



The Menorah

Notes from the Rabbi: Ethan Seidel Standing during Neilah

Most days of the year, there are three prayer services: *Shacharit* (morning), *Minchah* (afternoon), and *Ma'ariv* (evening). On Shabbat and holidays, we add the *Musaf* service onto the end of the morning service. And on Yom Kippur we add yet another service, a fifth service, called *Ne'ilah*, as the sun is setting.

Ne'ilah means "closing" – the idea is that we are trying to get our last prayers in to God as the gates of repentance are closing. This is not to say that God is closed to repentance after Yom Kippur is over. Rather it may be that our own resolve to changing ourselves might weaken after the long day's fast is over.

At dusk, when we are tired and hungry, our souls might just be at their most receptive

to God. And so it is at this moment, when everything is in the balance, that we daven *Ne'ilah*.

In most congregations, the ark remains open throughout the repetition of the *Amidah* of *Ne'ilah* – the last hour or so of the service. (This custom is first noted in a 16th century book of customs, though interestingly it is *not* recorded in the *Shulchan Aruch*, the 16th century authoritative code of Jewish Law.)



(Continued on page 2)

President's Column: Joel Cohen The Two-State Solution

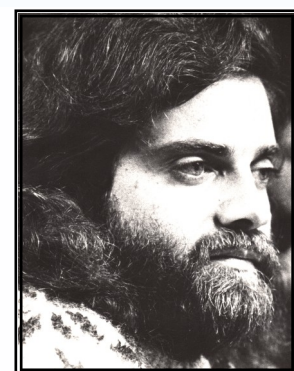
First, I should tell the reader that this column is not about Israel/Palestine. "State" is meant not in the sense of Israel or Rhode Island, but rather as a condition of matter.

There is some laziness in all of us that prefers everything to be in one of two states. It is easier to think in terms of black and white with no grays.

This was all brought to mind by a couple of unrelated items that occurred in the middle of December. One was a piece on NPR's *This American Life* called "Solidarity for Never," regarding the Polish split into Poland A (think blue states) and Poland B (think red states). The other was the death of Christopher Hitchens. Hitchens was famous for being an atheist, but he went

further than just not believing in God. He attributed many of the world's most serious problems to religion.

I don't want to address the question of Hitchens' atheism. The existence of God is best left to the great sages and the Republican presidential candidates. It is the follow-up idea, that religion is itself the root of all evil, that I want to consider.



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Notes from the Rabbi (continued)

In our congregation, however, for the last five or more years we have adopted a different custom – we have allowed the ark to be closed for some of the *Amidah* of *Ne'ilah*. The ark is closed so that those unable to stand won't feel bad at having to sit while the ark is open.

You may have noticed this past year, during *Ne'ilah*, I made a spur-of-the-moment decision to go back to the old way, and we kept the ark open all through the *Amidah*. I made this decision because I thought that congregational opinion would support me. However, at a recent Ritual Committee meeting, it became clear that there are some who were unhappy with keeping the ark open throughout the *Amidah*.

I hereby acknowledge that I'm not sure what the congregation wants. And I also admit that, since standing

throughout the *Amidah* of *Ne'ilah* is only a custom, and a fairly recent custom at that, I would be comfortable going either way with this decision.

Input Requested

So, this *Menorah* article is, in effect, a request, prompted by the Ritual Committee's concerns, for your input about this issue. Let me lay out again the arguments for each position:

In favor of keeping the ark open: With the ark open, the natural tension of *Ne'ilah* is heightened. Our exhaustion and hunger is amplified by the need to stand for so long, and the result of all of this bodily and spiritual discomfort could well be a heightened sense of God's presence, and a higher likelihood of repentance on the part of those assembled.

Were we to go with this option, I would be sure to announce at several points during the service that those having trouble standing should by all means sit, and not feel bad about having to sit.

In favor of closing the ark for parts of *Ne'ilah*: Those who are unable to stand for so long will have a chance to sit for intervals during the repetition of the *Amidah*, and so won't feel bad at having to sit while the ark is open.

It seems to me that both positions have some merit. What do you think?

I appreciate your input.

Rabbi Seidel

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



Advanced Biblical Hebrew Class. Clockwise from front: Marcia Goldberg, Carolivia Herron, Iris Lav and David (Judy) Cohen join Rabbi Seidel on Friday mornings (not shown: Stephanie Rubin).

New Members

Jared Garelick

Heidi and Jon Anderson

Heidi and Jon moved to the area this past year after spending a decade based in San Diego. Living in Maryland is a homecoming of sorts for them. Heidi grew up in Annapolis, in the same downtown house where her father was raised.

Growing up, one thing Heidi knew was that she would never get involved with a Naval Academy midshipman. While she was a student at the University of Maryland, however, someone introduced her to Jon, who turned out to be a different sort of middle than the rest.

Jon, a helicopter pilot, is still in the Navy, and is currently assigned to the Washington Navy Yard. He is originally from New Jersey.

Heidi is now a full time mom of Josh, who is three and a half years old. She also works some shifts at the Takoma Park cooperative nursery school. Give her a call if you have questions about the school.

The Andersons' joining TI is a testament to the power of the Tifereth Israel brand nationally. They were members of a Tifereth Israel in San Diego, an older congregation that they greatly liked. When they googled synagogues near their current home, that name stood out. Welcome to our local Tifereth Israel!

Correction

In December's New Member column, the profile of Lawrence Baizer and Elaine Lewis erroneously referred to Larry as "Richard," a name from the preceding profile. He is, in fact, Larry. This correspondent regrets the error.

President's Column (continued)

So let me describe what I call "the two-state solution." When any problem is presented, a natural (but simplistic) reaction is to see the solution in terms of a dichotomy, to reduce any amount of complication to a question of two opposite states (no gray areas allowed).

Historically this was less a Jewish instinct. As we know, the Torah is replete with characters who are neither completely good nor completely evil. This, by the way, comes as a shock to many gentiles, who tend to think of the patriarchs as 100% good. But in the Torah no one is without flaws. And throughout the Torah, very few people are presented as purely evil. (There is that guy who is so evil that we are commanded to forget his name, but I forget his name.)

Christianity seems to like dichotomies. For example, Satan represents the purest of evil to Christians. But in the book of Job, he is shown more as a wise guy, a smart aleck, perhaps someone who would like to toy with God a bit – not much worse than Abraham trying to save Sodom. So I think that Jews fall less into the trap of looking for a two-state solution to all problems, although I think that Jews are not always without fault; e.g., some Jews are active in the most virulent of anti-Muslim hate groups.

Xenophobia is much more than just fear of the stranger (foreigner). If we let the root ξένος (xenos) take on the more general meaning of "other," xenophobia may be a good word to use for the tendency to seek the two-state

solution, the tendency to ascribe to someone who is not 100% with us as evil.

That is why the story of Poland A versus Poland B triggered these thoughts for me. Poland B is the poorer, more rural, more traditional – perhaps older and more religious – part of Poland, but the fact that Poland B is more religious plays a small part in the hatred between them.

The Hutus and the Tutsis were neighbors, friends and coreligionists who suddenly saw the other as the Other. In Sarajevo, the Muslims and the Christians, and in western Yugoslavia, the Serbs and the Croats, each found the other to be the ξένος. In the latter two examples there were religious differences -- Muslim-Orthodox and Orthodox-Catholic -- but the fight was not really about religion. Religion was used simply as a marker, a way of differentiating one from the Other.

The 19th century cultural historian Jacob Burckhardt said, "The essence of tyranny is the denial of complexity." Oppression lies in the reduction to a two-state solution, good versus evil, black versus white.

Summing up and getting back to Christopher Hitchens: I think that he was wrong to blame religion for all evil. The evil, as Burckhardt says, is denying the complexity, reducing everything to a dichotomy. Man without religion seems perfectly capable of finding a reason to hate and kill a group that he deems sufficiently Other.

Lilmod U'ilamed: Eitan Gutin

What Makes a Family Program, a Family Program?

On December 21, over 200 TI'ers, young in years all the way up to young at heart, got together for a spectacular Family Hanukkah Celebration. We had great food, fun singing, energetic dancing and (of course) *sufganiot* (doughnuts). The co-chairs of this program, **Brenda Footer** and **Jennifer Kefer**, did an amazing job, backed up by a great group of professionals and volunteers (see Lifelong Learning, Page 6 for a full list).

On participants' tables were a number of "Save The Date" flyers, announcing the upcoming Family Mltzvah Day (January 15), our next Family Service (February 4), the new Family Tu B'Shvat Seder (February 8) and the Purim Carnival (March 4), billed as "Fun For The Whole Family." The same word repeated so often makes me think of a line from one of my favorite movies: "You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means."

What Defines a Family Program

So, what exactly is a "family" program? What do we hope to accomplish with the effort each of these programs requires from both volunteer leaders and professionals?

It is first important to understand that Family Education is a relatively recent concept in the North American Jewish world. It is preceded by Supplementary Education, Day School Education, Informal (AKA Experiential) Education, Adult Education...the list goes on. A common element in each of these earlier fields is usually some sort of boundary such as time, age, or methods used.

Even our Lifelong Learning sub-committees have boundaries: we have committees for youth, adults,

the Himmelfarb school. But there is no family education and programming sub-committee (at least, not yet). Family Education is both a joy and a challenge because one of its purposes is to break down the barriers.

An Intergenerational Program

The Hanukkah program was a good example of breaking down barriers. We had young and old dancing and singing together, students who go to day schools and public schools running around the building together, and both adults and teens working together to create a fun night for TI's pre-teens.

Almost every moment we created in the Cherner Auditorium was calculated to be something that TI'ers of all ages could appreciate.

While family programs vary, I think there is at least one element that must be present for the "family" moniker to be appropriate: a family program welcomes all ages.

This does not prevent a family program from targeting a specific age group. For example, the Hanukkah celebration focused on students in 5th grade and younger, in addition to adults. Because of this we also had a special Kadima (grades 6-8) program, run by our USYers, that began after candle lighting.

Adults Came Alone

A pleasant surprise in the Hanukkah program was that a number of adult TI members who had neither children nor grandchildren present chose to join us anyway, just because they expected to enjoy themselves.

A family program provides moments that appeal to adults and moments

that appeal to children. These moments do not always have to happen at the same time, but are best when they do. The singing and Israeli dancing on December 21 were good examples of this. Even the menu recognized the presence of both adults and kids, with regular grilled cheese aimed at the kids and "gourmet" grilled cheese aimed at the adults.

A family program aims to give families time to BE a family instead of spending time apart. While there will always need to be times when children go off to enjoy age-appropriate activities, a successful family program also provides family time in the context of being a part of the larger TI community.

Programs Often Separate Families

I have had many conversations with parents of younger children over the past year which focused on the parents' frustration with the amount of time spent apart from their own children and how often Jewish communal participation seems to exacerbate this. Family education and programming is all about giving families a chance to have fun together in a Jewish environment.

A family program broadly defines who is in the family. I think every TI'er can find something to enjoy at our family programs even if your own family is grown up or lives elsewhere. The Hanukkah program was a good example of this.

I look forward to working with many partners in the Tifereth Israel community to bring our future family education programs to life in such a way that they are able to capture the spirit and excitement that we experienced in the Cherner Auditorium on December 21.

Family Hanukkah Celebration, December 21



Lifelong Learning

Eitan Gutin

Annual Retreat

Thank you to the volunteers who helped make the Annual Retreat a success: Mark Berch, Sue Catler, Josh Furman, Kim Levone, Tania Peterman, Jeff Peterman, Rabbi Bob Saks, Loretta Vitale Saks, Rachel Seidel, Rabbi Seidel, Jevera Temsky and Daniel Turner.

The next Annual Retreat is **tentatively** scheduled for December 7-9, 2012. Pencil in the date.

Family Hanukkah Celebration

Event chairs, **Brenda Footer** and **Jennifer Kefer**, would like to thank the following volunteers and staff for making the program such a huge success:

Cooking/Set Up: Lisa Blumenthal, Alex Kincannon, Josh Furman, Anna Howle, David Levy, Ari Mayer, Diana Mayer, Helen Moorehead, Patrick Moorehead, Sarah Osbourne and Jen Siegel. **Photography and Sound:** Jeff Peterman and Mark Verschell. **Dance Leaders:** Melanie Greenfield and Judy Rodenstein.

We would also like to thank TI's office, food, administrative, and facility staff members for setting up tables, cooking our food, checking people in, and all the other tasks that it is so easy to take for granted.

Finally, thank you to Rabbi Seidel for leading us in the lighting of the Hanukkah Menorah.

Family Education & Programs

Family Mitzvah Day, January 15, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join other TI families for a mid-day crafts fair to help those in need. However, instead of buying the crafts, you will be making them. There will be door hangers for rehab facilities, blankets for children who need some security, bags of dry soup mix for people who have to worry about food security, and more. Check your email for more information.

Pajama Havdalah, January 21, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. All children in grades K-2, with their parents, are invited to don their pajamas for a fun and spiritual night on January 21. We will first learn a bit about the Havdalah accoutrements. Then we will have a beautiful and musical Havdalah ceremony followed by a pizza bagel dinner.

Family Service & Lunch, Shabbat morning February 4, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. This will be the third family service of the year. We would love to have both school-age children and their parents and/or siblings leading the service. At the end of services we will proceed upstairs to the Wolman Sanctuary to dance during Adon Olam, and then enjoy the community Kiddush Luncheon cooked by the TI parents of school-aged children. Watch your email for information.

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 3rd through 5th 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.

Want to know what goes on in a Himmelfarb Classroom? You can satisfy your curiosity by going up to the second floor and walking down the hall. You will find there bulletin boards covered in our students' work.

(Continued on page 7)

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

Lifelong Learning (continued)

TI Youth

Heschel Honors Society

The Abraham Joshua Heschel Honors Society recognizes USY members who choose to take on additional prayer, study, and *hesed* work. Each year the honors society gathers a small group for a weekend of study and service.

This year's AJ Heschel Honors Society Shabbat will be hosted by Tifereth Israel, **March 9-11**. Up to 80 Jewish teens from all over the USA and Canada will attend. TI was chosen to

host in part because of the large number of congregants who have interesting things to teach Jewish teens.

Thank you to TI member and USY alumna, Allison Turner, for agreeing to be the volunteer coordinator for this event. Allison attended the first Heschel weekend in 1993 in Teaneck, NJ.

Upcoming USY Events

January 8	Ice skating
January 13	Shabbat Dinner
January 15	Family Mitzvah Day

Jan. 21-22
January 28
Feb.10-11

February 17
Feb. 19-20

Upcoming Kadima Events

January 7	Saturday Night Live at Beth El
February 12	Ice Skating
March 2-4	Spring Kadima Kallah and 8th

Winter Adventure
USY Formal
Claire Sodden
Shabbat at Owings Mills
Tzedakah Dinner
Great Wolf Lodge
Regional Overnight

The Retreat Revisited and Adult Education

Josh Furman

Before I tell you about what's happening in the world of Adult Education in January, I can't resist looking back and revisiting the wonderful retreat weekend we had at Pearlstone in December.

More than 100 TI'ers joined together for a Shabbat of learning, laughter, and community-building. In between delicious meals, a spectacular Havdalah underneath the stars, and another evening of hilarious original skits, we held four programs for adults on the theme of "Building a Caring Community."

Friday night's icebreaker activity helped us to build a sense of community from the start of the retreat. We all got to know each other a little better as we shared answers with one another to such questions as "When did you join TI and what inspired you to join?" and "Describe a moment when you were

inspired to take action to improve your community."

On Shabbat morning, after services, we broke into small groups for a text study session on hospitality in the Talmud, where we learned that the *mitzvah* of accommodating a traveler trumps the laws of Shabbat!

Later that afternoon, a number of TI'ers led round-robin sessions on *mitzvot* all of us can do to be more welcoming, and gave advice on such topics as what to say when visiting someone in the hospital, or making a shivah call.

Finally, on Sunday morning, we worked in small groups to try to brainstorm projects to take back to TI to make sure that we keep the momentum going. I'm sure there'll be more news to report in the weeks and months ahead on new community-building projects. In the meantime, we're already looking

ahead to next year's retreat and hope you'll all join us!

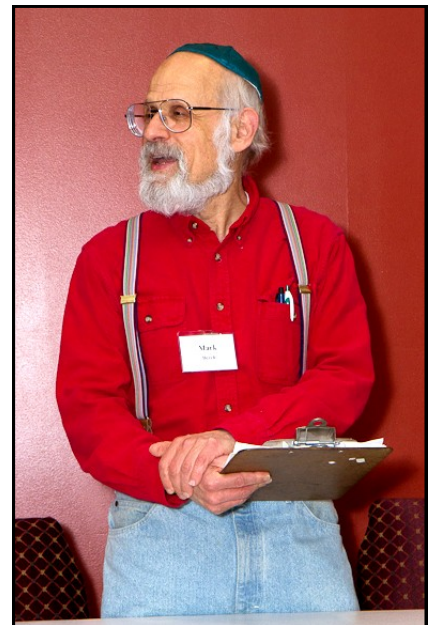
Upcoming Programs

On January 21, TI'er **Barbara White** will lead a SHALEM discussion on *The Poetry of Shirley Kaufman*. Kaufman is an American-Israeli who writes on both Jewish and personal themes, including family relationships, Biblical characters, and life in Israel.

Many of our regular classes, such as Monday's *parashah* class, and ongoing classes in Hebrew and Talmud, are continuing in January. Refer to the synagogue calendar for the schedule.

Save the date: Presidents' Day Weekend, February 17 and 18, **Professor Jerry Muller** of Catholic University will be our Scholar-in-Residence! More information coming soon.

Annual TI Retreat, December 9-11, 2011



Social Action at TI: Stephen Nelson Helping the 15 Percent

Lately, we've been hearing and reading about the 1 percent and the 99 percent. This has been a very effective quantifiable vehicle of the "Occupy Wall Street" movement to illustrate the growing inequality between the rich and the rest of us in contemporary society.

But there's another number that's not nearly as well known. That's 15 percent. That's the percentage of Americans who live beneath the Poverty Level, as set by the U.S. Census.

Think about that for a minute. Nearly one out of six Americans daily faces the challenges of potential foreclosure, utility shutdowns, the inability to put enough food on the table, and in many cases, homelessness. And that number has gone up approximately one percent per year since 2008 (and doesn't include those who are living here illegally).

As has been written before on these pages, those Americans can no longer depend on government to give a helping hand in addressing their needs. So increasingly, the burden falls on the rest of us.

Upcoming Shabbaton

In that light, the Social Action Committee has decided to devote this year's Shabbaton on January 14 to the issue of poverty. Speakers will include those on the front line, including representatives of government and various nonprofits dedicated to helping the unfortunate live day to day.

Ed Lazare, Director of the DC Fiscal Policy Institute, will speak during the service. Discussion will include other ways, in addition to our current

Social Action projects, that Tifereth can help those who are falling between the cracks of our current economic system.

Over the past year, this column has often featured profiles of TI members who have dedicated their lives to helping the public good. In the spirit of this year's Shabbaton, upcoming profiles will include TI members who have generously given of their time to lead these projects.

Along those lines, we would like to acknowledge those TI members who have played leadership roles in the recent Xmas Luncheon Project. Foremost, we want to recognize **Martin Kessel**, who has been organizing this event for TI for many years. Also working to lead efforts at the three shelters are **Louise Weiner** (John Young Center), **Gail Robinson** (Harriet Tubman Center), and **Lisa Hack** and **Steve Harvey** (Adam's Place).

Focus on Social Justice

The work of the Social Action Committee is not just limited to helping the less fortunate with their basic needs.

Social Justice is still a major component of our work, as evidenced by the subjects of our past two Shabbatons--the work of the doctors who helped in the racial equality movement of the 1960s, and the legacy of Julius Rosenwald and the schools that he helped found in the Jim Crow era.

In recent weeks, TI members have joined other congregations to protest the continued imprisonment of Alan Gross in Cuba. Gross, who worked for a government contractor for the U.S. Agency for International



Development, was charged in 2009 for allegedly bringing in telecommunications and computer equipment to the Jewish Community in Cuba without a license, and has been sentenced to a 15-year prison sentence.

Cuban authorities claim that Gross's activities were part of a deeper espionage operation, a charge vehemently denied by his attorneys and by the U.S. government. Many observers see Gross' imprisonment as a bargaining chip by Cuba to free five Cuban nationals who are in U.S. custody for espionage.

Vigils in Support of Gross

TI members have been participating in vigils sponsored by the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington (IFC) and The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC). Vigils have been held outside the Cuban Interests Section (2630 16th St. NW, DC) each Monday between 12 noon and 1 p.m.

Please check with Adina Remz at aremz@jcouncil.org or follow @FREEALANGROSS on twitter for information on future vigils.

Carlebach Service

The first Carlebach Kabbalat Shabbat Service and dinner in 2012 is scheduled for January 13 at 6 p.m.. Please join us!

Xmas Lunches for the Homeless

Martin Kessel

Once again, we are pleased to report that our annual Social Action event, serving close to 300 lunches on Christmas Day to homeless DC residents at three shelters, was a big success. We again received many heartfelt expressions of praise for the tasty home-cooked food and especially for the friendly way in which it was served.

Thanks to over 70 of our volunteers who cooked -- both at TI and at home -- transported the food and serving supplies, and served the meals.

Locations and Captains

Our three locations were:

The John L. Young Center, at 119 D St. NW, which houses some 90 women. In charge of this location was **Louise Wiener** who has now done this for the last four years.

The Harriet Tubman Center for Women, at 1900 Massachusetts Ave SE, Building 9 (Old DC General Hospital), which houses some 100 residents. Captained for the third year by **Gail Robinson**.

The Adam's Place Men's Shelter at 2210 Adams Place, NE, which houses some 150 men. Captained by **Lisa Hack** and **Steve Harvey**, former members of TI, who are now members of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation. Lisa and Steve started at Adam's Place last year while still members of TI and they brought with them some 25 volunteers from Adat Shalom to this welcome partnership.

Cooking at TI

Two dishes were cooked by volunteers at TI. One hundred twenty pounds of sweet potatoes were boiled and eventually baked in 10

trays as candied yams. As in the past several years, **Georgia Herron** (Carolivia's mother), who is now 87 years old!!, expertly presided over the preparation of this dish, which is always a huge hit. **Varda Fink**, almost single-handedly, prepared the 10 trays of stuffing, which also received high marks.

Cooking at Home

Home cooking by **Deena Dugan** and **Janet Nesse** provided eight trays of macaroni and cheese, which, as always, was a top choice of our luncheon guests. A hundred pounds of cabbage, seasoned with smoked turkey, was cooked by **Janey** and **Ricky Harris** and delivered by **Andre Harris** (all cousins of Carolivia).

Deep-Frying and Carving Turkey

The main dish of turkey was prepared by **Ed Davis** who does a yeoman job of deep-frying 18 turkeys, bought by **Gene Herman** from the Commissary.

Once cooked, the turkeys were expertly carved at a now-traditional gathering of carvers at **Gene** and **Esther Herman's** house, which this year coincided with the lighting of the fifth Hanukkah candle.

Aron and **Karen Primack** and **Seth Grimes** and **Franca Brilliant** are our main "shleppers," making sure all the prepared food gets to the serving locations on time.

Special mention must be made of our TI Cook, **Roz Kram**, who spent hours of her time in ordering and sorting all of the many items needed to make the meals a success and for her expert input during the cooking at TI.

Thanks again to ALL the volunteers for making this project so successful and bringing cheer to those less fortunate members of our DC community.

Please join us again next year for this most rewarding experience.



Christmas Luncheon Menu

John L. Young Center

119 D. St. NW

Washington DC 20001

Sunday, December 25th 2011

12 noon - 2pm

Turkey, Gravy and Stuffing

Cranberry Sauce

Candied Yams

Broccoli

Cabbage

Macaroni and Cheese

Salad and Bread Rolls

Pies

Fruit

Apple Cider and Punch



Serving Xmas Lunch to Shelter Residents, December 25



Food Preparations at Tifereth Israel Earlier in the Week



Serving at the Adams Place Shelter



Volunteers at Harriet Tubman Shelter



Wrapping Presents at John Young Shelter



Volunteers at John Young Shelter

Kol Nashim - the Woman's Voice at TI

Shirley Rosenberg

Game Night!

Saturday, January 21, 7:30-10:30 p.m. Co-sponsored with Chaverim. Back by popular demand. No age restrictions. Grown-ups and children alike!

Bring your table games (playing cards, Scrabble, chess, backgammon, Monopoly, and the like), and go head to head with some of TI's most fearsome gaming maven. Or come just to watch and learn. Snacks, hot cider, and soft drinks will fuel the evening. A \$5 donation is requested to help defray costs.

Newish Jewish Rituals

Sunday, February 12, 10:15-11:15 a.m. Presented by TI's own **Maxine Grossman**. Jewish culture is rich in ritual. Among the best known are those associated with milestones in

the human life cycle: the b'rit milah, bar/bat mitzvah, weddings and funerals. Given the frequent change and growth inherent in contemporary Jewish religious practice, a host of new rituals are on the horizon.

Where do new rituals come from? Are they invented? Adapted? At this program, Maxine will discuss how religious rituals come into being and the nature of ritual itself. Maxine is Professor of Jewish Studies and Religious Studies at the University of Maryland.

2012 Entertainment Books

2012 Entertainment Books, covering Maryland/D.C. or Northern Virginia/D.C., are available for purchase. Especially for those of you who love Groupon, and LivingSocial, the Entertainment Book now includes access to email and other online offers (available to you only when



you register your copy of the Entertainment Book), in addition to hundreds of pages of coupons. The cost is \$30, of which \$9 is a donation to TI! The Entertainment Book will easily pay for itself. Order online: <http://bit.ly/uTIWbJ>

Join Kol Nashim

We're always working on new offerings in a setting of camaraderie. You're sure to find a project you like. Membership: \$30 annually.

For more information, contact Sheri Blonder, TIAdmin@Tifereth-Israel.org, or 202 882 1605 X101.

Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

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 Beiley
Varda Fink & Stanley Grabia
Jay & Rachel Finkelstein

January 27

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Paula Flicker
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Claude Fontheim & Orit Frenkel
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Ira Forman & Caryn Pass
David Freed
Bruce Friedland & Jenny Bryant

February 3

Ben Finkelstein & Laurie Hollander
Naomi Friedman
Joshua Furman
Judy Galat
William & Miriam Galston
Stephen Garber & Lynne Snyder
Jared Garelick & Ellen Kramarow
Seth Glabman & Martha Hare
Rick Glasser & Sheryl Gross-Glaser
Howard Gleckman & Ann Kline

Nayes un Mekhayes for Tiers

Barbara Raimondo

Fly Like an Eagle

Flying high this month is **Jeremy Steinberg**, who earned his Eagle Scout rank on October 21. For his Eagle project he did trail maintenance at the Audubon Naturalist Society. He will be honored by the troop on February 12.

Eagle Eye **Avi Bardack**, son of TI'ers **Eti** and **Paul Roitman Bardack**, recently became engaged to **Melissa Apter**. Melissa and her family are active members of the other DC area TI, Tikvat Israel of Rockville, meaning that the mathematical expression of this union-to-be will be TI squared.

The wedding will take place in 2013, after the couple returns to the East Coast from Seattle where they currently reside. It is said that both sets of parents are thrilled.

Also thrilled are **Gene** and **Esther Herman**, who had a wonderful trip to Cancun, Mexico, in early December. It was the first vacation trip they had taken by themselves in . . . who knows, was it five or 25 years? They teamed up with **Monda** and **Sandy Sagalkin**, former TI members who live in Sharpsburg, Maryland.

Flap Like a Turkey

Alan Landay had a full house around Turkey Time. His sister, brother-in-law, nephew, and two nieces came to visit for Thanksgiving. At night, it was a little like a slumber party! But without the truth or dare!

They had Thanksgiving at the house of Alan's cousin and his wife in Silver Spring. Alan's sister and nieces did the cooking with help from his nephew; Alan had already done all the food shopping. To begin the day

some of them ran the Turkey Chase 10K race on Thanksgiving morning. Alan and his guests also went on the TI hike Friday morning and to a bluegrass concert in Virginia that night. No grass growin' under Alan's feet, nosiree.

Marjorie Rosenthal sends her thanks to all who have shown her kindness during her recovery from surgery. They include **Barbara Raimondo**, **Eti Bardack**, and **Cyndi Weitz**, and many others for their visits and flowers; **Susan Catler**, who coordinated many phone calls; and **Rabbi Seidel** and **Rabbi Abramowitz** for their phone calls and visits. Marjorie hopes to be back in shul soon. Meanwhile, she urges everyone to buy some Entertainment Books!

Lucas David Liebman was born to **Dan Liebman** and **Lis Davis** on November 7. Everyone is doing well.

Float Like a Flake

Susan Vitale's daughter, **Alicia Levin**, played a snowflake in the Great Russian Nutcracker, performed at Strathmore. Which raises a philosophical question: If a child playing a snowflake has a meltdown, can the show go on? Think about it. Alicia is a second grader at the Lowell School. **Aylat Lifshitz** also had a role as a butterfly.

Claudine Schweber was in Paris in November as a member of the USA Board of the organization that saved her mother's life during WWII—OSE, *Oeuvres des Secours des Enfants* (the Children's Aid Society). OSE, which primarily provides health care to Jewish children and families, was established in 1912 in Russia. It moved headquarters to Berlin in the

1923 with Albert Einstein as president, and to Paris in 1933, where it remains.

During World War II, OSE hid Jewish children in small buildings and castles, moved them eastward to Switzerland, and later provided transition homes for children survivors of concentration camps. Elie Weisel was one of these children. Today, OSE continues to provide extensive health care services in France.

OSE is celebrating its Centenary in 2012, with, among other things, exhibitions in several museums and Jewish centers in the USA, Israel, and Morocco. Claudine's parents met after World War II and worked for the OSE for several years. Claudine was born in one of these chateaux before the family moved to Paris.

Asher Kirschbaum was accepted to Hood Start, a program of Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, in which high school students are permitted to take college courses. Does this make him a Hood-ie?

Out-of-town member, **Rodney Brooks** (now an Arizonan), has finished the second edition of his book, *Fields of Color: The Theory that Escaped Einstein*. Written for a lay audience without equations, it shows how the much-neglected Quantum Field Theory makes sense and resolves the paradoxes of relativity and quantum mechanics. It is available on Amazon Kindle, or write to rodney@brooks2.com for a printed copy with color.

Sad News

The father of **Dana Beyer** recently passed and was buried in Florida.

(Continued on page 14)

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers (continued)

Kobi Lifshitz's sister, **Adaya Shachar**, died in Haifa after a long struggle with kidney cancer. Kobi was in Israel for the burial and shivah, and there was an after-shivah minyan at the Lifshitz-Traiger residence.

Deena Dugan's mother passed away and was buried in Boston.

May family and loved ones find comfort in their memories.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *indagate*: "to search into; investigate" (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 a small beer edition of Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers.

Summary of TI Board of Directors Meeting November 14, 2011

Attending: Susan Catler, Joel Cohen, Deena Dugan, Seth Glabman, Esther Herman, Paula Martin, Stephanie Roodman Murdock, Margie Odle, Debbie Pomerance, Naomi Revzin, Jevera Temsky, Daniel Turner, Mark Verschell, Joshua Furman, Ruth Shapiro, Chris Zeilinger

Excused: Sara Goldberg, Susan Vitale, Lynne Snyder, Vivian Seidner, Renee Brachfeld, Jeff Davidson, Varda Fink, David Levy, Frank Solomon

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

Membership Committee

New Members: Francesca Lipman and Linda and David Luxemburg (they are relatives of Rachel Siedel).

Reaching out to New Members: Every member of the board is requested to host two new members by the end of the year.

New Babies: There are two new babies.

Development – Naomi Revzin

Annual Appeal: Calls still need to be made. We have already met our overall giving goal.

Finance Committee - Chris Zeilinger

High Holiday funds were down but the membership dues and annual appeal funds were higher than anticipated. The Finance Committee will study the possibility of combining the synagogue dues and High Holiday ticket prices.

Refinancing: The current \$500,000 mortgage balloons in 2014, so the committee is examining how to refinance.

Ritual Committee - Jevera Temsky

On October 26 there was a meeting of TI members and the Ritual Committee where they discussed improvements to the High Holidays for next year. Approximately 107 people answered the High Holiday survey. Howard White will be compiling the survey results.

Rabbi

New Talmud class: The Rabbi is advertising the class outside the synagogue for others as well.

Summer plans: The Rabbi will go to the havurah summer institute.

Rabbi Consultative Committee

This committee will meet in November.

Lifelong Learning

Himmelfarb: The enrollment prediction was 74 and there are 76 students enrolled.

House Committee

About 30 people have signed up for the Clean Currents program.

Adjourn

The Board meeting adjourned at 9:50.

ISO "Hams"

Debbie Pomerance is looking for other Ham Radio Operators at TI -- either current, or who, like her, have let their license lapse.

Please email her at Debbie.Pomerance@gmail.com ex WB2NWL.

Challot & Kosher Chickens on a Scottish Isle

Sharon Shenhav

The writer is a Jerusalem-based lawyer specializing in the problems of Jewish divorce. She is the Director of the International Jewish Women's Rights Project of the International Council of Jewish Women. Sharon, her husband, Les, and their two children were members of TI (when their last name was Shanoff) until they made aliyah in the late 1970's.

As Israelis who find the summers in Jerusalem too hot for our taste, my husband and I have discovered a unique solution! Invited to visit Scottish friends some 13 years ago, we found that the cool, somewhat rainy August weather in Scotland was just what we sought.

Spending a Shabbat on the Isle of Arran, we were delighted by its natural beauty and its laid-back approach to life. Not much happens here, and the front page headlines of the weekly newspaper, *The Arran Banner*, are often the source of much merriment.

The tranquil life style, combined with the kindness and generosity of the inhabitants, makes this a haven for Israelis who are bombarded with serious existential challenges, tension and anxiety on a daily basis.

Becoming Summer Residents

We returned every summer for several years, renting a cottage and hiking the many beautiful trails. Eight years ago, as we were approaching retirement, we decided to purchase a small cottage. We now spend several months on the island each year, usually during the summer months.

As observant Jews and Israelis, we are unique summer residents and somewhat exotic to our neighbors,

who have been most welcoming, gracious and hospitable, while we have become unofficial ambassadors for Israel and Judaism.

Baking My Own Challot

I realized that the local bakery would not be able to provide us with *challot* for Shabbat. Baking my own *challot* every week became necessary. I found this added to my spiritual preparation for Shabbat. My family enjoyed the delicious, beautiful and healthy (half whole meal) *challot* and their praise added to my celebration of Shabbat.

Island neighbors and tourists who tasted my *challot* begged to learn how to make them. My "students" included a Professor of Catering from a university in England who catered Prince Charles's wedding to Camilla, and some of his chef colleagues from London.

A Catholic neighbor from Edinburgh enjoys baking bread in his retirement and he spent a Friday morning in my kitchen where we discussed Shabbat and its rituals while the dough was rising. His family has declared his *challot* as the best bread they've ever eaten.

Young non-Jewish girls vacationing on the island from England and Scotland have joined me in my kitchen as we made *challot* and discussed the meaning of Shabbat. Several plan to invite their Jewish friends and neighbors to a Shabbat dinner and serve their homemade *challot*!

An Award-Winning Recipe...

While visiting a dear friend in the Borders, the local Church of Scotland cookbook committee requested

permission to publish my *challah* recipe in their cookbook along with an explanation of Shabbat rituals and traditions. Encouraged by my husband, I submitted my *challot* to the Isle of Arran Horticultural Society Summer Show in August where they won First Prize in the bread competition!

...and a Jerusalem Post Article

These *challot* became such a hit that I published an article a few years ago in the *Jerusalem Post* entitled "Challah Diplomacy," in which I suggested that one way to win hearts and minds in support of Israel was to bake *challot* with neighbors and friends worldwide. Baking bread together might defuse some of the anti-Israel opinions expressed in the British press and the organized boycotts of Israeli academics and products.

The Search for Kosher Meat

Kosher meat on the island has also been a challenge. While we enjoy freshly-caught local fish and have developed some tasty vegetarian dishes, we do yearn for chicken on Shabbat.

As a women's rights lawyer specializing in Jewish divorce and *agunot*, I have been invited to lecture in Jewish communities in Glasgow, Manchester, London and Leeds during our UK summers. While in those communities I have arranged to pick up kosher meat and bring it to our home freezer.

However, this arrangement is not the most convenient and I searched for an easier solution. To my surprise, last summer I found kosher frozen chickens at a Morrison's supermarket

(Continued on page 16)

Challot & Kosher Chickens (continued)

in the mainland town of Stevenston, not far from the ferry landing, even though there was no Jewish community in the area.

Delighted, I contacted the store when I returned this summer to check on the availability of the chickens. I was told that the store no longer carried them. I explained my situation to the Deputy Manager. Would it be possible to obtain a large order for the whole summer on a one-time basis? "I think we can work it out" he replied.

A few hours later he called to say that several whole Kosher frozen chickens and packages of frozen chicken breasts would be awaiting me at the store. He said that every summer when I return to Scotland I should call him to place my order and the kosher chickens would be

available! Thanking him profusely, I asked him why the kosher chickens had been available the previous summer. "Oh, that was a mistake!" he said.

I wrote a letter to the Chief Executive of Morrison's in praise of this Scottish employee for exceptional customer service as well as sensitivity to our dietary needs, and received an appreciative reply, thanking me for writing.

Appreciating Judaism and Israel...

We have shared our Shabbat table with many island friends and neighbors during the last eight years, providing them a unique interfaith experience. As they share our songs, rituals and traditional meal, I have no doubt that this enables them to appreciate Judaism and Israel in a

way which is quite different from the usual UK media presentations. The variety of guests has been surprising, including academics, scientists, businessmen, artists, musicians, physicians, lawyers, aristocrats and a retired bus driver.

...and Teaching Hebrew

My husband, a retired surgeon, has been active in the local horticultural society, volunteers in the Brodick Castle gardens and runs a weekly Hebrew language course. His only student is another retired surgeon, who was born in Lithuania, where the language spoken at home was Hebrew! He hadn't used his Hebrew for over 30 years, since his father died. The local Catholic priest, who has studied Hebrew, has now expressed interest in joining the class.

January Highlights at Tifereth Israel

January 7	Kadima Saturday Night Live at Beth El
January 8	USY Ice skating
January 9, 16, 23, 30	Monday Learning <i>Parashat HaShavuah</i> , 11 a.m. Job Club, 1 p.m.
January 14	Social Action Shabbaton
January 15	Family Mitzvah Day
January 21	SHALEM, The Poetry of Shirley Kaufman
January 21	Kol Nashim/Chaverim Game Night, 7:30-10:30 p.m.
January 21-22	USY Winter Adventure
January 28	USY Formal

Is Judaism's Future Linked to the Future of Israel?

Frank Solomon

A recent Jewish Theological Seminary survey of Generation Y rabbinical students has some in the Conservative movement worrying that Israel may not stay in the center of American Judaism much longer.

The survey purports to show that the younger generation of rabbinical students possesses a solid Jewish identity and strong attachment to Israel. Reading between the lines, however, one can see this strong identity is filtered through universalistic and liberal ideals. Moreover, while these young rabbis are pro-Israel, they are refining what "pro-Israel" means.

Many Israel supporters see in the report a big "disconnect" between the next generation of Conservative rabbis and mainstream American Jews on the issue of the state of Israel and Zionism.

Young Rabbis Take Issue

Not so fast, retorts the younger generation of rabbinical students. Many claim they are misunderstood; others do not consider Palestinian leaders their enemies. Many are uncomfortable with the notion of a "Jewish state," and embarrassed by the daily reports of Israel's alleged inhumane treatment of Arabs.

Some argue that being pro-Zionist is not the same as pro-Israel, that one can love Israel but not necessarily support its policies. In addition, one of the most commonly held views by young rabbinical students—and, by extension, young American Jews—is that Israel and Israelis are often their own worst enemies.

These views reflect the rise of a new age in American Judaism and Jewish life that is increasingly focused on

American Jewry, where the existence of Israel is irrelevant.

Whether or not the JTS survey and its findings are valid, they have serious implications for Israel. How does this supposed left turn within the Conservative movement affect the future and, perhaps, the survival of the Jewish State?

Israel Under Attack

Israel is the only state in human history whose right to exist has been questioned since its founding. It is the only state in the world that has been continuously attacked since its birth. Arab leaders urge its destruction. Most countries in the United Nations support the Palestinians. The world press and many academics often find it fashionable to damn it as the bad guy.

There is also an alarming trend in Israel itself: more and more Israelis seem to be losing faith in the idea of a Jewish state. Many have begun to wonder why they should have their own state at all.

Daniel Gordis Book

In comes Daniel Gordis, an American Jew who made aliya in 1998. Since moving to Israel, he has written many books, caring, sober, often angst-driven, but mostly perceptive and wise. His *Saving Israel: How the Jewish People Can Win a War That May Never End* is the winner of the 2009 National Jewish Book Award.

In this book, Gordis is forthright and deliberately politically incorrect, backing propositions that many find hard to accept. He asserts that Israel's existence is more important than peace and that Israel can never be a copy of the U.S. style of liberal democracy. He argues that not only

the survival of the Jewish state, but the future of Judaism worldwide, is at stake.

Gordis calls for a national discussion of Israel's sense of purpose and explains why we need this kind of public debate. For him, Zionism is more than the expression of our being fed up with being ruled by *goyim*. Zionism offers the possibility of Jewish recovery and Jewish flourishing.

Jewish Sovereignty is Critical

He argues that Jews have returned to history as a people in their own right, and not simply a hyphenated ethnic group, only through the existence of the State of Israel. Jews are making their own decisions, in the context of Jewish sovereignty, and taking responsibility for them.

Most of all, statehood entails the revitalization of national character that cannot be accomplished in the Diaspora. Should Israel disappear, it is unlikely that the Jewish people, with all their accomplishments, could recover.

American Jews, says Gordis, are the backbone of support for Israel. Any lessening of American Jews' attachment to Israel could seriously erode the ability of the Jewish state to survive in the rising tide of seeming universal hate.

The JTS survey's findings on young rabbis' changing views about Israel is as timely as Gordis' call for an American and Israeli dialogue on the purpose of Israel as a state and what it means to Jews worldwide. Simultaneously heart-wrenching and heart-warming, the book is proof of hope in a land and at a time when some see the existence of Israel growing dimmer every day.

Chayei Sarah & Toldot: Authoritative vs. Organic Processes

Shira Destinie Jones

While studying *Parashat Chayei Sarah* with my *chevrotah* (study partner), some implications began to arise around the tone of the negotiations between Abraham and the Hittites over the Cave of Machpelah, based in authoritative versus organic and, by contrast, authoritarian processes.

We agreed that authoritative processes have goals clearly defined by a leader or a small group of leaders, with buy-in obtained through participatory decision-making processes. We then observed that organic movements such as the Occupy movement, seem to take far longer to demonstrate clear goals and objectives, as they lack clear leadership, despite shared values.

Authoritarian processes, by contrast, obviously do not face these problems. Authoritarian processes, however, lack the participation and buy-in required by consensus in a democratic society.

Abraham and Rebekah

As a respected but non-native sojourner in the land of Canaan, Abraham follows the established custom. He starts with a clear goal -- purchasing a burial cave -- takes a prescribed route for negotiations, and arrives at a conclusion after obtaining the buy-in of those present.

In *Parashat Toldot* however, we see the younger generations using more organic decision-making processes, beginning with Rebekah improvising plans for blessing her younger son, Jacob, and sending him to Padan Aram. It appears a more chaotic process, leaderless until the final result, which seems to be obtaining buy-in around the idea of Canaanite

wives being undesirable. This shared value dovetails with Rebekah's personal goal of removing Jacob from harm, but along the way, leads to both Esau and Jacob finding non-Canaanite wives.

Generational Differences

The Occupy DC movement, like many other phenomena across the city, is similarly split into two main factions, older and younger, accustomed to different organizational styles. Having worked with both factions, I hope to present some observations from the perspective of someone who falls between the generations: between those who protested during the 1960's and those Generation Y members leading part of Occupy DC.

I also fit neither into the Academic camp nor the Activist camp. These in-between perspectives, while at times offering a platform for acting as an intermediary, frequently also yield interesting observations from both sides. A former member of SNCC, the student organization which, with Dr. King, led much activism during the early 1960's, has commented: "these kids are re-writing the book from scratch" in their ways of pressing for change.

Authoritative & Organic Movements

There is a fairly wide range of ways in which a movement can begin and develop, depending on how priorities are set at its inception, and who does the priority-setting from the very start. Populist movements, depending on whether they develop organically or are led authoritatively, seem to communicate their goals and priorities differently.

The Civil Rights movement of the 1960's shows the authoritative goal-setting of institutional groups like churches and SNCC. By contrast, the Bimetallism movement of the 1890's shows the organically-set goal of adding silver to gold as a money standard, seen as inflationary by some, but eventually emerging as a strong consensus with William Jennings Bryant as the movement's spokesman.

One may argue that both Rebekah and Bryant were in control behind the scenes from the outset of these organic processes, but the apparent lack of direct leadership at the start seems to be a feature of how less-established groups, generally younger, start to organize.

Learning from One Another

In the case of Occupy DC, specifically, both older and younger organizers may be able to take lessons from one another. One strength of experience, residing with older organizers, is in establishing clear goals and paths to those goals for those who do not have access to technology. A particular strength of younger organizers is utilizing technology to communicate, and emphasizing consensus-based decision-making.

Both groups can help one another by sharing resources more effectively, and being a model for bridging not only the gap between authoritative and organic leadership styles, but also the gap between generations which is so pervasive in this city. They can also start to bind the advantages and strengths of both generations, as well as the one in-between.

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(Continued on page 20)

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