



# The Menorah

## Notes from the Rabbi: Ethan Seidel Even if You Can Take the Heat...

A favorite place for me is TI's lovely new kitchen. I lead baking sessions there with the Hebrew School. I make *sufganiyot* with new members. I make hundreds of *hamentashen* along with many others at Purim. I bake countless *challot* and *rugelach* for Shabbat *kiddushim*. I feel very much a part of life at TI when I'm cooking for our shul, and each time I am thankful for all those who made that new kitchen possible.

However, there *is* one time during the week I try to stay out of the kitchen as much as possible: on Shabbat mornings, when the staff is involved in feeding hundreds of people. I can't stay completely out at such times – I *am* the *kashrut* supervisor, after all – but I know how hard-working our staff is, and how

crowded the kitchen can get, and how sometimes speed is of the essence. So I try to stay out of the way.



I write this month to ask you to do the same – stay out of the kitchen on Shabbat mornings!

I think most of you know this, but since we have had so many new members join in the last few years, I thought it worth stating publically.

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## President's Column: Joel Cohen Liberating Jews and Others

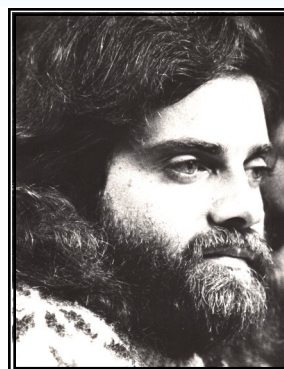
The other day, I was helping my son, Eli, find books for a term paper he is writing about the Hungarian Revolution of 1848. In one of the books, I found a table listing all the major Hungarian revolutionary groups, which in one column showed the percentage of Jews in each group was between 40% and 75%.

This did not surprise me, because as a semi-native Italian, I know the history of the Italian revolutions of that period. I know that a large number of Jews fought for the unification of Italy, and after unification, there were Jews in the cabinet in all the early governments.

Eli later showed me his work, which indicated that the Hungarian Revolution was an ethnically nationalistic movement.

Since this type of nationalism tends to be anti-Semitic, I was surprised that so many Jews would have been involved.

Further investigation revealed that the lists I had seen referred to later revolutionary groups. I discovered that in stark contrast to most of the other 1848 European revolutions, where the emancipation of the Jews was one of the major issues considered in each country,



*(Continued on page 3)*



## Notes from the Rabbi (continued)

I ask you to remember how hard the kitchen and maintenance staff are working to get lunch ready, to serve it and to keep the food and beverages refilled. Now, if you have a question or need something, by all means, please ask. The staff will help you as quickly as they can, but remember they are also responsible for serving lunch to a very large number of people.

In addition to your potentially getting in the way on Shabbat mornings, there are also *kashrut* issues if you go inside the kitchen. Please, don't bring anything into the kitchen or take anything out yourself. Also, do not go into the storage area or dish-washing area behind the stage for the same reasons.

Even something as seemingly innocuous as pouring your drink down the drain can upset the apple cart. For example, were you to duck into the kitchen just to pour

out a drink (in which there was some milk) into the nearest sink to the entrance (which happens to be *fleishig*) – well, you see the problem...

All this is not to give you a blanket request, or even *permission* to stay out of the kitchen *always*. There are plenty of times (the once-a-month Thursday night cooking for Shabbat lunch, to name just one) when we could really use your help in the kitchen.

There is nothing like hanging out in the kitchen, cooking together, to build community. So I *do* want you to visit the kitchen (and cook in it) often. Just not on Shabbat morning.

Thank you for understanding,

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

## **Show Your Kids a Good Time Bring Them to the Spring Fling!**

Are your kids looking for a fun night while you do something special too? If so, sign up today for the TI Spring Fling, May 6. It has something for you AND your kids. The Kids Zone will have babysitting for the 18 months to pre-K set, and for K-6th graders, there will be:

- Ping Pong and Foosball (older kids)
- Relays and circle games (younger kids)
- Board games for all
- Art room with sand & spin art, modeling clay
- Two choices of age-appropriate movies
- AND a Moon Bounce!

So... for just \$10/per kid, the kids can hang out and have supervised fun with other TI youth. And, you'll get to enjoy the cocktail hour, silent auction, dinner/dessert and fabulously funny Comedy Show produced by Kim Levone and Improbable Comedy.

Adult tickets are \$54 each, teens \$18, family maximum, \$128. If you have already signed up and want to sign up your children, call the office.

## President's Column (continued)

the Hungarian revolution of 1848 did not emancipate the Jews.

Before 1848, in most of Europe (with the exception of France, the Netherlands and England) Jews were subject to separate laws. The revolutions of that year were mainly about middle class emancipation, and for most revolutionaries this included Jewish emancipation. Although the revolutions mainly did not successfully produce permanent democratic governments, they did leave Jews with full citizenship rights – at least on paper.

### Jewish Activism and Liberalism

Not all Jews were activists, but all Jewish activists were on the side of the liberal revolutions. Liberals as a whole felt that discriminatory laws were anachronistic and morally unjust. Many looked forward to Jews being treated as any other person, hoping that intermarriages would help erase the “differences” between Jews and non-Jews. Of course many orthodox Jews were against emancipation for exactly that reason.

Gabriel Riesser, a Jewish spokesperson for emancipation asserted, “I am convinced that a unified Germany will also include emancipation.” Another said, “The messiah, for whom we prayed these thousands of years, has appeared and our fatherland has been given to us. The messiah is freedom, our fatherland is Germany.” (Whoops.)

### Fear of Jewish Domination

In many of these countries, however, Christians who were not part of the uprisings felt that Jewish emancipation would quickly lead to Jewish domination. (This was the feeling in Hungary and the reason that that revolution took a nationalistic turn.) To assume that emancipation would lead to domination requires reading the book

of Esther as a history book or as a book of predictions. In chapter 9, we recall, once the Jews were given permission to fight back, they gathered themselves together in their cities throughout all the provinces, to kill their enemies: “...and no man could withstand them; for the fear of the Jews fell upon all people.” So the Jews of Shushan killed 500 people, but in the provinces, they “slew of their foes seventy-five thousand.”

Was it on this slaughter that Christians were basing their fears? Looking back at the fantasy of Esther and the fear that Jews might dominate Europe, it is hard to say which is sillier.

### Arab Spring in Light of 1848

Today as we look at the Arab Spring, it might be useful to think back to the revolutions that swept Europe 164 years ago. They left some positive permanent results, but each gain was at some cost in another direction. For example, Jews were freed, making it legal and convenient to convert and intermarry. Constitutions were written, and too often torn up. Parliaments legislated, but the Sovereign had the final word.

Are there perhaps similarities to things happening today here at home? Could the fear of giving rights to the undocumented immigrants be based on the same kind of irrational worry that they will in the future dominate us? This type of fear may be what underlies the strong reaction that we have seen in Arizona and Alabama, whose new laws on the expulsion of undocumented immigrants have forced many to move away and many more to go deeper into hiding.

As the parallels between European Jewry and undocumented Hispanics in the United States grow, do Jews have a special duty to strengthen their rights and improve their working

conditions? Some groups such as Jews United for Justice have responded to this special duty. They see the emancipation of the undocumented workers as a means of liberating all of us, in the same way that the liberal revolutionaries of 164 years ago saw the emancipation of Jews as a means of empowering all Europeans.

*Some of the information presented here is from an article by Prof. Glenn Sharfman on Jewish Emancipation.*

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## Tikkun Leil Shavuot Saturday, May 26

Are you studying a Jewish topic or reading a Jewish book you think worth discussing? Is there an analysis of Jewish history or culture you want to present?

Or would you like to hear such a presentation?

One of the most distinctive Jewish traditions is the *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*, a study session on the eve of Shavuot, held every year at TI. Only the presenters have to prepare in advance. For one night, part of a night, or even just one hour, give yourself over to study.

This year, TI meets jointly with not only Ohev Sholom and Shirat HaNefesh, as in the past, but also Fabringen and Segula. There will be a choice of three to five presenters for all but the first two sessions. We conclude with a morning service, starting before 5 a.m.

Presenters are needed for at least six slots of 40-55 minutes each, including discussion time. ANY Jewish topic is suitable. If you are interested please contact Mark Berch at [mberch@mac.com](mailto:mberch@mac.com) or 301-681-7625.

## New Members

### Jared Garelick

This month's featured new members are proud parents of members of TI's large and growing B'nei Mitzvah class of 2024. Prime dates are going fast.

#### Rob and Deborah Seidner

Rob and Debbie are happy residents of Capitol Hill, where they moved a few years ago after relocating from Chicago, Debbie's home town. Rob is originally from Long Island. They met as undergraduates at Brandeis.

Debbie works in financial consulting at Pricewaterhouse-Coopers, and Rob is in human resources policy at the Department of Transportation. They have two children: Wesley, who is three and a half, and Ruthie, who is six months old.

The Seidners found TI through congregant Sarah Meytin, an old friend of Rob's, who told him they could skip the shul shopping because this is where they would end up. They've been pleased to find it so welcoming. They enjoy traveling and doing activities with their kids.

#### Jennifer and Naomi Taransky

JT and Naomi did not need to look far to find TI; they are Shepherd Park residents, and it is a neighborhood institution. In TI geographical terms, they own Marcia and Jerry Goldberg's old house. Naomi grew up in New Haven, in the shadow of Yale. JT is from Ossining, New York, in the shadow of Sing Sing prison.

Naomi, a Georgetown law school graduate, works as a lawyer in the Office of Management and Budget; previously, she worked for the House Budget Committee. JT teaches English as a second language, most recently in the DC public schools. This past year, JT has been staying home with Benjamin, their 11-month-old baby.

When time allows, you can find Naomi training for triathlons. JT enjoys cooking, and has been known to attend TI's mitzvah knitting.

Welcome to this month's featured new members.

## Trip to Historic Richmond

Josh Furman

Join Tifereth Israel Congregation for a Day in Historic Richmond on Sunday, May 20, from 9:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The \$36 cost of the trip includes bus transportation, admission fees, and a dairy boxed lunch.

We will visit the historic Beth Ahabah synagogue and tour its museum of colonial Jewish life, explore the Chimborazo Medical Museum to learn about health care during the Civil War, and end the day at the Virginia State Capitol.

And we'll be showing the Civil War documentary film, *Jewish Soldiers in Blue and Gray*, on the bus.

We hope you'll join us to learn more about Richmond and the Southern Jewish experience.

Please RSVP by May 4 to the synagogue office. Look for an online RSVP form coming soon on the synagogue website!

### **Funeral Practices Committee** **Always On-Call**

Chaverim of the Funeral Practices Committee are on call to provide counsel and services to synagogue members and their dependents. Prior to contacting the funeral home, please contact one of the following chaverim, Rabbi Seidel, or the TI office (202-882-1605).

**Shelly Heller** h: 301-942-1836  
w: 202-242-6698

**Jeff Davidson** h: 301-593-1335

**David (Judy) Cohen** h: 301-652-2872

**Marcia Goldberg** h: 301-589-0352

## Summary of TI Board of Directors Meeting March 12, 2012

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

**Absent:** Varda Fink, Lynne Snyder

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

The meeting was called to order by President Joel Cohen at 8:10 pm.

**Spring Fling:** Rona Siskind. It will be May 6 with a comedy show produced by Kim Levone.

**Membership Committee:** Sara Goldberg. one new member, Sherri Vishner, who is a roommate of Yvonne Shashoua. A Membership event will be May 5.

**Finance Committee:** Chris Zeilinger. The finances are in good shape. The Committee will suggest equal pricing for the upstairs and downstairs High Holiday services. In the mid-Atlantic region, 80-85% of the synagogues bundle their High Holiday tickets with the member price. We could consider such a change in the dues structure. It would take about three years to implement and should be discussed through open meetings and focus groups.

The Building Preservation Fund may request an increase in the assessment. That would have to be voted on by the board and then by the TI membership.

**Priorities Committee:** Chris Zeilinger. A diverse set of

perspectives were considered when prioritizing TI's needs. Five major themes were discussed:

1. Plumbing.
2. Outside on ground level: The ramp and plantings.
3. Classroom level of building: The amount of work we decide to do would influence where this rehab would fall on the priorities list.
4. Memorial Boards: The question of changing the custom of remembering those who have died may have changed which makes this lower down on the list of necessary improvements.
5. The roof: The environmental committee suggested putting solar panels on the roof. The committee needs more.

People could make new suggestions to the Priorities Committee by contacting Chris.

**Ritual Committee:** Jevera Temsky. The committee held a very successful session on Birkat Hamazon. There will be other sessions on the order of the service.

**Lifelong Learning Committee:** School: There will be about 15 kindergarten students in the gan class next year and 90 students total.

Adult Ed: There were two great programs: Jerry Muller, scholar in residence and Alison Westermann, musician in residence. On May 13 Shirley and Jerry Rosenberg will be dedicating a painting by Mindy Wiesel.

The Cultural Arts Fund has money to spend on cultural programming. Laura Schiavo, Eric Weiner, and Susan Chapin will be the trustees of this fund.

USY: This past Shabbat we hosted 47 out-of-towners plus staff for USY.

**Social Action Committee:** On Christmas last year, 300 dinners were served at 3 locations. It will be increased to 4 locations so they are requesting an additional \$500.

### **Executive Director's Report:**

Office Update: The office has been rearranged for efficiency. Tons of junk have been cleaned out.

House Purchase Update: Although the Committee decided not to continue to pursue the house purchase, David Zinner feels that we should continue the discussion about purchasing another neighboring house.

### **Good and Welfare:**

Mark Verschell put up house numbers on the building.

Renee Brachfeld will be spending the next month in Israel.

Josh Furman thanks Eitan Gutin and Jen Kefer for finding housing for all of the USY kids last weekend, and a special thanks to Allison Turner as the housing coordinator.

Eitan said the teens did a great job at the Purim Carnival, bringing in a profit of at least \$700.

The Rabbi stated that TI had a presence at the Free Alan Gross vigil. People can go every Monday at noon to the vigil.

Paula Flicker will be out of commission for 8 weeks following an accident.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

## Kol Nashim

Paula Flicker

### Programming for Next Year

Kol Nashim has begun planning its programs for September 2012 through spring 2013.

We are considering a trip to the Arlington Cemetery where a memorial to Jewish chaplains was dedicated in October. Many of us have never, or rarely, been to this special place.

We also are looking at possible programs related to women's health, and some more light-hearted programs such as another game night, perhaps with a new twist.

If you have ideas for programs that you would like Kol Nashim to provide, especially a topic and/or

speaker related to women's health, please speak with any Kol Nashim board member. We welcome your suggestions.

Our president is Margie Odle. The other board members are Debbie Pomerance, Pearl Schainker, Esther Herman, Shirley Rosenberg, Adele Natter, Helen Hovis, Carla Ellern and Paula Flicker.

### Painting Dedication

Please plan to attend the special dedication on **Sunday evening, May 13**, of a painting by Mindy Weisel, donated to TI by Shirley and Jerry Rosenberg. *Es Brent (It's Burning)* is a large oil painting rendered on handmade paper with bits of oil



pastel. Embedded in the painting, as in her other Holocaust works, is Mindy's father's concentration camp number.

Mindy Weisel will be the guest speaker. The reception is scheduled at 7 p.m., the dedication at 7:30 p.m., and the presentation at 8 p.m.

We expect a large gathering. Please RSVP as soon as possible, or for more information, call Sheri Blonder, at 202-882-1605 X101, or [tiadmin@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:tiadmin@tifereth-israel.org).

## Lifelong Learning

Eitan Gutin

### Himmelfarb School News

Each year in the Himmelfarb School we try to do something special to prepare for Pesach. This year our students, from Gan (K) all the way up to Zayin (7th), learned all about how *matzah* is made and just how hard it is to make unleavened bread in 18 minutes or less.

The Daled through Zayin classes had a special treat as their factory, led by Rabbi Seidel, included spelt and other ancient grains in their *matzot*.

The Himmelfarb School ended the month of April with a school-wide celebration of Israel's 64th birthday.

In an excellent program created by parent **Elaine Weiss** and **Marla Sevi**, the Assistant to the Director of Lifelong Learning, the students experienced the land of Israel through a different city, kibbutz, or natural wonder featured in each classroom.

The morning ended with a *beit cafe* led by Gan and music teacher **Silvia Edenburg**, complete with a birthday cake for the Jewish State.

As the spring advanced, the Himmelfarb School began to look towards the fall. On the very rainy Sunday, April 22, the incoming Gan Class of 2012 got together for the first time as we hosted a playmate and (indoor) picnic for the class.

While the rising kindergarteners got to know each other the parents met with me and Himmelfarb School Chair **Lisa Blumenthal** to discuss curriculum, policy, and all the wonderful things the families have to look forward to as they begin their children's Jewish education.

### A Weekend Celebrating Our Students and Their Families

We are looking forward to **June 8-10**, when we will finish our school and

program year with a full weekend of celebrations. The festivities will include:

**Friday Evening, June 8:** Family Service and Shabbat Dinner.

**Shabbat Morning, June 9:** We honor our 10th Graders who have completed the Chai School with Confirmation. In addition, we will honor and bid farewell to those TI young adults who are graduating high school.

**Sunday Morning, June 10:** A full day to end the school year. The morning will include a Siddur Party for our rising Gimel (3rd grade) class and a graduation ceremony for the Vav (6th) and Zayin (7th) classes who will enter Junior Chai in September.

The day will be capped off with our annual Summer Celebration with a moon bounce and pizza picnic.

## Social Action at TI: Stephen Nelson Meet Our Volunteer Leaders



*This is part of our ongoing series of interviews with TI members who have been active in social action activities, either sponsored by the Social Action Committee or through their own individual efforts.*

There's a collection box near the Juniper Street entrance of Tifereth Israel. I've noticed it for many years, and know that it's for donations, but really haven't known about the full background surrounding it until recently. Now that I've spoken to **Jeri Roth Lande**, I know more of the story.

For about the past year, Jeri has been the coordinator for the Social Action Committee's

donation program, following up for Judy Rodenstein. Jeri says that she tries to find a theme for each month, as well as an organization to collect for.

Right now, the current need is to collect some toiletries for **A Wider Circle** ([awidercircle.org](http://awidercircle.org)), a social action organization founded by former American University Professor Mark Bergel.

It provides beds, dressers, and other important household items for needy families in the Greater Washington area. Needed for this project are things like toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo and soap.

In May, Roth is organizing a summer clothing drive for **Martha's Table** ([marthastable.org](http://marthastable.org)), while in June, the focus will turn to blankets, linens, and towels for the **Emory Church's Transitional Housing Program** ([emorybol.org](http://emorybol.org)).

In addition to drives for established programs, she is open to combining Bar and Bat Mitzvah charity projects with broader synagogue-wide efforts.

Roth, who has been a member of TI for 19 years (along with her

husband Bob, and her two children Michael and Rachel), has chosen this initiative because it's intensively action-driven.

"I'm not the kind of person who likes to go to a lot of meetings, but I like to see things get done," she says, adding that she believes that these efforts can get more universal support than "things that are more controversial."

One of her other TI-related projects was collecting information on photographers, caterers, and musical entertainment for Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and including that in a guide that was shared broadly with TI parents.

Roth, who is a chemist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), has also been co-editor of *The Menorah*, and has coordinated service leaders for Shabbat mornings.

In addition to her TI activities, she's the webmaster for the **Action Committee for Transit**, a nonprofit group that supports mass transit initiatives in Montgomery County, including the proposed Purple Line connecting Bethesda and Silver Spring.



## Library News

Michele Sumka

### Calling All Books!

I've been doing the librarian job for about eight months and now have a fairly good knowledge of how the library is set up, how the check-out and return works, which categories of books we have, where they are, and how to enter books into [LibraryThing.com](http://LibraryThing.com).

I now want to move onto the next step.

I want to be sure that every book we own is entered in the computer database and that we know where it is shelved.

I want to be sure that the shelving system makes sense for the set-up of the library and that we have room for the books we have and those we plan to acquire.

To do that, we are planning to conduct an **inventory** of all the books in the library. So, we need the books back in order to count them and to make sure that they're all in the database and categorized by topic.

My guess is that many of us (and I am including myself) have books on our shelves that belong to the Mollie L. Berch Library. **Please go through your bookshelves and return the books to the synagogue by Saturday, May 12.** We plan to do the inventory the week of May 20.

We will need volunteers to help with the inventory, so if you would like to help, please contact me. This would also be a good project for those students who still need community service credits.

## Comedy Night At Spring Fling, May 6

The Spring Fling and Silent Auction will feature a comedy show with two comedians, Chris Coccia and Shahryar.

Only a few more days remain before this outstanding event. Help make it an even more fun, fabulous and successful fundraising evening! Sign up now!

Buy a Raffle Ticket (or lots of them) for a Bernie Shleien Sculpture or a Kindle Fire.

Donate! Donate! Donate! You can easily donate something yourself.

To sign up for the event, buy raffle tickets, or donate an item or service, call the synagogue office or click on the links in the most recent TI newsletter.

## Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

### May 4

Dan Liebman & Lis Davis  
Kobi Lifshitz & Lisa Traiger  
John & Lynne List  
Sean & Jara MacDermott  
Oscar & Amy Mann  
Stephen Marcus & Renee Matalon  
Joseph & Paula Martin  
Robert Mathis & Tali Stopak-Mathis  
David & Carla Matusow  
Adam Mausner & Anna Shapiro

### May 11

David & Janice Mehler  
Alexander & Danielle Meitiv  
Ethan Merlin & Joelle Nova  
David & Dana Mermelstein  
R. Sarah & Rachel Meytin  
Daniel Michelson-Horowitz  
Josephine Mickelson

Adil & Emily Moiduddin  
Kenneth Morris & Terri Zall  
Sammie Moshenberg

### May 25

Eli & Laura Muller  
Myron Murdock  
Jonah & Stephanie Murdock  
Beth Naftalin  
Daniel Nathan & Dori Bernstein  
Ray & Adele Natter  
Sheridan & Dana Neimark  
Stephen Nelson & Leslie Goodman-  
Malamuth  
Lee & Hedy Ohringer  
Sarah Osborne

### June 1

Larry Paul & Joye Newman  
Fylis Peckham

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

### June 15

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



# Nayes un Mekhayes for Tiers

Barbara Raimondo

## Wedding Bells

**Hannah Bergman**, daughter of **Margie Odle** and **Carl Bergman**, is engaged to **Mitch Hergett**, son of Teri and Steve Hergett of Billings, Montana. Yes, Montana! Who knew people actually lived there!

Hannah, a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, is pursuing a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Mitch, a graduate of Montana State University (they even have college!), is a staff engineer with Columbia Technical Communications. A May 2013 wedding is planned.

**Yvonne Shashoua** recently married **Stuart Weichsel**. He is a tax lawyer who lives and works in New York, and plans to move down to DC soon.

## Peanut Shells

**Leah Samantha Rose Lemberg** was born March 30, 2012, to TI members **Ken** and **Rachel Lemberg**. At birth she weighed 6 lbs., 6 oz., and was 19 inches long.

**Elizabeth Richman** and **Ben Dreyfus** announce the birth of their first child, on April 7, 2012, the second night of Passover and the first day of the *omer*. He measured 7 lbs, and 20.5 inches. All are healthy and doing well.

While most of us put our sweaters away in the summer so they don't get eaten by moths, **Andrea Kline** does the opposite. She has crocheted a teeny, weeny wool sweater which is on exhibit at the National Museum of Natural History, in the clothing moth case at the Insect Zoo. See it before it is eaten. This is the second time she's done this. Obviously she never learns! One question: How was she

able to measure the moth to make sure it fit?

And if you think your relatives are bad, **Shirley Rosenberg** reveals that **Larry Fine** (Fineberg), the redhead, was her cousin once-removed. Look for the new Three Stooges movie. Nyuk, nyuk!

**Larry Bram** was recently appointed Senior Vice President, Innovation & Program Development, for Easter Seals Greater Washington–Baltimore Region. His office is in downtown Silver Spring, and his purpose is to develop new programs in all of Easter Seals service areas: children's, adult/senior, and veteran's/wounded warriors. Easter Seals' Silver Spring center is an inter-generational center with a child development center and adult medical day services.

## Cheap Hotels

**Aylat Lifshitz**, a junior at Walter Johnson High School, is off to Israel for eight weeks of *tiyulim* -- touring -- and learning as part of Alexander Muss High School in Israel program. While there she will visit her cousins in Haifa. Brother **Ophir Lifshitz**, a freshman at University of Maryland, recently competed with the college's quiz bowl team at the national championship in Chicago.

And **Asher Kirschbaum**, a member of the Maryland School for the Deaf (MSD) Academic Bowl team, helped MSD win the national championship at Gallaudet University, beating 79 teams from deaf and mainstream schools around the country and locally. Shortly after, Asher was a co-champion in the U.S. Chess Center's Rated Beginner's Open chess tournament. Asher credits all his success in life to his truly

amazing, incredible parents. As he should. Or he's grounded for a month. No car, either.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *nayes*: "news" (Glossary of Yiddish Words and Phrases, <http://kehillatisrael.net/docs/yiddish/yiddish.htm#n>).

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

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

## TI is Blooming! Order Flowers Now

During May you can purchase a bunch of Spring Flowers for only \$10 per week, and pick them up at TI each Wednesday between 3 and 8 p.m.

Think how nice your Shabbat table will look, and it's so easy to swing by TI during Hebrew School pick-up or drop-off, or on your way home from work or to a meeting.

Place your order by Thursday for pick up on the following Wednesday. Order on-line or call the TI office.

Flowers have never been so easy!

## Bat Mitzvah

Hi, I'm **Naomi Ostriker**, and I go to Takoma Park Middle School. I am quite fond of books (*Pathfinder*, anybody?) and I could give you a few suggestions if desired. I can spend hours on the couch with the cat, slipping into different worlds full of adventure. I also love cooking desserts especially as they are fun to make, and reward the chef with a delicious treat.

I consider myself artistic, and if not monitored closely, I will drown my schoolwork in doodles. I prefer making art to looking at it, however, and occasionally three museums in a day will induce a much needed (in my opinion) rest on a bench. I am also an avid scientist who favors biology, a gymnast, and I play the violin.

I will be reciting the first aliyah of *Behar*, and the *haftarah* of *Behukkotai* and I'm looking forward to seeing all of my family and friends. I mean, I've been working *hard* on this! Don't forget, May 19. Can't wait to see you there!



## May Highlights at Tifereth Israel

<b>May 6,</b>	<b>Spring Fling, 6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>May 7, 14, 21</b>	<b>Monday Learning <i>Parashat HaShavuah</i>, 11 a.m. Job Club, 1 p.m.</b>
<b>May 13</b>	<b>Mindy Weisel Painting Dedication, 7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>May 19</b>	<b>Naomi Ostriker Bat Mitzvah</b>
<b>May 20</b>	<b>Trip to Historic Richmond, 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.</b>
<b>May 26</b>	<b>Erev Shavuot, Tikkun Leil Shavuot</b>
<b>May 27</b>	<b>Shavuot Services, 9 a.m.</b>
<b>May 28</b>	<b>Shavuot Services, 9 a.m., including Yizkor</b>

## News from TI's Partner Synagogue in Goettingen

Naomi Revzin

Like TI, our sister synagogue in Goettingen, Germany (die Goettingen Gemeinde) is on the move.

Purim was celebrated with music, dancing, and games for children and toddlers. And like us, immediately after, they turned their attention to Passover preparations, with the Women's Club program on how to get ready for the holiday.

### Children's & Communal Sedarim

Before the first *seder* the Gemeinde also sponsored a children's *seder* with songs, stories, and games in Hebrew and German.

As in past years, the Gemeinde celebrated the second *seder*, led by

Rabbi Gabor Lengyel, as a community, emphasizing that Passover and the Exodus are communal events.

During Passover, the Gemeinde also welcomed Margarita Suslovic, who spoke about new government guidelines for Jewish immigrants to Germany who were born beginning in 1990.

Upcoming is the "Culture Cafe" which will welcome writer Anna Sokhrina from St. Petersburg. The Gemeinde's German, Hebrew, and English courses meet weekly.

The current issue of *Luach*, the Gemeinde's newsletter, featured the Eden-Park resort in Bad Kissingen (something for TI'ers to consider when next traveling to Germany).

### Varied Programs

The all-Kosher resort and spa offers a unique opportunity to refresh and relax in a Jewish environment while partaking of Bad Kissingen's historic ambience and its healthful waters. Complementing Eden-Park's services are musical evenings, lectures and discussions on timely issues, day excursions, continuing education programs, and Jewish theater. Also available are wellness programs for the elderly.

Please contact Naomi Revzin (301-837-9097-h; 301-765-6272-w; [arnoldrevzin@msn.com](mailto:arnoldrevzin@msn.com)) if you would like more information on our partnership program with Goettingen's Jewish community or would like to make contact with the Goettingen Gemeinde.

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## Thank You, Roz Kram

*For TI members who are considering the synagogue's catering services for future family events, the following thank-you letter from Jon Alterman to Roz Kram, TI's Kitchen Manager, is of interest. It provides a useful testimonial about the quality and variety of menu options available and Roz's dedicated, personalized services:*

April 8, 2012

Dear Roz:

Kathy and I want to thank you for all the care and effort you put into catering Bella's bat mitzvah on March 17. I don't need to tell you that it required a marathon—four menus

over two days, something like ten entrees and numerous sides, all of them vegetarian, and several of them our favorite recipes you hadn't made before.

Some caterers would have refused the challenge, and some would have balked. They would have pushed us into their own comfort zone. Instead, at every step of the way, you kept asking us to make sure it was what we wanted and how we wanted it.

You were there for every moment of every event, constantly making sure our guests had what they needed and felt well cared for. The food was plentiful and tasty, and very much what we had in mind. We enjoyed the leftovers thoroughly.

I am also grateful to you for accommodating our crazy request to order extra cans of food service-sized goods to use as centerpieces for the event, and which we donated to Shepherd's Table afterward. Shepherd's Table was delighted with the donation, and we were happy to be able to help, with your help.

From beginning to end, you remained focused on helping us to have the event we wanted to have. We did, and we are very grateful to you for your help making it so.

Sincerely,

Jon

## A United Nations Without Israel?

Frank Solomon

The United Nations is “a dangerous place” with an anti-Israel mindset, but the United States and Israel need to stay in the world body, according to several prominent international relations experts and an Israeli diplomat.

On March 25, a dozen Tifereth Israel members attended “Israel Under Siege: Combating the Use of the United Nations to Delegitimize Israel,” a forum at Ohr Kodesh Congregation. They heard the experts discuss the “cultural bias” of the UN and what American and Israel could do about it.

### AJIRI Sponsorship

The American Jewish International Relations Institute (AJIRI) sponsored the forum, along with 25 area synagogues—including Tifereth Israel—and other religious organizations.

**Richard Schifter**, AJIRI chairman and former ambassador to the UN, said that when he arrived at the UN in the 1970s, then-Ambassador Daniel Patrick Moynihan warned him that “this is a dangerous place. They have an agenda to embarrass the United States and delegitimize Israel. It’s a cesspool of anti-Semitism.

“It has been more than 30 years since my introduction to the UN,” Schifter added. “Unfortunately this culture has not changed.”

Schifter said there are three voting groups at the world body—those that vote against Israel, those that vote against the United States, and those that just go along with the majority, which happens to be the combination of the first two.

“Unfortunately, many of the countries these people represent don’t even

have foreign ministry officials in the United Nations. The heads of these countries have no idea what’s going on or how they are represented in the United Nations,” he said.

After decades of witnessing US- and Israel-bashing by the UN majority, Schifter, now retired, founded AJIRI to fight what he called the UN bias and the delegitimization of Israel.

**Eliav Benjamin**, counselor for political affairs at the Embassy of Israel in Washington, said that although the UN does many “good things, ...at the end of the day, Israel is always singled out.

“If we look at every international forum where Israel has something to do, politics always gets back at us,” Benjamin said. “Of the 92 resolutions that the UN Human Rights Council passed, 39 were against Israel, one against Iran, and four against Syria, and that’s only because of recent events in the Middle East.”

### Manipulation of UNESCO

Benjamin said the UN Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has been used first by the former Soviet Union, then Cuba and later Libya for their goals. These days, UNESCO, most of whose members are 77 countries from the “non-aligned movement,” is led by none other than Iran.

Despite it all, Benjamin said Israel couldn’t afford not to be in the UN.

“Israel has so much to offer to the international community, to the developing world, and to the developed world—and I’m saying it modestly,” he said. “What we need to do is to have the UN focus on the issues that it should focus on, such

as health, food, population, and climate.”

### Israel is a Strategic Partner

US Senator **Ben Cardin**, Democrat of Maryland, said he has repeatedly told Secretary of State Hilary Clinton that Israel is the only country in the Middle East that has a democracy and an independent judiciary, and shares Western values with the United States. “Israel is the most strategic partner of the US in the Middle East. Israel wants peace. We want peace. We all want that,” Cardin said.

Cardin added that he was the first US diplomat to visit Israel as Netanyahu was about to become the next Israeli prime minister. In the presence of the US ambassador, Cardin said, “Netanyahu told me these words: that Israel wants peace. But it has to have a partner to work with.

“Amazingly, the words then got to the State Department but were never released,” Cardin said.

**Marlene Moses**, permanent representative to the UN for the Republic of Nauru, who received an award from AJIRI for her staunch support of Israel at the UN, said her country “defends every nation’s right to exist.

“I have visited Israel several times, and every time I did, it affirmed my faith in the country,” Moses said. “I cannot claim full knowledge of this complicated issue, but we must preserve this vibrant, democratic society and combat this one-sided debate at the United Nations.” For her unfailing support, 200 trees have been planted in Israel in her honor, said AJIRI Executive Director Sharon Wilkes.

*(Continued on page 13)*

## Among the Generations of the Jewish People

Audrey Smith

*Rachel was in childbirth, and she had hard labor . . . Thus Rachel died. She was buried on the road to Ephrat, now Bethlehem. Over her grave Jacob set up a pillar; it is the pillar at Rachel's grave to this day — Genesis 35:19*

*And when the time approached for Israel to die he summoned his son Joseph and said to him "When I lie down with my fathers, take me up from Egypt and bury me in their burial place." — Genesis 47:29*

When Rachel died on the road after giving birth to Benjamin, her life expressed all of our lives. From birth to death, we are all on the road, and at life's end, our life is memorialized by a marker. This marker, as Joseph pledged to Jacob, is to be from age to age, among the generations of the Jewish people.

Perhaps the greatest virtue we have as Jews is the appreciation that we are within a ritual framework that enhances and sanctifies each of our milestones. Even the ritual of burial places us in a perpetual movement of remembering — from *Shiva* to *Sh'loshim*, *Kaddish*, unveiling and annual cemetery visits. Before time of need, selection of a cemetery plot can seamlessly carry us, or our families into the progression of mourning.

### Trustees' Role

At TI, the Cemetery Trustees carry out our institutional tradition of caring for those who have died by insuring that our cemeteries are respectful, accessible and well maintained. We are always seeking better and more economical solutions to practical problems. We constantly work to improve the aesthetic quality of the grounds and have accomplished much, with many projects always under consideration.

For example, at Mount Lebanon and Elesvetegrad — our historic cemetery — we continue to research and put into a computer the historical and genealogical information of those interred. We invite all of our congregants to become informed and participate in this vital aspect of congregational life.

### Price Increase, July 1

One of our duties is to make cemetery plots available at a reasonable cost. We are proud that we have been able to keep our cemeteries both well maintained and affordable. To maintain our level of care, the trustees from time to time examine our charges for maintenance and the prices others charge with an eye to affordability.

The trustees have decided that there is a need to increase our prices by 10 percent. The current and new prices are show in the box below, *TI Cemetery Plot Price Revisions*. The new prices are still among the lowest in the region. The trustees also decided to maintain the current prices until July 1, 2012 to allow members to purchase before the new rates go into effect.

### TI Cemetery Plot Price Revisions

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Nonmembers</u>
<b>New Price</b>	<b>\$1,100</b>	<b>\$1,650</b>
<b>Current Price*</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,500</b>

\* Price until July 1, 2012

## A United Nations Without Israel? (continued)

**Marvin Kalb**, journalist and professor emeritus at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, ended the forum with what he called a "fantasy" question.

He said his fantasy was sparked by memories of the August 20, 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Soviets because Prague wanted to

shake off Soviet dominance in pursuit of democracy.

"We have all focused on a very serious issue," Kalb said. "But here is my fantasy: Israel may be the conscience of the United Nations. Imagine a United Nations without Israel? What would it be like?"

Sheridan Neimark, Marcia Goldberg, Mona Berch, Esther and Gene Herman, Naomi and Arnold Revzin and Frank Solomon were among the dozen TI members who attended the forum.

AJIRI's Schifter was the Shalem program speaker at TI on April 21.

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