



# The Menorah

## Notes from the Rabbi: Ethan Seidel Enlivening the Ritual Committee

I would like to use this space to think publicly about the role of the Ritual Committee at TI.

Given that the vast majority of TI'ers have never been to a meeting, most of you may be wondering what exactly the Ritual Committee does. At present, we meet every month or two to listen to concerns or ideas that members bring to the committee, discuss how services are going at TI, and brainstorm about solutions to ritual issues in the community.

Typical concerns range all over the place: from relatively minor issues like the fact that some service leaders begin singing or humming towards the end of the *Amidah* and that bothers some people, to more major issues like how to boost attendance

at Carlebach dinners, and how to best coordinate our activities with Segulah.

Right now we are working on who should plan the program before the *Selihot* service (and can we get another committee to coordinate it!), and how can we make fuller use of our new *sukkah*.

Another major project is coordinating the High Holiday services and then evaluating

*(Continued on page 2)*



### Inside This Issue\*

<a href="#">Women of the Wall</a>	3
<a href="#">New Members</a>	4
<a href="#">TI Spring Fling</a>	5
<a href="#">Board Minutes Summary</a>	6
<a href="#">Lilmod U'lilamed</a>	7
<a href="#">Lifelong Learning</a>	8
<a href="#">Adult Education</a>	9
<a href="#">TI Community Cookbook</a>	9
<a href="#">Baltimore Trip Photos</a>	10
<a href="#">Kol Nashim</a>	11
<a href="#">Nayes un Mekhayes</a>	12
<a href="#">Independent Minyan</a>	13
<a href="#">Seudat Purim</a>	14
<a href="#">LaserTag Revisited</a>	15
<a href="#">Goettingen Gemeinde</a>	16
<a href="#">Spellbound</a>	17
<a href="#">Friday Night Minyan Assignments</a>	18
<a href="#">B'nei Mitzvah</a>	19
<a href="#">April Highlights</a>	20
<a href="#">Donations</a>	21

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

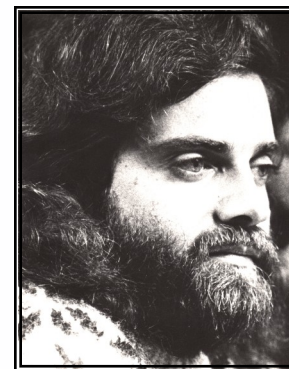
## President's Column: Joel Cohen Is That Parmesan on My Spaghetti or Did You Just Sneeze?

I spent the evening of March 17 at the annual Labor Seder put together by *Jews United for Justice* ([jufj.org](http://jufj.org)). JUFJ is a social justice group with very close ties to Tifereth Israel.

Many TI'ers have been on their general board and/or their rabbinic board, including Shelley Moskowitz (who headed the group for many years), Jevera Temsky, David Mackoff, Joelle Novey, and Rabbis Ethan Seidel, Bob Saks, Jason Kimelman-Block, Sarah Meytin, and Gilah Langner. Rabbi Elizabeth Richman is on the JUFJ staff as Rabbi-in-residence.

Their annual Heschel award has gone to TI'ers David and Carla (z"l) Cohen as well

as to Joelle Novey and Rabbi Bob Saks. (I apologize if I have missed other TI'ers who may have been on the board or staff.) At least another 15-20 other fellow congregants are at every JUFJ event.



Each year, the Labor Seder is dedicated to a particular social justice item that is high

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Notes from the Rabbi (continued)

how things went and how they might be improved – especially the still-evolving downstairs service that Eitan Gutin has been so capably leading, and in particular, the role of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day Rosh HaShanah service.

Take that last subject, for a second. At a recent discussion in the Ritual Committee about the downstairs High Holiday service, all those attending that month realized that while this was certainly an important and appropriate topic for our committee, none of us had small children and had been to the service in recent years!

One cannot help but wonder: is it healthy for our community – or any community, for that matter – to have the composition of an important committee so unrepresentative of the community as a whole? How can we maintain our vibrancy as a community without input from everyone, or at least someone from every

subset of the community? There are surely issues which should be brought up, issues which, say, affect younger congregants, which never make it on our agenda because they are not on our radar. We need you! You are our radar!

So, if you are a regular at a TI service, and have an opinion about it, or if there's some new service or ritual you'd like to see at TI, we'd love to hear you out. Even better, we'd love for you to become a regular at Ritual Committee meetings.

We don't really have a standing membership, save for the chair (at present, that's Jevera Temsky) and myself. All are welcome to whatever meeting(s) they would like to attend. And for the good of our community, I hope that more of you will take the time and energy to participate in our important work.

The next meeting of the Ritual Committee will be Thursday, April 25, at 7:30 p.m. at the shul. If you have items for the agenda or want to discuss getting involved in the committee, Jevera would be delighted to hear from you at [TIRitual@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:TIRitual@tifereth-israel.org).

Thanks for your consideration.

Rabbi Seidel

### **The Menorah Tifereth Israel Congregation**

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

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

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

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

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

Menorah submissions:  
[menorah@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:menorah@tifereth-israel.org)

### **Carlebach Service and Dinner**

A Carlebach Service, followed by dinner, is scheduled for **Friday, April 26**, at 6:30 p.m.

To make your dinner reservation, call the synagogue office. Reservations must be received by noon, Wednesday, April 24.

### **Tot Shabbat**

Join with other families with tots (5 and under) on **Saturday, April 20**, at 11:10 a.m.

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

## President's Column (continued)

on the JUFJ action agenda. This year their aim is to get sick leave for restaurant workers. You may not know that most restaurant workers – waiters and waitresses, hosts and hostesses, as well as the cooks themselves – do not get paid sick days off at most restaurants.

### Working While Sick

This means that they cannot stay home when a child or parent is sick, but it also means that they cannot afford to take a day off when they themselves are ill, so they work while they are sick. This now becomes not just a labor-pay or equity issue, but a public health concern. Ninety percent of kitchen workers have admitted to working while sick.

Who knows how many restaurant patrons get sick every year from having eaten in a restaurant where their food was prepared or served by people who should have been home

in bed? The thought of that is a not very appetizing inducement to go out to eat.

Local action is changing this situation. The Philadelphia City Council recently passed a law requiring that all restaurant workers have paid sick leave. I believe there are four other smaller cities with a similar law.

### DC Law Has Major Exceptions

In DC, the City Council passed a law in 2008 requiring all regular workers to have sick leave, but last minute lobbying by the National Restaurant Association (that lesser known but equally insidious NRA) got the DC Council to exclude tipped workers (wait-staff and bartenders) as well as anyone in their first year of a job.

Those DC restaurant workers who are covered are unaware of this. By the way, the national minimum hourly

wage for a tipped employee is \$2.13 (in DC it is \$2.77). The employee is expected to make up the rest in tips.

### Campaign to Extend Benefits

A national group, Restaurant Opportunities Centers United ([rocunited.org](http://rocunited.org)), is coordinating the national campaign to pressure restaurant owners to extend benefits to all employees. The local restaurants that give all employees paid sick time are Ben's Chili Bowl, Busboys and Poets, Eatonville Restaurant, Inspirer BBQ, Jack Rose, MiniBar, Jaleo, Oyamel, and Zaytina.

JUFJ has worked on many other issues – fairer taxes in DC, fair placement of the purple line in Maryland, fair treatment for immigrants (documented and undocumented). It is an organization that all Jews can be proud of.

## Washington Friends of Women of the Wall at TI

Marcia Goldberg

Last fall, under the leadership of Michele Sumka, TI hosted the first (of what is hoped to eventually be a monthly) Rosh Hodesh service in support of Women of the Wall. We will host the service again Thursday, April 11 at 7:30 a.m.

Women of the Wall represents all denominations of Judaism. Its goal is to allow women to pray aloud with *tallit* at the Kotel, the holy site in Jerusalem. WOW began these services in December, 1988. Over the intervening years, there have been numerous appeals to the Israeli government to allow the women to pray out loud, to wear *tallit* and *tefillin* and to read from the Torah. Approval was finally given for the women to read the Torah at the nearby

Robinson's Arch. The women stand at the rear of the women's section and, following the *Hallel*, proceed with the Torah to Robinson's Arch for the Torah reading and remainder of the service. Robinson's Arch is also used by non-Orthodox groups for egalitarian services.

Women continue to be arrested for wearing a *tallit*. Michele was in a video a few years ago as Anat Hoffman, the leader of WOW, was being arrested and the police were trying to take the Torah from her. I was with WOW in July on the rare occasion when no one was arrested.

However, most months several women are detained. On February 11, Women of the Wall was joined by

paratroopers who helped to liberate the Wall in 1967. They support the current effort to liberate the Wall again from the hold of the ultra-Orthodox. After the men left, women were again arrested.

Our local group has had services at T.I., Adas Israel and at the Embassy of Israel. All denominations have been represented. Plans are underway to have future gatherings at Orthodox and Reform congregations.

Please contact Marcia Goldberg ([goldbergm@verizon.net](mailto:goldbergm@verizon.net)) if you would like a role in the April service. Also, spread the word to encourage women to join us.

## New Members

### Jared Garelick

#### Alexander and Laura Strashny

Alex and Laura moved to Silver Spring a few years ago and looked at several synagogues before choosing to join TI. Laura was born in Germany but grew up in Minneapolis. Alex was born in Kiev in the Ukraine, leaving for Brooklyn with his family at age 12 during the last years of the Soviet Union.

Alex is now a statistician working at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Laura does free lance work investigating equal employment opportunity complaints for government agencies.

They are both interested in Jewish studies, with Alex making up for a late start. Like many in the Soviet Union, besides knowing that he was Jewish he knew almost nothing about religion, and he found it fascinating when he was free to learn about it here in America. It's a story to think about for Passover.

The Strashnys have two young children: Rafael, who is almost four, and Maya, about a year and a half.

#### Jessica Bell and David Greisen

Jessica and David moved to Silver Spring in the fall of 2011 from the Bangor, Maine area, where Jessica clerked for a state Supreme Court judge. Jessica, originally from Connecticut, currently has a fellowship at the Office of General Counsel at the EPA.

David, who grew up in Alaska, is also a lawyer, and a computer person too. He is with a small start-up, Litelaw.com. The company aims to make it easier to research and read legal documents on-line. It just moved to alpha last month (that's good), and should be beta (beta is better) within a few months.

The two met in Alaska during their first summer of law school, working for a state agency, then continued their romance long distance as they finished their legal studies, his at Chicago and hers at Columbia. Jessica and David enjoy cooking (they liked making *sufganiyot* with the Rabbi during Hanukkah) and walking their pet greyhound. They have been pleasantly surprised by the participatory feel at TI, which reminds them of friendly Jewish communities they experienced in smaller cities.

### New DC Public Charter School

Sela Public Charter School is a new DC public charter school coming to Ward 4 in August 2013. It is DC's only Hebrew Language Immersion program.

Sela is now enrolling Pre-K (4 year olds), Kindergarten, and Grade 1. It will offer **free** before and after care for all families, small class sizes, and a rigorous academic program.

The school will be located at 6015-17 Chillum Place, NE, conveniently located off of Kansas Avenue and a short trip from the Ft. Totten and Takoma Park Metro stops.

Visit [selapcs.org](http://selapcs.org) to learn more and apply online.

### 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. In the event of a death, prior to contacting the funeral home, please contact one of the following chaverim, Rabbi Seidel, or the TI office (202-882-1605).

<b>Shelly Heller</b>	h: 301-942-1836 w: 202-242-6698
<b>Jeff Davidson</b>	h: 301-593-1335
<b>David (Judy) Cohen</b>	h: 301-652-2872
<b>Marcia Goldberg</b>	h: 301-589-0352

## TI Spring Fling Is The Place to Be on May 5!

Rona Siskind

The TI Spring Fling and Auction is our annual fundraising event and we have another great evening planned for you!

This year, it's a "Dessert Roast" because we are celebrating David Zinner's 10 years at TI with a roast, and instead of a sit-down dinner we're planning a buffet with light fare and an amazing array of decadent desserts. Yes, decadent because it's rare to have so many delicious desserts spread out in front of you, just waiting to be devoured!

We'll also have a silent auction, two raffles, music, wine and after-dinner drinks for the adults and a "Kid Zone" that offers entertainment and food for children 18 months of age through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. So you don't have to get a babysitter and the kids get to celebrate and support TI in their own way.

At the end of the roast we will present David Zinner with a memory book. We're currently soliciting contributions that would go on a ¼, ½, and full page. You can submit well wishes, your appreciation, a photo, or share your favorite memory. The costs will cover the printing (we would like to do it nicely) as well as a donation in honor of David.

The silent auction is already promising to be bigger and better than ever before! In addition to the usual types of donations for the auction, we're soliciting lots of businesses and restaurants and TI members are being encouraged to create gift baskets.

You can do this on your own or as a group effort. It's a great way to be creative and help increase our ability to raise more money. Pick a theme and let us know what you're doing.

Some ideas include a picnic basket, family game night, travel basket, a doggie or cat kit curated by a TI dog or cat lover, a starter kit for knitting, crocheting or any craft you can think of. The possibilities are endless – if you want more ideas just let us know.

You can purchase your tickets to the TI Spring Fling, purchase raffle tickets for Bernie Shleien artwork and/or an iPad mini, make a donation to the silent auction, and contribute to David's memory book all online! Visit the Spring Fling pages on the TI website and you'll find all the links you need.

Finally, while the Spring Fling is a fundraiser, we also want it to be a community-wide celebration and don't want the cost to prohibit your participation. If cost is an issue, please contact David Zinner directly. He'll be happy to help you so he doesn't get too roasted!



### TI Spring Fling & Auction Tickets:

Adults: \$54, Teens \$18, Kids \$10  
Family maximum not to exceed \$128

### Contribute to the memory book for David Zinner

<http://bit.ly/ZinnerMemoryBook>

### Donate Goods or Services for the Auction

<http://bit.ly/TIAuctionDonate13>

### Buy Raffle Tickets -- \$10 each or 3 for \$25

<http://bit.ly/TIBuyRaffles2013>



## Summary of TI Board of Directors Meeting February 11, 2012

**Attending:** Renee Brachfeld, Alice Burton, Susan Catler, Joel Cohen, Jeff Davidson, Joe Davidson, Deena Dugan, Varda Fink, Esther Herman, David Levy, Rabbi Sarah Meytin, Stephanie Roodman Murdock, Margie Odle, Cynthia Peterman, Debbie Pomerance, Andrew Reamer, Vivian Seidner, Jevera Temsky, Daniel Turner, Mark Verschell, Chris Zeilinger.

**Excused:** Paula Martin, Jeffrey Colman, Sharon Brown, Joanne Hovis.

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

**Guest:** George Greenberg.

**Agenda and Minutes Approval:** The agenda, minutes, and summary were approved.

**President's Report:** The Rabbi's Sabbatical Committee held a productive meeting that helped the rabbi sort out his sabbatical. The sabbatical will be November 15, 2013 -February 28, 2014.

**Vine and Fig,** Andrew Reamer: Rabbi Ken Cohen would like to get started with his project.

**Finance:** a. 2012-2013: TI's income is currently \$1000 more than expenses. Counting on the Spring Fling to net \$17,500, expenses and income are right on track. b. Budget, 2013-2014: Dues, school tuition, and High Holiday ticket prices may be modestly increased.

**Development:** Sarah Meytin presented priorities for the use of development funds raised at TI, the total costs of proposed projects, and how the committee thinks it can achieve the fundraising goals. The top priorities are downstairs bathroom renovation, rain garden and paving, school furniture and technology, memorial board expansion, roof, sanctuary lighting, HVAC modifications, and retreat subsidy. The Development Committee will expand its membership.

**Building Preservation:** George Greenberg presented the TI Building Preservation Committee's report. TI has six major projects and the plan calls for \$1.4 million in expenses over the next 25 years.

**Administration,** Jeff Davidson:

- ShulCloud is a computer program that improves

synagogue administration. About 100 synagogues use this system. We are considering buying this system.

- Resumes are coming in. The job is being advertised on jewishjobs.com so the committee expects many more resumes.
- Funeral practices: The Board passed a motion that as long as someone has been a regular member in good standing prior to becoming a non-resident member, he or she should be allowed a TI funeral.

**Executive Director Report,** David Zinner:

- Ashreinu Girls' School: David Zinner is waiting to hear from TI's attorney to see if there are any issues with the school being at TI. The Girls' School is excited about coming here.
- Cynthia Peterman, Fiscal Sponsorship of JewishTeacher: The details have been worked out and a written agreement will be signed after this board meeting.



Delivering Pesah Packages to Needy Elders, March 17

## Lilmod U'lilamed: Eitan Gutin

### Teaching The Wall (Part 3)

This article is the third in a four-part series exploring why the North American Jewish establishment has produced a relatively weak response to the increasingly restrictive rules regarding women who wish to pray at the *Kotel* (Western Wall). Through these articles I am exploring how the *Kotel* is taught as part of education about Israel and whether our educational practices have contributed to such a weak public response. Ultimately, I ask whether we need to reassess the place of the *Kotel* in Jewish education.

The *Kotel* used to be one of my spiritual homes. That was before I started to realize how an ancient pile of stones has become, to some, more important than the people who strive to pray near them.

In the summer of 1995, I spent a month as a counselor at Ramah in the Poconos. At one point I came into the bunk and found two campers in a pretty intense fight, rolling around on the ground. Once I separated them I found out that one camper was angry at the other because he touched his favorite possession.

#### Teaching an Important Lesson

This gave me an opportunity to teach a lesson that I have repeated many times since. I asked the campers "if you had a choice between saving a Torah and saving someone's life, which would you choose?" The answer, to them (and to me) was obvious -- they would choose the person over the Torah!

During the Holocaust, Torah scrolls, the most holy objects Jewish communities possess, were burned by the Nazis. In rabbinic responses at that time more than one rabbi made it clear to his congregants that

they were forbidden from endangering their own lives in order to save a Torah scroll.

While this lesson does not come up too often it was relevant to Jewish residents of New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina. An Orthodox synagogue that flooded retrieved its Torahs only after it made sure that everyone in the community surrounding the building was safe. The Torahs were damaged beyond repair, and buried, but the community is still alive.

#### A Lesson Now Forgotten

The lesson I taught to my campers, and continue to teach today, is the same lesson learned by the victims of both the Holocaust and Hurricane Katrina. In Judaism people are more important than things. It saddens me that the Jews who are considered some of the most pious in the world -- the Jews who have made the *Kotel* the center of their spiritual life -- seem to have forgotten this lesson.

In March 2010, a number of women were at the *Kotel* preparing for Women of the Wall's monthly Rosh Hodesh service. Even before the women had a chance to put on their *tefillin* some of the men on the other side of the *mechitzah* began throwing chairs over the fence ([bit.ly/wowchairs](http://bit.ly/wowchairs)). Fortunately no one was hurt that day but the message from those opposing Women of the Wall was clear -- the sanctity of the Wall, a thing, is more important than the safety (let alone dignity) of people.

If the above incident was a one-time event, a lone couple of fanatics, it would be easy to ignore as the actions of a fringe group. However, the men arrested in March 2010 were not alone in their willingness to put the dignity of the Wall over the dignity

and safety of the women (and others) who want equal access to worship there.

Women of the Wall had chairs thrown at them before, back in the 90s when the *Kotel* chairs were much heavier and more dangerous. In my first article I recounted the story from 1996 of my friends having fruit, trash, and soiled diapers thrown at them for daring to hold an egalitarian *minyan* in the *Kotel* plaza.

Over the past few years those who see themselves as protecting the *Kotel's* sanctity have even managed to change Israeli law so that it forbids "a religious ceremony not according to local custom, which may hurt the feelings of the worshipers toward the place." The recent arrests of women who publicly wear a *tallit* at the *Kotel* were based on a different section of the same law forbidding "unfit attire" at holy places.

#### A New Form of Idol Worship

I believe that when the holiness of an object is placed above the holiness of a person it is a form of idol worship.

The above circumstances, combined with the tradition that notes placed in the *Kotel* are more noticed by God than other prayers, have led me to a conclusion that I would have considered heretical not so long ago -- much of what goes on at the *Kotel*, and even some of the ways we teach it, are forms of idolatry. As long as we in North America willingly teach this idolatry the status quo at the *Kotel* will remain or possibly get worse.

In my last article in this series, I will explore the link between *Kotel* education and the status quo, and how the North American Jewish community can make a difference.

## Lifelong Learning

### Eitan Gutin

#### TI Families and Youth

Congratulations to TI USY on its second annual **Tzedakah Dinner** and on all our teen leaders' other *tzedakah* efforts. So far this year our chapter has raised over \$2,000 for the teen-run Tikun Olam Tzedakah Fund. Special thanks to **Roz Kram**, USY Advisor **Amanda Rudman**, program chairs **Jordan Fingerhut** and **Iliana Jaime** and the nearly 20 USY'ers and Kadimaniks who cooked and served the Tzedakah Dinner.

Thank you to all the parents and teachers who helped create and run our first annual **Pesah Family Experience**. TI's K-5th graders got to bake *matzah*, decorate *afikoman* bags, learn about searching for *hametz*, re-enacted the crossing of the *Yam Suf* and learned songs old and new for the *seder*. Thanks to this program and the efforts of our USY chapter many of our families will be adding drama to their *sedarim* or performing the traditional search for *hametz* for the first time.

All TI school-aged children are invited to join our youth **Yom HaAtzma'ut** celebration on Sunday morning, April 17. Watch your email for more information.

**USY/Kadima King's Dominion Day** will be on Sunday morning, April 28. For \$69.99 our 6th-12th graders will get round-trip transportation, park admission, and the company of hundreds of other Jewish teens. Use this link to download the registration form: [bit.ly/usyKD](http://bit.ly/usyKD).

Your rising 6th-12th grader can enjoy one week of Jewish camp for as little as \$300 this summer. **USY Encampment** and **Kamp Kadima** will take place August 19-25. Registration is now open!

Watch your email for information about camp and, for those who have not yet spent a Shabbat with Kadima or USY, information on how the **TI First Timers Club** can make this an easy choice to cap off your child (ren)'s summer vacation.

#### Himmelfarb and Chai Schools

This month we will open registration for the 2013-2014 school year. All families with school-aged children will be receiving a registration packet in the mail by the end of the month.

Are you comfortable reading Hebrew? Do you have time to help our students with their grasp of the Hebrew language? If you answered "yes" to both questions please contact our School Parents Committee Chair, **Lisa Blumenthal**, about volunteering in the Himmelfarb School.

Mark your calendars: The weekend of June 7-9 will feature our final **Family Service** of the school year, our Bet Class *siddur* party, and Vav class graduation, all topped off with a new, expanded, **Summer Celebration** on Sunday afternoon.

Save the Date: **TI's 2013 Retreat** will take place at the Pearlstone Retreat Center the weekend of December 13-15.



Making Matzot at the Himmelfarb School's first annual Pesah Family Experience



## Adult Education

### Cynthia Peterman

#### Yom HaShoah Commemoration

On Sunday morning, April 7, Tifereth Israel will commemorate *Yom HaShoah u'Gvurah*, the annual day of remembrance of the Holocaust and Resistance, with a special program to hear from the members of our community who have a personal connection to the Holocaust.

The day will begin with special prayers inserted into the Sunday morning minyan (9:00 a.m.) in memory of those who perished. We will also join with many other Jewish communities around the world by reading the names of some of the millions of Jews who were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators in a three-hour vigil, from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

We invite TI members to be a part of this profoundly meaningful event by signing up to read in 15-minute time slots by going to <http://www.tifereth-israel.org/yom-hashoah-commemoration>. Click on "Sign up."

We would be honored to include the names of members of your family who perished in the *Shoah*. Please send additional names to **Loretta Saks**: [TIYomHaShoah@Tifereth-Israel.org](mailto:TIYomHaShoah@Tifereth-Israel.org).

Following minyan, at 10:15 a.m., all are invited to a commemorative program in the Wolman Sanctuary, "Bearing Witness." Hear stories from TI members who are survivors or whose family members were involved personally in the Holocaust. For more information contact Cynthia Peterman at [TIYomHaShoah@Tifereth-Israel.org](mailto:TIYomHaShoah@Tifereth-Israel.org).

#### SHALEM

Many thanks to **Josh Furman** for his wonderful talk in March on "Parenting from the Pulpit"! April's SHALEM program will feature **Marcia Goldberg** speaking on the topic of New Rituals. Please join us on Saturday, April 20, after Kiddush.

#### TI Annual Road Trip: Baltimore

This year's road trip was a great success. Nearly 30 of us journeyed north to visit the Jewish Museum of Maryland and the Walters Art Museum for a day of history, art and lecture, with a surprise St. Patrick's Day parade thrown in! (See photos on page 10).

**Ilene Dackman-Alon**, Director of Education at the Jewish Museum of Maryland, was our tour guide through the historic Lloyd Street and B'nai Israel Synagogues (including the oldest mikveh in the US). Museum Director **Marvin Pinkert** presented a fascinating history of the Maryland Jew Bill, the 1826 law that removed the requirement that Jews swear an oath on the true faith of a Christian to hold public office in the State of Maryland.

Where should we travel to next year? Let Cynthia Peterman or members of the Adult Education Committee know your thoughts.

## TI Community Cookbook

Under the leadership of **Melissa Perera**, the synagogue is compiling a **TI Community Cookbook** of favorite recipes devised or used by TI members. To date, over 30 members have submitted nearly 100 recipes.

Some of the recipes in the cookbook will be featured at the TI Spring Fling on May 5. The event's planners are checking out the recipes to see which can be added to the menu of light fare and lots of desserts.

The deadline for submitting recipes for the cookbook is **April 5**. Recipes should be emailed to Melissa at [perera\\_melly@yahoo.com](mailto:perera_melly@yahoo.com).

To round out the cookbook and make it more diverse, recipes in the following categories are needed:

- salads
- non-lentil legume dishes
- fish dishes
- beverages, sauces and condiments
- *haroset*
- small snacks and appetizers
- vegetable side dishes.

If you sent in a recipe but did not receive a response from Melissa, please re-send it, since she reports she recently found one recipe in her Spam folder (even though it was not, thankfully, made with Spam).

## Mosaic Project

TI's Himmelfarb School is currently working on a large Mosaic Project for the windowed hallway going up to the classrooms.

In an effort to incorporate the entire TI community, we are asking for donations of tiles, gems, small pieces of colored glass, mirrored tiles, glass pebbles, flat pieces of shell, etc. Please nothing with sharp edges.

There is a collection box in the entryway. Thank you!

# TI Trip to Baltimore's Jewish Museum of Maryland, March 17



## Kol Nashim

Paula Flicker and Esther Herman



Save the dates for the following upcoming Kol Nashim programs:

**Kol Nashim Book Club, April 16,** at the home of **Paula Flicker**, at 7:30 p.m. April's book is a novel by Dara Horn entitled *The World to Come*.

**Challah Baking Demonstration, June 2.** TI's **Jessica Weissman** loves to bake bread and will demonstrate baking a variety of *challot* from around the world. Sunday morning at 10:30.

**Kol Nashim Women's Informal Meeting, June 9,** at the home of **Lisa Kraft**. Plan to join us to meet, greet, and network, with a little food and drink, of course.

### Honoring Marjorie Rosenthal

On Shabbat, March 9, Kol Nashim assisted in a celebration of women by honoring the yahrtzeit of Bella Abzug, preparing and co-sponsoring a delicious Kiddush, and thanking Marjorie Rosenthal for all of the work she did for the women of Tifereth Israel. As a Kol Nashim board member and long-time admirer of Marjorie, **Esther Herman** made the following presentation:

"It is appropriate that we selected this particular Shabbat to honor Marjorie Rosenthal for all of the work she has done over the years to enhance the lives of women within Tifereth Israel's Sisterhood, now renamed Kol Nashim. ...Today, March 9, is [also] her birthday. And, we are

commemorating Bella Abzug's yahrtzeit by wearing our hats to shul.

"I remember that Betty Friedan... was the first feminist I became aware of when she published *The Feminine Mystique* in 1963, and I was assigned the task of getting a panel together to talk about feminism in Berkeley that year as an educational program for my oldest daughter's pre-school. That daughter, Alisa, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah at the Conservative Center in Jerusalem ten years later, in 1974....

"She read from the Torah and chanted the appropriate Haftarah and much of the service....She had been trained...by Joe Friedman, Marjorie's brother-in-law, who trained most of our students for Bar/Bat Mitzvah then....[W]e were told that Alisa was the first girl in Jerusalem to have a Shabbat morning Bat Mitzvah service there at the Center....[Because] there were so many complaints about her full participation, and there were several rabbis in attendance, she would be the last for a while.

"Little did I know then we would progress to the point of being equally involved with men in our practice of Judaism in this shul. Marjorie told me that she and her family joined TI in 1964. Our family joined in 1968. At that time, Sisterhood members were the cooks of the congregation, although we didn't have the special weekly Kiddush luncheons we do now.

"Until the early 1970's, women at TI could not participate in ritual obligations of the service; the only female on the Board of Directors was the sisterhood president....Marjorie served as sisterhood president (Women's League for Conservative Judaism)...[from] about 1978... through 2004.

"Marjorie remembers taking the position over from her mother, Frances Broder. Through her, flowers decorated the Bima for special holidays; subscriptions to *The Jewish Week* and *Entertainment* books were purchased. She assisted with the Hanukkah Boutique until last year. She represented TI at all the official meetings and gatherings of the Women's League.

"It is with great respect and pleasure that I call Marjorie up here now to honor her with this special certificate."

### Collection Extended

TI will continue to collect toiletries for the Homeless Children's Playtime Project until further notice. For details, check page 12 of the *March Menorah*.

## Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

### Barbara Raimondo

#### One Benefit of TI Renting Space

Super-duper-sized *mazel tov* to **Josh Furman** and **Alisha Klapholz**, who recently got engaged. They met through the Segulah minyan and are planning to get married in August. She is originally from Philadelphia, and she works in the administrative office of the Public Policy School at George Mason University in Arlington, where TI'ers **David Hart** and **Iris Lav** have taught.

**Louise Kelley** and **Jessica Weissman** will be married on May 19 at TI -- 16 years and one day after their original commitment ceremony. *Aufruf* will be on May 18.

The beat goes on, with **Joni Tova Saks** born in Mexico City on February 8 to **Daniel Saks** and **Nikkia Reveillac**. **Maia** and **Anna Saks** finally! finally! finally! have their very first cousin and can't wait to meet her at Pesah time, when they will make her search for the *afikomen*. This will take place at the home of grandparents, **Bob Saks** and **Loretta Vitale Saks**.

*Afikomen* uncoverer *par excellence*, **Melanie Leah (Michal Liat)**, **Marjorie Rosenthal**'s granddaughter, will become bat mitzvah on April 20 at Beth Ami Congregation in Rockville. She is Marjorie's youngest grandchild.

And **Jeff** and **Cynthia Peterman** are very proud of **Tania Peterman**, who recently completed her 90-hour Certificate in Child Care at Howard Community College. All her years taking care of TI's little ones in Shultime really paid off, so it is only fair that TI now send Tania a bill for the experience.

**Neilah Rovinsky**, a ninth grader at Wilson High school, was selected to

participate for the next three summers in the National Cathedral Scholars college preparatory program. The program combines study, paid internships, and service work.

And **Brenda Footer** has just accepted the position of Director of the Har Shalom Early Childhood Education Center in Potomac. She starts this July.

#### Cruisin' But Not Losin'

**Myrna Goldman** took a cruise in South America in January. It started in Valparaiso (near Santiago), Chile and had several port stops in Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay. In addition to Cute! Cute! Cute! Penguins – they really do look like a tux! – a highlight was a tour of Jewish Montevideo, including a synagogue/community center and a Holocaust memorial, as well as a museum with the works of a Jewish Uruguayan artist.

Myrna traveled with both of her sisters, her brother-in-law who wondered why he chose to travel with a bunch of chicks, and friends from New Jersey and Maryland. Dinners were always entertaining as no one could get a word in edgewise. Myrna says complaints about overflowing toilets and no electricity were made by a bunch of whiners, and next time why don't they stay home where they belong? No, actually she was not on the Bad! Bad! Cruise line.

**Alan Landay** went skiing at Sun Valley, Idaho, with Columbia Ski Club in February. Sun Valley is the first "destination" -- i.e. place where you actually stay -- ski resort in the U.S., having been built in the late 1930s. It had the first ski lift in the world. One day Alan ate lunch at the Roundhouse restaurant, built in 1938

or '39. Back then Sun Valley was the place to go for the rich and famous, such as Clark Gable, Errol Flynn, Claudette Colbert, Bing Crosby and Gary Cooper. Where Alan was eating might have been near where one of these Hollywood legends had eaten. Close inspection of the crumbs was inconclusive.

From Silicon Valley to New Zealand: On their way to New Zealand in February, **Mike** and **Lisa Kraft** were guests at an international conference on medical developments directed by their son, **Daniel Kraft**, Chair of Medicine and Neuroscience at Singularity University in Mountain View, California. In New Zealand, where Lisa grew up, they visited family and friends. They spent two weeks there, walking, visiting museums, hiking, and horseback riding.

In Christchurch, they toured ruins of that city's central business center, where more than 180 persons lost their lives in a series of earthquakes two years ago. Mike, who is working on resiliency issues, also met with city officials to discuss how they kept the public and press informed during the crisis. Mike and Lisa also visited the Holocaust Center in Wellington.

#### Sad News

**Susan Schreiberman**, sister of **Marjorie (George) Greenberg**, passed away after a long illness. The funeral was in Columbus, Ohio.

**Bernard Kellner**, father of **Ken Kellner (Nina Bronk Kellner)** and grandfather of **Elana** and **Talia Kellner**, died. He was 89. The funeral was in New York. May families and loved ones be comforted among those who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem.

*(Continued on page 13)*

## Independent Minyans and Synagogues

Frank Solomon

In the last decade, many “independent minyans” have been gaining popularity in big cities. In the Washington area, there are at least three such minyans, among them Segulah. Led mostly but not exclusively by highly Jewishly-educated, single young people, these minyans strive for *ruah*, intimacy, participation, egalitarianism and volunteerism. In most cases, there are no paid clergy or staff.

Experts often call these independent minyans “empowered,” in that lay people lead the various rituals and practices. They have a core of volunteers willing to put in time and energy needed to create the Jewish community they like. Each participant is seen as a resource creating his or her own Jewish life, providing information, texts, ideas and support. Power does not rest in a rabbi, paid staff, or a board of directors.

### When Minyans Grow

What happens when these groups grow and become more institutionalized and need a spiritual leader for *halakhic* guidance or when children need education programs? A *havurah* is fine when you are single or newly married, but when participants want their kids to learn Hebrew or celebrate bar/bat mitzvah, do they send them to established synagogues? Do they seek out rabbis for other life-cycle events?

Most organizations are on a continuum from being decentralized to centralized. Being decentralized can be a good or a bad thing. It is safe to say that, unless the members of independent minyans follow the usual steps of getting married, forming families and joining a synagogue, or moving on to another city, these minyans are bound to grow, and face these challenges.

Some leaders of independent minyans may bring their energy, spirit, egalitarianism, high degree of Jewish knowledge, and sense of empowerment to more established shuls, which they often see as insulated, outdated and elitist. The established powers may welcome these former minyan members or see them as insurgents.

### Minyan Leaders as Shul Leaders

But traditional synagogues will have to work with this corps of committed Jews, who will most likely want to introduce the same *ruah*, rhythm, energy, style and practices as they become leaders of established shuls. I think these leaders will shape the future of American Judaism.

My guess is that minyan members—if they stay around and raise families—will join established congregations that employ salaried clergy and offer many programs and activities that the no-frills minyans do

not offer. Along the way, they will influence greatly the way these established synagogues operate.

### Minyans Have Their Own Issues

Meanwhile, back at the independent minyan level, there are issues that need to be addressed. While many minyans strive to be egalitarian and not exclusive, the level of knowledge required for competence in their worship settings is a problem for many. Those without substantial Jewish education, or with little time outside of the family and work to grow Jewishly, may be uncomfortable with the liturgy and structure of services, and find them a barrier to their participation.

An established synagogue is much more forgiving if you can't follow the service or lose a page. Ironically, independent minyans may thus come across as insular and elitist, the same charges they level against established shuls. Unless a minyan doesn't want to grow, it might have to make its services more accessible to the less Jewishly-educated. Would a “diluted” service make a minyan less cohesive? Would it make the atmosphere less intimate?

Second, one has to consider why people join a community. Jews seek out communal prayer activities for widely different reasons. Quite a few who go to shul or join a community may not want to be spirited, intimate or participatory. Some don't want to sing. Others just want to sit back, don't want to get too involved, and want their social circle to be their business or neighborhood, but not the people with whom they *daven*. If leaders want to make traditional synagogues more like independent minyans, what would they do with these less-motivated souls?

*(Continued on page 14)*

## Nayes un Mekhayes (continued)

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *quidnunc*: “a person who seeks to know all the latest news or gossip: busybody” (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 piebald edition of Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers.

## Seudat Purim at TI

### Dana Neimark

At Purim we are required to fulfill four commandments:

- Hear the the book of Esther read -- *Lishmoa (Mikra) Megillah*
- Give gifts to the poor -- *Matanot La'evyonim*
- Send gifts -- *Mishlo'ah Manot*
- Partake of the Purim Meal -- *Seudat Purim*

While all four *mitzvot* are equally satisfying and fulfilling, each in its own special way, the *Seudat Purim* -- unlike many of the 613 commandments -- is pleasurable in a corporeal, delightfully indulgent way.

On Purim, Sunday, February 24, for the first time in almost 40 years of Sheridan's and my Purim memories, Tifereth Israel Congregation hosted a *Seudat Purim*. It was held in the

Mollie Berch Library, while the Purim Carnival ran concurrently in the Cherner Auditorium.

Catered by Roz Kram, the *Seudah* featured elegantly-presented Mideast haute cuisine. Included in the gourmet repast were spinach frittata, stuffed grape leaves, two Mediterranean eggplant salads, rice with fruit and nuts, sauteed lima beans with dill, lentils with scallions, warm potato salad, and -- the piece de resistance -- Roz's supreme baklava.

One of the diners, Esther Herman, claimed the baklava to be the best she had ever sampled in her many years of baklava-eating experience. Sheridan Neimark, who never met a lima bean he could abide, proclaimed the lima beans with dill to be delicious. All who dined were delighted by the delectability of the fare.

To help us fulfill the requirement of drinking until we are unable to distinguish Mordechai from Haman, Mark Verschell treated us to an extensive wine tasting, complete with a running commentary on the aromatic characteristics of each featured wine selection. And -- so the *Seudah* and wine tasting shouldn't be a merely gratuitous, indulgent experience -- profits from the *Seudah* and wine orders will benefit TI's coffers.

While there was a critical mass of diners, the event could have supported more *fressers*, so we encourage you, next Purim, to fulfill *mitzvat Seudat Purim* at TI. Roz plans to make it an annual event, augmented by Mark's fulsome wine tasting.

*Todah rabah*, thank you, Roz and Mark!

## Independent Minyans and Synagogues (continued)

Then there are older congregants who have been members for 40 years, and they find comfort in their "Jewish home" and established shul ties. They like things the way they are, and are not necessarily interested in a lot of energy and singing. They may not want any changes in the way they worship and in how synagogue business is conducted.

Yet another issue is that the larger the institution, the slower change is able to happen. This can try the patience of younger, cutting-edge, highly motivated Jews who cannot wait for the established bureaucracy to make the great leap forward. Even the fastest-moving ritual committees might not satisfy their need for quick change.

Let's also not forget that there are rabbis—including our own—even in institutional settings, who are working to change that which is seen as broken and who work hard to empower congregants to take responsibility for their Jewish learning and living. There are rabbis who work toward bridging the gap between those who can and those who are not yet able.

### Co-Existing Minyans

Across the country, there are larger congregations that have co-existing minyans under the same roof. On any Shabbat morning, there are paid clergy leading minyan services, leading educational workshops, or attending services as a participant.

Lay-led minyanim can co-exist with established practices and services while education, life-cycle events and other activities are done jointly, and every learned Jew can be a leader or a rabbi, paid or unpaid.

### Building Models for Change

The best way promote change might be to strengthen ties and ritual practices that can serve as models so that communities under the same roof make a paradigm shift when they are ready to do so. It would be wonderful if leaders from both communities could bridge the perceived gap while offering quality Jewish education, Judaic and spiritual leadership to those who need it.

## LaserTag Revisited

*In the March Menorah Dina Borzekowski expressed her strong opposition to playing LaserTag at TI, claiming it facilitated violence-prone behavior. Her article generated many responses on the ListServe. Excerpts, in the order they were posted, follow:*

**Jeff Peterman:** ... I see associating Laser Tag with violent media and violent video games a stretch.... [T]here's a huge difference between movies and video games with graphic, bloody, violence and a game that is just a modern version of the ancient game of "Tag." In Laser Tag, ... one player tr[ies to]... hit targets on a moving person ... while the other player dodges and tries to [avoid] being hit.

There is no simulated violence, simulated blood, or potential for physical harm (except for the risks associated with running). [I]f...peer reviewed articles published in reputable journals...have shown a statistically significant association between playing Laser Tag and violent behavior...I'd appreciate reading them and evaluating the data for myself...[W]ithout reviewing such data, I see nothing wrong with kids playing Laser Tag.

**Rachel Meytin:** I see a very big difference between running around trying to tap someone and trying to shoot then with a gun. I don't think a gun should ever be a toy or used as part of a game. I don't know if it's in the same category as violent video games with blood and guts, but it's way too close for my comfort. I agree with Dina and would prefer TI did not endorse this type of activity for our youth.

**Andrew Afflerbach:** I am a little torn on this. We had LaserTag for Ari's birthday and he is really into the NERF guns. I am not seeing

anything really gross or disturbing in the way the kids act while doing the games....[I]t is like an "army" game... [which] they would play whether I permitted it or not. And, unlike the video games or other screen time, the kids are running around, which is very, very good....

That said,...[my] parents were opposed to [gun toys], and I am glad they made that choice and gave me that message. I do not...[like] that NERF calls one of its guns "Rampage" and the whole business is really jarring after Sandy Hook and [other similar] atrocities....It make[s] sense to make TI events a gun-free zone since there are parents who object. There are plenty of opportunities for lasertag and NERF guns elsewhere and plenty of other great activities, whatever the science on the matter.

**Carla Ellern:** We had two separate lasertag parties for our kids - Jacob and Rebecca. They and their friends loved them. It was tagging with a colorful laser - kind of like tag. The violent, realistic video games and films concern me a lot more.

**Harvey Kabaker:** [I]f any parents of 6th to 12th graders have any objections...isn't it enough that the activity is voluntary and requires parental permission? My son went to a few lasertag games during high school and later. I have carefully monitored him for any sign of aggressive behavior, and none have arisen. Further, he never once asked me to take him out to a shooting range.

**Ernie Englander:** My eighth grade son is looking forward to attending. We have also done birthday parties at lasertag, including his own coming up next month. If the shul decides no, then that is fine with me. But if

we put it to a vote, I will vote in favor of keeping it an option.

**Karen & Rodney Brooks:** Lasertag sounds like another subliminal message that shooting is fun. No matter how "harmless" the device (NERF, laser) appears to be, a gun by any other name is still a gun. When you put something in your hand and aim it at another person, you are wielding a weapon. It's not a game, it's a dangerous message; a message that our culture has been sending with frightening and increasing intensity for half a century. It needs to stop.

**Janice Mehler:** [T]he only article that I could find in...my own search linking laser tag to violence is based entirely on speculation and innuendo [, asking] "Is it accidental that violent criminals are being born in this age of ...realistic violent games that encourage fantasy and creativity focused on deviance, and adventure games such as laser tag?" (Anderson, C. A., Dill, K. E.,2000,...Journal of Personality & Social Psychology, 78(4), 772-790).

...There's a continuum, and I draw the line with laser tag on the safe, fun, nonviolent side of the line. I also think that pointing a finger and miming a bow and arrow...are not steps toward becoming a violent criminal....Parents can make different but reasonable decisions in raising their children, including whether to let them play lasertag or mime the use of weapons, but I see no reason to put lasertag in the same category as graphically violent video games.

**Rachel Tickner:**...Based on other comments, lasertag...seems far less brutal than a lot of other contemporary cultural offerings...That said, thanks to Dina Borzekowski for

*(Continued on page 16)*

## News from the Goettingen Gemeinde

### Naomi Revzin

Like us, the Goettingen Gemeinde, our sister congregation in Germany, is busy preparing for Passover. They will host the second seder on Tuesday evening with Rabbi Gabor Lengyel. This past month, Rabbi Lengyel officiated at Jakob Juergenliemk's bar mitzvah. Jakob is the son of Jaqueline Juergenliemk, the congregation's president.

We would feel at home with Goettingen's regular schedule of activities that mirror our own.

As a small congregation, visiting rabbis and cantors regularly lead Shabbat services, supplementing the congregants' own leadership. There are regular weekly sessions related to jobs and workplace issues and

Hebrew and German (for Russian immigrants) classes.

The Gemeinde's women's group, the Frauencub, meets regularly, and marked International Women's Day on Sunday, March 10. The cemetery committee continues to serve, reporting an increase in fees for plots.

## LaserTag Revisited (continued)

raising the issue and articulating her concerns. Thanks also to...[others] who make the good point...that most of us parents are already trying to walk the line between letting our kids enjoy whatever our culture has to offer,...on a good day, trying to impart our own values, which may be 180 degrees opposite whatever our culture is currently serving, [and] on a bad day, trying to get some peace [by] letting one's...children get anesthetized by TV or online sludge while we cook dinner or just sit on the couch....

**Bob Feron:** I have great professional respect and affection for Dr. Dina Borzekowski, whose areas of special expertise include children, media, and health, but I strongly disagree with the way in which her article...conflates a children's game of lasertag with the vast body of research on exposure to media violence, especially violent videogames. Conflating the two is just as unwarranted as conflating the actions of a murderer with a children's story that involves death, such as Little Red Riding Hood....

...I find it quite offensive...to suggest that allowing [our two girls] to play lasertag with their peers might somehow marginally increase the likelihood that they will someday

grow up to become mass murderers....[L]asertag doesn't include any violent acts...[and] is... less violent than pointing a finger at someone and saying "bang". There are many more truly "violent acts" in every ten minutes of American football, as played...[at] countless Middle School[s] and High School [s]..., than in an entire game of teenage lasertag, where the players don't even get close to one another...

**Janet Nesse:** Is it too straightforward to say that if you prefer your child not play laser tag, don't send them? It seems pretty clear that there is no consensus that this is an inappropriate activity, so I believe parents should make their own rules, as appropriate for their own families.

**Howard White:** I suggest that some of you read Dickens novels, *Tom Jones*, *Hunchback of Notre Dame* and innumerable other novels. Some might even try the *Tanach*...and then explain why lasertag is the end of the world. There has always been violence in most large societies and there will continue to be. We can try to reduce it but should be careful about going overboard. Where do we draw lines? Don't let kids have guns and they will use their fingers. We have more mass murderers now

because it is possible. Ban assault weapons, large clips, etc. and they will go down.

**Sarah Osborne:**...There is something very different between laser tag and violent video games. Yes, the laser device is "a gun" but... it is projecting lights, not bullets. [W]hile it is a bit edgy, it really isn't the edge of violence that you see in video games. Nobody falls down, nobody gets hurt....

I am really against violent video games, although I think every family can decide that for themselves, but I think laser tag is pretty neutral....I appreciate your frustration, Dina....Thanks for a good article.

**Dina Borzekowski responds:**...I agree that playing one or two games of lasertag will not turn a kid into a scary beast. Nor will pointing a finger at another child and screaming "bang bang, you're dead."

What I am asking though is whether this an appropriate activity to be running out of our synagogue. What does it say about a community that encourages this type of play? What a parent allows his/her child to do is up to that parent. But what happens at the synagogue should be a group decision.



## Spellbound

### David (Judy) Cohen

Readers may not have noticed, but I have been trying to standardize the spelling in *The Menorah* of Hebrew transliterations. In doing so, I am following the spelling patterns in the *Sim Shalom* prayerbook and the *Eitz Hayim humash*.

Some of these new rules run totally counter to familiar, well-established spellings, so members may find the new spellings strange and jarring. I am confident, however, that members will grow increasingly comfortable with seeing—and using—them.

These are the spelling rules—some very logical and some admittedly arbitrary—used in our prayerbook and *humash*:

#### “KH” and “H” Instead of “CH”

Hebrew has two guttural “h’s”, pronounced like the “j” in the Spanish word *jalapeño*. Some Sephardi Hebrew speakers distinguish the sounds of these two letters, giving one a softer, less throat-scraping pronunciation, but for our purposes (and even for most Israelis) they are pronounced the same.

One is the *khaf*, which is always in the middle or end of a word, never the first letter. The other guttural “h” is the *het*, which can be found at the beginning or elsewhere in a word.

These two gutturals have typically been spelled “ch” in English, a bad choice for two reasons: The unknowing may mispronounce the “ch” either as in “chew,” or as a hard “c,” as in “chemistry.” Using “ch” for both the *khaf* and the *het* also fails to distinguish between the two Hebrew letters, misleading the reader to think that in Hebrew these sounds are spelled alike.

The solution is to drop the “ch” spelling altogether, and instead use “kh” for the *khaf*, as in *Halakhah*, and just an “h” for the *het*, as in *Hanukkah*. Actually, to denote the guttural sound, the “h” for a *het* should have a dot under it, but most of us do not have an easy way to do that on our word processors.

Thus, I am now spelling commonly used words like *Pesah*, *Shaharit*, *humash*, *Rosh Hodesh*, *sameiah*, and *hametz* with just an “h,” because all these words are spelled with a *het*.

#### “K” and “KK”

Hebrew also has two letters pronounced like a hard “c,” the *kaf* (like the *khaf*, but with a *dagesh*, or dot, inside), and the *kuf*. Since the English “c” can be either hard or soft, it, like “ch,” is abandoned in the new transliteration.

Instead, a single “k” is used to denote a *kuf*, and a double “kk” to denote a *kaf*, except when it begins a word (as in *kosher*). Thus, Rebecca becomes **Rebekah** (see below for why an “h” is added), because the Hebrew *Rivkah* is spelled with a *kuf*, while **Chanukah** becomes **Hanukkah**, because it (begins with a *het*) and has a *kaf* in the middle.

#### “AH” and “A”

Many Hebrew words end in an “ah” sound. The last letter in most of these words is a silent *hei*, the consonant which at the beginning or middle of a word is pronounced as an unaspirated “h.”

However, some of these words end in the silent consonant *ayin*. To distinguish between these two silent consonants, the new transliteration uses “ah” for words ending with a *hei*

and “a” for words ending with an *ayin*.

Thus, *Mincha* (the afternoon service) becomes *Minhah*, because it (has a *het* in the middle and) ends with a *hei*, while *sheva* (seven) is spelled without an “h” because it ends with an *ayin*. However, the mourning period, commonly spelled *shiva*, a word derived from *sheva*, is now spelled *shivah*, because the *ayin*, the last letter of the root, is now followed by a *hei*.

#### “A”

The English vowel “a” can be long, as in “say,” broad, as in “bar,” or short, as in “bat” (Hebrew does not have a short “a”). To avoid confusion, the new transliteration uses “a” only for the broad “a” sound, as in the endings described above.

#### “I”

The English vowel “i” can be long, as in “like,” or short, as in “hit,” but in most European languages is pronounced as the English long “e.” The new transliteration uses “i” only as a long “e,” as in *siddur* (prayerbook). [In modern Hebrew the short “i” and long “e” sounds are often undistinguishable].

#### “E”

The English vowel “e” can be long, as in “be,” or short, as in “get.” Again, to avoid confusion, the new transliteration uses “e” only for the short sound, leaving the long sound, as noted above, spelled with an “i.”

#### “AI”/“AY” and “EI”

The long “i” sound is really a combination of “ah” and “ee,” and since the new transliteration uses “a”

*(Continued on page 18)*

## Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

### April 5

Pierre & Deena Dugan  
Ernie Englander  
Miriam Feinsilver  
Joshua & Mita Felman  
Bob Feron & Dione Pereira  
Rona Fields  
Joshua & Lucia Filler  
Eric Fingerhut & Karen Bailey  
Anita Finkelstein  
Jay & Rachel Finkelstein  
Violeta Fiorino-Schwartz  
Joseph & Rachel Firschein  
David & Patricia Fisher  
Paula Flicker  
James & Carla Flug  
Claude Fontheim & Orit Frenkel  
Lee & Brenda Footer  
Ira Forman & Caryn Pass  
Monica Freedman

### April 12

Bruce Friedland & Jenny Bryant  
Arthur & Diane Friedman  
Naomi Friedman  
Jonathan Fritz & Lorien Abroms  
Judy Galat & Geoff Thrale  
William & Miriam Galston  
Stephen Garber & Lynne Snyder  
Jared Garelick & Ellen Kramarow  
Seth Glabman & Martha Hare  
Rick Glaser & Sheryl Gross-Glaser  
Howard Gleckman & Ann Kline  
Carl Glitzenstein  
Trude Glitzenstein  
John & Marcia Goggin  
Eliot & Traci Goldberg

Joseph & Dody Goldberg  
Joshua & Sara Goldberg  
Marcia Goldberg  
Myrna Goldman  
Paul Goldman & Debbie Pomerance  
Tom & Lisa Goldring

### April 19

Michael Gotthelf & Rachel Vile  
Stefan & Wilhelmina Gottschalk  
Stan Grabia & Varda Fink  
George & Marjorie Greenberg  
Larry Greenfield & Melanie Gross  
Greenfield  
Abraham & Dena Greenstein  
David Greisen & Jessica Bell  
Franca Brilliant  
Richard Gryziak & Leigh Verbois  
Stefan Gunter & Lisa Goldberg  
Eitan & Aviva Gutin  
Jonathan Halpern  
Daniel & Elizabeth Handwerker  
Eliot Harrison & Wendy Blake-  
Coleman  
David Hart & Lois Frankel  
Michael Heimowitz & Dori Gillman  
Matt & Linda Heller  
Steve & Shelly Heller  
Bruce Heppen & Bonnie Suchman

### May 3

Eugene & Esther Herman  
Mitchell & Patti Herman  
Carolivia Herron  
James & Annie Hershberg  
Judith Herzog  
William & Nira Hodos

Ben Finkelstein & Laurie Hollander  
Robert & Helen Hovis  
Hedy Howard  
Neil Hyman & Rachel Decter Hyman  
Anita Isicson  
David & Shana Jacobs  
Leonard Jewler & Andrea Rosen  
Shira Jones  
Harvey Kabaker & Andrea Kline  
Steven Kalish & Anita Bollt  
David Kass & Iris Amdur  
Joshua & Jennifer Kefer  
Kenneth Kellner & Nina Bronk  
Kellner

### May 10

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

## Spellbound (continued)

and “i,” respectively, for these vowel sounds, it uses “ai” or “ay” for the long “i” sound. At the end of a word, in Hebrew this sound is written with a vowel “ah” sound followed by the consonant *yud*, and is transliterated “ai,” as in *Adonai*. When the long “i” sound is in the middle of a word, “ai” becomes “ay,” as in *mayim* (water) or *hayim* (life).

Unfortunately, “ai” has often been used as the transliteration for the long “a” vowel sound, as in *B’nai Brith*. But since “ai” is now used for the long “i” sound, it cannot also be used for a long “a.”

The long “a” sound is really a combination of a short “e” and a long “e.” So, the new transliteration uses “ei” to denote a long “a” sound.

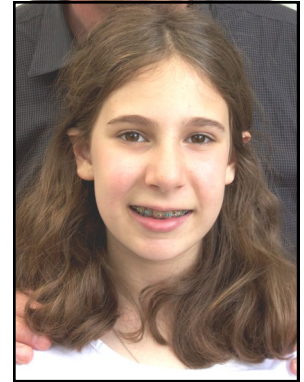
Thus, *b’nei* (not *bnai*) *mitzvah*, *Aleinu*, *Eloheinu*.

For those of you who at this point are still with me, your reaction to this esoterica may be a sarcastic “Thanks for sharing!” But those of you who, like me, groove on this sort of thing, should give these new spelling rules a try (or should I say “*trai*”?).

## B'nei Mitzvah

My name is **Elijah Lister** and I am a 6th grader at JPDS. I have been a member of TI for almost two years and am also a member of Tzofim, the Israeli Scouts. In my free time I like to do art and play with my two younger sisters, Shirah and Hadar.

I was born in Israel and lived in Germany and NYC before my family moved to Washington DC. I am very excited about my Bat Mitzvah and about continuing to learn and take an active role in the community afterwards.



Hi, I'm **Isaiah Friedland**, but everyone just calls me Izzy. My bar mitzvah is on April 20. I am in the seventh grade at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School and have lived almost my whole life in Kensington, MD. My two older sisters, Abby and Eve, also had their B'not Mitzvah at TI, so I will share this honor with them.

I am an avid reader and especially like fantasy novels. My various editions of the Harry Potter books are falling apart from being read over and over again. My parents are happy that I read fantasy books on my Kindle, since our bookshelves are overflowing. Last summer, I attended Habonim Dror Camp Moshava and will return there this summer.

My portion on April 20 is *Aharei Mot-Kedoshim*. It contains many, many rules. Most still make a lot of sense, others are harder to understand. I look forward to sharing my bar mitzvah with the congregation.



Hi. My name is **Chaya Blonder** and my bat mitzvah is on le 27 avril 2013 (April 27). My *parashah* is *Emor*. One of my all-time favorite things is to read. I read a variety of things, such as fantasy, sci-fi, realistic fiction, anything by Rick Riordan (one of my two favorite authors), anything based on Greek mythology, and Shakespeare (my other favorite author). I am rarely seen without a book or five. Maybe ten. If it is not Shabbat, it tends to be Sudoku books.

I enjoy listening to, and playing, music. At my school, Eastern Middle School, I am a clarinet player in the advanced band. Even though the songs we play are difficult, I enjoy hearing how we sound in the end. Every year in band, we have a project, during fourth quarter, to write our own songs. We had to include certain musical effects, and had to perform the songs for the class. It was hard, especially at first, just like preparing for my Bat Mitzvah.



## April Highlights at Tifereth Israel

- April 1**            **Seventh day of Pesah, Morning Holiday Service, 9:00 a.m**
- April 2**            **Eighth Day of Pesah, Morning Holiday Service, 9:00 a.m.,  
Yizkor at 11 a.m.**
- April 7**            **Yom HaShoah Commemoration, 9 a.m.**
- April 8, 15,  
22, 29**            **Monday Learning  
*Parashat HaShavuah*, 11 a.m.  
Job Club, 1 p.m.**
- April 11**            **“Women of the Wall” Rosh Hodesh Service, 7:30 a.m.**
- April 13**            **Eliyah Lister Bat Mitzvah**
- April 16**            **Kol Nashim Book Club, home of Paula Flicker, 7:30 p.m.**
- April 17**            **Yom HaAtzma’ut Celebration**
- April 20**            **Isaiah Friedland Bar Mitzvah  
Tot Shabbat, 11:10 a.m.  
SHALEM: Marcia Goldberg, New Rituals, 1 p.m.**
- April 26**            **Carlebach Service and Dinner, 6:30 p.m.**
- April 27**            **Aviva Blonder Bat Mitzvah**
- April 28**            **USY/Kadima King's Dominion Day**

## Donations

### GENERAL FUND

#### Donor

Seth Himelhoch & Sheila Jelen  
Daniel Schiff  
Jon Alterman & Katherine  
LaRiviere

Gail Phillips

Gail Phillips

John & Lynne List

Stanley Grabia & Varda Fink  
Donald Gold  
John & Lynne List

#### In Honor of

Rabbi Robert & Loretta  
Vitale Saks's new  
granddaughter Joni  
Tova Saks  
Beverly Lehrer's speedy  
recovery  
Marjorie Rosenthal

#### In Memory of

Susan Schreiberman  
Audrey Lynn  
Susan Schreiberman

### KIDDUSH FUND

#### Donor

Myrna Goldman

#### In Honor of

Sharon Brown's  
recovery

### MOLLIE BERCH LIBRARY FUND

#### Donor

George & Marjorie Greenberg

Myrna Goldman

#### In Memory of

Mark Berch's retirement

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

#### Donor

Judy Blumenthal

Paula Flicker

#### In Honor of

Rabbi Ethan & Rachel  
Seidel

### SOCIAL ACTION FUND

#### Donor

Myrna Goldman

#### In Honor of

Beverly Lehrer's  
recovery

### YAHARZEIT DONATIONS

#### Donor

Bernard & Debra Shleien  
Sandra Teplin  
Stephen Marcus & Renee  
Matalon  
Ed & Ruth Cogen  
Ruth Boorstein & Alvin Boorstein  
Tamar Fishman  
Ira Forman  
Vivian Rubinstein  
Diana Zurer  
Elaine Miller  
Lillian Kronstadt  
Ernie Englander  
Bertram Abramson  
Sandy & Ron Tucker  
Eugene & Theodora Perry  
Daniel & Shirley Grant  
Stephen Meltzer  
Esther Eden

Elizabeth Niederman  
Sylvia Schlitt  
Josephine Mickelson  
Bertram Abramson  
Peter Levin  
George & Sue Driesen  
David Silber Aaron  
Stephen Meltzer  
Leslie Rod  
Leonard Bachman  
Marjorie Rosenthal  
Paul Goldman & Debbie  
Pomerance  
Keith Secular & Susan Catler  
Keith Secular & Susan Catler  
Keith Secular & Susan Catler  
Lawrence Gross  
Leonard & Joy Baxt  
Marcia Goldberg  
Leslie Rod  
Florence Berlin  
Larry Schainker  
Larry & Pearl Schainker

#### In Memory of

Lucy Shleien  
Sadie Wolman  
Sara Matalon  
Jennie Lippman  
Ellen Boorstein  
Issac & Hana Handy  
Ralph & Sylvia Forman  
Sol Lynn  
Frieda Woll  
David Miller  
Annie Naiman  
Hyman Shulman  
Alice Abramson  
Louis Pittle  
Sarah Cohen  
Henry Handelsman  
Harry Meltzer  
Pearl Malcom, Jack  
Brown, & Alexander  
Edenbaum  
Rose Niederman  
Hilda Pastor  
Samuel Mickelson  
Frank Frankel  
Lou B. Levin  
Irving Driesen  
Michael Silber  
Clara Garner  
Ida Gordon Rod  
Sarah Bachman  
Joseph Rosenthal  
Lillian Goldman  
Richard Secular  
Phoebe Sharaf  
Max Starr  
Pauline M. Gross  
Fannye Katzman  
Bette Fargotstein  
Joseph Rod  
Sarah Berlin  
William Schainker  
Morris Krakover

### YIZKOR DONATIONS

#### Donor

William & Miriam Galston  
William & Miriam Galston

#### In Memory of

Gertrude Grossman  
Steinberg  
Jack Steinberg