fellow of the American Mathematical Society.

In October, **Marjorie Rosenthal** traveled to Mystic, CT to attend her granddaughter's bat mitzvah in New London. **Rachel**, a graduate of the Solomon Schechter Academy, led the entire Friday night and Shabbat morning services.

Her aunt, **Joanne**, and her dad and mom, **Adam** and **Amy Goldstein**, read Torah. Grandma had an aliyah. In an interesting ceremony Marjorie passed the Torah to Rachel's other grandparents, who passed it to Rachel – generation to generation. This was Marjorie's first plane trip in a year and a half. Marjorie sponsored the brunch on Sunday. Mazel tovs all around!

Sarah and **Wally Osborne** and **Phil McQueen** have moved into the TI neighborhood at the Orion condominiums at 13th and Eastern. They are looking forward to walking to shul and around the Shepherd Park neighborhood.

Esther and **Gene Herman** and **Lisa** and **Michael Kraft** went to Israel in October to attend the Hadassah Centennial celebration. The trip was a wonderful balance of visiting family and friends, sightseeing and attending special Hadassah convention week events. A highlight was Gene giving a seminar at Hadassah

Hospital on his research on drugs used to prevent chemotherapy-induced cardiotoxicity. The reward for his speaking was a complete tour of the hospital's facilities.

A second highlight was a trip to Neurim, a Hadassah Youth Village for children at risk where many immigrant teens board and attend school. A visit to Lod, where 5,000 Jewish Ethiopians live, was arranged by Dalit Avrahamoff, Martin Kessel's daughter, who has been working with the Ethiopian community since the 1980's.

Mike and Lisa visited numerous relatives and old New Zealand Habonim friends of Lisa's who had made aliyah in the 60's. From Nazareth, Ein Hod, Ein Harod, central Israel to Tel Aviv, it was an avalanche of interesting experiences.

One of the ex-New Zealanders gave them a tour of a modern factory on Kibbutz Ein Harod that made sophisticated equipment used in the U. S. Mars exploration vehicle, "Curiosity." Barely 200 yards away they checked out the traditional dairy cow sheds whose roofs were being fitted with larger solar panels to generate more electricity.

Mike and Lisa helped a friend harvest olives on his moshav and then pumped the oil into his own private brand bottles. They also especially appreciated touring the archaeological restoration of the

ancient Roman city of Beit Shean.

Babes

Corina Salome Levy was born October 29 in Portland, OR. She is the first grandchild of **David** and **Ellen Levy** and the daughter of David's son, **Justin**, and his wife, **Ilana**. Mother, father, baby, and grandparents are doing well.

Also, David recently returned from a trip to Copenhagen and Amsterdam to research a biography he is writing about Viktor IV, an American expatriate artist who lived for 25 years on a colorful houseboat in the Amstel River. David visited the Jewish Museum in Amsterdam and three synagogues, including the famous Portuguese Synagogue.

A baby boy was born to **Ezra** and **Shira Galston** on November 4 in Evanston, IL. He weighed 7 lbs, one oz. and measured 20 1/2 inches. Mother, father, baby, and grandparents **Miriam** and **Bill Galston** are doing well.

Les and **Judith Turner** spent the first week in November visiting their daughter, **Carol**, son-in-law, **Avi**, and beautiful and talented nine-month-old **Ruby** in Los Angeles. You should see her blow a raspberry! While they were there they went to see Dancing With the Stars (again?). You may have caught their happy smiling faces in the audience if you watched the November 5 show.

(Continued on page 10)

Kol Nashim

Margie Odle



Wine & Cheese Salon

All TI women are invited to a Kol Nashim wine and cheese salon get-together on Sunday, December 2, from 4 to 6 p.m., at Margie Odle's home at 1301 Geranium St., NW. Many new TI members are coming and it will be a time to reconnect with old friends and make new connections.

Rain Gardens and More

On Sunday morning, December 16, at 10:15 a.m., Kol Nashim member, **Carla Ellern**, will present a reprise of her spring talk about rain gardens and eco-planting, including information about TI's own rain garden project. Come to see and hear about what we can do in our own yards to help the planet.

Book Club

Kol Nashim member and Book Club coordinator, **Jessica Weissman**, reports that the Book Club selection for December is Allegra Goodman's *Intuition*. This is a novel about competing mentors on a scientific research team, and how the possible fraud committed by one of their proteges might affect the group.

There are 26 copies of the book available in the Montgomery County library, and it is in print in paperback. We meet on December 18, 7:30 p.m., at Margie Odle's house. Let Jessica know you're coming.

Mitzvah Knitting

Kol Nashim member, **Andrea Kline**, reports that the mitzvah knitting and crocheting group has accomplished much this year: Our 2012 project

was to make scarves for the women of John Young Center (one of TI's Christmas lunch locations). To date, our members and their friends have made 63 scarves and one hat.

On December 11, at 7 p.m. in the ping pong area, we will be wrapping the scarves and attaching gift tags. If you have made a scarf which you want to contribute, please bring it to the office by December 11 or to our wrapping meeting that night. Thanks to all who helped. Please join us as we have a good time doing good!

And mark your calendars for Saturday evening, February 2 for the third annual **TI/KN game night**. More details in the next *Menorah*.

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers (continued)

John and Lynne List are happy to share their joy about the engagement of **Deborah List** and **Jeffrey Davis**. A summer wedding is planned. Deborah and Jeff met as graduate students at Harvard. They live and work in DC. Rabbi Seidel previously officiated at the weddings of Deborah's two sisters, so this gives him a chance for a Rabbinic trifecta. Sounds like we should be making a bet of some kind?

Sad News

Albert Shuster, brother-in-law of **Hedy (Lee) Ohringer**, died on

November 1, after a long illness. His grandparents, **Nathan** and **Annie Silverman**, were among the earliest members of TI, and his uncle, **Louis Silverman**, was a long-time TI member.

Madeline Klein, mother of **Jennifer Goldstein**, also passed away, in Connecticut. She was a doctor and a wonderful mother and grandmother. May their loved ones be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *veritable*: "being in

fact the thing named and not false, unreal, or imaginary." (Merriam-Webster Online).

Thanks to all who sent me news, sent me to others who sent me news, or otherwise helped sniff it out. Please send information for next time to baraimondo@gmail.com, with "Nayes un Mekhayes" in the heading, or to P.O. Box 466, Washington Grove, MD 20880.

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

Israel's Hanukkah Gelt

Simcha Kuritzky

Ashkenazi Jews have been giving gifts of Hanukkah *gelt* for a couple centuries, but it wasn't until 1958 that a government issued coins specifically for the holiday. Upon achieving independence, Israel's first coinage priority was replacing the coins of British Palestine and Egypt with her own.

It wasn't until Israel's tenth anniversary that the Bank of Israel decided to issue commemorative coins: a silver five-pound (*lirot*) for Independence Day and copper-nickel one-pound (*lirah*) for Hanukkah. The first Hanukkah coin featured a menorah from the last Hasmonean, King Mattathias Antigonus, flanked by eight-pointed stars used on earlier Hasmonean coinage.

Although legal tender for one *lirah*, the Bank sold them for 2.5 *lirot*, so they never circulated. The coins were popular enough that the Bank decided to issue them annually. The 1959 Hanukkah coin commemorated the jubilee of Deganya, the first kibbutz, and the 1960 coin commemorated the centennial of Henrietta Szold's birth.

Introduction of Hanukkah Themes

The Bank then decided that Hanukkah coins should have Hanukkah themes, so the 1961 *lirah* shows Eliezer Maccabee stabbing a Syrian war elephant on one side, with the Hebrew legend "He gave his life in battle" on the other. That coin is the only Israel coin to portray events from the Book of Maccabees.

In 1962, the Bank began the tradition of portraying Hanukkah lamps from different communities. The 1962 *lirah* shows a lamp from 17th Century Italy, and the 1963 coin shows one from 18th Century North Africa. In

1963, Israel began issuing half- and one-*lirah* coins for circulation, and so



suspended the special Hanukkah coins until 1972. In preparation for Israel's 25th anniversary, the Bank issued a silver 5-*lirot* coin portraying a *hanukkiyah* from 20th Century Russia. The 1973 5-*lirot* coin shows a lamp from 18th Century Babylon (Iraq).

Higher Denominations

Although these coins were sold for more than face value, the Bank continuously raised the denominations to keep up with inflation. The 1974-77 Hanukkah coins were 10 *lirot*, portraying lamps from 18th Century Damascus (Syria), 18th Century Holland, early America (in honor of the U.S. bicentennial), and 20th Century Jerusalem (honoring the tenth anniversary of Jerusalem's reunification).

Because of rising silver prices and in order to keep the Hanukkah coins inexpensive, the Jerusalem coin was made of copper nickel, as was the 1978 25-*lirot* coin portraying a *hanukkiyah* from 14th Century France. In honor of the Israel-Egypt peace treaty, the 1979 100-*lirot* coin was made of silver and showed a lamp from 19th Century Egypt.



In 1980, Israel abandoned the *lirah* in favor of the *shekel*, with 10 *lirot* equal to one *shekel*. The commemorative coins were standardized. The independence coin was minted as two *shekalim* and the Hanukkah coin as a *shekel*, both using the ancient standard of about half an ounce of silver per *shekel*.

The 1980 *shekel* portrayed a lamp from 19th Century Corfu (Greece), and the 1981 coin showed a *hanukkiyah* from 19th Century Poland. In 1982, the Bank adopted a new standard: both independence and Hanukkah coins would be issued in *shekel* and two-*shekalim* denominations, the *shekel* in a regular finish and the two-*shekalim* in proof (special polished) finish.

The remaining *shekel* coins portrayed lamps from Yemen (in honor of the centennial of the Yemenite aliyah), 18th Century Prague, Theresienstadt Ghetto (honoring the 40th anniversary of liberation), and 16th Century Ashkenaz (Germany).

Legal Tender Trade Coins

In 1983, the Bank of Israel revived the idea of issuing legal tender trade coins for Hanukkah. Because they were still issuing silver commemoratives sold at a premium, the Bank decided to take the highest denomination coin at the time, the ten-*shekalim*, add a small nine-branch *hanukkiyah* with the inscription "Hanukkah" חנוכה and sell them at face value through the post offices.

The next year, the highest denomination was the 100-*shekalim*, and the Bank added the extra inscriptions to the IS100 coin.

(Continued on page 12)

December Highlights at Tifereth Israel

December 1	Family Service, 10:30 a.m.
December 2	Joelle Novey, Jewish Rounds Workshop, 10:15 a.m.
December 2	Kol Nashim Wine & Cheese, Odle/Bergman home, 4-6 p.m.
December 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Monday Learning <i>Parashat HaShavuah</i> , 11 a.m. Job Club, 1 p.m.
December 7-9	Annual Congregational Retreat, Pearlstone Center
December 12	Family Hanukkah Celebration, 6:15 p.m.
December 15	SHALEM, Bruce Berger on Becoming a Writer
December 16	Carla Ellern, Rain Gardens & Eco-Planting, 10:15 a.m.
December 18	Kol Nashim Book Club, Odle/Bergman home, 7:30 p.m.

Israel's Hanukkah Gelt (continued)



In 1986, the coin denominations switched to the new *shekel (hadash)*, but the silver coins were otherwise unchanged. The series showed lamps from 19th Century Algeria, 18th Century England, 19th Century Tunisia, early Persia, and finished in 1990 with 19th Century Cochin (India).

At that time, the Bank decided demand for the silver coins, which had been falling for years, was too low to justify continuing the series, and no more silver Hanukkah coins have been issued since 1990. However, in 1986 the Bank started issuing Hanukkah versions of all the circulating coins for sale in post offices, and also in special mint sets.

From 1986 to 1989, these were one, five, and ten *agorot*, and half- and one-*shekel hadash* coins with the special Hanukkah inscription. The 1990 set was the last with the one-*agorah* and the first with the five-*shekalim*.

In 1993, the Bank stopped issuing Hanukkah coins for face value and instead issued special mint sets with a new brass half-*shekel* coin that portrayed a different *hanukkiyah*

each year. Most use the same designs shown on silver coins before 1991, but in 1998 the half-*shekel* portrayed the *menorah* at the Knesset (in honor of Israel's jubilee year) and in 2000 portrayed a lamp from Curacao. The lamps portrayed from 1993 to 2009 were Theresienstadt, U.S., France, England, Russia, Knesset, Jerusalem, Curacao, Yemen, Poland, Babylon, Damascus, Holland, Corfu, Egypt, Prague, and Algeria.

The ten-*shekalim* was added to the set in 2005, while 2007 was the last year the five-*agorot* was included in the sets and the first year for the new circulating two-*shekalim*. The last Hanukkah coins the Bank issued were dated 5770 (2009). Perhaps interest in Israel coins will pick up again in the future, and we will see the Hanukkah coins revived.

Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

December 7

Hayim Lapin & Maxine Grossman
 Alexander Laufer & Jennifer Siegel Laufer
 Dan & Ariel Lautman
 Michael & Iris Lav
 Mitchell Lazarus & Judith Shapiro
 Beverly Lehrer
 Louis Leibowitz & Beth Kanter-Leibowitz
 Elihu & Sheila Leifer
 Ken & Rachel Lemberg
 Stephen Lerner & Marilyn Sneiderman
 Shirley Levine
 Steve LeVine & Nuri Nurlybayeva
 Wylie & Kim Levone
 David & Ellen Levy
 Mark Lewis & Janet Nesse
 Dan Liebman & Lis Davis
 Kobi Lifshitz & Lisa Traiger
 John & Lynne List

December 21

Sean & Jara MacDermott
 Oscar & Amy Mann
 Stephen Marcus & Renee Matalon
 Joseph & Paula Martin
 Robert Mathis & Tali Stopak-Mathis
 David & Carla Matusow
 David & Diana Meyer
 Tobi McFarland
 David & Janice Mehler
 Alexander & Daniel Meitiv
 Ethan Merlin & Joelle Novey

David & Dana Mermelstein
 Sarah & Rachel Meytin
 Josephine Mickelson
 Michael & Barbara Milton
 Emily & Adil Moiduddin
 Ken Morris & Terri Zall
 Daniel & Sammie Moshenberg
 Eli & Laura Muller
 Jerry & Sharon Muller

December 28

Jonah & Stephanie Murdock
 Myron Murdock
 Beth Naftalin
 Ray & Adele Natter
 Sheridan & Dana Neimark
 Stephen Nelson & Leslie Goodman-Malamuth
 Lee & Hedy Ohringer
 Sarah Osborne
 Larry Paul & Joye Newman
 Perry & Fylis Peckham
 Daniel Pederson & Dafna Spear
 Melissa Perera
 Adam & Jessica Perlmutter
 Jeff & Cynthia Peterman
 Gail Phillips
 Michael Pitch & Elaine Weiss
 Joshua Pitlick & Janet Blank
 Marjorie Plessset
 Lisa Plotkin
 Aron & Karen Primack

January 4

David & Laurel Rabin
 Glenn Rapoport
 Laura Rappaport
 Jacqueline Ratner

Marisol Ravicz & David Rapier
 Andrew Reamer
 Sanford & Shelley Reback
 Naomi Reem
 Jay Renbaum & Shannah Koss
 Arnold & Naomi Revzin
 Ruth Reynolds
 Howard Riker & Danielle Glosser
 Morris & Judy Rodenstein
 Joseph Rofrano & Lynn Golub-Rofrano
 Charles Rombro & Pamela Stone
 Elliot Rosen & Sharon Cohen
 Jerome & Shirley Rosenberg
 Aviel Roshwald & Alene Moyer
 Ari Roth & Kate Schecter
 Nancy Roth
 Marc Rothenberg & Ivy Baer

January 18

Robert Rovinsky & Renana Brooks
 Steve & Shannon Rozner
 David & Stephanie Rubin
 Howard & Hannah Rubin
 Mark & Diann Saltman
 Lawrence & Pearl Schainker
 Eric & Shira Schechtman
 Michael & Mical Schneider
 Mark Schneiderman & Tanya Alteras
 Keith Secular & Susan Catler
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 Yvonne Shashoua
 Bernard & Debra Shleien
 Nathaniel Shyovitz

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Benjamin Goodman
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Gloria Goldman
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William Jeweler

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