



The Menorah

TI's Annual Retreat, December 13-15

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TI prides itself on being a welcoming community, making room for people of all ages, backgrounds, and connections to Judaism. But various subsets of our community may be left out or inadequately served. Inspired by Rabbi Ron Wolfson's *Relational Judaism*, published earlier this year, TI's Annual Retreat will explore how we can better serve our congregation's varied population.

The retreat will be held from Friday evening, December 13 through Sunday morning, December 15 at the Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center in Reisterstown, Maryland. The costs **per adult**: \$260, double room; \$360, single room; and \$220, cabin. **Per child**: \$105, tots-1st grade; \$165, 2nd-6th grade; \$100, b'nei mitzvah; and \$220, 9th -12th grade.

Using Ron Wolfson's concept of relational Judaism, a way to revitalize Jewish life through relationship and community, the retreat will address questions such as:

- What is it like to be a parent with **younger children** at TI? Do we serve young parents well?
- What is it like at TI for households **without children** as we run more "family" programs every year?
- We are not all prosperous, despite the image of Jews as comfortable. What is it like at TI for someone who truly lives paycheck to paycheck?

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President's Column: Jeff Davidson Lessons Learned at the USCJ Conference

I would like to report on the centennial meeting of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism held recently in Baltimore. This was my first USCJ conference, and I was extremely happy to have participated along with Rabbi Seidel, Cynthia Peterman and Eitan Gutin.

Attendance was much greater than anticipated; over 1200 people were registered for the meeting. I left the conference feeling that TI was far ahead of many congregations in many areas, and still had much to learn in others.

My favorite part of the conference was meeting old and new friends from around the country and getting a taste of the different styles of *tefilah* used in other

congregations. Many people I talked to were surprised that TI has faithfully stuck with its traditional model of a full service, the annual Torah-reading cycle, a *haftarah* and a traditional *drash*, often with discussion.

Indeed, this style of Shabbat worship is our strength and foundation. It attracts members and has stood the test of time.

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President's Column (continued)

A refreshing difference was attending Romenu's Shabbat morning service, featuring Rabbi David Ingber. There was a longer-than-usual *Shaharit*, but no *Musaf*, with a musical accompaniment by Cantor Mike Stein. There was a wonderful *haftarah* chanted by a layperson, but normally they would not have done the *haftarah*. Instead of a *drash*, there were various moments of *kavanah* presented during the service by Rabbi Ingber.

I was entranced by the service, which lasted about two hours. I took advantage of the opportunity to ask Rabbi Ingber questions, but instead, as with other good teachers, he turned the tables and asked me a number of questions. He asked me if people come late to our service and/or skipped *Shaharit*. He asked me why we had *Musaf*. If we couldn't have a good dialogue with the creator of the universe in two hours, why would an

additional hour make a difference? All good questions, and it made for an interesting discussion.

I also attended a *retro* service, with an outstanding *hazzan*, which was lovely to hear. I got to meet Rabbi Lizzie Heydermann from Mishkan Chicago, who uses music in a quite innovative way to enhance *davening*.

All of these were most interesting approaches to music and a break from our TI traditions. It would be easy to say at this point that we should adapt a different attitude toward the use of music in the service, but I will resist this temptation.

The Dangers of Uniformity

Even if we disregarded important questions of *halakhah* on the use of music on Shabbat, the adaptation of any of these models would seriously impede the quintessential essence of TI and its long-standing tradition of lay participation in all its many facets. We would become dependent on a small number of melodies and on a leader who specifies a specific *minhag*. Although the music was lovely and I enjoyed myself tremendously, I was reminded of a saying from my long-ago youth about letting a thousand flowers bloom. We do that well.

Another thing that we do well is relational Judaism. This refers to the model in Rabbi Wolfson's recently-published book. In looking at modern synagogue life, Wolfson posits that people may come for programs but stay for relationships. He urged the delegates to do things that we already do at TI, such as bonding over food and freeing up the rabbi from administrative tasks to focus on relational work.

Wolfson learns from other religious organizations, such as Pastor Rick Warren's mega-church in California, where many people go as guests for years, and, if they want to join, go through a four-class acculturation process. There are also fairly rigorous membership requirements, including tithing and a service requirement.

We can learn from Chabad, which is a dues-free structure and focuses on feeding, teaching and welcoming Jews. Although they do ask for money, the relationship comes first.

The full ideas in Wolfson's book are too complex to sum up sufficiently in this space, but we will explore many of them during our retreat this year. Please consider joining us at Pearlstone for one of the highlights of the TI year. If anyone is interested in leading a group read about this important book, please let me know.

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Summary of TI Board of Directors Meeting October 7, 2013

Attending: Susan Catler, Joel Cohen, Jeff Davidson, Joe Davidson, Wilhelmina Gottschalk, Joanne Hovis, Ariel Brandt Lautman, Stephanie Roodman Murdock, Ray Natter, Margie Odle, Cynthia Peterman, Debbie Pomerance, Andrew Reamer, Morris Rodenstein, Vivian Seidner, Ruth Shapiro, Daniel Turner, Chris Zeilinger.

Excused: Sharon Brown, Varda Fink.

Absent: Larry Baizer, Jeffrey Colman, Lisa Goldberg, Howard Riker, Mark Verschell.

Staff: Jevera Temsky, Eitan Gutin, Rabbi Ethan Seidel.

Text Study: Andrew Reamer gave a drash on Lech Lecha.

Minutes: The minutes of September 9, 2013 were approved.

President's Report: Jeff Davidson reported that the *Parashat Hashavuah* class that week welcomed furloughed Federal employees. Rabbi Seidel is interested in starting a congregational trip to Israel over winter break 2015. Jeff asked for volunteers

Retreat (continued)

- Are we aware of and supportive of households dealing with physical disabilities, mental illness, or developmental disabilities?

We will also address questions related to, for example, welcoming Jewish households in all their forms, making members of our community feel comfortable no matter what their Jewish knowledge, and how well we serve LGBT Jews. Contact the TI office for more information, and to make reservations.

to form a committee to organize the trip. Morris Rodenstein offered to be on the committee. Rabbi Seidel also is interested in starting an urban garden in Shepherd Park. Jeff will organize a committee to investigate this issue.

Article 16, Section 5, of the TI Constitution needs to be amended. Joe Davidson and Ray Natter will work to draft an amendment to the Constitution so TI can hold in any bank up to the maximum insured by the FDIC, not \$100,000 as it is now written. Each member of the Board will take a turn as greeter, in alphabetical order. Tifereth Israel does not currently participate in the DC unemployment system as religious organizations are exempt. TI is reviewing this situation.

Jeff nominated Stephen Marcus and Laurie Berger as new cemetery trustees. The two nominees were unanimously accepted. Joel Cohen will write a thank you letter to Carl Bergman, the retiring trustee, on behalf of the board. TI will be a featured congregation in the Jewish Week. Debbie Pomerance will coordinate what our message will be in the article.

Executive Director's Report: Jevera Temsky is continuing to reorganize the office, with roles and responsibilities delineated among staff members. Employees now have consistent office hours so fellow employees and congregants can know when employees will be in the office. Weekly staff meetings have been established during which the staff goes through the calendar and figures out the needs of the synagogue, so the staff can plan ahead, rather than be reactive. Communication is improving.

Payroll is now on an every-other-Friday schedule. Basic office systems are being established. Policies and procedures are being set up for

reserving time and space for events at TI. Sheri Blonder must be involved in the planning of all activities at TI. Sheri created a handout about why and when to talk to her. Sheri will set up a meeting for how this will happen with anyone who is interested in setting up events. Shul Cloud, a data management system, soon will be set up to help in the office. Vivian Seidner, Carla Matusow, and Jevera will take a field trip to Kemp Mill Synagogue to see how Shul Cloud is working for them.

Rabbi's Report: Rabbi Seidel passed out a handout showing who will cover for him while he is on sabbatical and what he will be doing on sabbatical.

High Holidays: Wilhelmina Gottschalk reported that having all High Holiday forms online worked well, with only ticket order and Book of Remembrance forms available on paper. There will be a formal way to thank those who volunteered.

Fundraising and High Holidays: Dan Turner reported that we raised \$156,000 during the annual appeal. The annual appeal will now be closed. He reported that we need to raise \$180,000 by spring for basement bathrooms, HVAC system renovations, classroom furnishings, memorial board signs, and rain garden projects. There was a discussion about the synagogue's priorities.

Finance: Chris Zeilinger reported that TI has accrued about \$617,000 in dues, but that number will go down as individuals who are no longer members are removed from the count. High Holiday tickets brought in \$108,000, rather than \$117,000 as budgeted. Only 28 seats in the Wolman were not sold. Hebrew school enrollment is looking good; we are close to the predicted \$80,000.

(Continued on page 4)

New Members

Jared Garelick

Alison Asarnow and Benjamin Foote

Alison and Benjamin have lived in the Washington area for several years, and moved to Takoma Park about a year ago. Alison, originally from Portland, Oregon, is an attorney at a boutique law firm, Katz, Marshall & Banks, specializing in civil rights law. Call her if you have a whistle to blow. Alison lived in Washington previously, as a fellow with Avodah: the Jewish Service Corps. After Avodah, she went to Harvard Law School to become a lawyer.

Ben, who grew up in the Boston area, teaches high school English and sports at the Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy. He met Alison in graduate school, while he studied theology and education at Harvard's Divinity School. Ben enjoys ultimate frisbee, and would like to find others who like to play. Alison likes performing improv comedy. Maybe she can be coaxed to the *bimah* this coming Purim for a little *spieling*.

Yiftach and Janice Eisenberg

Yiftach, also known as Yifty, grew up in Chicago. He is applying his PhD in electrical engineering at the Depart-

ment of Defense Advanced Projects Agency (DARPA), presumably working on cutting edge advanced projects, inventing things like the internet.

Janice, a New Jersey native, is a hydrographer at NOAA in Silver Spring. In case you missed it as the word of the month in the Naves column, hydrography is the science that measures and describes the physical features of bodies of water and adjacent land areas (she does sea floor mapping).

Janice's work has taken her aboard an icebreaker plying the increasingly navigable Arctic Ocean, where various countries dispute the limits of their mineral rights. The Eisenbergs have a daughter, **Sivan**, nearly a year old at press time, who was included in the most recent TI baby Shabbat.

Yifty and Janice had little trouble discovering TI. They live in the neighborhood of Lisa and Michael Kraft, who have steered many young families to TI over the years. This earns the Krafts the appellation of Distinguished and Repeated Perpetually Active (DARPA) TI Magnet Members. Welcome to this month's featured new members!

Summary of Board Meeting (cont.)

Receipts from the annual appeal are phenomenal. Jeff thanked Vivian Seidner for her work organizing the financial spreadsheets for TI.

Life Long Learning: Eitan Gutin reported that Fundraising has begun for adding technology and replacing furniture in the classrooms. There was a launch party last Saturday night at the Kefers' house where enough money was raised to furnish one classroom; this classroom will act as a model. Parents and kids are excited about the new classrooms. All of the advanced planning work for the furniture has already been done. The school is looking to raise \$40,000. Linda Hirschhorn is coming at the end of this month as the Artist in Residence. We are one of 40 synagogues receiving commendations from United Synagogue. Our commendations are for a family Pesah event and our quarterly family service and how it engages families.

New Business: Joel Cohen announced that we are part of an organization called Good Faith, which plans to end homelessness in DC by 2017, and that he would like one person from TI to work on this.

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).

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

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

Marcia Goldberg h: 301-589-0352

Marcia Goggin h: 301-593-8480
w: 301-754-1963

Membership Committee Update

Jennifer Keefer

TI's membership is strong and growing. In 2013, we welcomed 28 new members to the synagogue.

On Thursday, November 7, nearly two dozen of these new and prospective TI'ers joined the Rabbi and members of the Membership Committee for a fun evening of dinner, schmoozing, and *hallah* baking. The event provided a great opportunity for new members to meet other TI families and to get to know the Rabbi in a casual setting.

As we waited for the dough to rise, Rabbi Seidel taught the group that baking *hallah* can teach a valuable life lesson: the importance of slowing down! Each participant left with *hallah* for their Shabbat dinner table and additional dough to braid in the future.

This event is one of many activities that our Membership Committee organizes to help engage new congregants. Throughout the year, we arrange additional baking activities with Rabbi Seidel, services

to honor new members and babies (who are, after all, our newest members!), and Shabbat dinner matches for new congregants. The Committee also provides opportunities for long-standing members to connect, organizing a series of *Havdallah* potlucks each winter.

We would love additional volunteers to help coordinate these and other activities at the synagogue. If you are interested in joining the Membership Committee, please email TIMembership@tifereth-israel.org. Our next meeting is Sunday, December 8, at 10:00 a.m.



Prospective Members Baking Hallah with Rabbi Seidel

“Good Doctor” Alfred Moldovan Dies

David Levy

Dr. Alfred Moldovan, civil rights era medical leader and grandfather of my son-in-law, Danny Moldovan, died November 4 at age 92.

TI members may remember that Dr. Moldovan spoke at a Martin Luther King weekend *shabbaton* a few years ago, hosted by the Social Action Committee. He was on a panel that also included John Dittmer, author of *The Good Doctors*, and other medical people who went south during the civil rights movement.

Dr. Moldovan practiced medicine in Harlem for more than 47 years. In 1964, he helped found the Medical Committee for Human Rights to "lend a medical presence" in the civil rights movement. On Bloody Sunday, March 7, 1965, Dr. Moldovan was the only doctor who made it across the Pettus bridge to care for the beaten and bloodied on the march from Selma to Montgomery. He was a personal physician to Dr. Martin Luther King. He also was an early collector of Jewish art.

Rosh Hodesh Service

TI will host the Washington Friends of Women of the Wall Rosh Hodesh Tevet service on **December 3** at 7:30 a.m.

This monthly service started a little over a year ago at TI. It moves around the metropolitan area to synagogues and senior residences.

The service is open to all, but women are invited to lead and *leyn*. Contact **Marcia Goldberg** if you would like to participate.

Tifereth Israel's Unsung Heroes

David (Judy) Cohen

Shabbat and holiday services at Tifereth Israel proceed so seamlessly that most of us don't realize how much we are beholden to a group of our members who, largely behind the scenes, make it all happen. Even when they do their jobs right in our presence, we may not notice or realize what it takes to perform their roles so efficiently.

Of course, we are blessed with many Hebraicly- and musically- talented members who lead our services, read Torah and chant *haftarot*. We couldn't, in a congregation without professional *hazzanim* and Torah readers, function without them. However, as public "performers," they get the satisfaction of congregational appreciation, and are usually greeted with a hearty "*yashar ko'ah!*" as they complete their assignment.

But what about our "production crew" (like the names that quickly roll by in the credits at the end of a movie) who get scant public notice or thanks? As we approach the end of another calendar year, it would be fitting to pay tribute to these unsung heroes.

Floor Gabbayim

These folks assign the honors of opening and closing the ark (both before and after the Torah is read), blessing the Torah for one of the seven *aliyot*, the *hagbah* and *g'lilah* duties, or the unique responsibility of leading the *al kein* at the end of the first paragraph of the *Aleinu*.

The floor *gabbayim* also direct the choreography on the *bimah*, and, finally, bring wine, *hallot*, and water for washing to the lectern for the *Kiddush* and *Motzi* at the end of the

service. True, the floor *gabbayim* are publicly thanked by the president at the end of services, but we are largely oblivious to the demands placed on them.

They need to be familiar with the congregation, as well as recognize who is a visitor. They need to find a *Kohen* for the first *aliyah* (usually not a problem) and a *Levi* for the second (this is more of a challenge). They need to know who is celebrating an important life milestone, who is observing *yahrtzeit* and who is capable of lifting a Torah.

Their job is further complicated on a holiday, *Rosh Hodesh*, or a special Shabbat, when two Torahs are taken out. They need to know which Torah scrolls to take out of the ark, and which is read first. On those days they need to make double *hagbah*, *g'lilah* and Torah-carrying assignments.

And, they need to be "psychologists" and stage directors, encouraging the reluctant, reminding the forgetful, and accommodating the stage fright that can overcome even our most accomplished members once they get up on the *bimah*. It's partly a matter of good planning and timing, juggling multiple tasks and knowing what to do when.

The folks who serve most frequently as floor *gabbayim* include: **Laurie Berger, Susan Catler, Naomi Freeman, Howard Gleckman, Marcia Goldberg, Myrna Goldman, Francie Kranzberg, Iris Lav, John List, Margie Odle, Frank Solomon, Michele Sumka, and Howard White.**

Other members also serve on occasion, or when specifically asked by a bar/bat mitzvah family. Iris Lav

coordinates the floor *gabbayim*, making sure the slot is filled each week. We owe Iris and the team of floor *gabbayim* a debt of gratitude.

Managing the Torah Scrolls

This is a thankless task, accomplished completely out of sight, but somebody has got to do it. That somebody is the indefatigable **Myrna Goldman**. She makes sure the Torah scrolls are rolled to the correct readings and are in the right place in the ark. She keeps tabs on which scrolls are damaged or need repair.

Her role gets complicated when two Torah scrolls are taken out, or on a holiday when the reading does not begin where we left off the week before, but must be found in yet another scroll. It gets super-complicated when scrolls are also needed for a second service, such as the monthly Segulah service in the chapel, or High Holiday services in the Cherner.

Sunday Morning Minyan

Myrna performs another vital function: she spearheads/coordinates the weekly Sunday morning minyan. Even with **Azaria Shashoua's** help, this isn't easy. She needs to keep in mind who is observing *yahrtzeit*, which regulars will be away, what other event might conflict with the Sunday morning time and when a special call for help should be posted on our listserve.

Myrna has been single-handedly performing these Torah management and Sunday minyan responsibilities for as long as I can remember. Many thanks, and *yashar ko'ah!*

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Remembering Joe Rod

Leonard Bachman

This is a condensed version of an article Len Bachman wrote in 1999 for a TI program honoring the congregation's senior citizens. Joe Rod was then 90 years old. He died a year later at 91. The recent commemoration of Veterans Day prompted Len to send the article to The Menorah to remind younger TI members of the great role American Jews played in helping defeat Hitler.

I first met Joe Rod shortly after joining TI in 1996. I sat next to him on Shabbat mornings. I enjoyed his warm smile of greeting as we took our seats and his old-fashioned Ashkenazic *davening*. I soon learned that he was a life-long member of TI, that his father had once been president of the congregation, and that he was a veteran of World War II.

As I learned more about his army service career I realized that it was both unique and commonplace. Like thousands of American Jewish servicemen, he experienced long periods of combat and much hardship. Here is his story.

Drafted in 1942

In 1942 at the age of 33, Joe was drafted into the Army. He was unmarried and just embarking on his career as an accountant. After basic training at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, he was assigned to the 36th Infantry Division. The division's primary mission was to take and hold ground. All its members had to be fighters; even the cooks carried weapons. More than any other branch of the service, the infantry met the enemy up close and personal.

The 36th was sent to North Africa in the late spring of 1943. It participated in its first combat on September 9, an amphibious landing at Salerno on the Italian mainland. This was an historic battle. Almost a year before D-Day, the Americans landed an army on a hostile beach against fierce opposition from battle-hardened crack German troops withdrawn from the eastern front with Russia. By the end of the day they had seized a sizeable beachhead and knocked Italy out of the war.

What It Was Like

Let me describe Joe's first combat experience. He crawled over the railing of a military transport, carrying a 40-pound pack, an M-1 rifle equipped with a bayonet, and assorted pieces of equipment and ammunition. He then climbed down a 20-30 foot cargo net to land on a bobbing Higgins boat.

The boat sped off toward the beach under heavy shellfire. At the beach they were met with small arms fire. The stress caused some men to break, as happened to Joe's first sergeant, the first of many that Joe broke in over the next 18 months.

After Salerno, the 36th advanced north as a key-fighting unit of the American 5th Army. They played a major role in battles around Naples and continued north on the western side of the Italian peninsula with the British 8th Army on the east. Through the fall and early winter of 1943, the Germans fought a series of defensive operations in the mountains of Southern Italy. They contested

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TI's Unsung Heroes (continued)

Assigning Torah Readings

This is another critical task that one person, **Simcha Kuritsky**, has been ably performing as long as I can remember. Simcha recruits Torah readers for each week's seven *aliyot* and additional readers for holiday services, which often fall on weekdays.

This requires a lot of time, persistence and meticulous attention to detail. Which, and how many, sentences in each *aliyah*? Who can

substitute when a reader needs to drop out? Is there a bar or bat mitzvah that week, and, if so, for which *aliyot* will the family provide readers, and which is he responsible for recruiting?

Simcha puts out periodic calls for readers on the listserve, which include a detailed list of all *aliyot*, their length and whether they have been assigned or open for volunteers. When someone signs up for a Torah reading he sends reminder postcards.

It all happens like clockwork, week after week, holiday after holiday. We are never short a reader.

Well, hardly ever. When, despite Simcha's valiant efforts, the assigned reader fails to show up, Rabbi Seidel or Torah-reading wonder, Dana Beyer, steps in to fill the gap.

Simcha, we all rise in gratitude for your dedication and continuing devotion to duty!

Remembering Joe Rod (continued)

ground stubbornly. The American combat units, including Joe and his 36th Division buddies, were in almost continuous action.

The American and British armies stalled against a German defense line, anchored in the town of Casino, that stretched across the Italian boot. On January 22, 1944, in another amphibious operation, the Americans attempted to break the stalemate by landing troops at Anzio. The 36th and Joe Rod participated in this operation.

The American commanders failed to exploit the initial success of the Anzio landing, and for the next five months the Americans clung to this precarious beachhead against fierce German counterattacks. Meanwhile battles swirled around the Casino line. Joe Rod was in and out of the Anzio beachhead as the 36th participated in the battles on both fronts. Finally, in late May, the Allies breached the Casino line, the Americans broke out of the Anzio Beachhead and began the drive for Rome.

Liberation of Rome

On June 1, Joe's unit took the town of Velletri, forcing the Germans to evacuate Rome, which the American Army liberated on June 4 (2 days before D-Day). The American Army passed through Rome to a tumultuous welcome and continued to pursue the Germans north of the city.

On June 25, the 36th Infantry Division engaged in its last combat in Italy by taking an important harbor town north of Rome. The 36th was relieved on the line by a Japanese-American infantry unit that was to become famous for its bravery.

Joe and his buddies of the 36th got their first rest and recreation after almost a year of fighting. Joe used his leave to visit Rome and see the Great Synagogue there. His leave was short-lived. On August 15, the 36th Infantry Division engaged in its third combat amphibious action (Operation Anvil), the invasion of southern France.

In France, the 36th became part of the U.S. 7th Army. Joe fought his way across southeastern France in such places as Grenoble and Vosges. The Germans contested the 36th every step of the way. The terrain in the French Alps was very difficult and the Germans frequently counterattacked.

Battle of the Bulge

By the late fall of 1944, the 7th Army had linked up with the Allied Armies, which had broken out of Normandy and taken Paris. In December, at the beginning of what would be a record-breaking cold winter for Western Europe, the 7th Army formed the southeastern anchor of the Allied battle line which stretched from the Swiss border across France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands to the North Sea.

In mid-December, Hitler launched a last-ditch major offensive in the Ardennes, in what has become known as the Battle of the Bulge, which lasted through January 1945. Weather conditions were extreme.

The 36th Division continued its advance into Alsace-Lorraine. They scuttled across the fortifications of the old Franco-German border (the Maginot and Sigfried lines), fighting arduous battles, fiercely contested by the German 19th Army.

Invasion of Germany

By late February, the 7th Army was among the first American troops to invade Germany proper. The 36th engaged in daily battles as the Germans defended every town. Noteworthy was the liberation of the Dachau Concentration Camp and the capture of Munich (Hitler's old stomping ground). Fighting continued in southern Germany until the German surrender on May 9, 1945 (VE Day). Joe remembers fighting in Germany that day.

By May 9, Joe Rod had been in almost continuous combat for 20 months. He had eaten on the run. He had slept frequently on the ground or in a foxhole. He had endured two bitter winters, blazing summer heat, and ubiquitous mud. He awoke every morning with the duty to fight another battle. He saw many good friends killed, wounded, or go missing.

Joe did not get to go home right away. He was one point shy of the number needed for an immediate ticket home and the military planners were counting on veterans like Joe Rod to spearhead the coming invasion of Japan. He did come home in September. He was discharged from the Army. He got married, raised a family, and had a successful career as an accountant. He remained a steadfast member of TI.

Our Debt to Men Like Joe

We all owe much to men like Joe Rod. These were the ordinary soldiers who saved the world from the greatest evil of modern times. They did not want to be soldiers but they were willing to do what had to be done.

Kol Nashim

Ruth Shapiro



Women Rabbis of TI

Kol Nashim is delighted to sponsor a series of Sunday morning sessions this fall and spring given by the women Rabbis of TI.

The first program in the series on November 17 was very successful. **Avis Miller** gave a talk she called "*Beyond I Have a Little Driedel -- the Songs of Hanukkah*". She wove the Hanukkah story in with songs from various eras and ethnic groups. And of course the audience chimed in with our own traditions.

This series will continue with **Devora Lynn** on **January 26**, at 10:15 a.m., in the Mollie L. Berch Library. The title of her talk is *Embodying Judaism -- The Amidah as a Standing Pose of Mindfulness*. Devorah will discuss enhancing the *Amidah* with techniques of mindfulness as taught in yoga, using the *chakras* or energy centers.

No experience is necessary to attend any session in the series, and all are welcome. The series will continue with **Jane Berman** on March 23, and **Sarah Meytin** on June 1. We are very excited to be able to sponsor these programs.

Book Club

The Kol Nashim book club continues with meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. At our November meeting we discussed *The Mothers*, by Jennifer Gillmore. This book was a WLCJ as well as an Oprah selection.

The next two books will be: **December 17**, *Terror in the Night -- The Klan's Campaign Against the Jews*, by Jack Nelson, at Margie Odle's home; and **January 21**, *Wartime Lies*, by Louis Begley, at the home of Jessica Weissman.

Game Night

Our fourth annual family Game Night will be held on **Saturday, January 11**, at 7:30 p.m. Mark it on your calendar. This event will be co-sponsored by the TI Men's Club. Plan to bring your favorite games. **Phil Shapiro** and **David Matusow** will be teaching an introductory bridge lesson. If there is enough interest they will continue the lessons at another time.

Mimosas and Mingling

Extend your TI family through a Kol Nashim-sponsored brunch on **Sunday, February 23**, at 10:15 a.m. in the TI Library. Save the date.

Adult Education

Jessica Weissman

November saw two outstanding Adult Education activities.

On Veterans Day a group of TI'ers went to the National Archives to see the exhibit of Jewish artifacts from Iraq. Artifacts ranging from school reports to photos to beautiful books in Arabic script were shown, along with the story of how they were rescued and restored. The exhibit is highly recommended. Watch the National Archives site for movies and other special presentations about the Jewish community of Iraq.

Dana Beyer was November's SHALEM speaker, taking a group of

fascinated TI'ers on her personal journey through Genderland. The Shalem talk on **December 21** features **Bruce Heppen's** review of the current Supreme Court term.

Our series of Israeli film showings began with *Fill the Void*, and continues on **December 8** with *The Gatekeepers*. Films are free, and the charge for refreshments is \$4.00. We hope to continue the series with a double bill on December 25.

More classes and programs are planned for the new year.

Christmas Gift Collection

TI prepares and serves Christmas dinners to approximately 320 people at four centers, three serving women and one serving men. We would like to give each person a gift.

We are collecting new scarves, hats, gloves, socks and travel-size toiletries. If you are still Hanukkah shopping, this is the perfect time to pick up one or more of these items for those who have so little.

Please place donated items in the hamper in the TI lobby. The collection ends the morning of December 23. For additional information contact Andrea Kline at andreakline@yahoo.com.

Social Action at TI: Stephen Nelson Volunteers Needed for Holiday Meals

Every December, Tifereth Israel conducts its largest social action project of the year, organizing holiday meals for homeless shelters in the District of Columbia. The meals are served on Christmas Day except when December 25 falls on Shabbat.

Because of the overwhelming support of TI congregants, the Holiday Meal program has expanded rapidly over its 10-year existence. Last year, the program added a fourth shelter, the Open Door Shelter for Women at 4th and D Streets, NW.

300 Homeless People Served

Martin Kessel, the Holiday Meals coordinator for the past four years, estimates 300 homeless people will be served a traditional home-cooked holiday meal on Wednesday, December 25. In addition to the Open Door Shelter, the shelters served are the John Young Center

for Women (1st and D Streets, NW), the Harriet Tubman Emergency Women's Shelter (19th & Massachusetts Ave., SE), and the Adams Place Emergency Shelter for Men (2210 Adams Place, NW, near Bladensburg Road). The meals program at Adams Place is a joint project with Adat Shalom Congregation of Bethesda.

Captain for Each Shelter

According to Kessel, the Holiday Meals project involves weeks of planning and many volunteers. Each shelter has a responsible captain (or captains), who makes sure that the food and utensils are available, and coordinates the servings. Those captains are:

John Young Women's Shelter:
Franca Brilliant and **David (Judy) Cohen**



Harriet Tubman Emergency Women's Shelter: **Gail Robinson** and **Judi Berland**

Adams Place Emergency Shelter:
To Be Determined

Open Door Women's Shelter:
Larry Baizer

Cooking and Delivering Meals

Many other volunteers play a key role in planning, cooking and delivering the meals. Already committed to this year's program are: **Andrea Kline, Varda Fink, Roz Kram, Carolivia Herron** and her mother, **Georgia, Deena Dugan, Janet Nesse, Sharon Rosen, Gene Herman, Mark Berch, Seth Glabman, Susan Morse**, and **Lisa Hack** and **Steve Harvey** from Adat Shalom.

TI provides a traditional holiday menu with all the trimmings. Entrees include turkey with gravy and stuffing, cranberry sauce, broccoli, yams, cabbage, macaroni & cheese, salad, rolls, and dessert. TI members will do the cooking on Monday, December 23, from 4 to 8 p.m.

Over 100 Volunteers

Last year, more than 100 TI members volunteered, mostly delivering the food and serving the meals to the shelter residents. They work in two shifts, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Facts About Hunger in the District of Columbia

Earlier this year, the Social Action column reported on TI's participation in the Ruth Fellowship program, a joint project of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC), Jews United for Justice (JUFJ) and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA). As program participants, TI Members Deena Dugan and Tobi McFarland have been working with DC Hunger Solutions to solve issues of food insecurity, particularly relating to children.

To support their efforts to raise public awareness of these issues, the Social Action Committee decided to publish a "fact of the month" relating to hunger in the District. This month's fact:

12.6 percent of all households in the District of Columbia were food insecure during 2009-11, an increase from 2005-07, when 11.9 percent of all households were food insecure. More than one-third of those households were considered to have "very low food security," meaning they experienced even deeper than normal hunger, exhibited by cutting back or skipping meals on a regular basis.

(Continued on page 11)

Book Review: Bernie Shleien *Like Dreamers* by Yossi Klein Halevi

Yossi Klein Halevi's *Like Dreamers*, presently in TI's library, follows the lives of seven paratroopers who reunited Jerusalem and took part in the impossible victories and self-inflicted defeats that characterize Israel today. The book's title is a quote from Psalm 126: "When the Lord returned the exiles of Zion, we were like dreamers."

Before and during the Six Day War, 70 percent of the officers and the majority of the soldiers came from socialist- and communist-motivated *kibbutzim*. Four of the book's characters are representative of these individuals:

Arik Achmon, born on Givat Brenner, moved to Kibbutz Netzer Seremi after the split over Stalinism. He served as an intelligence officer in the Six Day War, helped lead the Suez Canal crossing in the Yom Kippur War, and helped establish today's Israeli capitalist technological economy.

Udi Adiv helped create the anti-Zionist terrorist underground in Damascus on the premise that he was uniting Palestinian and Israeli workers and intellectuals under international Stalinist unity. He served twelve years in an Israeli prison.

Meir Ariel was the greatest Hebrew poet-singer of his generation, described as a modern psalmist. He gradually became a unique sort of *ba'al t'shuvah*.

Avital Geva was wounded in the battle for Jerusalem and became a leading conceptual artist. He was active in Peace Now.

The lives of three religious Zionists form a counterpoint to the *kibbutzniks*:

Yoel Bin-Nun was the founder of the *Gush Emunim* settlement movement. Among the settlements he founded are Alon Shvut and Ofra. He led a generation of religious Zionists to study the Bible as a way of understanding modern Israel. He broke with the settlement movement following the assassination of Yitzak Rabin.

Yisrael Harel founded the West Bank organization, the Yesha Council, and its magazine, *Nekudah*.

Hanan Porat organized the children of the defenders of the Etzion block that was destroyed in 1948. He re-established the K'far Etzion settlement, the first in the West Bank.

Many of us have more familiarity with the *kibbutz* movements than with

religious Zionism. Religious Zionists consider themselves the inheritors of the Zionist ideal. Their insistence on continuing the growth of the West Bank settlements puts Israel at odds with most of the rest of the world, its staunchest allies, and its democratic principles.

My conclusion after reading this book is that for Israel to maintain its secular, democratic and Jewish character some agreement, but probably not real peace, needs to be reached with the Palestinians. All sides in Israel have a sense of love for the people and the land, although not all recognize the place of Torah in their daily lives. Until the Palestinians are able to give up their sense of victimhood and hatred of the Jews, and Israel can give up settlement expansion, an arrangement that both sides sorely need does not appear to be possible.

Like Dreamers presents an excellent back story to the conundrum featured in *My Promised Land* by Avi Shavit (to be reviewed in a future issue of *The Menorah*), which states: "If Israel does not retreat from the West Bank, it will be politically and morally doomed, but if it does retreat, it might face an Iranian-backed and Islamic Brotherhood-inspired West Bank regime whose missiles could endanger Israel's security."

Social Action (continued)

Those who are unable to volunteer can also contribute to defray the costs of this elaborate project. Congregants can sponsor a meal for \$18 and/or a turkey for \$54.

The Holiday Meals project provides an opportunity for families to work

together for a great charitable purpose. Children often wrap and distribute small gifts to the residents.

Volunteer and contribution forms will be available in early December and can be accessed through the TI website.

The Holiday Meals program has been one of TI's Social Action success stories and a testament to our congregation's charitable spirit and volunteerism. As we expand the program, we ask for your continued help and support.

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Barbara Raimondo

Gonna Fly Now

Alan "Rocky" Landay ran the Philadelphia Marathon in November, his first marathon in 15 years. The finish was very exciting because, well, wouldn't you be excited if you ran 26 miles and someone said "okay, you can stop now."

While in Philadelphia, Alan also visited his niece and some friends and went to the Philadelphia Art Museum for a jazz concert and to see the exhibits. Alan ran this marathon in 1995 and 1996, but this was the first time he actually bothered to go inside the museum where it starts.

The **Petermans** celebrated **Jeff** becoming a full-time employee of the U.S. division of Silicon Biosystems as Director of Technical Service and Support for North America. Jeff had been working for them as a contractor for the last two years, traveling all over the US and to Italy. With this role his heavy travel load will continue, but he's building up lots of frequent flyer and hotel points for family trips in the future, so it's a win-win.

On that note, **Cynthia** really enjoyed traveling to Houston with Jeff by scarfing his frequent flyer miles and hotel points. She visited many of the museums the city has to offer, including their Holocaust Museum, had her nails done, and, with Jeff, explored the Johnson Space Center.

Ben Dreyfus and colleagues at the University of Maryland won an award from the Association of American Medical Colleges for outstanding pre-health instructional resources, because, hey, everyone needs instructional resources on how to keep your pre healthy.

Simcha Kuritzky exhibited "Engraved Coins as Judeo-Christian or Neo-Pagan Amulets" at the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists coin show and won first place in Tokens and Medals. He also gave a talk on the Temple Tax and Jewish Taxation that was well received.

Your faithful columnist notices that if you say "temple tax" the right way over and over you can turn it into a rap song and recommends Simcha try this at his next event.

What's the Matter with Kids Today

While their older sisters remained in Israel to attend high school (so they say), **Sruly** and **Rivka Elzufon** flew to the U.S. to visit both sets of grandparents, including **Barbara** and **Howard White**.

Sruly, age 3-3/4, particularly enjoyed the zoo, the dinosaur fossils at the Natural History Museum, and the large play area at the TI *kiddush*. Rivka, age 15 months, particularly enjoyed demonstrating her new skill of walking. The children brought along their parents, **Ilana** and **Michael Elzufon**, whom Barbara and Howard were also happy to see, when they thought about them at all.

Who's counting, but **Esther** and **Gene Herman** participated in the naming of their 10th grandchild, **Chava "Rocky" Elisheva**, who was adopted immediately after birth one year ago. To celebrate her first birthday, she went to the mikvah and had a beautiful naming ceremony and party. With cake. Also, Gene began working as a visiting scientist at the National Cancer Institute. He just can't seem to get a handle on that retirement thing.

Martin Kessel visited Israel in October and went hiking in the Golan Heights with his family, including 20-month-old granddaughter, **Orr**, who lives in Rehovot. The highlight of the trip was visiting Bet Eckstein's home for special education of children and adults, "My Village," in Pardes Hanna.

Martin's granddaughter, **Liron**, is doing a year of Volunteer Service at "My Village" before enlisting in the army. The individual care and attention given to all the clients is remarkable. This is part of the Bet Eckstein network in Israel.



Orr attempting to ski in the Golan

David Levy has accepted an appointment by Maryland Governor O'Malley as one of 20 commissioners on the Child Custody Decision Making Commission. The Commission held hearings around the state this fall and will make recommendations for custody law reform next year, in preparation for the 2015 legislature. Despite having a health problem, David has made it to almost all of the Commission's hearings around the state.

(Continued on page 13)

Goettingen Synagogue News

Naomi Revzin

TI's sister congregation, the Gemeinde synagogue in Goettingen, Germany, is working to hone its members' ritual skills. Expert guest speakers will lead workshops on the Shabbat service, teaching songs and melodies, with a special session on the *Shaharit* service.

On the anniversary of the November 9, 1938, Glasnacht Program, the Gemeinde hosted a gathering at the site of the former Goettingen Synagogue. The theme, *A Jew Remains a Jew*, revolved around the

experience of Pastor Bruno Benfey, whose grandparents converted to Christianity and who himself was the minister of Goettingen's St. Marien church.

In 1938 Benfey was removed from his post and imprisoned in Buchenwald, but he managed to secure release and leave Germany. He returned after the War and, after initial opposition, was reinstated at St. Marien, where he served from 1946 to 1962. The Goettingen schools conducted a

remembrance with musical accompaniment in his honor. Also in November, the Gemeinde was invited to the Goettingen Symphony's dress rehearsal.

Because Hanukkah coincides this year with the beginning of Advent (first Advent candle), the Gemeinde will have its public 5th candle-lighting ceremony together with the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation. A craft market will accompany the ceremony. Coffee, *gluwein*, and *sufganiyot* (Berliner) will be served.

Nayes un Mekhayes (continued)

Hit the Road Jack

Elaine and **Larry Baizer** had a great trip to Israel, October 4-18, all thanks to Google maps. They planned the itinerary to see as much of the country as possible--from Mt. Hermon to Eilat and from the Dead Sea to the Mediterranean. Highlights included a side trip to Petra in Jordan and a couple of days in a moshav in the Golan Heights, far above the Kinneret. They also stayed at a hotel in East Jerusalem and strolled the neighboring streets, experiencing a vivid impression of the broad cultural diversity in the holy city.

Dr. Rona Fields was honored at the annual dinner of Kabultec, an NGO specializing in developing education and social services for women in Afghanistan. She is also working with committees and NGOs in Sri Lanka and South Africa to develop post-prolonged violence treatment and mental health programs. In all of these programs, she is using Sederot's therapeutic playground as an example of how treatment can be accomplished in the midst of violence and afterward.

Mike and **Lisa Kraft** caught up on some exciting medical research and technology developments at the FutureMed Conference in San Diego in early November, directed by their son, **Dr. Daniel "Rocky" Kraft**, chair of medicine and neuroscience at Singularity University in Mountain View, California.

More than 350 medical researchers, inventors, designers, developers, entrepreneurs, and needlepointers from about 20 countries attended the conference, held at the historic Del Coronado Hotel. Daniel, previously a stem cell researcher at Stanford, is an oncologist, inventor and entrepreneur.

He is lecturing in Israel in early December, missing Thanksgiving back home in Silver Spring for the first time in 20 years. His parents are really mad.

Sad News

Michael Roepke, father of TI member **Wilhelmina Gottschalk (Stefan)** and grandfather of **Johann**

Morris Gottschalk, died in Maryland after a long illness.

Sonya Rozansky, mother of TI member **Yvonne Shashoua** and grandmother of **Azaria** and **Tzurielle Shashoua**, died in Trenton, New Jersey, after a long illness. The funeral was in New Jersey. May the family be comforted among those who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *unreconstructed*: "not reconciled to some political, economic, or social change." Does that describe this column to a U, or what? (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 Pooh-Bah at 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 TI'ers.

A Conversation in the Bunker

Frank Solomon

"While I might die fighting for Israel, Israel doesn't even recognize me," said the American Reform rabbi, who, along with some 20 of us, huddled in a bomb shelter in the barracks.

She was one of the volunteers spending two weeks working at an Israeli Defense Forces army base near S'derot near the Gaza Strip. A Qussam rocket had just killed two children the previous day. It was 2004. The *second intifada* was rocking Israel.

Most of the volunteers came from North America, Europe and Australia. Among them were four rabbis from four denominations.

Non-Orthodox Converts Snubbed

As the rockets screamed outside, the Reform rabbi lamented how converts by the progressive movements have been "snubbed" by the Israeli government in that they had to be recognized by the Interior Ministry. She said the Chief Rabbinate's control over conversions hit her hard.

"I have devoted my life to Judaism, but Israel doesn't even count me as a Jew, even as I might get killed right here working for this country," she said. "American Jews are becoming less connected to Israel and feel less need to support Israel. I think this lessening of connection is due largely to the increasing number of American Jews who cannot live in Israel as a 'full' Jew because our status is not recognized by the Chief Rabbinate and the Interior Ministry."

She added that she is deeply conflicted about her connection to Israel. "I do feel connected, but it's difficult for me to think of the State of Israel as my homeland."

"Not so fast," said the Conservative rabbi, who hailed from Canada. "While the Jews were the 'Chosen People,' they were not the first whom God chose. They were just the first to say 'yes' to God. So your conversion is no different from the conversion of Abraham, who said 'yes' to God. You are no less a Jew than I am."

"I think your conflict about connecting to Israel speaks to a fundamental problem with many converts," said another man, an Orthodox rabbi from Britain. "That's what happens when you view Judaism and the Jewish people through another people's lexicon and look at Judaism solely as a religion."

"Religion usually starts when one teacher spreads his or her teachings to many disciplines," he continued. "The people who believe the teachings are considered co-religionists. Their common beliefs hold them together as a community."

Judaism Is More than a Religion

"Christianity is a religion. Judaism is a lot more than just a religion. The Jewish people are best described as 'the People of the Covenant,'" continued the Orthodox rabbi. "We are a people because of a covenant, a *brit*. Moses didn't preach a religion to individuals. He took his folk, who already had a common heritage, along with many who had decided to join that people, and brought them to Mount Sinai, where he brokered a covenant between a nation and God. There he formed a 'nation.'

"The *brit* is what defines us as a nation, notwithstanding different geographic vicinity, language, ethnicity, government or culture. An American Catholic who visits an Italian Catholic has little to say to his

co-religionist after Mass. They have little in common beyond their religion. An American Jew and an Italian Jew would have a lot to say to each other after services because they have a lot more in common.

"You weren't born into the Jewish people," he continued. "You decided you wanted to enter the same covenant as every other Jew. If this were a religion, no problem—you just say 'I believe,' immerse in water, and you are in. You would just accept upon yourself whatever beliefs and rites are expected of you. That's what non-Jews, and I believe, many converts, generally think when they talk about conversion to Judaism."

Believing Is Not Enough

"But to enter the covenant with the Jewish people, believing is not enough. You need to become part of that people psychologically. It's a two-way street—If you choose Judaism, you also need Judaism to choose you. You need to become a *ger*. A *ger* is more than a convert. A *ger* means someone who has come to live among a people to which he or she was not born.

"By joining this people, the *ger* becomes part of the same covenant to which the people are part. In short, a *ger* is an adopted member of the Jewish family. That's why Ruth said [to Naomi], 'Your people are my people; your God is my God.'

"You have to mentally turn yourself into a Jew, not just be Jewish. You have to look at Judaism as a package of three things, like Christians look at their trinity. But instead of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, you look at faith, people and land.

(Continued on page 15)

A Conversation in the Bunker (continued)

“There is huge distinction between *being Jewish* and being a *Jew*,” he added. “How often have you heard a convert calling himself or herself a *Jew*? This self-identification shows your psyche. You will only feel like a Jew when you think you are a Jew and are accepted by other Jews as a member of a nation of people. Otherwise, you will always feel like an outsider, whether you are recognized by the Chief Rabbinate or not.”

Embracing *Am Yisrael*

The fourth rabbi, a Reconstructionist from the United States, jumped in: “I think your distinction between being a ‘Jew’ and ‘being Jewish’ would be hard for us to swallow, but I agree that it is often difficult for converts to grasp the fact that in order to become

a ‘full’ Jew, you have to embrace the concept of not just religion, but also *Am Yisrael* [the people], and *Eretz Yisrael* [land]. Without being able to identify the people as *your* people, the land as your land, even if you embrace the religion, you will always feel like an outside Jew.

“The problem is that the Orthodox establishment in Israel doesn’t care or chooses not to understand,” the Reconstructionist added. “So you can be an ‘inside Jew’ and still be treated as an outside Jew, depending on where you are.”

The Conservative rabbi said, “I don’t think there is any doubt that these people are Jews *halachically* from the perspective of the Jewish community. The problem isn’t so much for people like you to accept

them. It’s more of a problem for the converts, who often feel like lesser Jews. It is difficult to feel you are a member of a people and an attachment to the land when powerful forces in that land’s government refuse to acknowledge your membership.

“But I agree with you on this. Until you mentally adopt the Jewish people’s history as *your* spiritual history, the Jewish people as *your* people, until the Holocaust becomes *your* own nightmare and not just a nightmare for Jews, until you call the Jewish people ‘my people,’ you haven’t psychologically joined the Jewish nation and peoplehood.

“And that could make them feel like second-class Jews.”

December Highlights at Tifereth Israel

December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Monday Learn & Lunch <i>Parashat HaShavuah</i> , 11 a.m.; Lunch 12 noon
December 2	Job Club, 1 p.m.
December 3	Women of the Wall Rosh Hodesh Service, 7:30 a.m.
December 4	Family Hanukkah Party, 6:15 p.m.
December 8	Filmfest, <i>The Gatekeepers</i> , 7:30 p.m.
December 13-15	TI Annual Retreat, Pearlstone Conference Center
December 17	Kol Nashim Book Club, home of Margie Odle
December 21	SHALEM, Bruce Heppin on the Current Supreme Court Term

Friday Night Minyan Assignments: Frequently Asked Questions

Why am I assigned to attend Friday Night Minyan?

Tifereth Israel (TI) holds three regular weekly services: Friday night, Shabbat morning and Sunday morning. These services provide a spiritual and social outlet for our members and also give those of us saying *Kaddish* the opportunity to do so.

While we can count on enough worshippers on Saturdays and Sundays, attendance at Friday night services varies. If a regular attendee is absent, we may not have enough people to make a *minyan*, particularly during the summer months.

In order to ensure a *minyan*, each TI member is assigned approximately two specific dates per year to attend Friday night services. We hope members will accept this obligation in the spirit in which it is intended, which is to ensure that our members can say *Kaddish* in a warm and familiar setting.

How are assignments made?

The congregation is divided alphabetically into groups of 13 to 20 households each. When new members join, the household is added to a group. When members leave, the household is removed. Occasionally the groups are adjusted to make sure there are enough people in each group.

There are currently 17 groups. A group is assigned together for each Friday night. Assignments are made in advance so a month and a half of assignments can be printed in the next *Menorah*. For example, the group assignments for January 2014 were determined by the deadline for the December *Menorah*.

Why are assignments occasionally more often than once every six months?

A group is assigned for every Friday night on which there is no Shabbat dinner scheduled. When there are fewer Shabbat dinners, groups may be assigned more than twice a year.

Who is included in a group?

Out of town members are excluded as are people who have informed the office that they are unable to attend for an extended period of time. Otherwise, every household is included.

How are people notified of their assignments?

The Menorah includes a listing of upcoming Friday night minyan assignments. For example, the December *Menorah* will include all of December's assignments and about half of January's.

In addition, about a month before the assignment, everyone who is assigned who has an email address will get an email notifying them of their assignments. Two reminder emails will be sent, usually during the week prior to the assignment.

Even if you notify the office you cannot attend on a particular Friday, you will still get the reminder emails because you are still in your group – the computer sends them to everyone in a group.

Why is my non-Jewish spouse on the minyan assignment list and why does he or she get an email?

Members and their spouses in the household are on the list and all get an email if we have an email address. Families often attend together and all adults in a household need to know when the assignments are for planning purposes.

If there are two or more Jewish adults in the household, are all expected to attend?

While it is nice when families can attend together, we will make *minyan* if one adult Jew attends from each household. While teens are not on the list and do not get emails, they certainly can fulfill their family's obligation to attend and when they attend with older family members they provide us with added insurance that we will make a *minyan*.

What if no one in my household can attend on the assigned day?

We ask that you arrange for a substitute. Please ask a friend to sub for you or post a note on the TI listserv asking if someone will switch dates with you.

Sheri Blonder in the office can assist you if you would like to join the listserv or would like a note posted on your behalf. You can reach her at tiadmin@tifereth-israel.org.

Bring Alan Gross Home

The Fourth Anniversary Vigil in support of Alan Gross will be held at 12 noon, on Tuesday, December 3. Please join other TI members at this important demonstration.

We and elected officials and Jewish community leaders will meet at Lafayette Square, across from the White House on H Street between 15th and 17th Streets, NW.

Participants in the vigil will stand in solidarity with the Gross family against Alan's unjust incarceration in Cuba and call on the Obama Administration to bring Alan home.

Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

December 6

David Wachtel & Jennifer Goldstein
 Harry Waldman & Susan Morse
 Marc Warshawsky & Vivian Seidner
 Matthew Watson & Ellen Cabot
 Marc & Deborah Weinberger
 Eric Weiner & Sharon Moshavi
 Jon Weintraub & Judith Heimlich
 Michael Weiss & Phyllis Stanger
 Jessica Weissman & Louise Kelley
 Dov Weitman & Sylvia Horwitz
 Alan & Cynthia Weitz
 Howard & Barbara White
 Louise Wiener
 Peter Winch & Denice Zeck
 Adam & Dorothea Wolfson
 Ariel David Wolsztijn & Karen Lisa Silberstein
 Christopher Zeilinger & Ann Baker
 Benjamin & Monica Zeitlin
 Yonannes Zeleke
 Diana Zurer
 Ellen Zwibak

December 13

Luis & Karen Acosta
 Andrew Afflerbach & Joanne Hovis
 Seth & Elaine Akst
 Miriam Alpern
 Robyn Altman & Brendan Doherty
 Jon Alterman & Katherine LaRiviere
 Timothy Anderegg & Lisa Fogel-Anderegg
 Leonard Bachman
 Sidney & Heike Bailin
 Lawrence Baizer & Elaine Lewis
 Justin Bank
 Paul & Esther Bardack
 Burt Barnow
 Charles Baum

Leonard & Joy Baxt
 Mark & Mona Berch
 Bruce & Laurie Berger
 Carl Bergman & Margie Odle

December 27

Judi Berland
 Joe Berman & Marsha Gentner
 Barbara Beuchert
 Dana Beyer
 Sean Blake & Larisa Aranbayeva
 Sheri Blonder
 Gideon & Lisa Blumenthal
 Ron & Dina Borzekowski
 Larry & Lise Bram
 Brad & Liana Brooks-Rubin
 Sharon Brown
 Stephen Burd & Laura Schiavo
 Harold Burgess & Shoshana Eisenberg
 Joel & Alice Burton
 Daniel Byerly & Katharine Clark
 Susan Chapin
 Daniel Chazen & Ronit Eisenbach
 Todd Christiansen & Rebecca Pikofsky
 David Cohen
 Joel Cohen
 Susan Cohen

January 3

David & Judy Cohen
 David & Elana Cohen
 Hal Cohen & Katie Benton-Cohen
 Raymond & Rebecca Coleman
 Jeffrey Colman & Ellen Nissenbaum
 Nataliya Chernyak Cowen
 Tamir & Rebecca Damari
 Merry Danaceau
 Jeffrey & Miriam Davidson

Ronni Davis
 Adam Diamond & Rabbi Jane Berman
 Helen Disenhaus
 Allan & Vered Drazen
 Stan Dorn & Carla Ellern
 Earl Dotter & Deborah Stern
 Desirée Douglas
 Lisa Drazin
 David Drelich & Rabbi Gilah Langner
 Susan Dreiband & Jackie Urbanovic
 Benjamin Dreyfus & Rabbi Elizabeth Richman

January 10

Pierre & Deena Dugan
 Janice & Yiftach Eisenberg
 Ernie Englander
 Miriam Feinsilver
 Lisa Ellern Feldman & Seth Feldman
 Joshua & Mita Felman
 Bob Feron & Dione Pereira
 Rona Fields
 Joshua & Lucia Filler
 Eric Fingerhut & Karen Beiley
 Anita Finkelstein
 Jay & Rachel Finkelstein
 Violeta Fiorino-Schwartz
 Joseph & Rachel Firschein
 David & Patricia Fisher
 Paula Flicker
 James & Carla Flug
 Judah Flum & Lisa Itkin
 Claude Fontheim & Orit Frenkel
 Benjamin Foote & Alison Asarnow
 Lee & Brenda Footer
 Ira Forman & Caryn Pass
 Monica Freedman

Donations

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Naomi & Arnold Revzin
John & Lynne List
Naomi & Arnold Revzin
Shelley Sturman & Noam Stopak

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Jessica Weissman & Louise Kelley's wedding
Sue Catler
Sue Catler

Max & Sam Heimowitz's B'nei Mitzvah

In Memory of

Sonya Rozansky
Sonya Rozansky
Sonya Rozansky
Sonya Rozansky
Sonya Rozansky

Dolly & Stanley Sturman

YAHARZEIT DONATIONS (continued)

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Marilyn & Irwin S. Feldman
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Irving Fleishman
Brenda & Lee Footer
Toby Friedman
Abraham & Dena Greenstein
Tom & Maxine Gruner
Gene & Esther Herman
Steven & Roberta Jellinek
Len Jewler & Andrea Rosen
Lillian Kronstadt
Lillian Kronstadt
Alice Lazar
Beverly Lehrer
John & Lynne List
Janice & David Mehler
Charlotte & Hyman Passo
Harry Penn
Theodora & Eugene Perry
David & Carole Preston
Adele Goldstein Samler

Eric & Shira Schechtman
Bernard & Debra Shleien
Louise Sidman
Norman & Ellen Sinel
Faith B. Szydlow
Kenneth Trupp
Paula Tucker
Harriet Vinner
Susan Vitale
Brian F. Wruble
Diana Zurer

In Memory of

Morris Max Jewler
Lillian Pittle Norris
Jacob Fishman
Morris Fleishman
Toby Footer
David Friedman
Brian Daniel Greenstein
Abe and Sarah Hofberg
Leon Cywan
Irving Maydeck
Samuel M. Jewler
Alvin Himmelfarb
Morris Wolf
Shaye Lipshitz
Frederick Lehrer
Ernestine List
William Greene
Martha Levy
Miriam Penn
David Cohen
Alvin Himmelfarb
Sadie Rosenthal Goldstein
Bernard Rubinstein
Isaac J. Shleien
Rose Corman
Jerry Winnick
Ruth Breslow Young
Bertha & Bernard Trupp
Bernard Tucker
Helen Janus
Eugene Charles Vitale
Betty Nathanson
Selmajean Schneider

