



# The Menorah

## Notes from the Rabbi: Rabbi Seidel's ghostwriter Be My Backup

Truth to tell, I ran out of time this month to write this column, but rather than submit nothing, one of our editors suggested I write to appeal for a back-up writer.

Here is what I propose: If you ever felt that you had something you wanted to say to the congregation—let's say if you were "Rabbi for a Day," but were too shy to be a *darshan* and give one of the *drashes*--you could put it in writing and send it to me.

I would review it and make suggestions and then, the next time I was running late or running out of inspiration, your name and column would appear in this space. And if that did not happen, and there was space in the Menorah (which is pretty easy to find in an online publication), your column could follow mine.

I think this idea has merit, not just because I run out of ideas or time once in a while, but because I believe everyone

has some piece of Torah in them just waiting to emerge.

Please send these pieces directly to me whenever you feel inspired, and let me help you to find your own voice and to let the community hear it.



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## President's Column: Joel Cohen Whose Israel?

On January 29, there was a panel at TI on "Democracy in Israel." TI member Larry Greenfield was the main organizer of this fascinating discussion. The panelists were Naomi Paiss of the New Israel Fund, Ori Nir from Americans for Peace Now, and Noam Katz from the Israeli Embassy.

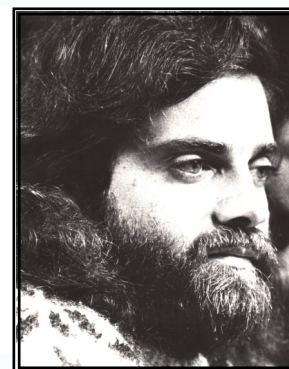
The panel was moderated by our own David (Carla) Cohen, Senior Advisor to Civic Ventures, the Council for a Livable World, and the Advocacy Institute. When David was full-time at the Advocacy Institute, which he cofounded, he travelled around the world helping local groups promote democracy.

He has been a strong advocate for the role of civil society in influencing government actions. There could hardly have been a

better choice for a moderator of this panel, which was to discuss a very uncomfortable subject.

The discussion was intense, but friendly.

The spark that led to the panel was a recent proposal in the Knesset that would have had the effect of stripping from the New Israel Fund and many other organizations the bulk of their American financial support. All panelists agreed that it was a bad and probably



(Continued on page 2)



## President's Column (continued)

malicious proposal. Mr. Katz from the Embassy optimistically said that it would never pass.

### A Changing Israel

All the panelists talked about a changing Israel: an increasing percent of the population is Orthodox, and an increasing percent of the Orthodox is *haredi*. For the *haredi*, the Jewish nature of Israel is far more important than the democratic nature of Israel. Adding to that is the wave of Russian immigrants, who were raised in an atmosphere in which democracy was of minor importance.

On these points the panelists all agreed, but when it came to the question of whether democracy in Israel is in danger, Mr. Katz was less worried than Mr. Nir and Ms.

Paiss. One of the panelists used the phrase, "This isn't your father's Israel," echoing the Oldsmobile ad of 20 years ago.

### My Father's Israel

So what exactly was "my father's Israel?" To me it meant the Israel I learned about in Hebrew School: the hard-working refugees building a land in an empty desert; the land without people for a people without a land; the forests that my Hebrew school classmates and I were building by filling the JNF books with the 10¢ stamps we sold throughout our neighborhoods. We all imagined that we would one day find in Israel trees that had our names on them.

As I got older and understood more about political philosophy, my vision was of the socialist Israel, fighting only when forced to and mourning every death that it caused on the other side. That there was democracy went without saying: there was after all a Knesset that even included Communists and Arabs.

### Things Weren't So Simple

I learned later that things were more complicated. I wondered whether Israel had ever been the imagined Israel of my youth. My father had a stronger filter, though, and I think for him Israel remained "my father's Israel" until his death a decade ago.

American Jews, by and large, have a desire to see Israel as they see the United States, except that to be Jewish there is not to be different. They want Israel to be a nation in which all are equal under the law regardless of religion or background, in which everyone's loyalty is first to the nation. Our desire is to see our father's Israel. The fact that it is no longer (or perhaps never was) our father's Israel probably underlies the difficulty we often have in discussing current Israeli events.

### A Cause of Tension

This shows up frequently in the arguments and hurt feelings reflected in the TI List-serve. The way that different people picture/idealize Israel means that one person's truth becomes another's insult.

This is shown by the frequency with which discussions blow up into a generational conflict. Different generations, different "Israel." I don't think this explanation can solve the problem, but perhaps if we can understand the reasons for these differences, we can accept conflicting visions of Israel without hurt or anger.

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

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## New Members

### Jared Garelick

#### Lorien Abrams and Jonathan Fritz

Lorien, who was born in South Africa, grew up in Dallas. Jonathan, born in Copenhagen, grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan. And now they've found their way to TI.

Jonathan is a research scientist in neuroscience at the University of Maryland, where he specializes in studying the auditory cortex (that's for hearing). Lorien is a professor at the George Washington University School of Public Health. Her specialty is smoking control.

Lorien and Jonathan have three children, Lailah, David, and Maya; the older two attend the Jewish Primary Day School. They learned about TI from their neighbors, the Schainkers, and from many families at JPDS. Tell your Jewish neighbors about TI – it's one of the ways we get new members.

### “Israel Under Siege,” March 25

The American Jewish International Relations Institute and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington are presenting “Israel Under Siege: Combating the Use of the U.N. to Delegitimize Israel,” on Sunday, March 25, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at Ohr Kodesh Congregation.

The event is co-sponsored by Tifereth Israel Congregation, Congregation Beth El's Men's Club, Ohr Kodesh Congregation, Congregation Har Shalom, B'nai Israel Congregation and Congregation B'nai Tzedek.

Speakers will feature U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) and a high-ranking official from the Israeli Foreign Ministry. The program will be moderated by award-winning journalist Marvin Kalb. Ambassador Marlene Moses, permanent representative to the United Nations for the Republic of Nauru, will be honored for her staunch support of Israel.

Admission is free but pre-registration is required. To register, please contact <http://ajiri.us/2012/02/israel-under-siege/>

#### Jerry and Sharon Muller

Jerry and Sharon met on a pre-college program in Israel, after which he followed her to Brandeis. After that, they both did further studies at Columbia, and moved to Washington in 1984.

Sharon, originally from Minneapolis, spent many years as head of the photo archives at the Holocaust Museum, but after a career change is now a civilian employee of the Department of Defense.

Jerry, who grew up in Niagara Falls, Ontario, teaches modern European history at Catholic University, where he chairs the history department. Many TI members were lucky to hear him speak about Jewish history at the shul last month.

Jerry and Sharon have three grown children; the eldest, Eli, is, along with his wife Laura, already a member of TI. Tell your parents about TI – it's another of the ways we get new members.

Welcome to this month's 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

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

**Attending:** Susan Catler, Joel Cohen, Jeff Davidson, Deena Dugan, Esther Herman, Stephanie Roodman Murdock, Margie Odle, Debbie Pomerance, Naomi Revzin, Vivian Seidner, Jevera Temsky, Daniel Turner, Mark Verschell, Chris Zeilinger, Varda Fink, David Levy, Ruth Shapiro.

**Excused:** Paula Martin, Joshua Furman, Sara Goldberg.

**Absent:** Susan Vitale, Lynne Snyder, Renee Brachfeld.

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

**Rabbi's Report on 2011 Membership:** 45 adults joined and 23 adults left the congregation.

**Finance Committee:** Chris Zeilinger presented a half fiscal year report. The synagogue income is very healthy. Food income and expenses are in balance with a slight surplus. The Retreat was basically a break-even event also with a slight surplus.

### Purim Eve Dinner

As the evening Megillah reading is on Wednesday night, March 7, beginning at 6:45 p.m., we will have a **pre-Service dinner** at 6 p.m. No need to run home from work or the Himmelfarb School to eat. Eat at TI.

We will have pizza with toppings on the side, salad and veggies. Cost: \$13 for adults, \$9 for kids. Sign up with the **on-line form**.

Reservations due by **noon, Friday, March 2.**

Building maintenance costs are slightly higher than budget, although not significantly. Income from High Holiday tickets was slightly lower than budgeted but annual giving brought in more than expected which more than made up the difference.

**Ritual Committee:** Jevera Temsky reported that there were training classes in *hagbah* and being floor *gabbai*. The only issue regarding High Holidays which has been postponed is the question of standing during *Neilah*.

**Cemetery Trustees:** Sheryl Gross-Glaser was appointed as a fifth trustee.

**Executive Director's Report:** David Zinner has reduced his working hours to half-time. Office tasks have been shifted around, with Marla Sevi now working about five hours a week in the office, while continuing to work half-time for Lifelong Learning. A third church began renting the social hall from 4-7 on Sundays. David Zinner met with Art Lewis and his broker to discuss the possibility of buying Art's house at Jonquil and the alley before it is put on the market.

**Lifelong Learning Committee:** More than 200 people came to the Hanukkah party.

**Adult Education:** The Spring Program Catalogue will be released January 21. On February 17, Jerry Muller will be the scholar in residence.

**Youth Groups:** On the night of February 17, dinner will be served by USY as a *tzedakah* fundraiser and a leadership training event for USY. On March 9-11, the National Abraham Joshua Heschel Society event will be at TI.

**Babysitting:** Eitan Gutin is looking for babysitters for in-house programs.

**Art Committee:** David Zinner reported that the committee is looking at: moving art around; signage on art; curtain pulls on the Ark; and developing a policy on art exhibits. Kol Nashim accepted a piece of art made by Mindy Wiesel, Elie Wiesel's niece.

**Governance Committee:** Jeff Davidson.

**Lifelong Learning Director Supervisory Committee:** A committee of the following four people will be supervising Eitan Gutin: Sue Catler, Joel Cohen, Josh Furman, and Rabbi Seidel.

**Executive Director Survey:** A questionnaire which was developed by Jeff Davidson and Elizabeth Handwerker was sent out today.

**Parliamentarian:** Daniel Turner volunteered to order Robert's Rules of Order, learn it and act as Board parliamentarian.

**Good and Welfare:** The Spring Fling will be on May 6, 2012.

We need someone to check the first aid kit because equipment has disappeared or is broken.

Eitan will be receiving *s'michah* as a *magid*, a spiritual storyteller. He will also be taking an introductory class for an executive masters for school education leaders.

On February 12, Maxine Grossman will be speaking on "Newish Jewish Rituals."

Mark Novak became a rabbi this past weekend.



## Lilmod U'ilamed: Eitan Gutin

### A Kadosh Moment

It is a real treat to hear school children enjoying themselves. The laughter, the sound of their shoes on grass and pavement, and the rustle of their coats on an unseasonably crisp January morning. The scene could have taken place at any park in the DC metro area -- even a memorial park such as Mt. Lebanon cemetery.

Jewish tradition teaches us to appreciate those moments and objects that are *kadosh*. *Kadosh* is a difficult word to explain; we often translate it as "sacred" or "holy," but each of these interpretations requires its own explanation. Instead of a one-word answer I often make do with a sentence. The word *kadosh* refers to moments, items and beings that are both separate and special because of the way they are connected to God's divine presence.

The human body is *kadosh* because it is God's design. The Sabbath is *kadosh* because it is an island in time established by God's actions. A book becomes *kadosh* the moment one of God's holy Hebrew names is permanently printed on its pages.

#### Sifrei Kodesh

According to Jewish law, any printed matter containing God's name in Hebrew is considered to be a *sefer kodesh*, a holy book. When a *sefer kodesh* falls on the ground we immediately pick it up and kiss it out of respect. You may also know that it is forbidden to bring a *sefer kodesh* into the bathroom.

When *sifrei kodesh* (plural) become so worn or damaged that they can no longer be used we do not simply throw them out -- or even place them in recycling! This is because it is forbidden, once printed, to erase or rub out God's name from the page.

Instead, we treat such books and papers with respect for their contents by burying them among the *k'lei kodesh*, the holy vessels (people) who have been laid to rest in a Jewish cemetery.

#### Storing Books in a Geniza

Until that burial takes place the books are placed in *geniza*, or storage. Tifereth Israel had accumulated a large *geniza* over the past few years, and in mid-January David Zinner let us know that its contents were ready for burial.

On Sunday morning, January 29th, the TI *geniza* was transported to the Mt. Lebanon cemetery for burial. The Himmelfarb School's Daled and Hey classes, along with parents, staff and some helpers from our older grades, accompanied the books to the cemetery, assisted in respectfully placing each book into an empty *kever* (grave), and participated in a short ceremony appropriate for the occasion.

I had a conversation with the Daled and Hey classes before the trip to Mt. Lebanon during which we spoke about the *geniza* and about cemeteries in general. I pointed out that in Judaism a cemetery is not meant to be a sad or scary place. Jewish cemeteries, if approached correctly, are meant to be comforting and to convey the sweet memories of those whom we have lost.

#### Developing the Right Attitude

I am lucky to have grown up in a day school that taught me in the 4th grade how to conduct myself during a *shiva* visit, and with a father who brought me to *shiva* visits and who even conducted some of our family funerals. As a result I am more comfortable with Jewish funeral and

mourning practices than many of my peers. When we were given the opportunity to bring the Himmelfarb students to bury the *geniza* it was important to me to help them develop their own familiarity with Jewish cemeteries in addition to performing the *mitzvah* of burying the *geniza*.

After the burial concluded, and each student had a chance to help cover the books, we distributed paper and crayons to all. I conducted a short discussion on some of the symbols and information the students would see on the family headstones in TI's section of Mt. Lebanon. The Daled and Hey classes were then given time to wander around, find interesting images on headstones, and make rubbings with the paper and crayons.

#### An Important Learning Experience

Thinking that the students would get bored with this activity, I originally gave them 15 minutes. About 40 minutes later, after distributing many extra sheets and answering all sorts of insightful questions, we once again gathered for the students to show off the images they had discovered.

I am proud of what we accomplished in the Himmelfarb School that morning. Our students and their parents now know more about books that are *kadosh*, what gives them this status, and how to treat them when they are no longer useable. The students have also had an age-appropriate introduction to what a Jewish cemetery is like and will be more comfortable visiting them in the future.

Lastly, I am proud that we visited a place most often associated with tears and brought with us joy and laughter instead.

## Lifelong Learning

### Eitan Gutin

#### Shultime Welcomes a New Face

I am happy to announce that Silvia Edenburg, who teaches for both JPDS and the Himmelfarb School, will be our new Shultime (18 months through pre-K) Facilitator.

From this point on here is what a typical Shabbat morning Shultime will look like:

**10:00:** Free play, supervised by teens and a parent volunteer.

**10:30:** Circle time, services, discussion, and story time, led by Silvia.

**11:15:** Snack.

**11:30:** Depending on the day, a mix of play inside or out, plus one more book/story with Silvia. As usual the tots will join other children on the Bimah for *Adon Olam* at the end of services.

Shultime is our only Shabbat morning program that is available nearly all year. Silvia will be here through the summer, and we hope to have her as the program's leader for some time to come.

#### USY's "Great Summer Escape"

There is nothing quite like a summer spent with USY.

The **USY On Wheels** program involves travel and activities across the US and Canada. Besides the basic teen tour, **Misson Mitzvah** engages in social action projects in every city they visit.

**Wheels Pacific Northwest** starts its trip in Portland, Oregon, and makes it all the way to Fairbanks, Alaska. **Wheels East** is a special 4-week

experience specially tailored to the needs of our 8th grade youth group members.

**USY Israel Pilgrimage** is USY's ticket to Israel with a whole host of options:

Instead of simply visiting all the usual spots, the **L'takeyn Olam** program performs acts of kindness in Haifa, Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights, and caps off its summer with a full week of environmental work.

**USY Israel Adventure** is four amazing, meaningful weeks in Israel which can be extended with a PLUS week of Gadna-simulated IDF training and an extra Shabbat.

There are even special trips to **Poland, Eastern Europe**, or **Italy** for those who would like to experience the Jewish heritage and history of other locales on the way to Israel.

Contact Eitan Gutin for more information about any of these programs, including the availability of both need- and merit-based scholarships.

#### New Class Hey Curriculum

In restructuring the Himmelfarb School curriculum we decided our students should be trained in the Jewish traditions of interpretation and commentary as well as in synagogue ritual. The Hey (5th grade) class has spent most of this year reading selections from the Torah in translation and crafting their own interpretations through writing, art, drama and other lenses.

At February's Family Service the Hey class showed off their new skills as they presented their own *midrash* on the crossing of the Reed Sea. The

students imagined a debate between the Jews who wanted to trust God and Moshe and those who were ready to go back to Egypt. They even demonstrated mastery of the text by using direct quotes from the Torah in their script. Hats off to the students of the Hey Class and their teacher, Morah Hagit Leibowitz!

#### TI's Annual Purim Carnival

Join us from 12:15-3 p.m. on Sunday, March 4 for the annual, one-of-a-kind, USY'er-generated (parent-approved), WORLD FAMOUS TI Purim Carnival! Each year TI's teens create an exciting carnival with games, prizes, and great kosher food.

Watch your email for more details.

### Weekday Minyan

Phil Shapiro

The Yahrzeit Minyan on Monday, February 6, was very successful. Eighteen people attended, nearly half of whom were saying *Kaddish* for Yahrzeit or the mourning period.

I would like to thank everyone who came, particularly those not saying *Kaddish*.

Perhaps this can be the start of something new at TI. If anyone wishes to arrange a similar weekday Minyan, I will be glad to help them.

You can either contact me at [psshapiro@verizon.net](mailto:psshapiro@verizon.net) or contact the office.

## Adult Education

Josh Furman

February was a very busy month for Adult Education at Tifereth Israel! We watched an Israeli film, hosted a Yiddish poetry reading and a scholar-in-residence, learned about new Jewish rituals, and took a narrative journey through the siddur.

In March, you'll be treated to live music, more Israeli films, a yoga class, and more!

On March 10, Jewish musician, **Alison Westermann**, will join us for Shabbat. In addition to a Saturday evening concert, Alison will teach a **SHALEM** session on *Translating Text into Song*, a discussion of the Third Psalm and the creative process, and an introduction to her music.

On the theme of music, join **Paul Bardack** on Sunday, March 11, at 10:15 a.m., for a unique and fun session on the Native American flute! Paul is an expert Native American flute player, and will also share his knowledge about music's spiritual significance in Native American culture. You won't want to miss it!

Looking to bring new perspectives to your Passover Seder this year? Look no further than our **yoga class**, being taught by **Shira Oz-Sinai**. Learn to relax and feel free through the practice of Yoga Nidra. Sponsored by Kol Nashim, this Sunday evening class started February 26 and continues through March 18. Contact the office to sign up.

Thirty people watched the Israeli film *Beaufort* in February. We will screen and discuss the film ***The Syrian Bride*** on Saturday, March 24. The movie deals with the story of a Druze family facing personal and political challenges, and has been nominated for and has won multiple awards. Screening starts at 7:30 p.m. The \$5 charge includes refreshments.

Last but not least, join **David Zinner** for a conversation about funeral practices and pricing. In addition to being our Executive Director, David is also the Vice President of the Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington.

We hope you'll take advantage of these many opportunities to learn in March!

## Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

### March 2

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

### March 9

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

### March 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

### April 6

Martin Kessel & Gail Robinson  
R. Jason & Devora Kimelman-Block  
Alexandra Kincannon & Paul Moorehead

Dennis Kirschbaum & Barbara Raimondo  
Morris Klein & Naomi Freeman  
Roger Kohn  
Allan Kolker  
Edward Koren & Claudine Schweber  
Michael & Lisa Kraft  
Anita Kramer

### April 20

Joshua & Francesca Kranzberg  
David & Amy Kritz  
Richard Kruger & Naimah Weinberg  
Matthew Kunkin & Hilary Sachs  
Simcha Kuritzky  
Susan Laden  
Alan Landay  
Robert & Jeri Roth Lande  
Hayim Lapin & Maxine Grossman  
Michael & Iris Lav

# Nayes un Mekhayes for Tiers

Barbara Raimondo

## Kid at Heart

At the end of this month, **Josh Furman** will be giving a talk at the Western Jewish Studies Association Conference at the University of Oregon. The tentative title of his presentation is *Worlds of Childhood: Identity Politics and American Jewish Children's Magazines, 1945-1967*.

You say "children's magazines," your faithful columnist says "comic books." Way to go, getting this accepted as a dissertation topic! Josh is very excited to be spending a few days in Portland and Eugene and to present a part of his so-called research.

## Musical Art

**Carolivia Herron, Beila Organic** and **David Levy** thank **Margie Odle** and her three fellow recorder players for their presentation at a "salon" at **Fylis Peckham's** house in January. The company was lovely, the music sublime!

**Bruce Berger's** poem, *Childbirth*, now appears in the *Bellow Literary Journal* and his poem, *Two Witnesses*, now appears in the on-line journal *The Rusty Nail*. Both poems have been or will shortly be added to his website, <http://bruceberger.wordpress.com>. Hey, keep your tetanus shots up to date!

## Pop Tart

**Ariel** and **Dan Lautman** are pleased to announce the birth of their son, **Ezra Jacob Brandt Lautman**, December 26, 2011.

Also, a grandson recently was born to **Adele** and **Ray Natter**, and **Judith** and **Les Turner** announce the arrival of **Ruby Turner Klein**, their third grandchild. Parents **Carol** and **Avi**

**Klein** are happy but somewhat sleep-deprived. Judith and Les were in Los Angeles for the birth and the first 10 days of baby-holding and rocking. Then they went off to dance with the stars. Isn't grandparenting great!

**Mike** and **Lisa Kraft** attended part of the week-long FutureMed 2012 Conference which highlighted how technology, robotics, artificial intelligence and research will advance medicine and health in coming years. It was organized and chaired by their son, **Daniel Kraft**, at Singularity University, located at NASA Ames Research Park in Silicon Valley, California.

The Krafts enjoyed several lectures on a variety of new and projected developments in the medical field. The conference also featured a gala celebratory evening at the Museum of the History of Computers, which was attended by about 400 doctors, scientists, and lay persons, including their nine-year-old granddaughter, **Alex**.

## Sad News

**Albert Heyman**, father of member **Mical Schneider**, died in February. Funeral services were in North Carolina, followed by *shiva* minyans in Washington.

**Pinya Cohen**, brother of **David (Judy) Cohen**, died in Florida after a long battle with heart disease. He was 76. The funeral was in Florida. May loved ones find strength in their memories.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *sprachgefühl*: "an intuitive sense of what is linguistically appropriate." (Merriam-Webster Online). Oh, that is so your faithful columnist!

Thanks to all who sent me news, sent me to others who sent me news, or otherwise helped sniff it out. Please send a skosh more 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 edition of Nayes un Mekhayes for Tiers.

## Labor Seder

The Annual Jews United for Justice Labor Seder will be held on Sunday, March 25, 5:30-8:00 p.m. at Adas Israel Congregation. The seder brings together the Jewish, labor, and nonprofit communities in a shared commitment to social and economic justice.

This year's seder will focus on our region's diverse immigrant communities and the challenges and issues they face. It will feature singing, storytelling, discussion, reflection, and action, as well as local workers, activists, rabbis, and an original *haggadah*.

Light refreshments (vegetarian and kosher-certified) will be served. Admission is \$18 (\$20 after March 14), \$36 for families, and \$10 for children, students, and people of limited income. A limited number of same-day tickets may be available. Children's programming will be provided; contact Monica at [monica@jufj.org](mailto:monica@jufj.org) for more information.

For more information and to volunteer, e-mail [seder@jufj.org](mailto:seder@jufj.org). Visit [www.jufj.org](http://www.jufj.org) to register!



## Kol Nashim

Debbie Pomerance

### Relaxing and Effortless Yoga Nidra Classes

Passover commemorates the biblical story in which the Hebrews rushed out of slavery and into freedom. It is a wonderful opportunity to explore restriction, release, and expansiveness in our lives today.

We will meditate on the meaning of Passover using Yoga. Every class will begin with a brief discussion of a Passover ritual or text, usually followed by some time for self-reflection and/or writing.

The remaining three, of four, classes are scheduled for Sunday evenings, March 4, 11 and 18. The cost is \$15 per session. Register for all or any of the three. Call the office, or fill out the form at <http://bit.ly/xQzA9X>

Read more about what the instructor, Shira Oz-Sinai, says about Yoga Nidra at her web site, <http://www.awakenmyheartnow.com/irest-yoga-nidra.html>

### Mindy Weisel to Speak at TI

Coming in mid-May is the dedication of Mindy Weisel's painting "Es Brent" (Yiddish for "It is Burning"), the gift of TI members Shirley and Jerry Rosenberg. Initially planned for April, to commemorate Yom HaShoah, the dedication has been rescheduled for Sunday evening, May 13.

Mindy Weisel will herself speak following the dedication. She was born 65 years ago at the Bergen-Belsen concentration/displaced



persons camp to two Auschwitz survivors. An artist of world-wide renown, her work ranges from stark to vibrant.

Most of her paintings are intimate revelations of how she felt at any given moment. "I work only in feelings," Mindy says. Her Holocaust series in particular has helped her cope with her family's Holocaust experience.

For more details see <http://www.tifereth-israel.org/dedicate>.

### Maxine Grossman's Talk on "Newish" Jewish Rituals

Thank you, Maxine, for your well-received presentation, which led to lively audience participation.

## Full Moon Hike

John List

Nine of us went on the C&O Canal Full Moon Hike on February 5. Wonderful, clear sky with stars and bright almost-full moon!

We saw no other hikers, so, we had the trail to our selves. We hiked about 3.5 to 4 miles and the temperature was about 35 degrees Fahrenheit.

We saw several Canada geese in the canal and heard a loud flop into the water as we passed them, probably a fox hoping to catch dinner.

We ate chocolates at Mile Marker 11; a traditional Chaverim hike celebration opportunity.

Hikers: Lee and Hedy Ohringer, new member Mike Milton, two Paulas (Martin and Flicker), Marcia Goldberg, Naomi Freeman, Sheridan Neimark and John List.

Look for a picture of the hikers on the bulletin board at TI and consider joining us next time.

## Do You Knit or Crochet? No Meetings!

Andrea Kline

If you can knit or crochet, we would like your help.

The mitzvah knitting and crochet group has a project to make enough scarves for the women at the John Young Center when we do our Christmas lunch for them. It is only March but if you start now, you can have a scarf or two done before Christmas.

The scarf can be whatever you want to make. We have already completed some that are light and fluffy and some that are thicker and

warmer. We can direct you to a pattern, if you need one, or you can make whatever you like. You can bring the finished scarf to the TI office with a small note "mitzvah knitting" and it will be placed with our completed collection.

While the Social Action committee does collect other items for the Christmas lunches closer to December, the mitzvah knitting/crocheting group is only collecting new handmade knitted/crocheted items.

## B'nei Mitzvah

My name is **Anna Belle Alterman**, but everyone calls me Bella. I am in seventh grade at Westland Middle School.

My bat mitzvah is March 17, *Parashat Vayakhel-Pikudei*. In my *parashah*, God details the exact specifications for the completion of the Tabernacle. For my bat mitzvah project, I will be running an 8k fundraising event to support Special Olympics.

When I am not at home with my mom, dad, brothers and dog, I play soccer and electric guitar.

I am excited that my bat mitzvah is on March 17 because that day would have been my great-grandparents' 83rd wedding anniversary.



Hi, my name is **Talia Kellner**. I'll be 13 years old on March 4 and my Bat Mitzvah is on March 24. My Bat Mitzvah is a three-Torah Bat Mitzvah because on that date we celebrate not only Shabbat but also Rosh Hodesh and Shabbat Ha-Hodesh.

Here are some fun facts about me: I am in 7th grade at Westland Middle School and I am fluent in Spanish, because since kindergarten I have been going to a school that teaches Spanish. I have a 15-year-old sister named Elana and I have two cats named Maxie and Oliver.

My favorite color is purple and I play soccer on an MSI Classic team, the Tigers (and tigers happen to be one of my favorite animals). During the summer I go to a sleep-away camp called Camp Louise. I love it there because I get to be on my own for a little while, while being with my friends and having a good time.

I also enjoy traveling. I have already been to about 25 states and I hope to increase that number soon. I have also traveled to four other countries, Canada, Honduras, Israel and Panama. I really hope to go to Europe one day. I especially want to go to Italy. I hope to see you at my Bat Mitzvah.

## B'nei Mitzvah (continued)

Hi. My name is **Aaron Shulman-Englander** and my Bar Mitzvah is on March 31, 2012. My *parashah* is *Tsav* and it is all about what Moses' brother, Aaron, should do before going into the Temple. Aaron plays a big role in my *parashah*.

I live in Chevy Chase, DC with my dad and my very old cat, Nelson. I like to play different kinds of sports. This year I am on the Kingsbury Middle School basketball team. I play tennis in the Rock Creek Tennis Center bubble almost every weekend and sometimes in the stadium if the weather is good.

My favorite classes are those the teacher makes interesting. Art class has been a lot of fun this year and I have done really well in it. My favorite sport is fishing. Dad and I will go fishing a lot when the weather gets warmer and throughout the summer. I also hope to be a CIT at Hoop Ed this summer.

My mom, Beth Shulman, always wanted our family to give all year round to those who don't have as much as we do. Mom did a lot of work on the TI Social Action Committee. My Bar Mitzvah project this year was to do many Social Action activities. I delivered groceries for Passover and Rosh Hashanah, served Christmas lunch at the John Young Women's Homeless Shelter, rode the Sunday food van with Gene Herman, made casseroles for the homeless, bought school supplies for Shepherd Elementary School and winter gloves for Martha's Table, and prepared food in the synagogue for Luther Place Shelter.



## March Highlights at Tifereth Israel

<b>March 4</b>	<b>Purim Carnival, 12:15-3 p.m.</b>
<b>March 4, 11, 18</b>	<b>Yogic Meditation for Passover, 7-8:30 p.m.</b>
<b>March 5, 12, 19, 26</b>	<b>Monday Learning: <i>Parashat HaShavuah</i>, 11 a.m.; Job Club, 1 p.m.</b>
<b>March 7 March 8</b>	<b>Erev Purim; Megillah Reading, 6:45 p.m. Purim; Megillah Reading, 7 a.m.</b>
<b>March 10</b>	<b>SHALEM; Translating Text into Song</b>
<b>March 17</b>	<b>Bella Alterman Bat Mitzvah</b>
<b>March 24</b>	<b>Talia Kellner Bat Mitzvah</b>
<b>March 24</b>	<b>Israeli Movie, <i>The Syrian Bride</i>, 7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>March 31</b>	<b>Aaron Englander Bar Mitzvah</b>

## TI Partnership with German Congregation

### Naomi Revzin

At its December meeting, with the Rabbi's concurrence, the Board of Directors approved a partnership between Tifereth Israel and the Gottingen Jewish Community, the liberal congregation of Gottingen, Germany, a mid-size city in the northern state of Lower Saxony. (Gottingen also has a small Orthodox Havurah).

The congregation's building is located in a park-like setting on a major thoroughfare in the city center, where it was situated before *Kristallnacht*. Beginning with the small group of German Jews who returned to Gottingen after World War II and aided by Russian immigrants, the congregation has grown to more than 150 members. Its community center, where services initially were conducted, has been operating since the 1960's.

#### Historic Synagogue Restored

The community's synagogue building, erected in 1835, originally belonged to a small Jewish community 20 miles from Gottingen. That community sold it to a local farmer in 1937 which enabled the

structure miraculously to survive the Holocaust as a grain storage facility.

With financial assistance from area Christian congregations, and with help from the Gottingen civil authorities and the regional administration, the structure was dismantled. Its boards were labeled and transported to Gottingen, where the building was reconstructed and meticulously restored to its original 19<sup>th</sup> century appearance.

#### 2008 Rededication

The "new" Gottingen synagogue was rededicated in 2008. In 2010, the first Bar Mitzvah was celebrated in the refurbished building. Its newly installed kitchen was inaugurated this past year – a noteworthy common experience with Tifereth Israel.

This lively community is eager for ongoing contact with a congregation like ours, partly because of our international perspective. The partnership offers the Gottingen Jewish community the opportunity to showcase how it is meeting its community's needs, receive new perspectives on topics of mutual

concern and create beneficial exchanges.

#### Benefits to TI

In return, the partnership enables TI to learn about and participate directly in the renaissance of Germany's Jewish communal life, to make contact with individual German families, and to consider visits to Gottingen and its Jewish community as part of our European itineraries.

Other benefits this partnership offers include guest visits between members of our two congregations, "pen pal" and exchanges between youth in our two communities, and mutually helpful discussions on shared concerns.

There are currently more than 120,000 Jews living in Germany and more than 100 congregations throughout the country. Gottingen is home to the internationally acclaimed University of Gottingen and Max Planck Institute. For more information about the Gottingen Jewish Community, contact Naomi Revzin at [arnoldrevzin@msn.com](mailto:arnoldrevzin@msn.com).

## Rabbi A. Nathan Abramowitz Fund

The Rabbi A. Nathan Abramowitz Fund was established in 1980 to celebrate the Rabbi's 20 years of service to TI and was enlarged in 1996 when Rabbi Abramowitz completed 36 years of service. Part of its mission is to honor youth who spend their summer or part of a school year in a program to enhance their Jewish education.

To qualify, the youngster may attend a camp recognized for its Jewish educational component (such as Camp Ramah, Capital Camps, and

Moshava), participate in an educational program in Israel (such as USY Pilgrimage or Ramah Seminar), or take part in a United Synagogue Youth Wheels Trip.

Awards are made each spring. The Fund depends on your support and welcomes contributions in any amount. Each year, all TI'ers who participate in a qualifying program are honored at a special Shabbat service and receive a gift. To apply for the award program, contact the TI office to secure an application.

Applications for 2012 are due by March 30.

The Fund also awards scholarships based on financial need to facilitate participation in qualifying programs. Families who wish information about scholarships should contact Rabbi Abramowitz. All such applications and inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

An additional application, also due by March 30, is required for the scholarship program.



## Book Review: Frank Solomon “Boutique” Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Historically, national armies were trained to fight large-scale warfare. But since the 1970s, most of the “wars” the West has fought have been against “boutique” terrorism, acts of violence by small, home-grown cells or individuals, not part of a major group.

Northern Ireland arguably was the dawn of modern boutique terrorism as we know it. Car bombs and sniper attacks were favorites of the Irish Republican Army—I experienced both while serving in Northern Ireland. They had the same level of horror, for both soldiers and civilians, as an improvised explosive device or a weapon of mass destruction, no matter what the damage scale.

### Anti-Israel Terrorism

While 9/11 has had the most impact on the U.S. psyche, Israel had long before been forced to confront terrorism, and likely has the most experience in the world dealing with such attacks. It remains the world’s No. 1 target of terrorism.

We live in a time of heightened anxiety about possible Iranian-backed terrorism against Israeli or Jewish targets, and Israel’s closest allies. The recent terrorist attacks in Bangkok, New Delhi and Tbilisi serve as a reminder of this threat.

### A Timely Book

*U.S. Government Counterterrorism, a Guide to Who Does What* is thus a very timely book. Written by TI member Michael Kraft and retired Foreign Service officer Edward Marks, this book provides an excellent reference guide to the myriad government offices and programs involved in the U.S. counterterrorism effort.

Kraft is a longtime journalist with extensive foreign correspondence experience. He later served as a senior adviser in the State Department Counterterrorism Office and an adjunct counterterrorism professor at the National Defense University Africa Center for Strategic Studies.

Marks, who attained the rank of minister-counselor at the State Department, served as the department’s adviser on terrorism to the U.S. Pacific Command.

Kraft and Marks’ encyclopedia-like work demystifies the complex, interrelated world and work of counterterrorism in the U.S. government, and shows how we are bringing collaboration and greater efficiencies to the task. They present extensive details on the various U.S. counterterrorism programs and agencies.

### Terrorism & the U.S. Response

In the first nine chapters, the authors trace modern terrorism and the federal government response. They cover definitions of terrorism, counterterrorism legislation, counterterrorism training programs, financing, research and development programs, congressional oversight, cyber-terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

The remaining 11 chapters deal with the intelligence community’s myriad agencies, some of which may surprise those outside the intelligence community.

One would expect the CIA, FBI, State Department and U.S. military to be part of this interwoven web. But few would think that the departments of Commerce, Energy and Transportation, or the Nuclear

Regulatory Agency, also play a role in counterterrorism.

### Impact of 9/11 on FBI

The book points out the differences between British and U.S. intelligence agencies. In Britain, a separate domestic intelligence service, the MI5, was set up to deal with the exclusive task of tracking terrorism intelligence.

By contrast, in the U.S., the FBI was previously a decentralized agency, with insufficient supervision and coordination of its field offices. Intelligence gathering and sharing were not well coordinated. The 9/11 attacks changed all that, and transformed the agency into one focused on terrorism intelligence collection.

In 2004, the newly formed Homeland Security Department established the National Counterterrorism Center whose charge is to coordinate with more than 16 departments, agencies and organizations while sharing information through more than 30 networks. One visible result of this effort is the tightened airport security checking system.

### International Collaboration

International cooperation is a major component of the U.S. counterterrorism effort. A shortcoming of the book is its limited coverage of the longstanding collaboration between the intelligence communities in the United States and Israel, Britain, Canada, and other allies such as Australia and France.

The book also does not address the continuous and high-level intelligence sharing between the U.S. intelligence

*(Continued on page 14)*

## Arab Citizens of Israel

### Marcia Goldberg and Elihu Leifer

On January 22, more than 300 people attended a four-hour program at American University entitled "Strengthening Israel's Democracy: Arab Citizens of Israel."

The program was sponsored by the Greater Washington Forum on Israeli Arab Issues and was co-sponsored by more than 50 local organizations, including TI, 16 other area synagogues, the Embassy of Israel, the Abraham Fund Initiatives, the New Israel Fund, and the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington.

#### Two Plenaries & Four Workshops

The program included plenary sessions at the beginning and end (the last session having a town hall meeting format), and a choice of two among four different workshops. Each workshop had three panelists.

The titles of the workshops were: *Aspiring to Equality: Overcoming Discrimination*; *What Does Israeli Citizenship Mean?*; *Advancing Shared Society Through Arab-Jewish Partnerships*; and *Economic Empowerment and Education: The Building Blocks of Equality*. We ended up attending the same two workshops but in different sessions.

The event was very informative and interesting, and the presenters were knowledgeable and articulate. We

would have liked to have heard from more than one Israeli-Arab presenter (other Arab invitees had conflicts in their schedules), and to examine in some depth ways to reconcile the conundrum of Israel as a Jewish State vs. Israel as a democratic state as we considered its Arab citizens.

Former TI member Aviva Meyer, Associate Director of the New Israel Fund, was part of the panel on *Aspiring to Equality*. The panel addressed issues in education, attempts to encourage mixed residential areas, the need to both work within the system **and** fight the system, and the government's narrow definition of democracy.

At the concluding forum, Yossi Sarid of the Meretz party was quoted as saying, "In the end, we may have to be satisfied that Israel will be less than 100% Jewish and less than 100% democratic. We don't know how it will come out."

#### Only One Arab-Israeli Presenter

The lone Israeli-Arab presenter was a Bedouin woman who lives in a Negev village not recognized by the State. A self-described advocate and activist for equality and empowerment of the Bedouin, she is a graduate of Ben Gurion University and the Director of the Arab Jewish Center for Equality Empowerment

and Cooperation (AJEEC). We do not know the extent to which she was representative of Druze and other Israeli-Arabs.

She stated that Arabs represent 30% of the Negev population, but live on only 3% of the Negev region. Israel wants to move them to an even smaller portion of the land. Unemployment among these citizens is currently 43% for men and 85% for women.

#### Equality in the Jewish State

The 1948 Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel guarantees that Israel "will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race and sex." This raises several questions.

Foremost among these: to ensure a Jewish majority among its residents and citizens, is it consistent with democratic values for the State to give preference to Jews in the admission of new immigrants, even though this might result in the disproportionate denial of admission to the relatives of Israel's Arab citizens?

The information packet provided to each attendee is available in TI's Mollie Lewis Berch Library.

## 'Boutique' Terrorism and Counterterrorism (continued)

community and Israel's Shin Bet and Mossad; Britain's SO15 (Counter Terrorism Command), MI5 and MI6; and Canada's JTF2. Nor do the authors shed light on the overseas operations of the State Department, the FBI, Justice and the Department of Homeland Security. As a former

member of the British internal security forces stationed in Hong Kong, I know that had there not been continuous anti-espionage intelligence from U.S. field operations, the 1968 communist insurgency there would not have been quashed that quickly.

Unlike spy novels and action movies, real-life anti-espionage and counterterrorism work is often mundane, repetitive and dry. This book reflects much of the dryness of the business.

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