



# The Menorah

## Rabbi's Notes: Ethan Seidel Bribes and Bias

I'm studying this great *sugya* about bribes and bias, in Tractate *Ketubot* (in the Babylonian Talmud, on page 105b). At first, the discussion seemed to have little applicability to my own life – after all, I'm not a judge of court cases, and I do not live in a small town in the Jewish community of 4<sup>th</sup> century Persia. And yet, as I thought more about it, I found this passage reminiscent of modern scholarship I've read about the small things that influence our decisions in our daily lives – often without our even realizing it.

I hope to present the whole text sometime in the next couple of months (perhaps on a Shabbat morning during one of the drier Torah portions in *Sh'mot* or *Vayikra*), but for now, here is a little piece of the longer discussion that I found especially

prescient. It follows a passage that notes that a Rabbi who is constantly borrowing things from the townsfolk (without also lending to them) is not fit to act as a judge for them in a court case:



“Rava said: What's the reason that a bribe [which, given the context, seems to mean receiving even a small favor – like being able to borrow at will from neighbors] is forbidden? Because when a person

*(Continued on page 2)*

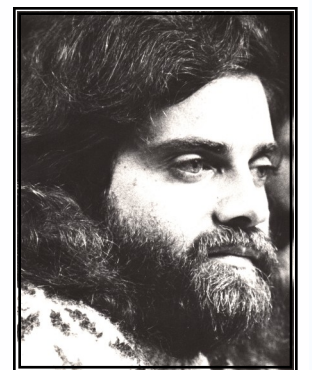
## President's Column: Joel Cohen Shabbat Vayinafash

I can't think of a more needed Shabbat than the one just past (as I write), the next to last of the secular year. The previous week, the first funerals were held for the tiny victims of the Sandy Hook tragedy, the disheartening spectacle of the Egyptian Spring seemed to be turning into a Sunni version of Iran, and the exhausting and never-ending saga of the Congressional leadership's fiscal incompetence continued to be demonstrated.

[“Fiscal cliff” is too elegant a name for the last item. “Cliff” makes it sound like a difficult and arduous problem to be solved by a brilliant solution, when it is in fact little more than an anthill that could be scaled with ease if only the climbers had the stature of ants].

As that week ended we had a well-earned opportunity for *S h a b b a t V a y i n i f a s h*, “rest and reinvigorating of the soul” (“re-souling,” as one might re-sole some worn out shoes).

I have written before about mass shootings and have played my role as participant and commentator. Up to now they have discouragingly had the same responses and lack of action.



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## Notes from the Rabbi (continued)

receives this bribe, he comes to identify with the giver, as if they were the same person, and a person does not generally see himself as guilty.”

[And now follows a fanciful, but powerful etymology of the Hebrew word for “bribe”. “So what does *shohad* mean? It’s an abbreviation of the two-word phrase *shehu had*, meaning ‘That he is one.’” [i.e. that he sees himself as one with the person who has done him a favor. Note that the Aramaic word for one is *had*, meaning “one,” but you knew that -- from the Pesach song *Had Gadyah* — One Little Kid].

This identification with the person who has done us a favor is also found in modern scholarship. To quote from Dan Ariely’s book *The (Honest) Truth about Dishonesty* (Harper 2012): “One other common cause of conflicts of

interest is our inherent inclination to return favors. We humans are deeply social creatures, so when someone lends us a hand in some way or presents us with a gift, we tend to feel indebted. That feeling can in turn color our view, making us more inclined to try to help that person in the future. (pp. 74-75).”

Ariely goes on to cite functional MRI studies of people who received favors, when those people were then exposed to the logo of the favoring institution: “...the brain scans showed...the presence of the sponsor’s logo increased the activity in the parts of the participants’ brains that are related to pleasure...”(p. 76).

Ultimately, it’s a blessing that we humans are social creatures. We need each other, and we should not be ashamed of it. But that need we have of each other leads us to appreciate favors done for us, and that appreciation can easily be manipulated by those – lobbyists, drug representatives, big donors, [insert the culprit in your own professional life here] – who do us favors.

It’s a big topic. I look forward to a fuller Shabbat morning discussion about this in the next few months.

Rabbi Seidel

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### **Ritual Committee Meeting**

On Thursday, January 10, at 7:30 p.m., the Ritual Committee will begin discussing the upcoming High Holidays and address ritual matters that have been raised by congregants.

All members of the Congregation are welcome!

Please send agenda items to Jevera Temsky at TIRitual@Tifereth-Israel.org, and plan to attend the meeting if you have an item you want discussed.

### **JPDS Open House**

An Admission Open House will be held at the Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation’s Capital at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 3, at JPDS, 6045 16<sup>th</sup> St., NW.

To RSVP or to arrange a tour, contact Sindy.Udell@jpds.org or 202-291-5737 ext. 103. The deadline for applications is Friday, January 4.

## President's Column (continued)

This time, for a bit, things seemed a little different. It started with the usual reaction, although more intense, and then the National Rifle Association said that it would have something new to propose when it broke its week of silence on Friday. Somehow that seemed hopeful.

But the NRA's new proposal was to **arm teachers**. Why not just arm the students? If everyone from the age of six had a semiautomatic rifle surely the country would be safer! As the NRA pointed out, the problem is too few guns. And also too many crazy people. Let's just keep guns away from unstable people – and their mothers.

### More Guns & Homicides by Gun

The problem is that the number of homicides by gun and the number of guns in the United States are, proportional to our population, many times higher than in other high-income developed countries. Since the number of guns, according to the NRA, is, if anything, a mitigating factor, we can discount the number of guns and simply declare that Americans are 7 times crazier than the Irish, 5 times crazier than the Italians, 16 times crazier than the Germans and Spanish, and 32 times crazier than the French, Polish and Israelis. The NRA should just explain that to the small number of sane Americans, and then we would be happy to follow their lead.

### How Will Fiscal Talks End?

Where the fiscal talks will lead and how this will end no one knows. This I know for sure, because in shul I asked Bill Galston, and he said, "God only knows." But that very morning I had asked God what would happen, and He told me to check with Bill Galston.

Speaker Boehner tried to outmaneuver the President by having Congress pass a bill that would be unacceptable

### Snider's Receipts

Do you shop at Snider's? If so, please deposit your receipts in the envelope on the bulletin board outside the TI office. Snider's will give 1% of the amount purchased on receipts we collect to our neighborhood school, Shepherd Elementary.

The receipts need to be processed in January, so find those 2012 receipts (and 2013, too) and turn them in today. Please do not cut off the date—all the receipts must be from the current year and we can't use receipts without dates. A TI Social Action Project.

to him, making the President responsible for having taxes increase. But after touting his plan for three days, he discovered that it could not even get the support of his own caucus.

I have my own plan for ending the mess: *erev hacongress*, (the night before the House and Senate next convene), Eric Cantor (#2 in the House) and Chuck Schumer (#3 in the Senate) should go to the *mikvah* at Adas Israel. After they have said the first *brakhot*, and are dipping themselves in the water, the attendant should lock the door so they can't get out until they have worked out an agreement. This is the most reasonable and hopeful solution.

### How Will the Crisis in Egypt End?

The Egyptian story will not be so easy to resolve. The Egyptians have voted for a constitution that apparently makes Egypt – up to now a secular dictatorship – an Islamic Republic. That is likely to upset a great proportion of Egyptians and may upset the balance of power in the Middle East.

All told, all tolled, a difficult week which happily sought out the rest and re-souling of Shabbat.

### 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

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

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

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



## New Members

### Jared Garelick

How does TI show its new members how it likes them? By feeding them, of course. The Membership Committee holds events for new and prospective members throughout the year, and most involve preparing or eating food. Probably the best such event of the year, which occurred recently, involves both.

New and prospective members joined Rabbi Seidel in the synagogue kitchen during Hanukkah to make *sufganiyot* (jelly doughnuts), using the Rabbi's prized recipe. They got to know each other, and then ate them while still fresh and warm (the doughnuts, not the new members). Some members of the Membership Committee joined in and also ate the fresh *sufganiyot*, out of a sense of duty.

Many TI members have also volunteered to be matched up to host new members at their homes for a Shabbat meal. It's a great way to help bring people into the community, and is enjoyable to host as well as guest.

But there's a secret. You don't have to wait to be matched before inviting a new member into your home. If you meet someone new at the synagogue, or feel there might be a connection based on their profile in the Menorah, invite them over.

And don't just stop with *new* members. It's always appropriate to invite someone you may have seen around TI for years but never got to know. Getting together at the synagogue is important, but getting to know other members as individuals is one of the best ways we have to really feel part of a community. Let's make 2013 a year of good eating together at TI.

### Shelly and Sanford Reback

Shelley and Sandy are first-time empty-nesters this year. They marked this life change by kicking back and joining a new synagogue – TI. Shelley, originally from Baltimore, is the Deputy General Counsel of the Mortgage Bankers Association, a trade association.

Sandy grew up in the small but close-knit Jewish community in Knoxville, Tennessee. He has a background in international trade, including stints at the office of the US Trade Representative and in the international business unit of MCI. Sandy is now Director of Global Business and Trade for Bloomberg Government, a new web-based business that analyzes the business implications of government actions.

The Rebacks are both lawyers. Sandy attended Harvard for law school and Shelley attended Stanford. They met on a blind date in California before getting together and moving to Washington. Their two daughters are students at MIT and Brown. Although their daughters have graduated, Shelley continues to help coach the "It's Academic" team at Richard Montgomery High School, a team that is highly ranked nationally.

The Rebacks are long-time former neighbors of members Judy and David Cohen. They visited TI occasionally over the years, and were attracted by its smaller size and participatory feel. And yes, they enjoyed this year's *sufganiyot* baking. Welcome to the Rebacks.



New Members Baking *Sufganiyot* with Rabbi Seidel

## Lilmod U'lilamed: Eitan Gutin Teaching The Wall (Part 1)

*This article is the first in a 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). In these articles I will discuss how the Kotel is taught as part of the curriculum on Israel, whether our educational practices have contributed to the weak public response, and whether we need to reassess the place of the Kotel in Jewish education.*

Eighteen summers ago my friend Allison (current TI member Allison Turner) and I did something unimaginable today -- we each prayed at the Kotel. Of course, I can pray at the Kotel any time I want, and so can she, but it is with whom we prayed and where we prayed that makes the occasion stick out in my mind.

### 1994 USY Pilgrimage Trip

In mid-July, 1994, my group of 62 USY'ers had just arrived in Israel in the early hours of the morning after a week in Poland. I still remember kissing the ground as we got off the airplane and spontaneous dancing with the entire group in the Ben Gurion parking lot as we waited for our bus. Half a day later, there we were, standing on the promenade overlooking the Kotel Hama'aravi, the Western Wall.

Upon arrival at the Kotel, when many other members of our group were shedding tears of joy, I vividly remember one member of the group shedding tears of anger instead. As Dan and I sat together on the long limestone bench at the back of the Kotel promenade, he explained to me that he was shocked to see so many soldiers openly carrying weapons at such a holy place. It did not matter to him that there were some very good

reasons for the armed guards' presence; in Dan's eyes the weapons were a desecration of Holy Ground.

Our group leader and staff gave everyone about 20 minutes to go down to the wall itself and have some personal time. Afterward, the entire group, including Allison and me, gathered at the back of the promenade, took out our *Sim Shalom* prayerbooks, and did something that, today, would elicit protest and a police response; we prayed *Minchah* together, out loud, in a *minyan* without a *mehitzah*.

### At the Time, Unremarkable

What is remarkable about this moment in my memory, besides overlooking the Wall, is how unremarkable it was. There were one or two funny looks from *haredi* Jews but no one bothered us or even really noticed the nearly 70 Jews praying together. As far as I knew, this was routine; how could Jews worshipping God at the Kotel be anything but!

On *Shavuot* eve in 1996, some of the same friends with whom I prayed two summers earlier needed police to escort them away from the Wall. They fled through the streets of the old city while *haredi* Jews yelled at them and threw fruit, trash, and even dirty diapers from apartment windows.

This group's great crime? Holding an egalitarian *minyan* on the same spot that my fellow USY'ers and I had used, with no incident, less than two years earlier. The *haredi* takeover of the Kotel, which had begun decades before, was suddenly pushed to the forefront of my and my friends' minds.

After the events that *Shavuot*, I started to pay more attention to the

Jewish national conversation about the Kotel. I remember my horror upon hearing about chairs being thrown at Women of the Wall from the men's side of the *mehitzah*.

For the first time, I noticed the inequality of the women's and men's sides of the *mehitzah* at the Wall, with barely any space for women to get out of the sun during the summer and the rain in winter. I recall feeling both anger and sadness when the Robinson's Arch compromise was accepted by Masorti as an alternative to praying on the main promenade.

USY'ers continue to visit the Kotel every summer but they no longer hold a *minyan* there. The first Jerusalem *minyan* on USY Pilgrimage is instead reserved for more neutral ground overlooking the city, such as the windmill at *Yemin Moshe* or overlooking the entire city at the Haas Promenade (*Tayelet*).

This summer, for the first time, a female participant who has just purchased a *talit* will be warned to hide its existence from the guards at the entrance to the Kotel lest she be prohibited from entering the Kotel plaza for the first time in her life.

### The Blame is Shared

While it is very easy to blame *haredi* rabbis and their followers for the recent developments at the Kotel they are only part of the story. The other part is the unwillingness of the Jewish establishment here in the U.S. to put pressure on Israel to change the Kotel status quo. The North American Jewish community has a huge amount of power to wield when it so chooses. Only two years ago, they successfully prevented the *Knesset* from passing a conversion bill that could have hurt the special relationship between Israel and the

*(Continued on page 6)*

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

**Attending:** Joel Cohen, Debbie Pomerance, Joe Davidson, Deena Dugan, Paula Martin, Stephanie Roodman Murdock, Vivian Seidner, David Levy, Andrew Reamer, Sharon Brown, Mark Verschell, Jevera Temsky, Alice Burton, Cynthia Peterman, Renee Brachfeld, Margie Odle, Joanne Hovis, Jeffrey Colman, Sharon Brown, Chris Zeilinger, Daniel Turner, Esther Herman.

**Excused:** Susan Catler, Varna Fink, Sarah Meytin, Jeff Davidson.

**Absent:** None.

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

**President's Report:** The Rabbi will be taking a sabbatical from 11/15/2013 to 2/28/2014. A sabbatical committee was set up. The president appointed Bill Galston, Dina Borzekowski, Dan Chazin, and Dorothea Wolfson to this committee in addition to the ex officio members, and the board approved. The administrative papers have been signed for TI to sponsor Vine and Fig. A committee will be formed to oversee the relationship.

**Membership Committee,** Alice Burton: Three new member families have joined TI since the last board meeting. There will be three *havdalot*: January 5, February 9 and March 2.

**Board Member Training:** Matt Watson made a presentation. Sarbanes-Oxley doesn't apply to nonprofits, but it is becoming the standard. Board members have to give the synagogue the first right of refusal on any transaction that they are also interested in. Board member can't vote on a contract with themselves nor can they influence other Board members in connection with such a contract. Materials presented at a board meeting should be sent to absent board members. People who are on the board may be liable for any errors of judgment made at meetings that they did *not* attend.

**Ritual Committee,** Jevera Temsky: The ritual committee will look at the survey for B'yachad. The committee discussed trying to make the *Yahrzeiten* and their relationship to

congregants more known at the synagogue.

**Lifelong Learning Committee,** Eitan Gutin and Cynthia Peterman: Generally there has been a lot of positive feedback. A lot of the kids' programs will have a *hesed* focus; e.g. giving blankets to families in NY that were affected by Hurricane Sandy. Mondays at 1:00 there will be a new Hebrew literature group.

**Executive Director's Report,** David Zinner: One church had a successful dinner for 175 people at TI. Other churches may be interested in renting our dining facility as a result. A curb cut will be installed between the two front "no parking" signs so we can turn the new ramp towards Juniper Street. There is a question of whether we should change the date of the 2014 retreat so the Rabbi can attend. David Zinner is looking into pricing at Pearlstone and Capital Camps for the retreat. A decision should be made at the board's next meeting as to the timing and location of the retreat.

## Teaching The Wall (continued)

North American Jewish community. Why were we so willing to get involved in the politics of conversion but are so unwilling now to get involved in the politics of the Kotel? I believe the answer lies in Dan's tears upon seeing armed soldiers on his first visit to the *Kotel*.

We have placed the Western Wall on such a high pedestal in Israel Education, we have made it so sacred, that we are uncomfortable with anything that threatens its sanctity. A political fight with Israel over who can pray at the *Kotel*, where they can pray, and when,

threatens that sacred space with the unwelcome insertion of the mundane... (to be continued in February)

### **Coming Attractions (spoiler free):**

*What makes the Kotel so special anyway?*

*What is the place of the Kotel in Israel Education today?*

*Are current efforts to increase women's spiritual rights at the Kotel working?*

*Should a minyan ever be a political event?*

*How does Jewish Education in the United States affect political decision making in Israel?*

*What would happen if we stopped emphasizing the Kotel as much as we do in Jewish Education?*

*How do we teach our children that in a sacred space, the MOST sacred space in the world, Jews have fewer rights than in any other liberal democracy in the world?*



## Lifelong Learning

### Eitan Gutin

#### TI Families

Our second annual **Hanukkah Celebration** was a night to remember with over 200 TI adults and children singing, dancing, eating *latkes*, and lighting candles together. The event was a great success thanks to the efforts of many people:

- **Brenda Footer, Jennifer Kefer, Jeanne Ireland** and **Tanya Alteras** for chairing the event
- **Mark Novak** and **Renee Brachfeld** for leading singing and dancing
- **Jim Gagne** for his amazing movement games with our grade-schoolers
- **TI's USY chapter** for guiding Kadimaniks through their second annual Maccabee Challenge
- our amazing TI staff including **Roz Kram** in the kitchen, **Amanda Rudman** and **Ken Lemberg**, our USY and Kadima Advisors, and **Marla Sevi**, the Assistant to the Director of Lifelong Learning

We have plenty of family programs in store for the mid-winter months. These include:

**January 12:** PJ Havdallah for grades K-2 and their parents

**January 20:** Family Mitzvah Day

**January 25:** Community Tu B'Shvat Seder

**February 24:** Purim Carnival

**March 9:** Family Service and Kiddush

#### Himmelfarb & Chai Happenings

Under the leadership of **David Kass**, a new School Board will be working

to guide the future development of our entire school program from Kindergarten through 10th grade. On the Board's agenda is reviewing school-wide policies, assessing the programs, planning for the next 5 and 10 years of school growth, and looking for opportunities to raise funds for TI's Lifelong Learning programs.

The board is working closely with Eitan Gutin, Director of Lifelong Learning, and is using his vision for our education programs as a guide for future plans. If you would like to participate in Board discussions or raise a matter with the school leadership please contact David Kass or Eitan Gutin.

**Check your email this month** for a very short survey from the Himmelfarb and Chai Schools. As we prepare for the 2013/2014 school year we would like to determine how many students will be in our programs.

This survey, which is non-binding, will ask parents where their children will receive a Jewish education next year. Your answers will help us set a budget and school tuition that will build on our successes moving forward.

#### USY & Kadima

We have had a strong opening half of the year in our youth groups. USY Advisor **Amanda Rudman** and Kadima Advisor **Ken Lemberg** have been working hard with TI's youth to provide them a community of peers here at TI.

Our Kadima kids, in grades 6 through 8, have so far this year attended a Nats game, made blankets for Project Linus, and exhausted themselves running around TI during the second annual Macabee Challenge.

Each event has been well attended and our kids have had a fantastic time. Here are upcoming **Kadima** chapter and regional programs to include on your calendar:

**January 5:** Kadima Saturday Night Live

**January 20:** Family Mitzvah Day, special project for Kadima

**February 3:** Ice Skating at Veterans Plaza

**February 15-17:** Kadima Winter Kallah

**February 24:** Kadima helps run the Purim Carnival

USY has been active both in and out of TI this Fall. Our USY'ers raised over \$250 for *tzedakah* at our first annual Trivia Night, went duckpin bowling, hosted an Israeli movie night, joined in a regional election night party with BBYO, and ran the second annual Macabee Challenge.

Our USY'ers have participated in every regional program, including the Fall Kinnus in Virginia Beach, and we have sent a member to USY's International Convention for the second year in a row. This year's delegate, **Jacob Dorn**, had a fantastic time surrounded by hundreds of Jewish teens from all over North America. Here are some **USY** highlights to look forward to this winter:

**January 6:** Winter Kickoff Ice Skating at Veterans Plaza

**January 12:** USY Formal (teen dinner at TI preceding the dance)

**February 3:** Israel Night

**February 23:** Groggers for Tzedakah

**February 24:** Purim Carnival

**March 2:** Tactical Laser Tag

**March 9:** USY Spring Fling dance

**March 15:** Second Annual Tzedakah Dinner

## Adult Education

Cynthia Peterman

The new secular year promises to offer wonderful opportunities for Jewish learning! Just look at what TI has in store for you:

### SHALEM

Our wonderful Shabbat speaker series is off and running on **January 12**, with **Loretta Vitale Saks** speaking on **Italian Jewry During the Shoah**. Loretta will speak about her mother's experience as an Italian Jew living in Italy during the Holocaust, as well as give an overview of Jewish life in Italy.

This will be a wonderful learning opportunity in advance of the play reading on **January 26, 1938: the *Invention of the Enemy***.

On **February 2**, **Carolivia Herron** and **Chris Griffin** will discuss **James Joyce's Jewish Character, Leopold Blum**. Look for more information to come about this presentation and the February 3 celebration of Joyce's birthday.

### Classes

Back by popular demand, **Gideon Amir** will once again teach a class for TI. Gideon's class, **A Modern View of Biblical Women**, will run for four sessions on Thursday evenings, **February 7-28**, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Check the TI website for registration information.

### Trips

Join us at the Library of Congress on the Monday of Presidents' Weekend for a tour of **Words Like Sapphires: 100 Years of Hebraica at the Library of Congress, 1912-2012**. The exhibit offers many unique items such as a Karaite *humash* in Judeo-Tatar, a prayer book from the Paris Sanhedrin, prayers for Shabbatei Zvi, and, of course, the famous *Washington Haggadah*.

Look for the Winter/Spring Adult Education Course Catalog to be available soon. If you have suggestions for upcoming courses or programs, please get in touch with Cynthia Peterman, at [cynp25@gmail.com](mailto:cynp25@gmail.com).

## Did You Hear About the Retreat?

Cynthia Peterman

More than 100 people attended last month's TI Retreat at Pearlstone on ***Mindful Living in the Internet Age***. With a Friday night call to "unplug" from our cell phones, tablets, and other devices, we entered into a weekend of community, prayer, discussion and laughter.

Friday night's entrée to the weekend began when children and adults shared their memories and joys of Hanukkah celebrations past and present.

On Saturday, our theme was ***Technology, the Peace of Shabbat, and the Challenge of Personal Connectedness***. Judi Berland led us in an exploration of *The Sabbath*, the extraordinary volume by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel.

Rabbi Seidel walked us through the recent ruling by the Rabbinical

Assembly on electronic devices and Shabbat. Later in the day, in our breakout groups, we talked with one another about the challenge of "unplugging" on Shabbat, and the struggle to manage email, texting, and other stresses in our lives.

What would a retreat be without Mark Berch and skit night? Saturday night was doubly fun, since we also celebrated Hanukkah. After Havdalah and lighting our own Menorahs, children and adults prepared for an evening of hilarious skits about politics, the synagogue, and the weekend's theme. Following the skits, Alan Landay entertained us with his wonderful dulcimer music, and we continued the Hanukkah theme with music videos of Hanukkah songs.

Sunday morning, everyone chose a learning opportunity, from

intergenerational dialogue on the internet to social media tutorials, from listserve discussions to Jewish learning on the internet.

If you are interested in getting involved in planning next year's retreat, a committee is already forming. Please contact Debbie Pomerance who is gathering names of interested people.

### Lost & Found

Check the lost and found items in the Juniper Street lobby -- and take yours home! To avoid losing belongings, label everything left in the coat room. Photographers are wanted to model, photograph and post pictures of lost and found items. If interested, contact Sheri Blonder.



# Annual Retreat, December 7-9, 2012





## Social Action at TI: Stephen Nelson Karen Kalish to Spearhead Shabbaton

Fifty years ago, James Meredith was admitted, under duress, as the first black student at the University of Mississippi. It was an historic moment in the civil rights movement. Forced segregation of our schools is largely a thing of the past. But to many, equality in education remains *the* civil rights issue.

- Across the United States, only 30 percent of high school freshmen can read at grade level, and the percentage for minority and underprivileged students is dramatically lower.
- 80 percent of African-American and Hispanic public school fourth-graders cannot read at grade level and 85 percent cannot perform math at grade level.
- Just 8 percent of the nation's public school teachers are African-American, and just 2 percent are black men.
- The average low-income child has been exposed to only 25 hours of one-on-one reading from birth to kindergarten, compared to 1700 hours for middle-class children.

Improving educational opportunities for the underprivileged has been the focus of many organizations, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the United Negro College Fund. Innovative charter schools, such as the SEED School of Washington DC, are addressing inner-city education in a radical way.

This year's **Tifereth Israel Social Action Shabbaton, on January 19**, will focus on improving the quality of education for all. In keeping with TI's tradition of community

involvement, the subtitle of the Shabbaton will be "One Person Can Make a Difference." Proving that point is our featured speaker, **Karen Kalish**, who has spent most of the last 20 years as a serial social entrepreneur focused on ending racism and anti-Semitism, as well as improving education and literacy opportunity.

Kalish spent 27 years in Washington in a wide variety of endeavors. She taught elementary school, was a consumer and investigative TV reporter (including as a reporter-producer for *Entertainment Tonight*), and ran her own communications consulting firm. In 1994, she founded Operation Understanding DC, which organized a year-long program for black and Jewish high school students designed to teach them about their respective cultures, religions, and history.



Karen Kalish

In 2001, Kalish returned to her native St. Louis, and has expanded her efforts in education reform, setting up four separate programs to help establish a level playing field for the minority community. Among them are:



**Home Works! The Teach Home Visit Program**, which trains teachers to go to the homes of their students to encourage parents to get more involved in their children's education.

**Books and Badges**, which partners St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department recruits and other reading partners with public elementary school students to help improve their reading and language skills.

**Cultural Leadership**, a year-long educational leadership program for high school students to help them become advocates for ending racism and discrimination.

Kalish is passionate about getting community members involved during children's first few years of schooling. "We've found that once these students get too far behind, there's just no way that they can catch up," adding that it's important "to find tutors, reading partners, and other volunteers to sit down with a student who's behind."

During the Saturday morning *drash*, Kalish will chronicle her journey to her life's dedication to ending discrimination and promoting educational opportunities for all. In the afternoon panel discussion, she will be joined by other educational opportunity activists, including TI member **Dan Nathan**, who runs TI's social action volunteer tutoring program with nearby Shepherd School and is a current board member of Operation Understanding DC.

## Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

### Barbara Raimondo

#### SDOTUS, FLOTUS, FDOTUS, MILOTUS

Ah, how small it is! **Susan Vitale's** daughter **Aly (Alicia) Levin**, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader at Lowell School, performed as a snowflake in the *Great Russian Nutcracker* (a joint production of CityDance and the Moscow Ballet) on December 16. She performed her role well, staying frozen and not allowing another cheeky member of the cast, Sasha ("Mouse") Obama, eclipse her.

Michelle and Malia were in the audience for the performance. Word is that the Big Man stayed home to play bridge with the mother-in-law. So hey, Michelle really does get around, doesn't she though? She and her mom were in the house when **Barbara Raimondo** and **Dennis Kirschbaum** saw Aretha Franklin at Constitution Hall in November. Guess the Big Man had to stay home to watch the girls.

That guy never gets out! Anyway, Barbara and Dennis have a way of attracting presidency at Constitution Hall. When they saw B.B. King there (and got to shake his hand!) 40 was in the audience. So be sure to invite B and D to your next musical legends event!

Speaking of 40, **Alan Landay** had 40 guests or fewer for what has become the annual family Thanksgiving at his house. Guests included nieces, nephews, brothers, in-laws, in-laws' in-laws, a cocker spaniel, a turkey, a Boy Scout, and a left boot, and they wrapped the whole thing up at a bluegrass concert at the Birchmere. Next year they are throwing in an Ethiopian side dish.

And on the topic of Ethiopia, **Martin Kessel** and **Gail Robinson** celebrated Hanukkah with the

Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation in northern New Hampshire, where they have a second home. The small congregation hosted a public menorah lighting at the town hall.

Martin was interviewed on New Hampshire Cable News about Hanukkah in Bethlehem. Be sure to watch it until the end of the end at <http://www.necn.com/12/07/12/Your-New-England-Holiday-Bethlehem-NH/landin>.

Speaking of Jewish celebrations, **Cynthia Peterman** has been named a 2013 ConnectGens Fellow for her new venture, [www.jewishteacher.org](http://www.jewishteacher.org). She joins **Elizabeth Handwerker**, a ConnectGens fellow from 2012, who started Moed: Jewish Afterschool Community.

According to the ConnectGens web site, the "ConnectGens Fellowship... provides Jewish social innovators with the training, tools and connections to transform big ideas into ventures or projects that will engage, inspire and support the Jewish community locally, in Israel and overseas."

#### Toys are TI

In addition to cooking Christmas dinners for people who are homeless, this year the TI Social Action Committee is also distributing toys for children in DC. This effort, led by **Carolivia Herron** and **Martin Kessel**, has already received thanks from the University of the District of Columbia coordinator of the Toy Project. Go play!

Up and coming leader **Eli Spector**, grandson of **Sheridan** and **Dana Neimark**, has been accepted by early decision to attend Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT. Eli, son of **Rebecca Neimark** and **Lee**

**Spector**, began attending TI Shabbat services regularly at age eight months with his maternal grandparents during the year of his father's sabbatical in Maryland. Eli was an enthusiastic TI participant, and even then word was that he'd rather *daven* til two than visit the zoo [See article on page 14].

**Ava Elizabeth Firschein** was born on November 21, 2012, in College Station, Texas. At birth she weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces. Her parents, TI members **Rachel** and **Joseph Firschein**, big sister **Jennifer**, and grandparents, TI members **Esther** and **Gene Herman**, are pretty glad.

#### Sad News

**Toby Footer**, mother of **Lee (Brenda) Footer**, and grandmother of **Naomi Footer**, died after a long illness. She was 70. The funeral was held in Dayton Ohio.

**Bernard Rubinstein**, father of member **Shira Rubinstein (Eric) Schechtman**, died, also in Ohio. He was 92.

**Charles Louis Kincannon**, father of **Alexandra Kincannon (Paul Moorehead)** and grandfather of **Aidan**, **Patrick** and **Helen Moorehead**, passed away recently. A brief chapel and graveside ceremony took place here in DC.

And **Beverly Hartstein**, mother of **Bonnie Suchman (Bruce Heppen)**, and grandmother of **Emily** and **Jonathan Heppen**, also passed. The funeral was held in New York. She was 81.

May the families and loved ones be comforted among those who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem.

*(Continued on page 12)*

## Kol Nashim

### Shirley Rosenberg



#### We Don't Do Dishes

Seven and a half years ago, at a well-attended TI program on women's health developed by Marcia Goldberg, Naomi Revzin realized that despite her 10 years at TI, she knew few women in that audience, and how much she wished she did.

Unfortunately, the Sisterhood, the traditional venue for Jewish women to come together, was effectively moribund. Only former president Marge Rosenthal was carrying on such traditional tasks as preparing *kiddush* and running the Hanukkah Boutique.

Out of Revzin's musings arose the concept of a successor to the Sisterhood where women would come together to work for the shul not just as helpmeets but as contributors in their own right. Revzin founded just such a group, Kol Nashim, the Voice of Women. She served as its first president, and was succeeded by Adele Natter, Paula Flicker and, currently, Margie Odle.

From the start, Kol Nashim's focus has been on presenting programs that KN women view as pertinent to all matters Jewish. We meet once a month at TI or each other's homes to plan new ventures, implementing them in between. The atmosphere is *gemutlich*, laughter abounds, and friendships are made and cemented. And we are always looking for new members.

Most KN programs are open to the public and free. All feature *maven* from inside or outside TI. A few programs are strictly for women (e.g., a trip to a *mikvah*), but a number attract the men, too (e.g., the Israeli cultural emissary speaking on women's rights in her country).

Two newcomers to the KN scene are a salon where women come together to network in a convivial setting and a book club open to anyone who loves reading and talking about it.

#### Upcoming Programs

We will gather at Marcia Goldberg's home (1220 Blair Mill Road, Apt.

1200, Silver Spring) for the first **Book Club** meeting in the new year on **January 22**, at 7:30 p.m. We will discuss *Startup Nation; the Story of Israel's Economic Miracle*, by Dan Senor.

**Game Night**, a sure winner every year, launches on **February 2**, at 7:30 p.m. Bring your favorite games: Scrabble, bridge, and mah jongg, whatever.

March to June activities are currently being firmed up. Some topics under consideration: A Woman's Take on Purim, Bread Baking, the History of KN (talk with Naomi Revzin). Other possibilities are a Networking and Membership Appreciation event, and a rejuvenated synagogue picnic, on the last day of Hebrew School.

Check the Spring Activities Booklet for details.

## Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers (continued)

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *opuscular*: "pertaining to or being a small or insignificant artistic work." (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](mailto:baraimondo@gmail.com), with "Nayes un Mekhayes" in the heading, or to P.O. Box 466, Washington Grove, MD 20880. This brings to a close this edition of Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers. Time to vamoose!

## Upcoming House Concerts

Two concerts will be held at **Fylis Peckham's** house on **January 26** at 7:30 p.m. and **January 27** at 4:30 p.m., at which the **Palisades Recorder Consort** will perform. These events will raise money for a mosaic wall at TI's Himmelfarb Hebrew School and help send a local teacher, Brielle Dana, to the Maccabiah (Israeli Olympics) where she will be competing this summer.

The Palisades Recorder Consort performs a wide variety of music from medieval to modern, with an emphasis on Renaissance and

Baroque music from 1500 to 1750, including works by Palestrina, Byrd, Vivaldi, Handel, Bach, and Telemann. The Consort has performed at weddings, salons, the Renaissance Fair, schools and the Washington Recorder Society. Their enthusiasm and love of music for the recorder is infectious.

There are 25 seats at each concert. Please reserve in advance. The cost is \$20. Donations for these worthy causes are also welcome. Please RSVP to Fylis Peckham at [artfylis@aol.com](mailto:artfylis@aol.com) or 301-588-2292.



## The Lonely Warrior?

### Frank Solomon

In last month's *Menorah*, TI President Joel Cohen raised a topic that has haunted Jewish Americans for as long as I can remember: Jews reap the freedom and opportunities in America without fighting for our country in time of need.

While many congregants honored relatives who were veterans, Joel was surprised by how few congregants are themselves veterans. He concluded that no one under 65 in the congregation that day was a U.S. veteran, although a few were veterans of the Israeli and British armies.

This brought to mind Michael Lind's 1999 book, *The Necessary War*. Lind claimed that Jews by and large avoided military service in Vietnam. Although Jews were then 2.5 percent of the U.S. population, Jewish men suffered only 0.46 percent of the war-related deaths in Vietnam.

#### High Participation in Earlier Times

It wasn't always so. In 1654, Asher Levy, one of the original 23 Jewish settlers of New Amsterdam, demanded the right to stand guard at the stockade. Jews had been excluded from the home guard, and had to pay a compensatory fee for not serving. After two years, Levy and his Jewish comrades were permitted to serve.

Jews have been fighting for America since the Revolutionary War. More than 550,000 Jewish men and women responded to the call for military service in World War II. About 11,000 were killed and more than 40,000 wounded. A higher percentage of Jews than the general American population served. American Jews then comprised 3.3 percent of the population, but 4.23 percent of the U.S. military service

members identified themselves as Jewish.

In WW II, three Jews received the Medal of Honor; 157 received Distinguished Service Medals and Crosses, including Navy Crosses, and over 1,600 were awarded the Silver Star. More than 52,000 other decorations, citations and awards were given to Jewish heroes.

#### Many Jews in European Militaries

Before WW II in Europe, Jews comprised a high proportion of their militaries. In the Austrian-Hungarian, Czarist and Prussian militaries many rose to top positions.

I believe that American Jews quit joining the military after WW II as career and education opportunities opened up. Instead, they became lawyers, doctors and professors. However, affluent non-Jews also developed the same bias against military service, as was evident from the family income level of those who served in Vietnam.

Today, most Jewish parents discourage their sons and daughters from a military career. When others were off fighting the Korean and Vietnam wars, Jewish boys were getting college educations and deferments. Perhaps this is one reason people see Jews as money grubbers and unpatriotic, or believe that Jews aren't giving back or contributing to America. This is ironic given that Jews tend to be at the forefront of philanthropic activities. Nonetheless, giving money isn't the same as dying for your country.

Today in the United States, without a draft or compulsory service as in many European countries and Israel, the percentage of Jews serving in the military is very low. According to

U.S. Department of Defense statistics, as of October 2009, just 4,677 of 1.4 million in the active military identified themselves as Jews.

According to the Jewish Welfare Board's Jewish Chaplains Council, there are 10,000 to 14,000 Jews in all branches of the military. The Jewish Soldier Foundation claims there are about 1,500 self-identified Jews out of some 500,000 active personnel in the largest branch, the U.S. Army. The number of Jews in the Reserves is unknown.

#### Numbers May Be Higher

The number of Jews who have served or are currently serving is likely higher than these statistics show. Many Jews do not publicly state their religion, especially in the military, where being Jewish can be a source of pressure or conflict in close-quarter living.

The National Museum of American Jewish Military History indicates 44 Jewish servicemen and women had died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as of July 2011. About one-third had not registered as Jews, and their religion only became apparent after their deaths. There may thus be a lot more Jews in the military than previously assumed.

There are other reasons that make joining the military unattractive for Jews. Observant Jews find it difficult to obtain kosher food and observe the Shabbat. There are also pressures from evangelical Christians and chaplains. The military has a zero-tolerance policy toward racism and has striven to provide institutional support for the needs of Jewish soldiers, but Jews in the military still face instances of anti-Semitism, as I did.

## Davening in Berlin

### Mark Berch

Recently, Mona and I and Sharon Brown joined a Jewish Heritage tour of Berlin, which was an extraordinary experience. On Friday evening, we trooped over to the Orthodox Joachimsthaler Strasse synagogue (which began in 1903 as a Bnai Brith lodge). Services started almost imperceptibly with the *Minchah Ashrei*, followed by an *Amidah*, which curiously did not have a repetition.

The *Kaballat Shabbat* service came to a halt just before *L'kha Dodi*. A few men gathered in front to dance, which lasted a good 15 minutes. It was a simple in-and-out dance, slowly circling, done to *niggunim*. Now, I don't dance in shul, at all. But to dance on Shabbat, as a free Jew, in Berlin, in the heart of what was once so evil, was an irresistible opportunity. It was one of the most meaningful religious experiences I have ever had, and the highlight moment of the entire trip.

The service then resumed and was fairly similar to what we do at TI,

except that where we do one *Kaddish*, they do two, separated by a prayer I did not recognize. All was in a purely Ashkenazi pronunciation with a "Yiddish" inflection (e.g. *Toyruh* rather than *Torah*). After the service, most of the people went upstairs for a leisurely Shabbos dinner. This they do every Friday evening, and apparently it's an important community function.

Saturday morning we walked over to the Pestalozzi Strasse synagogue, home to the first Jewish services after the war in the summer of 1945. The synagogue was rededicated in 1947. The rabbi immediately spotted us as tourists and hastened to tell us how the shul operated, and that they used the melodies of Louis Lewandowski. The shul is called "Liberal" but it includes Orthodox, Reform and Conservative elements.

There was separate seating, women on the sides, and no woman was on the *bimah* in any ritual role. But they had an organ and mixed choir, and

the cantor recited the entire service without much audience chiming in, thus giving it something of a Reform tone. However, the *Amidah* was done with repetition, *Musaf* was included, and there was virtually no vernacular used, none of which are normal Reform practices. And the whole service was tied together with the Lewandowski melodies.

The service, while quite familiar, was similar to nothing you'd experience here, and we even *davened* from a *siddur* that they themselves created in 1997. Some practices are different from ours. Those called to the Torah stand directly in front of the open Torah, rather than to the side, and only a part of the *parashah* is read. The congregation stands for *Shema* and *Ashrei*.

Both synagogues were splendid and beautiful buildings, albeit built for much larger communities than present today. Both are entered via an inconspicuous street entrance,

*(Continued on page 15)*

## A Grandmother Reminisces

*TI is known for welcoming small children. When her grandson, Eli Spector, was recently accepted to college, Dana Neimark looked back on his early years at TI, and shared the following reminiscence:*

Eli Spector, whose parents are Rebecca Neimark, and Lee Spector, began attending TI Shabbat services regularly at age eight months with Sheridan and me during his father's sabbatical in Maryland. Congregants of a certain vintage remember Eli, in the early months of his Shabbat participation, quietly making his way down the sanctuary aisle on all fours into a welcoming lap for a morning Shabbos nap. Madeline Nesse z"l

was a favorite choice for his sanctuary respite.

Jeremy Goldberg z"l would march with Eli hoisted and hosted on his shoulders in the procession behind the congregant marching with the Torah. Carrying out his floor gabbai responsibilities, Jerry would walk backward in the Wolman Sanctuary aisles, Eli facing him with Eli's feet on his, and holding Eli's hands. And Jerry would carry Eli onto the *bimah* when he supervised the dressing and returning of the Torah to the ark.

Following the kiddush repast, Eli would find his way into the well of the Cherner, where he would play,

delightedly engaged, entertained and watched over by Alex and Natan Seidel, David Bardack, and other lovely TI youngsters, who are now, like Eli, young adults.

About a year or so after the Spector-Neimark family's return from sabbatical to their home in Massachusetts, when Eil was almost three years old, a return trip to Maryland was planned. Eli's father, Lee, told Eli that during that trip he would take Eli to visit the National Zoo. Eli reflected momentarily, and then responded, "Well, I think rather it would be better to visit Tifereth Israel Synagogue."

## News from the Goettingen Congregation

Naomi Revzin

In November, the Goettingen, Germany congregation marked the November 9 anniversary of *Kristalnacht* at its Kabbalat Shabbat. The remembrance was held at the Goettingen Memorial, which is where the Goettingen Synagogue stood before it was destroyed. The theme was "Continuing as if Nothing had Happened." Students and the Otto-Hahn Gymnasium's choir participated.

This year the students have been studying the history of Goettingen University (which is celebrating its 275th anniversary), including the

1933 dismissal of its Jewish scientists.

The Goettingen Gemeinde (community) continues to celebrate its new Ark, dedicated on Rosh Hashanah. The exterior minimalist design complements the synagogue's historical past. The ark's doors, which feature the Ten Commandments, and its interior are constructed from genuine Lebanese cedar. In contrast, the ark's interior is as rich as the exterior is simple -- visually expressing the idea that most precious is how we express our inner thoughts and what we do, not

exterior superficialities. Work also continues on the landscaping and the decorative fencing that surrounds the grounds, and setting cement in the courtyard has begun. (Finishing the courtyard will make it easier for cars to park near the Center.)

In November, the region's rabbi, Dr. Henry Brandt, 2011 recipient of the Edith Stein Prize, was featured in an interdenominational discussion on the current circumcision debate. Also in November, the community sponsored a lecture, "The Magic of the Hebrew Letters," by Liudmilkla Surewitsch.

### Davening in Berlin (continued)

where you pass through security to a courtyard, and then to the shul itself. Neither shul apparently has an actual name beyond the street's name. Berlin has many functioning

synagogues. There are several other Orthodox shuls (including a Sefardi, a Chabad and haredi), and Conservative and Liberal communities. That Jewish life has

again taken hold in Berlin is a marvel, and to be able to *daven* there, even for just a weekend, was a true privilege.

## Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

### January 4

David & Laurel Rabin  
Glenn Rapoport  
Laura Rappaport  
Jacqueline Ratner  
Marisol Ravicz & David Rapier  
Andrew Reamer  
Sanford & Shelley Reback  
Naomi Reem  
Jay Renbaum & Shannah Koss  
Arnold & Naomi Revzin  
Ruth Reynolds  
Howard Riker & Danielle Glosser  
Morris & Judy Rodenstein  
Joseph Rofrano & Lynn  
Golub-Rofrano  
Charles Rombro & Pamela  
Stone  
Elliot Rosen & Sharon Cohen  
Jerome & Shirley Rosenberg  
Aviel Roshwald & Alene Moyer  
Ari Roth & Kate Schecter  
Nancy Roth  
Marc Rothenberg & Ivy Baer

### January 18

Robert Rovinsky & Renana  
Brooks  
Steve & Shannon Rozner  
David & Stephanie Rubin  
Howard & Hannah Rubin  
Mark & Diann Saltman  
Lawrence & Pearl Schainker  
Eric & Shira Schechtman  
Michael & Mical Schneider  
Mark Schneiderman & Tanya  
Alteras  
Keith Secular & Susan Catler  
Rob & Deborah Seidner  
Paul Seltman & Jeanne Ireland  
Hershel & Judith Shanks  
Phillip & Ruth Shapiro  
Yvonne Shashoua  
Bernard & Debra Shleien  
Nathaniel Shyovitz

### February 1

Morton Simon  
Daniel and Barbara Singer  
David & Rona Siskind  
Audrey Smith  
Aaron & Reva Snow  
Jeffrey & Marcine Snyder  
Dan & Elizabeth Sokolov  
Frank Solomon & Laurie Russell  
Louis & Madge Lee Specter  
Phil & Dianne Spellberg  
Masha Spiegel  
Barry & Sari Siegel Spieler  
Gregory Stackel & Genevieve Dara  
Sapir  
Jeffrey & Julie Steinberg  
Lois C. Steinberg  
Jack Stone & Wilma Brier  
Herman & Malka Stopak  
Noam Stopak & Shelley Sturman  
Alexander & Laura Strashny  
Edwin Stromberg & Rose Ellen  
Halper

## Danish and Dutch Jews During World War II

David Levy

I visited Denmark and Holland a few months ago while doing research for a biography I am writing about a American artist who lived on a houseboat in downtown Amsterdam before his death in 1986. I visited the great Jewish Synagogue in Copenhagen, two synagogues in Amsterdam, and the Jewish Museum in Amsterdam. The great Jewish synagogue was of interest because I knew that the Danes had saved most of their Jewish population in World War II. But I wondered why.

### Danes First, Jews Second

People explained that over the centuries Danish Jews had come to be seen as people who were not only commercially savvy, but also had a respect for education and a growing interest in culture and politics. They intermarried with Danes, and became assimilated. They were saved because they were considered to be Danes first and Jews second.

Key Danish officials received word in 1943 that the Nazis were going to round up the Jews of Denmark and ship them off to a concentration camp. The Jews were alerted and brought to the water's edge, and placed in boats that took them across the bay to Sweden. Almost all of Denmark's 8,000 Jews were saved this way. Fewer than a hundred were arrested and 11 sent to Theresienstadt.

### Did the King Wear a Yellow Star?

Denmark's King Christian X stayed in Denmark during the war, but there is no substantiation that he wore a yellow star similar to yellow stars that Jews had to wear in other countries. The yellow star never likely reached Denmark. But it definitely mattered that the King and his people saw Jews as Danish first and Jews

second. It was also significant that Sweden can be seen clearly from Denmark and is less than a mile away.

Today, synagogues in Europe are well guarded. There was a great iron fence around the Orthodox synagogue in Copenhagen, and I was told that only a few days before I visited there a bomb had gone off at a synagogue in Sweden.

I attended services on a Saturday morning at the great Portuguese Synagogue in central Amsterdam. It is Orthodox, so the service was entirely in Hebrew. There I met Jews from various countries in Europe and Africa. It is called the Portuguese Synagogue because many Jews expelled from Spain in 1492 went to Portugal, and later emigrated to Holland. When war broke out in the 1500's between Holland and Spain, the Jews adopted the name "Portuguese Synagogue" so as not to be identified with Spain.

### Different Outcome for Dutch Jews

Why weren't the Dutch Jews also saved and taken by boat to Sweden? This was a burning question of mine. It was explained that Sweden was much farther from Holland, so boats could not so easily be used. And although many righteous Christians hid Jews, there was not quite the same feeling of Jews being Dutch as Danish Jews had been considered Danish.

Also, Christian X stayed in Denmark, but Holland's Queen Wilhelmina escaped to England. She reportedly regretted leaving Holland, and wanted to return, but the situation had become too dangerous. Wilhelmina and her aides led the anti-Nazi war effort for their people from London.

The Nazis destroyed or damaged many synagogues, starting with *Kristallnacht*, but did not touch the Portuguese Synagogue. I was told they admired the synagogue, and at one point used it as a staging area for deporting Jews. We know that the Nazis loved great art, and shipped many art works to Germany.

### A Splendid Building

The Portuguese Synagogue is indeed splendid: a great, massive hall, high ceilings, rectangular in design, with many windows, and wooden pews. The Portuguese Synagogue and the Jewish Museum are both downtown near the Amstel River.

When city officials proposed to build an opera house downtown, some people protested because it had been part of the Jewish quarter. But the opera house was built anyway. There are plaques in the area that indicate that this had once been part of the Jewish quarter.

### Havdalah Potluck

Now that the days are short, please join in the warmth and light of our first family *havdalah* potluck event of the year on **January 5**, at 5:00 p.m., at the home of Jennifer and Josh Kefer, 9309 Friars Road, Bethesda, Maryland.

Bring a kosher dairy or vegetarian dish, enough for 8 people to share. RSVP to 301-588-8142 or Jenniferkefer@yahoo.com.

Save the dates for later *havdalah* potluck events: **February 9** and **March 2**.

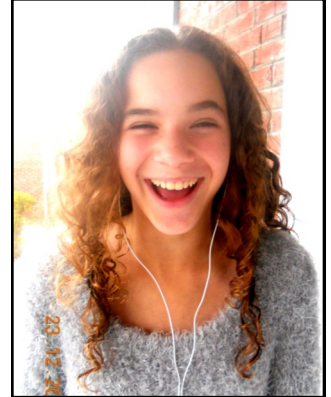


## Bat Mitzvah

Why, hello there! My name is **Allegra Levone**. I am a 12-year-old 7th grader at Silver Spring International Middle School (also known as SSIMS). My bat-mitzvah date is January 12, 2013, and my *parashah* is *Va'era*. My bat mitzvah is on Rosh Hodesh!

I play softball and do art, especially pottery. I am (unfortunately) moving to Brazil a week after my bat mitzvah. In my free time, I play with my siblings, listen to music or hang out with friends. Or all three!

I hope to see you at my bat mitzvah!



## January Highlights at Tifereth Israel

January 5	Kadima Saturday Night Live
January 6	USY Ice Skating
January 7, 14, 21, 28	Monday Learning <i>Parashat HaShavuah</i> , 11 a.m. Job Club, 1 p.m.
January 12	SHALEM, Loretta Saks on Italian Jews During the Shoah
January 12	PJ Havdalah, Grades K-2 and Parents
January 12	USY Formal
January 19	Social Action Shabbaton
January 20	Family Mitzvah Day
January 22	Kol Nashim Book Club, Marcia Goldberg's home
January 25	Community Tu B'Shvat Seder

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Judy Miller Tulchin  
Larry Schainker  
Bill & Miriam Galston's 1<sup>st</sup> grandson  
Carl Bergman  
Laura Rappaport  
Alice Burton

#### In Memory of

Bernard Rubinstein  
Bernard Rubinstein  
Beverly Hartstein  
Phyllis Warren  
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#### In Honor of

Mitzvah Knitters  
Ava Elizabeth Firschein  
Ava Elizabeth Firschein  
Martin Kessel

#### In Memory of

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