



The Menorah

Notes from the Rabbi: Ethan Seidel and Kenneth Cohen The Vine and Fig Project

Inside This Issue*

- [Board Minutes Summary](#) 3
- [New Members](#) 4
- [Kol Nashim](#) 5
- [Goettingen Congregation](#) 5
- [Adult Education](#) 6
- [Barbara White at JSC](#) 6
- [Register for Retreat](#) 7
- [November Highlights](#) 7
- [Nayes un Mekhayes](#) 8
- [Photography Show](#) 9
- [RH Food Delivery](#) 9
- [Symphony of Potomac](#) 9
- [Improbable Comedy](#) 10
- [Friday Night Minyan](#)
- Assignments 10
- [Appreciation to TI](#) 11
- [Bridge Between Faiths?](#) 12
- [Donations](#) 13

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

On Monday, October 15, the TI Board of Directors passed a resolution to become a fiscal sponsor for the Vine and Fig Project. The Project was founded by Rabbi Kenneth Cohen and incorporated this year as an interfaith dialog and educational initiative. Its purpose is to work with clergy and members of mainstream Christian congregations, focusing on issues arising out of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

In recent years, various Protestant denominations have rejected BDS (boycott, divestment and sanctions) resolutions. However, such unhelpful initiatives are still common. Just last month, on October 5, leaders of 15 Christian groups signed a letter to Congress calling for a review of US aid to Israel. The letter provoked a firestorm of

protest from major American Jewish organizations, seven of which pulled out from October's annual Christian-Jewish Roundtable.



The Vine and Fig Project will sponsor educational and dialog opportunities to "air out" concerns. It is not the intention of the Project to be an advocate either for or against specific Israeli policies. The

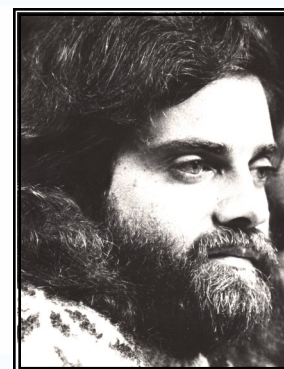
(Continued on page 2)

President's Column: Joel Cohen Vine and Fig

Vine and Fig is a new organization temporarily associated with Tifereth Israel. Rabbi Seidel and Vine and Fig's director, Rabbi Ken Cohen, have written a separate article (see above) that provides a complete description of the group. My purpose here is to tell you why the Board of Directors decided to "adopt" it.

First of all, there is probably no subject (yes, even including this month's election) about which we have stronger and more divergent views than Israel. I suspect that none of us agrees 100% with anyone else in the congregation. It is taken for granted that no one can speak for the congregation when it comes to Israel – not the Rabbi, not even the president. By taking Vine and Fig under our wing, we are not saying that Rabbi Cohen is representing our views.

The Board does, however, agree with the purposes of Vine and Fig: to combat the anti-Israel activities and proposals in many so-called mainline Protestant churches by educating their leaders.



As we know, the evangelical Christian churches have in the past few decades become more Israeli than the Israelis, and have favored a rightward push in both

(Continued on page 3)



Notes from the Rabbi (continued)

Project understands that inevitably, there will be dissent, disagreement and criticism--and that all of these can be a hallmark of friendship. Some of Israel's biggest defenders within the denominations take exception to some policies of her government.

Rather than being a political advocate, the Vine and Fig Project seeks to keep dialog accurate, fair and contextual. For better or worse, Israel has become somewhat of a celebrity among nations—and expectations and standards are often applied which her defenders feel are unfair. One need not be an anti-Semite to have what amounts to political prejudices.

Planned next steps include conversations between Rabbi Cohen and clergy as well as lay people; articles and

blogs; and training for facilitators. The Vine and Fig Project hopes to be represented at conferences. Rabbi Cohen has already met with, and been well received by, many clergy and church leaders from different denominations.

As a new organization, The Vine and Fig Project does not yet have its own 501(c)3 tax-exempt status. This can take up to a year to obtain. Further, building a core of lay leaders to serve on a board, adopting by-laws and addressing other organizational issues take time. It is common practice among new groups to seek a fiscal sponsor during their formative period to extend logistical and tax-deductible cover while the fledgling organization gets up and running.

With the passage of the TI board resolution, the Vine and Fig Project will become, effectively, a committee within the synagogue, but it will do its own fundraising. A portion of the funds raised will be given to the synagogue to defer administrative costs incurred. The synagogue will control all bank accounts and make all dispersals. All donations made to the Project will be deposited in accounts controlled by TI.

The day-to-day operations will be run by Rabbi Cohen, but oversight will be maintained by a committee appointed by TI, which will report to the synagogue's board. The Vine and Fig Project's activities must be in keeping with the tax-exempt mission of the synagogue. The relationship will be reviewed periodically by both TI and the Vine and Fig Project, which will be creating its own board with the view of eventually becoming an independent 501(c)3 organization.

The Vine and Fig Project is not on the right, left or center of Israeli politics. It affirms that all dialog will be open and honest and that this will necessarily entail people making some criticism of policies of the Israeli government.

Some of that criticism may make many of us uneasy, but is reflective of Israel's own lively democracy and is, in any event, necessary to maintain a credible forum. Nobody wants to listen to a "propaganda line" and we won't attempt to provide one.

The Project will be addressing the painful reality that political stances might harden into prejudices, and we will seek to help people recognize this when it happens. It will be a place where religion, politics and intergroup education will all overlap.

We invite you to visit the website: www.VineFig.org.

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Summary of TI Board of Directors Meeting September 10, 2012

Attending: Susan Catler, Joel Cohen, Jeff Davidson, Joe Davidson, Deena Dugan, Paula Martin, Stephanie Roodman Murdock, Naomi Revzin, Daniel Turner, Vivian Seidner, David Levy, Joanne Hovis, Andrew Reamer, Mark Verschell, Jevera Temsky, Esther Herman, Alice Burton, Jeffrey Colman, Chris Zeilinger, Cynthia Peterman, Renee Brachfeld.

Excused: Sarah Meytin, Sharon Brown, Margie Odle.

Absent: Varda Fink.

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

President's Report: Joel Cohen stated that Audrey Smith will be the new chair of the Fine Arts Committee. We will get a new sukkah. The Pension Plan and Personnel Manual were amended to increase the employer contribution by one percent (1%) for employees after 25 years of employment. Steve Ross will be the first beneficiary.

Membership Committee: Alice Burton announced some new

members: Alex & Laura Strashny, Monica Freedman, Shoshana Eisenberg & Howard Burgess, Michael Heimowitz & Dori Gillman, and Tobi McFarland. There have been 29 new members since the spring. There are a few new prospective members from the Takoma Park Folk Festival. On November 17 there will be a Shabbat service to welcome new members who have joined since Spring 2012.

TI Anniversary: Cynthia Peterman and Marcia Goldberg have searched through the TI attic, going through boxes to figure out what and how to archive TI's documents. In 2016 we will celebrate our 100th anniversary. On Sunday, November 4, Cynthia and Marcia will hold a class on "Treasures from the TI Attic".

Ritual Committee: Jevera Temsky discussed the work leading up to the High Holidays. After the holidays, there will be a survey of the B'Yachad service and child-related services.

Lifelong Learning Committee, Eitan Gutin and Cynthia Peterman: On November 17 Ira Forman will

speak on the Jewish vote in the 2012 election. The retreat is the second weekend in December. The theme of the retreat will be Mindful Living in the Internet Era: How to Create a Healthy Balance. Registration will start shortly. New adult bat mitzvah and bar mitzvah classes will be starting.

Himmelfarb School has 58 students in K-6th grade. On Shabbat morning Eitan runs the junior congregation. Shultime now goes up through first grade. Youth programs are running well. Three teens went to a leadership training program.

House Committee and Building Preservation, Mark Verschell: We got a \$65,000 grant from the city for the rain garden and the permeable paving on the side of the building.

Executive Director's Report, David Zinner: We have a new renter, Herb Scott, who teaches Suzuki violin, guitar and voice.

We have 100% board participation for the Annual Appeal. The donation acknowledgement program is working well.

President's Column (continued)

American and Israeli politics. At the same time, many of the more liberal churches have become more pro-Palestinian and more frequently have adopted as one-sided (and opposite) a view as their evangelical coreligionists, for example supporting boycotts or a one-state solution. The purpose of Vine and Fig is to make sure that a balanced view is presented to those churches while they are weighing decisions.

As Rabbis Seidel and Cohen explain in their article, until a new non-profit

receives 501(c)(3) status, allowing donors to deduct donations from their taxes, it often finds a sponsoring group under whose 501(c)(3) status it can operate. The Board voted to have Vine and Fig operate under TI's 501(c)(3). In so doing, the synagogue very carefully crafted an agreement that will help Vine and Fig move forward and at the same time protect TI financially and politically.

We look forward to having Rabbi Ken Cohen update us on the growth of Vine and Fig.

How to Give a Drash

On Sunday, November 11, 10:15 -11:15 a.m., Rabbi Seidel holds the second session of a three-session course on the basic principles of giving a Shabbat morning *drash* at TI. During the first session he provided guidance material on preparing a *drash*. During this second session, and the third session on December 2, class members will present short *drashot*, with the other class members and Rabbi Seidel constructively critiquing them.

New Members

Jared Garelick

Rabbi Laura Rappaport

Laura comes to TI by way of Boise, Idaho, where she lived for 18 years. Originally from northwestern New Jersey, she moved this past year to Montgomery County, where several members of her family have relocated. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Laura was ordained at Hebrew Union College.

She enjoys teaching to all ages, from tot to adult. She is currently teaching classes at Temple Beth El and Temple Shalom, and has led adult workshops at the DCJCC and elsewhere. She is certified in hospital chaplaincy and is available for individual Jewish counseling on spirituality, personal growth, and life stages transitions.

Laura has two college-age daughters. She enjoys jogging and hiking, and misses the nearby wilderness she found in Idaho. She has enjoyed meeting people at TI, including through the monthly Thursday evening cooking.

David and Mariama Lantner

David and Mariama found TI after Mariama took an adult Bat Mitzvah class taught by Rabbi Avis Miller. David grew up in the Washington area, and Mariama is from Niger. They met when David spent a year working at the US embassy in Niger, and Mariama was also on the embassy staff.

David works in software development, specializing in web development. For the past year he has worked at the National Library of Medicine at NIH. Members who use that library's PubMed service for research can thank David for helping to keep it running. Mariama is currently studying health systems management at the University of Baltimore.

The Lantners, who live in Germantown, have three children: Sam, who is six; Sarah, who is four; and Kayla, who is 19 months. They enjoy biking and other outdoor activities, and can sometimes be found at TI Tot Shabbat services and Himmelfarb school aleph class events.

Deborah Stern and Earl Dotter

Deborah and Earl, long-time residents of the Woodside Park neighborhood of Silver Spring, joined TI after many years as members of an orthodox synagogue. Deborah grew up in Wheaton, and Earl is originally from Philadelphia.

Deborah, a lawyer, recently retired from the United Mine Workers union, where she did all types of labor law as assistant general counsel. She is now exploring a new career in special education, and just began interning at the Lab School, where she is working with fifth and sixth graders.

Earl is a free-lance photojournalist specializing in documenting working conditions, particularly in dangerous occupations. His subjects have included New England fishermen, migrant farm workers, and dairy workers. He is a visiting scholar at the Harvard School of Public Health, and also teaches photography part-time at the Hebrew Academy.

Deborah and Earl have two adult children. Deborah recently gave a *drash* at Shabbat services, and appreciated the warm and thoughtful reception.

Welcome to this month's featured new members!

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

Kol Nashim

Paula Flicker



Book Club

The new **Kol Nashim Book Club** is underway. The next book is *The New Rabbi* by Stephen Fried. This nonfiction book is about the search for a new rabbi at a Conservative synagogue in Philadelphia.

The discussion will be held **November 30** at the home of **Loretta** and **Bob Saks**. We will meet at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to participate in this monthly meeting.

Wine & Cheese Salon

On Sunday **December 2**, join the women of TI for a **Wine and Cheese Salon** at the home of **Margie Odle**. The Salon will meet from 4-6 p.m. It is a chance to greet, meet, network, and schmooze with the women of TI.

Hanukkah Boutique

Watch for news of this year's **Hanukkah Boutique**, organized by **Ruth Unteweger**. Tentative dates are Sunday morning **December 2** and Wednesday evening **December 5**. Hanukkah starts the evening of December 8.

Save the Date

Sunday morning, **December 16**, **Carla Ellern** will present "Rain Gardens and Beyond."

Entertainment Books

The books are here! Do you like Groupon? Amazon Local Deals? Register your Entertainment Book card and receive e-mail notices of

additional deals from your Entertainment Book.

Two books in one, online and paper. Each book is \$30. One or two uses will pay for the book. Contact the TI office to purchase one.

Update on Goettingen Congregation

Naomi Revzin

Our sister congregation in Germany, the Goettingen Gemeinde, used the summer months to freshen its landscaping to transform what they termed their extensive "forest" into a "park". Simultaneously, construction on the new ark was completed.

The outer doors feature a rare wood from Lebanon, like the wood that is featured in the psalm sung when the Torah is returned to the ark. Its scent, we are told, which permeates the sanctuary, is splendid.

Complementing the ark is a new curtain. A woman in Germany who specializes in *parochet* completed the work for them.

Before the High Holidays the Jewish community joined in the Festival of the Three Religions. This celebration, now three-years old, features food, music, and a quiz that tests knowledge of the three religions and rewards the winner with prizes.

All in the city of Goettingen are invited and each year the crowd increases. Perhaps this is something we can promote.

The community celebrated Sukkot with a large *sukkah* in its newly landscaped park.

When you next go to Germany, think about stopping in Goettingen. You will receive the warmest welcome!

Jewish Folk Concert

On Saturday evening, November 17, a Jewish Folk Art Festival concert will be held at TI. The concert begins at 8 p.m. and will feature:

Flory Jagoda, with Howard Bass and Susan Gaeta;

Frieda Enoch and friends;

Jessi Roemer, with Danny Gurewitz and Debi Roemer;

Aaron Shneyer;

Hannah Spiro;

Jill Sege, poet; and

Jonathan Tucker, poet.

Prior to the concert, at 6 p.m. join Rabbi David Shneyer and Larry Paul, Festival Chair, for a pre-concert *Seudah Shlisheet* dinner. This joyous third Shabbat meal will feature traditional Jewish foods, wine, schnapps, and great *zemiros* (singing).

Reservations for dinner are required by November 10. For information about the dinner and concert, call the TI office.

Adult Education

Cynthia Peterman

SHALEM

Many thanks to **Howard Gleckman** for his talk in October on Caring for the Elderly and how changes in health care legislation affect elder care.

This month's SHALEM program, **November 17**, will feature **Ira Forman**, who will deconstruct the Jewish vote in the November election. Ira currently serves as National Jewish Outreach Director for the Obama campaign. He will analyze the November election and the role of both domestic and foreign policy issues as they serve to attract the Jewish vote.

December's speaker will be **Bruce Berger**. As many of you know, Bruce is not only a lawyer but a published author. Bruce will speak on **December 15** about his creative writing and how his career as a

lawyer has informed and hindered his passion for storytelling.

Sunday Morning Talks

All presentations are at **10:15 a.m.** in the Reamer Chapel. On **November 4**, **Marcia Goldberg** and I will present "Tales from the Attic: Archiving TI's Treasures." We will share some of the fascinating items that we have discovered in the years that we have been working up in the TI attic, cataloging the items to create an archive in preparation for the synagogue's 100th anniversary.

Joelle Novey will lead a melodies workshop for all who would like to expand their musical repertoire. "Sing a New Song!" will focus on Jewish rounds and spontaneous harmonies. Words to all songs will be provided in Hebrew, English translation, and Hebrew transliterated into English letters. Join Joelle for

this fun and interactive program on **December 2**.

Multi-Session Classes

Michele Sumka and **Susan Dreiband** will offer a six-month course on Conscious Aging. Due to begin in mid-November, the course explores the aging process and how to live fulfilled lives through discussion, sharing personal stories, and journaling. (See Adult Education and Programs on the Tifereth Israel Website.)

Please refer to the Fall Course Catalog for all of these programs, Rabbi Seidel's classes on Talmud and Tanakh, and many more. You can pick up a copy of the catalog in the TI lobby or find it online at <http://tifereth-israel.org/adult-education-and-programs>. Look at the menu labeled Programs and click on Adult Education Catalog PDF.

Barbara White to Teach Jewish Study Center Class

On November 14, TI member **Barbara White** will be teaching the second session of a three-session Jewish Study Center course on **"Jewish American Writers: Famous and Not So Famous."** The course will be held at Adas Israel Congregation on Wednesdays, November 7, 14, 28, from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m.

Advanced registration is highly recommended. The cost for all three sessions is \$40 for members of the Jewish Study Center or Adas Israel, and \$55 for non-members. Individual sessions are \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. To register or to learn about what else is being taught at the Jewish Study Center,

go to <http://jewishstudycenter.org/classes/index.html>.

The first session on November 7, taught by **Jeff Gorsky**, is on **"Avram Davidson: The Greatest Writer You Never Heard Of."** Washington Post book critic Michael Dirda called Davidson (1923-1993) "one of the most original and charming writers of our time." An Orthodox Jew who fought in the Israeli War of Independence, he was the only person to win all three top awards for science fiction, fantasy and mystery (the Hugo, the World Fantasy Award, and the Edgar).

Barbara's session on November 14, **"Three Jewish American Poets,"**

will discuss poems from three better-known Jewish-American poets: Irving Feldman, Shirley Kaufman, and Jacqueline Osherow. Themes she will explore will include the Holocaust, mother-daughter relationships, and a yearning for the Yiddish language.

The last session on November 28, taught by **Jonina Duker**, is on the best-selling and highly-influential novelist, **Chaim Potok**, a first-generation American and descendant of a Chasidische dynasty. He was also a Conservative rabbi, combat chaplain, academic, philosopher, editor, painter, and historian.

Register for the Retreat Now!

Do you feel tied to your electronic devices? Do you wish sometimes that you could just unplug? A recent study by Common Sense Media reported that 41% of teens say they are “addicted” to their devices (Washington Post, 6/27/12). How can all of us create a healthy balance between using electronics and maintaining healthy relationships?

Join us, **December 7-9**, at the Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center as we explore this issue in light of the recent *t’shuvah* (responsum) by the Conservative Rabbinical Assembly. We will have workshops on what the internet offers for Jewish learning, child safety on the internet, and tutorials on social media.

Highlights include:

- Friday night Our weekend will begin with Hanukah fun!
- Saturday morning Rabbi Seidel will discuss the Rabbinical Assembly’s *t’shuvah* on electronic devices and Shabbat.
- Saturday afternoon We’ll break into groups to discuss the *t’shuvah*, Shabbat observance, and “mindful living” in the electronic age.
- Sunday morning Individual sessions will be offered, including: internet safety for parents and children; Jewish learning on the internet; Listserv ethics; tutorials on Facebook, Twitter, Skype, whatever people want to learn.

Let’s not forget — it’s Hanukkah! We’ll celebrate with song, candles, and food, as well as our traditional Saturday night skits.

Watch your email and the TI home page for more retreat updates. Questions? Email Retreat@Tifereth-Israel.org.

November Highlights at Tifereth Israel

**November 5, 19,
26**

Monday Learning
Parashat HaShavuah, 11 a.m.
Job Club, 1 p.m.

November 4

Marcia Goldberg & Cynthia Peterman, Tales from the Attic, 10:15 a.m.

November 10

Improbable Comedy, 8:30 p.m.

November 17

SHALEM, Ira Forman on Jewish Vote, 1 p.m.

November 30

Kol Nashim Book Club, home of Loretta and Bob Saks, 7:30 p.m.

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Barbara Raimondo

Girls, girls, girls!

While the election season might cause some of us to see red, others among us are seeing pink, such as the family of **Lael Juliet Stackel**, who was born September 13. Everyone -- mother **Genevieve Sapir**, father **Gregory Stackel**, and big sister **Anaïs** -- is seeing pink. Pinkish orangey.

And **Maia Sandoval-Moshenberg** was born September 28 to **Simon** and **Paola Sandoval-Moshenberg**. Baby, parents, big brother **Camilo**, and grandparents, TI members, **Sammie** and **Dan Moshenberg**, are also seeing pink, kind of a darkish pink.

Devorah Leah Harris was born October 17 to **Tzipporah** and **Rabbi Henry Harris** of New Jersey. Grandparents and TI members **Eileen Rose** and **David Silber** -- along with all the Harrises (siblings **Avram Tzvi**, **Moshe**, **Y'Huda**, **Merriam**, **Sara Leib**, and **Israel Noach**, as well as the mother and father) are seeing pink. With a slight blush of purple.

Les and **Judith Turner** spent Columbus Day weekend in Hunter, NY, at their daughter, **Carol's**, brother-in-law's wedding. Although the *simhah* was the reason for the trip, the delight was spending time with their granddaughter, **Ruby**, who was just seven months old. Hey, I guess they are seeing red after all. Even though Ruby lives in Los Angeles, the Turners have seen her a lot: her folks brought her to DC for Labor Day weekend, and the Turners are spending a week in LA in early November.

Rona Fields' daughter, **Miriam Star Fields-Babineau**, has published a book, *The Tolcharian*, on Kindle. I

don't know what it is either, look it up. Usually Miriam's books center on animal training, but this one is a historical! archeological! adventure! through time that moves from rural Massachusetts! to Jerusalem! and into ancient and biblical history! Miriam's son, Rona's grandson, is now out of the Israel Defense Forces and working as a security guard (*shomer*) in Jerusalem.

Boys, boys, boys!

DeLeon, the band of **Daniel Saks**, son of **Loretta Vitale Saks** and **Bob Saks**, is flying high. It has a new CD out, *Tremor Fantasma*. It was named #5 in SoundRoots (soundroots.org) September 2012's list of Top 10 Global CDs.

Bob Rovinsky has retired from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) after having spent 35 years in government service with the FAA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Fairfax County Government. He will continue to teach as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University and George Washington University and will also consult, starting in early 2013. Break out the alligator shoes!

Sidney Bailin received his Black Belt in the Adult Karate Program on October 21. Sidney is the second person to receive a Black Belt from Kaizen Karate, and the first to reach that rank having started as a beginner White Belt. Sidney started in the adult program at its very beginning, six years ago, and has trained three times a week for half that time, twice a week for the other half.

At his Black Belt exam, he was expecting to spar with three other advanced students, but two of them did not show up (scaredy cats), so two of the judges substituted. This

made the exam more difficult than Sidney was planning on, but he survived and was presented with the Black Belt in a ceremony at the end. Sidney thanks his wife **Heike** for all her support over the years, and he apologizes for the little mishap with the ton of bricks.

Meanwhile, long time TI'er **Barbara Raimondo** lost a black belt while traveling. If you see it, let her know.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *titivated*: "to make a person or thing neater or more attractive." (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 veritable edition of Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers.

Social Action Sunday

On Sunday, November 11, join other TI'ers in Social Action. Support those who are hungry.

4:30 p.m. Help drive a soup-and-sandwich van for Martha's Table and serve dinner to homeless men and women on the downtown DC streets.

6-8:30 p.m. Cook and serve dinner to 25 women living in Luther Place Church's N Street Village.

TI Community Photography Show

Audrey Smith

The Tifereth Israel Congregation Art Committee is pleased to announce a TI Community Photography Show. Just in time for Hanukkah, the show will open at the Shabbat Kiddush on December 1 and run for at least three months.

We encourage TI members of all ages to participate in the show. Each member may submit up to six photographs. The fee for entering photographs is \$25 per adult and \$10 per child who is pre-bar/bat mitzvah.

Photographs may be on a variety of subjects including Judaica, Israel, the Environment, Nature, Local Scenes, and Portraits. A panel of judges will jury the show, selecting photographs

to display that together will best represent the TI community. Each entrant is guaranteed at least one picture in the show. The deadline for submission is November 7, 2012.

Photographs must be printed on glossy or matte photo paper. 8"x10" is preferable, but larger photos are also acceptable. Photographs may be digitally manipulated via a computer program designed for that task. Pictures that are selected for the show must be framed by the entrant and ready for hanging by November 16.

Each entrant needs to supply a title, where the photo was taken, and a price per print (framed or unframed).

If the photograph is not for sale it should be marked NFS. Photographers will receive 60% of the selling price; 40% is retained by TI to offset costs.

The judging committee includes Audrey Smith, Alice Burton, Earl Dotter, Jeff Peterman, and Bernie Shleien. Judges are permitted to submit work, but will recuse themselves from judging their own pictures. The show will be laid out by Laura Schiavo and Bernie Shleien.

Photographs not selected to be shown must be picked up within a week after the judging is completed. For more information, contact the TI office, 202-882-1605.

Rosh Hashanah Food Delivery

A very big thanks to our 37 TI volunteers who delivered over 70 Rosh Hashanah food packages to the elderly and needy in our Greater Washington Jewish Community.

We were part of an area-wide effort by the Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) which coordinated and delivered over 350 food packages for this past Rosh Hashanah. Being able to deliver the packages on *erev* Rosh Hashanah made the *mitzvah* this year even more meaningful.

Please join us again for this social action project on Pesah and Rosh Hashanah next year. Please also remember the TI Social Action Committee is always looking for new volunteers for our many projects.

Next on our list are the over-300 Xmas Luncheon meals we prepare and serve at three homeless shelters in the Washington DC area.

Symphony of the Potomac Concert November 4 in Silver Spring

The Symphony of the Potomac, in which TI members **Michael Lav** and **Judy Cohen** play, will hold its first concert of the 2012-2013 season on Sunday November 4, at 3 p.m.

All concerts are presented at Montgomery College's Cultural Arts Center, located at 7995 Georgia Avenue in downtown Silver Spring.

The concert will feature Romantic masterpieces, highlighted by pianist Rachel Franklin performing Sergei Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2.

Other works on the program are Jean Sibelius' Karelia Suite and Antonin Dvorak's Symphony No. 9, "From the New World."

The Symphony of the Potomac is an 80-member group of accomplished, primarily amateur, musicians led by Music Director Joel Lazar. It is

committed to presenting uplifting and affordable performances of symphonic music for audiences in the greater Washington, DC metropolitan area.

Tickets to Symphony of the Potomac concerts are \$20 at the door (\$17 for seniors) and \$15 plus a small service charge online.

Tickets for persons ages 18 and under are \$5.

Season tickets for all four concerts are now available for \$55 for adults, \$51 for seniors, and \$15 for persons ages 18 and younger.

For more information about the November 4 performance and a complete concert listing for the 2012-2013 season, please visit the Symphony of the Potomac's website at www.symphonypotomac.org.

Improbable Comedy Show Benefits Veterans

Improbable Comedy's next show takes place at Tifereth Israel on **Saturday, November 10**, at 8:30 p.m.. Doors open at 7:30 pm; drinks and dessert will be sold before the show. Tickets are on sale now at www.improbablecomedy.com: \$15 online; \$20 at the door.

Improbable Comedy, a company created by TI member **Kim Lavone**, has produced several shows. The most recent (and biggest) was at the TI Spring Fling last May.

Falling on the eve of Veterans Day, the November 10 show will benefit the locally-based Yellow Ribbon Fund (YRF), described by the Catalogue for Philanthropy as "one of the best small charities in DC." YRF's mission is to serve the injured

returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to keep families together during the critical recuperation phase. Improbable Comedy will donate proceeds and tickets to injured soldiers. YRF CEO Mark Robbins said: "It is often said that laughter is the best medicine. And getting a good laugh while supporting our injured service members is a perfect combination."

The show boasts a line-up of talented local comics: Headliner **Brian Parise**, Featured Emcee **Sonny Fuller** and Opener **Sara Armour**. Parise started out doing comedy in Washington DC where he is a regular at the DC Improv and Arlington Drafthouse. He has been recognized as a sharp political comic, winning first place in Pardon

the Pundit's Political Comedy Competition and then roasting Washington's political elites at DC's Funniest Celebrity.

Sonny Fuller, who will be the featured emcee, is well known in the Baltimore area for his cynical style (he cites George Carlin as a primary influence). Levone recruited him after seeing him emcee the New Talent Search at Magooby's Jokehouse. Sara Armour is a stand-up comedian who spent two years performing as part of Washington Improv Theatre and is currently part of a two-woman sketch group, Saranuta.

For additional information, contact Kim Levone, at 301-351-0296, or kim.levone@gmail.com.

Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

November 2

Larry & Melanie Greenfield
Abraham & Dena Greenstein
Seth Grimes & Franca Brilliant
Richard Gryziak & Sandi Verbois
Stefan Gunther & Lisa Goldberg
Jonathan Halpern
Daniel & Elizabeth Handwerker
Elliot Harrison & Wendy Coleman
David Hart & Lois Frankel
Stephen & Shelley Heller

November 16

Matt & Linda Heller
Bruce Heppen & Bonnie Suchman
Eugene & Esther Herman
Mitchell & Patti Herman
Carolivia Herron
James & Annie Hershberg
Judith Herzog
Seth Himelhoch & Sheila Jelen
William & Nira Hodos
Robert & Helen Hovis

November 23

Hedy Howard
Anita Isicson
Verne & Abby Jacobs

William & Marissa Jacobson
Leonard Jewler & Andrea Rosen
Harvey Kabaker & Andrea Kline
Steven Kalish & Anita Bollt
David Kass & Iris Amdur
Joshua & Jennifer Kefer
Kenneth & Nina Bronk Kellner

November 30

Martin Kessel & Gail Robinson
Jason & Devora Kimelman-Block
Alexandra Kincannon & Paul Moorehead
Dennis Kirschbaum & Barbara Raimondo
Shemaya & Dori Klar
Morris Klein & Naomi Freeman
Roger Kohn
Allan Kolker
Edward Koren & Claudine Schweber
Michael & Lisa Kraft
Anita Kramer
Joshua & Francesca Kranzberg
David & Amy Kritz
Richard Kruger & Naimah Weinberg
Matthew Kunkin & Hilary Sachs
Simcha Kuritzky

Susan Laden
Alan Landay
Robert Lande & Jeri Roth Lande
David & Mariama Lantner

December 7

Hayim Lapin & Maxine Grossman
Alexander Laufer & Jennifer Siegel Laufer
Dan & Ariel Lautman
Michael & Iris Lav
Mitchell Lazarus & Judith Shapiro
Beverly Lehrer
Louis Leibowitz & Beth Kanter-Leibowitz
Elihu & Sheila Leifer
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Kobi Lifshitz & Lisa Traiger
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John Lister

An Appreciation to TI on My Mother's Yahrzeit

Naimah Weinberg

My mother, Alezah Weinberg, suffered her last stroke on Simhat Torah 2011, and died a few days later. As I have reflected on the last years of her life, her death, and my mourning, I have come to realize how integral TI has been to our family's experiences during this time.

When it became clear in 2004 that my mother needed to move to this area to be near family for support, TI members helped us find the home she loved in her last years. My query on the TI listserv spurred a kiddush conversation with **Debbie Pomerance** about her father's experience. It led us to the Classic Residence in Chevy Chase, which my mother found to be just what she was looking for. **Howard Gleckman**, whose mother had lived there, was also helpful in evaluating this option.

My mother really enjoyed her time there. Among other activities, she took great pleasure in a group subscription to Theater J (under the direction of TI'er **Ari Roth**), and she was thrilled when TI members **David (Judy) Cohen** or **Larry Paul** led Kabbalat Shabbat services there.

Services at TI

My mother also enjoyed coming to holiday services at TI. She loved Rabbi Seidel's davening and found his sermons very engaging. She also loved when I led services--something that wouldn't have been possible at many other synagogues. Thanks to the TI elevator she was able to enjoy TI *kiddushim* and break fasts. The TI staff were always kind to her regarding her ticket and *yahrzeit* reminder requests.

As my mother's care became more challenging, TI provided a great deal of support. The listserv was a lifeline for finding doctors or hospital

information. **Howard Gleckman's** book on eldercare and personal advice were invaluable. **Rabbi Seidel's** caregiver support groups helped me connect with other TI'ers going through similar circumstances. He made sure I met **Sharon Brown**, with whom I was able to share mutual support and helpful information as our mothers declined.

When my mother had her last stroke, our family was again able to turn to TI friends. The **Diamond-Berman** family quickly took Benji to their home and Simhat Torah services, so he had the comfort of friends and routine at a difficult time. **Anne Klein** guided me on hospice choices, and **Rabbi Seidel** was helpful with end-of-life decisions. As he had with Rich's mother, he supported quality of life and letting go at the end, values I share but which are hard to implement without support.

Funeral Practices Committee

I am very appreciative of TI's Funeral Practices Committee. **Jeff Davidson** was helpful before and after my mother died, and **David (Judy) Cohen** took over to help with arrangements when Jeff was unavailable. I deeply respect and appreciate the anonymous women who took on the *mitzvah* of ritually preparing my mother's body for burial.

Rabbi Seidel helped with our funeral plans. **David Zinner** spent a great deal of time and thought on out-of-state funeral arrangements, not only saving us money and trouble but also sparing us returning to the Cleveland funeral home that had pressured us to buy a fancy casket and funeral package many years ago when my father passed away. I am grateful to our TI friends, **Iris Lav** and **Lynne Snyder**, who brought meals under

circumstances that were not easy for them; **Susan Catler**, who arranged the meals; and **Jeff** and **Miriam Davidson**, who brought over **Roz Kram's** cooking. Our good friends, **Myrna Goldman** and **Mona Berch**, helped greatly with the logistics of shiva minyanim, and TI'ers made sure we had a minyan and more each night.

Having services led by familiar voices (Rich, Rabbi Seidel, and **Josh Furman**) was of real comfort. Thanks also to everyone who shared very meaningful memories of my mother at shiva. The personal condolence notes, memorial donations, and hugs at shul also provided warm support.

In navigating the unwelcome world of estate settlement, I have appreciated the support of TI'ers. **Susan Catler** has been particularly helpful in providing dealing-with-lawyer advice and assessing the value of my mother's belongings, even helping to pack. Our friend, **Sarah Osborne**, has provided welcome advice and sympathy on the unpleasant task of serving as personal representative ("executor" for the uninitiated).

A Supportive Community

TI members have long been at the forefront of thoughtful Jewish funeral practices in the Washington area. Our family is fortunate and proud to be part of a community that provides such warm and meaningful support on issues many would prefer to avoid thinking about. They have truly made a difference when it counts.

If any of my hard-won knowledge about local elder living options, doctors, rehab facilities and geriatric care management can be of help to anyone, please don't hesitate to ask!

A Bridge Between Two Faiths?

Frank Solomon

Rabbi Seidel discussed the difference between “faith” and “faithfulness” in his *drash* on the second day of Rosh Hashanah. His explanation for *emunah* as meaning “faithfulness” brings us again to the issue of “schism” between Christianity and Judaism, discussed in my *Menorah* article last month.

Does the New Testament posit the relationship between Christianity and Judaism as a “schism,” or is there a “bridge” between Judaism and Christianity?

The Jewish Annotated New Testament, which Rabbi Seidel is using in his new study session on a Jewish perspective of the New Testament, seems to present that relationship in at least three ways.

No Difference Between the Two?

First, parts of the New Testament show little awareness of any essential break between Judaism and Christianity. They present Jesus as the Messiah, but assume the essential structure of Judaism remains virtually unaltered.

Acceptance of Jesus does not require any radical break with Jewish practice or belief. Jews for Jesus and Messianic Jews largely hold this position. To them, the Gospel is a revision of the Torah.

Is One the Antithesis of the Other?

At the opposite end, other parts of the New Testament claim that Christianity is a sharp antithesis to Judaism. This is clearest in the Fourth Gospel, which emphasizes that the Christian faith replaced Judaism. Christianity so transforms

Judaism that it supersedes Judaism, even though the Fourth Gospel acknowledges that salvation is from the Jews and uses Judaic concepts to expound Jesus’ significance.

If Mary stands for Judaism, her job is now handed over to the care of the disciples. Her function is over. Judaism is the aged mother. She is honored and cherished, but the new order to which she has given birth replaces her.

Does One Fulfill the Other?

A third attitude is best represented in Matthew and in Hebrews, as in Matthew 5:17: “I came not to destroy but to complete.” This position holds that Christianity brought the intent of Judaism to full fruition. It has not only fulfilled the Jewish hope for a messiah, but has brought with it a new Temple, a new Law, a new sacrifice, a new people. What in Judaism was shadowy, tentative and preparatory is now fully realized in Christ.

Where Does Paul Stand?

Paul is hard to place among these three categories. He has been regarded by Jews and Christians alike as having broken with Judaism in a radical fashion. Jewish scholars have accused Paul of breaking down the fence of the Torah, and Christian scholars have set his doctrine of “justification by faith” against the Judaism’s emphasis on “salvation by work.”

There is little question that Paul—as did Jesus—remained throughout his life within the pale of Judaism. Christ for him brought not the annulment of Judaism, but its fulfillment. To Paul,

Christianity is not the antithesis of Judaism but its culmination.

Ultimately Parting Company

The New Testament thus presents us with three main alternative ways to “faith,” but only the first justifies the use of the term “schism.” Despite all the “interfaith” work and dialogue—most of which has addressed social projects and rarely theology—there came a point when the two faiths had to part company radically, not merely schismatically. Christian dogmatic developments eventually made the gulf between the two religions so deep that the term “schism” becomes inapplicable.

Why? As long as Jesus was interpreted in strictly Messianic categories and in terms of Torah, a merely schismatic relationship between Judaism and Christianity is conceivable. But once Jesus is claimed to be God incarnate, as in the New Testament, Christianity stands completely outside the confines of Judaism. If Christianity is interpreted in terms of divinity of Jesus, the Christ, then we must speak of a new religion, not merely of a schismatic emergence.

Tot Shabbat Service

On Saturday, November 17, at 11:10 a.m., join with other families with tots (age 5 and under).

A parent-led activity, Tot Shabbat includes *tefillah* (prayer), songs, Shabbat stories, Torah parade and mini-*Kiddush*. Then stay for the congregational *Kiddush*.

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(Continued on page 14)

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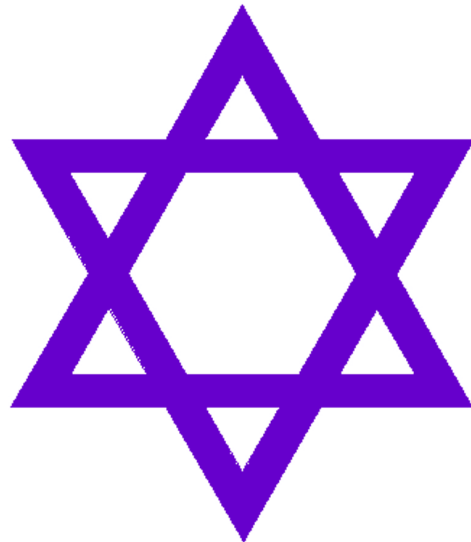
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