



# The Menorah

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## President's Column: Jeff Davidson Four Pathways to Spiritual Renewal

Many of us have been hearing about *Jewish Megatrends; Charting the Course of the American Jewish Future*. It is edited by noted local rabbi and social entrepreneur, R. Sidney Schwarz, and features an introduction by former TI member, Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat.

It includes 15 essays on a variety of topics by such luminaries as Rabbis Joy Levitt, Or Rose and Sharon Brous, and thinkers like Barry Chazan, Sandy Cardin and Wayne Firestone. Our member, Rabbi Jason Kimelman-Block, is thanked in the preface for his thoughtful reading and feedback.

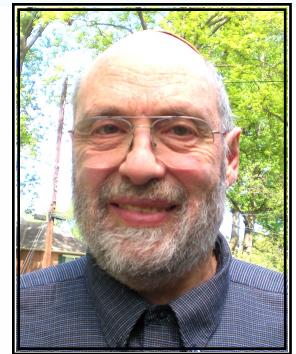
I have been reading this book, which I have found to be quite stimulating, and would like to discuss the title essay, written by Rabbi Schwarz.

In his essay, Rabbi Schwarz uses his personal and family history to explore trends in American Jewish life. Following great touchstone events such as the aftermath of the Shoah, the birth of the State of Israel, the Six-Day War, the raid on Entebbe and especially the triumph of the 1987 Rally for Soviet Jewry, Schwarz wonders, in his words, "how Israel has become a badly tarnished brand."

### Tribal and Covenantal Jews

With this as a pivot point, he divides the world of American Jewry into two large groups, tribal Jews and covenantal Jews. Tribal Jews have a strong affinity for the State of Israel as the embodiment of Jewish survival and collective aspirations. These Jews have a strong sense of group identification and self-interest. By contrast, covenantal Jews identify most with a sense of the Jewish spiritual heritage,

incorporating such values as justice, protection of the vulnerable, human dignity and compassion. Although Schwarz calls them covenantal Jews, the essential link is not to a theological, covenant-based relationship, but rather to matters of principle.



### Different World Views at TI, Too

As part of my service to the Synagogue, I was sometimes asked to deal with disputes over the list serve. Most often these disputes were about postings on Israel and people became quite impassioned. The explanation in this book (my short discussion probably does not do it justice) goes a long way in explaining how these world views are somewhat incompatible. Personally, I am glad that we have a mixture of views in the congregation, much as we do in my immediate family.

Schwarz goes further in his analysis of contemporary American Jewish life and posits us in a state of crisis. To ameliorate this crisis, he proposes four propositions, or pathways, for a renewal of American Jewish spirituality. One can argue whether the situation is so dire, but that would be another essay. His four pathways are: Wisdom, or *Hokhmah*; Social Justice, or, *Tzedek*; Community, or *Kehillah*; and Lives of Sacred Purpose, or *Kedushah*.

(Continued on page 2)



## President's Column (continued)

*Hokhmah* can be seen as a synergistic effort to blend the wisdom of our rich heritage to the wisdom and learning contained in other faith traditions as well as contemporary culture. Post-tribal Jews, as Schwarz posits, eagerly learn from other cultures and access the rich panoply of teachings available on the Web and other resources.

At TI, we have studied the Christian Gospels and have learned with our Muslim neighbors about their traditions, but the emphasis is on our own rich and complex texts and learning. Study groups and formal and informal classes demonstrate our willingness to do the hard work that *Hokhmah* entails.

In defining *Tzedek*, Schwarz advances the proposition that the world is going to Hell and Jews need to find more ways to cure these conditions. Our rich tradition of

*Tzedek* at TI presents itself in our traditional social action projects, which focus on both our own insular community as well as the larger communities that we live in. Is there any type of generation gap when it comes to our social action projects?

At TI, we have a true sense of *Kehillah*. We demonstrate our care for one another in any number of both informal and formal ways. TI members do not have to bowl alone, unless they are determined to seek solitude.

Schwarz is at his weakest when he discusses such trends as co-housing (with all due respect for our friends who have established homes through this movement) as Jewish institutional approaches to *Kehillah*. It seems close to the "synagogue of what is happening now."

Finally, the idea of *Kedushah* is important to many of our members. It is how we strive to live our lives. Schwarz is at his best in this section, pointing to the success of market-based alternatives, such as JDate to provide elements of a life of *Kedushah*. His discussion of the Birthright program is provocative as he wonders what programs are no longer being supported because the kids will go on Birthright trips.

There is much to discuss in both the essay and the book as a whole. I commend it to all who are interested in where American Jewry finds itself and where it might be going.

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*Appointments are recommended.*)

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**Rabbi Emeritus:** A. Nathan Abramowitz, ext. 106  
**President:** Joel Cohen  
**Executive Director:** David Zinner, ext. 103  
**Administrator:** Sheri Blonder, ext. 101  
**Lifelong Learning Director:** Eitan Gutin, ext. 105  
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*Tifereth Israel is a traditional egalitarian congregation affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism*

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## Caregivers Support Group

Are you helping to care for an elderly or sick friend or relative?

Would you like to chat with others in similar circumstances?

Join Rabbi Seidel's support group for caregivers. It next meets on Sunday July 14 at 10:15 a.m.

## New Members

### Jared Garelick

The hot and slower-paced days of a Washington summer are here. The b'nei mitzvah season is over. Many people are away on vacation on any given week. Many of TI's kids are at camp, be it Ramah (the choice of this correspondent's family), Mosh, Capital, Swampy, or other.

Some weeks, even the Rabbi is away. Shabbat services tend to be a little quieter, and can be very relaxing, which is what Shabbat is supposed to be anyway. If you attend, it will be easy to spot some unfamiliar faces.

This is the time of year unaffiliated people who want to join a synagogue before the High Holidays are shul-shopping. Give our visitors a friendly greeting, and invite them to sit down to chat at Kiddush. You might help someone decide to join TI.

And if you know someone who might be shul-shopping, invite them to TI. The holidays are especially early this year, so the time for finding a synagogue before Rosh Hashanah is short.

#### Steven and Shannon Rozner

Steve and Shannon have lived in the Washington area for several years. Steve is an economist who does international development work, specializing in public finance and public policy. He works for a contractor that does projects for the World Bank.

Shannon is an attorney with a government financial regulatory agency. Their son, Benjamin, has enjoyed his first year at TI's Himmelfarb School. Although Steve's job involves lots of international travel all over the world, the family also enjoys traveling together for fun.

#### Shana and David Jacobs

Shana and David have lived in the Washington area for around ten years. Shana is originally from New York, and David grew up in northern New Jersey and then Boston.

Both are doctors, and they met while attending NYU's medical school. Shana is a pediatric oncologist who practices at Children's Hospital. David is an emergency room doctor at Reston Hospital.

The Jacobs have a daughter, **Briana**, who is eight, and a son, **Zachary**, seven. They learned about TI from their neighbors, Lynne Snyder and Steve Garber, as well as from Jennifer and Alex Laufer – David went to high school with Alex.

Welcome to this month's featured new members, new friends as well as old!

### **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



## Officers, Directors & Trustees Elected, Dues Approved at Annual Meeting, May 29

At the annual meeting of the congregation on May 29, 2013, the following officers were elected to two-year terms:

Jeff Davidson, President  
Ray Natter, Administrative VP  
Debbie Pomerance,  
Communications VP  
Daniel Turner, Development VP  
Chris Zeilinger, Financial VP  
Joe Davidson, Governance VP  
Mark Verschell, House VP  
Cynthia Peterman, Lifelong Learning VP  
Ruth (Philip) Shapiro, Membership VP  
Stephanie Roodman Murdock,  
Recording Secretary  
Wilhelmina Gottschalk, Ritual VP  
Larry Baizer, Social Action VP  
Joel Cohen, Immediate Past President

The following directors were elected to the board for three-year terms ending in 2016:

Susan Catler  
Lisa Goldberg

Morris Rodenstein  
Howard Riker

Incumbent directors who continue to serve on the board for terms ending in 2014:

Margie Odle  
Vivian Seidner  
Varda Fink

Incumbent directors who continue to serve on the board for terms ending in 2015:

Andrew Reamer  
Joanne Hovis  
Jeffrey Colman  
Sharon Brown

The congregation also elected Cemetery Trustees and Building Preservation Fund Trustees (who are not officers or board members):

Cemetery Trustees:

Carl Bergman  
Rabbi Bob Saks  
Sheryl Gross-Glaser  
Audrey Smith

Building Preservation Fund Trustees:

George Greenberg  
Hilary Sachs  
Anita Kramer

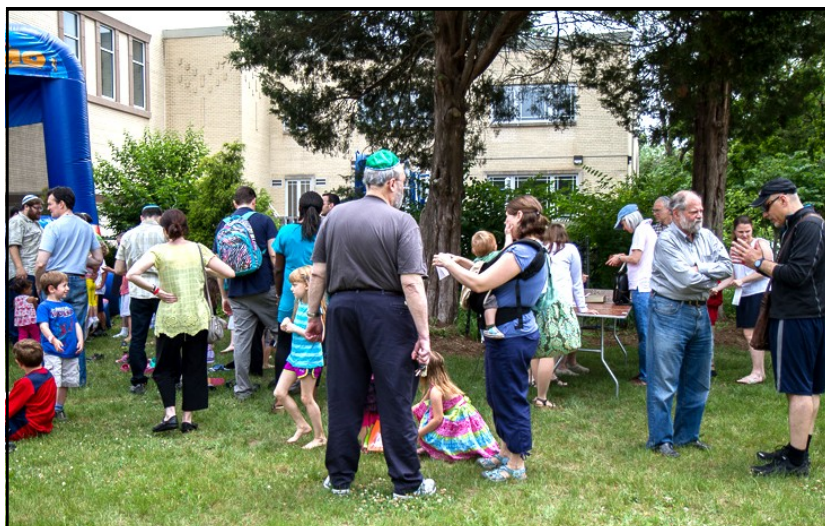
In addition, the congregation approved a dues increase. 2013-2014 dues for a two-adult household will now be \$2,290. Dues for a single member will be \$1,145.

These new dues levels include both a small percentage increase over 2012-2013 dues **and** a portion of the cost of High Holiday tickets. High Holiday ticket prices have been accordingly reduced to \$184 for adult members.

Over the course of a few years the cost of High Holiday tickets will be shifted to dues charges. Eventually there will be no separate charge for High Holiday tickets.

Finally, the congregation approved changes to TI's Articles of Incorporation to comply with DC law.

## End of Year Himmelfarb School Picnic, June 9



## Adult Education

Jessica Weissman

Welcome to a new year of Adult Education programs. Cynthia Peterman recently passed the chair of the committee to me, and I look forward to working with the Adult Education Committee and with Jeff Davidson to bring you an array of programs and classes and events. If you'd like to join the committee please contact me. Or just come to a meeting.

We will continue many of the programs that we have offered for years, such as the SHALEM series of Shabbat after-kiddush talks and our annual day trip. We are also planning new activities, some in conjunction with the Israel Committee. Stay tuned.

### SHALEM

Once a month a speaker, almost always a TI member, presents a

short talk, followed by audience discussion. How is this different from a drash? The range of possible topics is wider, there is time for a longer presentation, and audience members who want to comment don't have to use a mike.

But seriously, folks, If you'd like to give an informational talk on a topic of Jewish interest please contact me. Or suggest other people you think would make good speakers.

### Annual Spring Road Trip

Are you on the bus or off the bus? This spring we toured the Jewish Museum of Maryland in Baltimore. Last year we toured Jewish Richmond. Where will go this coming spring? Send your suggestions to me.

### National Archives Exhibit

The Jews of Iraq have a rich past, extending back to Babylonia. During the Iraq war US forces rescued a trove of Jewish material documenting this long history. Much of the material will be on exhibit at the National Archives starting in mid-October.

We are planning a tour of the exhibit sometime in the fall. Date to be determined.

### Focus Groups

What do TI'ers really want in terms of adult education? The committee could guess, but we plan to hold focus groups so you can tell us. Precise plans are forming, but you can be sure we will make it worth your while to attend.

If you have program ideas or suggestions don't wait for the focus groups. Please send them to me, or catch me at Kiddush.

## Library News

Michele Sumka

We have expanded our World History collection with the donation by Mr. Ben Varon of the 18-volume set of Salo Baron's *The Social and Religious History of the Jews*. It is for reference only and not to be circulated.

Although I wasn't familiar with Baron's history, I've now had a chance to look at it, albeit quickly. It looks like a readable and interesting study of Jewish life that emphasizes the relationship of Jews with the history of the times and cultures in which they lived.

Louise Kelley, Pearl Schainker and Beth Naftalin have helped to enter over 100 books which we have recently acquired. These books are

on the New Acquisitions shelves in the lobby outside the Emsellem Room.

They include history, memoirs, fiction, and short stories about Jews in America, Austria, Britain, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, North Africa, Portugal, Poland, Russia, South Africa, and Spain, in the periods of the Renaissance and Reformation, the Expulsion from Spain, up to modern times.

There are also books on God, Prayer, Spirituality, Hasidism, Comparative Religion, Cooking, Poetry, and a few Young Adult titles.

Please check them out!

### Mitzvah Knitting and Crocheting

Mitzvah Knitting and Crocheting will NOT take place in July and August. When we return in September, we invite all yarners and threaders to join us--doing any craft work on which you are working. We also invite anyone who wants to come and just schmooze during our 7 to 9 p.m. timeframe.

We have been meeting the second Tuesday of each month but we are open to suggestions for changing that time. Contact [Andrea Kline](mailto:Andrea.Kline@andreakline@yahoo.com) at [andreakline@yahoo.com](mailto:andreakline@yahoo.com)

## Social Action at TI: Stephen Nelson New VP Wants to Expand Program



Lawrence (Larry) Baizer is a relatively new member of Tifereth Israel, having joined just two years ago. But on June 1, Larry became the new Vice President for Social Action, succeeding Deena Dugan. And he's already thinking of new directions for the program.

Baizer, who has lived in the Washington area for about 10 years, discovered TI through a strong network of congregation members who work at the National Institutes of Health. A health science administrator at NIH, he coordinates clinical trials for cancer treatments. He learned of TI's dedication to social action from many of his colleagues.

In his early days at TI, he volunteered for the Martha's Table van run, coordinated by Gene Herman, and as he says, "the rest is history." But he's no newcomer to social action. Earlier, as a scientist at the Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, he got involved in many social action projects, some through the Jewish community, and others generally. Larry says that "Portland is very

supportive of the homeless community," noting that many families, including his own, got involved in a variety of projects.

In addition to continuing the Social Action Committee's existing programs relating to hunger, shelter, and education, Larry hopes to expand their reach. One early initiative was an effort to work with the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB) to organize the distribution of groceries to various outlets. While the initial effort was postponed due to a lack of sufficient food at CAFB, the initiative quickly turned into a successful food drive at TI. He is continuing to look for ways to work with CAFB.

Baizer also would like to expand TI's social action activities into Maryland, where many of the congregation's members live. "The demographics of the region are changing," says Baizer, "and we're finding many pockets in the suburbs where services are needed."

One possibility is further cooperation with Jews United for Justice, which has been active in a variety of

advocacy activities, including raising the minimum wage in Maryland, and providing sick leave for restaurant workers in D.C. While recognizing that TI historically has focused on direct social action, he says that advocacy on behalf of the disadvantaged not only helps accomplish a great deal of change, "but is a way to galvanize many of our younger members."

In addition, Baizer hopes to expand some of TI's traditional social action projects. He would like to renew TI's relationship with Yachad in the Sukkot in April program, which was discontinued for economic and organizational reasons. And he is concentrating on recruiting some additional coordinators for the Holiday luncheon program (the largest yearly TI Social Action project), in which more than 100 volunteers participate in providing Christmas meals to the homeless at four different shelters in D.C.

## Towels for Shepherd's Table

Andrea Kline

Along with other TI members, I am a Shepherd's Table volunteer (my title is Monday Morning Chopper). We have a shower program so we need bath towels or beach towels.

Don't worry about the condition. If they are in bad condition, we will cut them up for kitchen towels or rags, which get a lot of use and are washed and reused.

Old hand towels, kitchen towels and wash cloths are also needed. You can contribute new ones (you can buy a package of eight wash cloths at Target for only \$3.50) or used ones in any condition (kitchen rags again).

I will be glad to take your towels and wash cloths to Shepherd's Table. Just let me know, at [andreakline@yahoo.com](mailto:andreakline@yahoo.com), and I will arrange the pick-up/exchange.

## Social Action Meeting

The next meeting of the Social Action Committee will be **Wednesday, July 10**, 7.30 p.m., at Gene and Esther Herman's home.

Issues for discussion: fall 2013 preparation, including food package delivery, Yom Kippur *Tzedakah* and project confirmation. Other topics: new projects and social action honorees.



## The Secret to Happiness, Israeli Style

Frank Solomon

When I was working in Brussels, my Belgian girlfriend used to rush home to Flanders on Friday. When I was stationed near Cologne, my German girlfriend would take the nearly two-hour train back home to Stuttgart on Friday. When I served in Ulster, my platoon leader would do his best to skip town on Fridays, taking a 12-hour train and ferry ride to be with his parents in London for just a few hours before returning to the barracks the next evening.

Despite the long journeys, they seemed happy and content when Friday came, with dinner at home in mind.

These days, I rarely see non-Jewish colleagues and acquaintances rushing home for dinner on Friday night. Most seem eager to go anywhere but home. Most look forward to some “fun and relaxation,” not necessarily happiness and contentment.

### Israelis are Happier

A recent international survey showed that Israelis, compared with other peoples in the West, are very happy and content. How can citizens of a tiny, embattled nation, surrounded by enemies, targeted by boycotts, officially and unofficially loathed by a major portion of the world, with compulsory army service, where wars and battles take place almost every few years, where complaining about the “situation” is a national pastime, feel so happy and content?

Ben Shahaar, a world expert on happiness, believes that the top predictor of happiness is spending time with people we care about and who care about us. With Israel being so geographically small, little stands between Israelis and their close

friends and family. Friday night dinners with extended family are a matter of course, even for the non-religious, the young and the hip.

In the typical Israeli community, there are a lot of people who care—friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, the guy who runs the corner store. They often seem too close and in your face, but perhaps it’s a good thing in the long run; human connection is good even when it is annoying. Contact prevents isolation, which seems to be a leading cause of unhappiness.

The fact that Israel has so many enemies, is so hated and so small, and faces constant existential risk of being wiped out may also have some advantages. It gives Israelis a real good perspective on what is important in life.

Something significant in Jewish culture that we in America have lost is the Shabbat dinner with family and friends. My years in Europe made me realize that the French, Belgians, British and Mediterranean peoples—Jews and non-Jews alike—almost always have family dinners on Friday evening, and often with friends.

### Shabbat Dinner is a Firewall

Jews do this Friday night dinner thing with a religious flavor. That sort of intimacy with family and friends, week after week, builds up a firewall that keeps happiness within and unhappiness without. Abraham Joshua Heschel extolled the Shabbat dinner as if it were the epitome in human experience in his book “The Sabbath.”

Non-Jews in America also used to have this kind of family gathering when sons and daughters stayed

around town, when it was an agrarian society and not as mobile as it is today, when we are far from immediate family and relatives.

This tradition of frequent family gatherings has been lost; in its place is the quarterly or yearly cookout, where a huge crowd gathers and drinks, with loud music blaring and with most of the men glued to the TV’s football games.

The closeness of sitting together around the same table seems to have been replaced by never-ending activity and, ironically, isolation. What the non-Jewish world has substituted is a multi-entertainment form of non-sit-down dinner, complete with TV, iPads, and cell phones, as if the word “sit-down” dinner is too stuffy, too formal and too uncomfortable even for parents.

### Jews Abandoning Shabbat Dinner

The Shabbat dinner tradition is layered with “non-worldly” eating, drinking and discussions in the context of honoring God and sanctifying life, without the eternally murmuring TV and electronic gadgets. As society becomes so materialistic, commercialized and fast, with so many distractions, even Jews find it difficult to keep this tradition. Today, many Jews find coming home to have Shabbat dinner with families and friends a meaningless anachronism.

Judaism has a lot to offer in the name of religion and traditions. It has thousands of different ways to celebrate the weekend, cook, clean, and celebrate life cycle events. We keep up a culture of study, family closeness, a sense of awe, and the ability to engage in mental exercises.

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Kol Nashim

Margie Odle



As of June 1, I moved to the "previous president" position on the Kol Nashim Board. I want to thank all the KN board members for all their hard work and friendship during the last two years. We've had lots of fun working together, planning and implementing a variety of programs for TI women and the community as a whole.

We thank Paula Flicker, Shirley Rosenberg, and Carla Ellern for the ideas and energy they brought to the KN Board. We welcome Sharon Brown, Loretta Saks, and Ruth Shapiro who are joining the Board. Continuing Board members include Lisa Kraft, Esther Herman, Adele Natter, Debbie Pomerance and our new president, Pearl Schainker.

We are currently in the process of planning programs for the coming year. If you have suggestions, or have any questions, please contact

anyone on the Board. Your ideas (and hands) are welcome!

We want to thank Jessica Weissman for her "Challahs around the World" program on June 2. The results were just delicious. Here is a link to the recipes: [www.tifisr.org/recipeschallah](http://www.tifisr.org/recipeschallah). Based on the success of this program, KN is likely to sponsor another baking session this coming year.

### Summer Doings

KN will sponsor a networking get-together on Sunday, July 28, 4-6 p.m., at Paula Flicker's home. Drinks and snacks will be served. Come meet other TI women to connect, network, and schmooze -- and find out more about each other and KN. RSVP at [KNSalon@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:KNSalon@tifereth-israel.org).

The book club has changed its next meeting, because of Tisha B'Av, from July 16 to July 23. The meeting will be at the home of Jessica Weissman and Louise Kelley. We will read *My Russian Grandmother and Her American Vacuum*, a memoir by Meir Shalev. The August meeting will be Tuesday, August 20. The book is *Second Person Singular*, by Sayeed Kashua. The book club will not meet in September.

Don't forget to renew your *Washington Jewish Week* subscription through the TI office. KN gets a small amount for each subscription renewed through the office.

## The Secret to Happiness, Israeli Style (continued)

No other people or culture has come even close.

The Chinese are great understudies and imitators, and they make great Chinese food. The Indians make great merchants, doctors and engineers. However, neither of these nations, or, for that matter, any nation with an ancient culture and history, offers the beauty and meaning of celebrating life with a weekly ritual, living happily and with contentment, where fathers and sons, mothers and daughters sing and argue lovingly as the Shabbat candles flicker.

Maybe that's why the Greeks or the Syrians thought Jews were such a "strange," "different" people.

### Major Differences Between Christians and Jews

Rabbi Seidel once said: Most people think the only difference between Christians (and by extension other religions and cultures) and Jews is that Jews don't believe in Jesus, but aside from the fundamentally different theological differences, Jews and Christians differ in their outlook, lifestyle, traditions, values, life-cycle events, priorities, you name it.

We may wear the same kinds of clothes, but our minds and that spark in our hearts are as different as the words "Jews" and "Christians." We don't approach life in the same way.

As much as many tout the "Judaean-Christian culture" to refer to Western values, few explore how different Jews are from Christians, and how different their cultures are.

A small example is that we cover our heads when we enter a holy place. Christians take off their hats when they enter a holy place. That is symptomatic of opposite thinking and opposite ways of approaching life.

I hope we shall keep the tradition of Shabbat dinners with family and friends for millennia to come. Maybe someday we shall be as happy and content as the Israelis.



# Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Barbara Raimondo

## Is There a Doctor in the House?

**Dr. Martin Berger**, son of **Bruce** and **Laurie Berger**, and his wife, **Dr. An'Drea Taylor**, are moving to Hillsborough, NC, and joining medical practices. Dr. Berger has just passed his Board Certification in Family Medicine and Dr. Taylor has just graduated from her psychiatry residence program.

Speaking of multisyllabic words that begin with the letter "p", **Emma Rose Borzekowski**, **Jonah Chazan**, and **Micah Rubin** were all on the winning 13-member team for Puzzlepalooza, a highly contested four-day competition at Montgomery Blair High School during May.

And **Jeremy Steinberg** was elected co-secretary of the Honor Council at Haverford College. The Honor Council is responsible for administering the college's Honor Code. Jeremy is also treasurer of the Jewish Student Union and an Ambassador for Multicultural Affairs.

Child whisperer **Tania Peterman** is now an Assistant Teacher in a child care class. "Miss Tania" is having a great time playing in the block corner and reading stories, but nap time is her favorite. Nap time in the middle of a work day; how cool is that? The **Petermans** are looking forward to celebrating, with the elder Petermans, their 60th wedding anniversary. The elder Petermans', that is.

**Aaron Solomon**, son of **Frank Solomon**, who is going to the University of Maryland-College Park in the fall on a scholarship, won the Second Grand Award in Environmental Management in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix in May. The award came with a \$1,500 prize

and an asteroid named after him, which he is keeping in his closet at home. While studying and residing at the university's Honors College dorm, Aaron plans to continue to work as a studio engineer-film editor-cameraman at the Greenbelt Cable TV Studio and as an intern at the USDA in Beltsville.

In June TI'er **Rona Fields** gave a talk on her book *Against Violence Against Women* at the Women's National Democratic Club.

## The Young and the Graying

**David Silber** and **Eileen Rose** need a calendar app just to keep up with the grandkids. Recently granddaughter **Leah Glicker** celebrated her bat mitzvah, grandson **Brett Harris-Gallahue** received a varsity letter in wrestling from Churchill High School, grandson **Isaac Silber** wrestled as a freshman and will be on the varsity wrestling team at his school in Manhattan in the fall, and grandson **Luke Harris-Gallahue** graduated from Churchill High School and is awaiting induction into the US Marines.

Last but not least, grandchildren **Isaac**, **Sam**, **Rebecca**, and **Talia Silber** will be attending Habonim Dror Galil or Habonim Dror Moshava camps this summer.

**Barbara** and **Howard White** finally got to meet their newest grandchild, **Rivka**, who lives in Jerusalem with her parents and three siblings. Highlights of the trip included walking down the block to pick up 3-year-old **Sruly** from *gan* (nursery school) and visiting the lions, tigers and bears at the Jerusalem zoo. **Orah**, age 14, was preparing for her graduation program and is looking forward to attending high school in the Golan next fall. **Raizel**, who will turn 17 this

summer, was in the middle of taking her standardized subject-matter tests and also had to deal with her draft notice. At the end of their trip, the Whites spent a lovely afternoon with relatives in Ra'anana (near Tel Aviv) before heading to Ben-Gurion airport, where they learned that check-in for their flight was being handled by Balagan Airlines.

## I'll Take One of Each

Baby boy and girl **Strashny** arrived on May 29, along with an asteroid named after older brother **Rafael**, sister **Maya**, and parents **Laura** and **Alexander**. All are doing well.

**Margie Odle** and **Carl Bergman** have yet another wedding coming up in the family. Their daughter, **Sydney**, is engaged to **Sam Anderson**, son of **Eric** and **Mary Ann Anderson** of Machias, New York.

Sydney graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a BA in English and a BS in biology. She also has a MAT from American University. She teaches biology and chairs the science department at DC's School Without Walls Senior High School. Sam, also a Pitt graduate, has a BA in rhetoric. He is a senior manager of the University of Maryland's University College's Help Desk systems where he is a graduate student in UMUC's MLS program. Sydney and Sam met while editors at the Pitt News, Pitt's student newspaper.

**Alan Landay** attended the wedding of his niece, **Dyanna**, on June 1. The wedding and reception were held out doors on the grounds of the Museum of Appalachia in Norris, east Tennessee (near where both Dyanna and Alan grew up).

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Commemorating the Unthinkable

### Simcha Kuritzky

There's a popular saying that a standard Jewish holiday is "They tried to kill us. They failed. Let's eat." Tisha B'Av is the opposite. We Jews have six set fast days. Tisha B'Av is known as the black fast, and, like its companion Yom Kippur, the white fast, lasts 25 hours (the rest are only sunrise to sunset).

Several calamities are associated with Tisha B'Av, but the three main ones are the Babylonian destruction of the First Temple (587 BCE), the Roman destruction of the Second Temple (70 CE), and the expulsion from Spain (1492 CE). The Jewish rebels in the wars against Babylonia and Rome likely thought God would intervene before allowing the Temple to be destroyed; the Jews of Spain were so thoroughly embedded in Spanish society that the expulsion was also a major shock.

#### Tisha B'Av Medals Are Rare

There are very few true commemoratives of these catastrophes. I have found three.

The first was issued by a coin collector's group in Israel in 1961, Israel's bar mitzvah year. The medal has a traditional rendering of Jews

mourning at the "Wailing Wall" and the legend "This night we weep and howl my son," the beginning of a thousand year-old Tisha B'Av hymn. The reverse inscription from Yalkut Shimoni is "Here He [God's Presence] stands behind our wall, behind the western wall of the Temple which will never be destroyed." This medal commemorates both the destruction of the Temple and the loss by Jews of access to the Kotel in 1948.



The Kotel appeared on several coins and medals in 1967 when it was liberated by the IDF. The State of Israel issued a series of holiday medals in 1997 which includes one for Tisha B'Av. It also has Jews



mourning by the Kotel on the obverse, but the reverse has the more positive penultimate line of Lamentations "Renew our days as of old" with a menorah.

The Jewish Heritage Society commissioned a series of commemorative ingots in 1974 for the holidays and life-cycle events which includes Tisha B'Av. This one reproduces an ancient drawing of a Babylonian guard leading Jews away from ruins.



#### Frequent Use of Psalm 137

Psalm 137 contains several famous lines which have appeared on a number of medals which don't directly commemorate the Temple's destruction, but contrast this ancient despair to hope in the present.

For its tenth anniversary in 1892, Rishon LeTziyon colony issued a medal with "If I forget Thee Jerusalem, may my right hand forget me" (137:5) around and a double vignette of Jews praying at the Kotel and a farmer sowing seeds.



The Dutch have made two such medals. The first from a Dutch Zionist organization commemorated

(Continued on page 11)

## Nayes un Mekhayes (continued)

Dyanna's husband, Pramodh, is from India, so the music was like something from Pandora! It was a mix of Appalachian, Indian song and dance, and Israeli folk-dancing. Pramodh's parents travelled from India and his twin brother came from Australia for the event. And they were on Balagon Airlines too, can you believe it! Alan rocked the house with his dulcimer at the reception. The mosh pit was wild.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *inexorable*: "not to be persuaded, moved, or stopped: relentless" (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 an unabashed edition of Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers.

## Commemorating the Unthinkable (continued)

the San Remo Treaty in 1920, and has the same quote around symbols of the twelve tribes and a Magen David with "Zion" in its center. The second came after the 1967 war and has "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" (137:4) around a Magen David with a farmer holding a rifle in its center.



The United Charities of Jerusalem have issued several aluminum medals with the Kotel and Psalm 137:5.



The Babylonians didn't have coins, but the Romans frequently issued contemporary commemoratives. The conquest of Judea was commemorated on coins for several years (it helped that two of the victorious Roman generals became Emperor). One of the best known designs shows a Roman soldier standing by a date palm looking down at a seated, weeping woman and the Latin inscription "Judea captured".



A coin like this was reproduced on Israel's first commemorative medal

issued in 1958 for Israel's tenth anniversary and also on the 1963 Remembrance Day medal with the Legend "Judea Captured 3830." The other side of both medals shows Israel Liberated 5708.



### Commemoration of Masada

A related theme is Masada. Although the Romans burned down Jerusalem in 70, they did not defeat the Jewish rebels at Masada until 73, so in modern times Masada has replaced the destroyed Temple as the symbol of the Roman conquest. Israel issued a medal in 1965 showing the mountain fortress with "We shall remain free men," while the other side shows working people with "Masada shall not fall again."



The Medallic Art Company issued a series of medals for each of Israel's anniversaries, and the medal for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Yom HaAtzmaut shows Jews fighting the Romans with the same motto (although the fight scene makes it look like the Jews won).



A private medal also shows Masada's fortress and the remains of the Roman camp at its base with Psalm 81:9 "O that my people had hearkened unto me."



The last medal I have commemorates the Spanish Expulsion. The obverse shows symbols of famous Spanish Jews and their contributions, while the reverse has "500 years of the Spanish Expulsion" in Hebrew and nearly the same in Spanish. Below in Hebrew and English is "I shall not die but live" (Psalm 118:17).



Turkey issued a commemorative coin in 1992, but its legend talks about 500 years of the Jewish community in Turkey and does not mention why the Jews moved there.

Commemorating losses is unusual, so it is no surprise that there are few medals for Tisha B'Av or the events that occurred then. In fact, neither Thomason's 60-medal Bible nor the Judaic Heritage Society's 120-medal history of the Jews series explicitly mentions any of these catastrophes. However, these events helped shape who we are today, so even 25 centuries after the destruction of the First Temple we still publicly read Lamentations and mourn our losses.



## Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

### July 5

Jonathan Strum  
 Marc Suddleson & Molly Surden  
 Howard & Michele Sumka  
 JT & Naomi Taransky  
 Kassahu Teffera & Melke Mengiste  
 Jevera Temsky  
 Neil & Rachel Tickner  
 Michael Tilchin & Linda Greer  
 David & Anne Crandall Tobenkin  
 Peter & Rhoda Trooboff  
 Paula Tucker  
 Jonathan & Cathy Tuerk  
 Daniel & Allison Turner  
 Michael & Ruth Unterweger  
 Mark Verschell & Elizabeth Leff  
 Sherri Vishner  
 Susan Vitale

### July 12

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  
 Marion Zatz  
 Christopher Zeilinger & Ann Baker  
 Yonannes Zeleke  
 Diana Zurer  
 Ellen Zwieback

### July 19

Barbara Abrams  
 Luis & Karen Acosta

Andrew Afflerbach & Joanne Hovis  
 Seth & Elaine Akst  
 Miriam Alpern  
 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

### July 26

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  
 Leonard Braverman  
 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

### August 2

David & Judy Cohen  
 Ann Cohen  
 David & Elana Cohen  
 Raymond & Rebecca Coleman  
 Jeffrey Colman & Ellen Nissenbaum  
 Nataliya Chernyak Cowen  
 Tamir & Rebecca Damari  
 Merry Danaceau  
 Jeffrey & Miriam Davidson  
 Joe & Kathy Davidson  
 Ronni Davis  
 Adam Diamond & Rabbi Jane  
 Berman  
 Helen Disenhaus  
 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

### August 9

Pierre & Deena Dugan  
 Ernie Englander  
 Miriam Feinsilver  
 Joshua & Mita Felman  
 Bob Feron & Dione Pereira  
 Rona Fields  
 Joshua & Lucia Filler  
 Eric Fingerhut & Karen Beiley  
 Anita Finkelstein  
 Jay & Rachel Finkelstein  
 Violeta Fiorino-Schwartz  
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 Claude Fontheim & Orit Frenkel  
 Lee & Brenda Footer  
 Ira Forman & Caryn Pass  
 Monica Freedman



## Bat Mitzvah

Hi, my name is **Gigi Levin**, although you may know me as That Kid, Oh, Great, or Don't Let Her Get Away.

I go to Parkmont School, and I have a little sister. I really like playing video games, eating, sleeping, riding, soccer, kayaking, sailing, and **READING!!**

My Bat Mitzvah is on July 20. My Torah portion is *Va'ethanan*. I chose this portion because it had the *Ve'ahavta* in it, and that meant less memorizing. Basically, Moses gives a recap of the last few portions, and begins to instruct Joshua.

I hope you'll be there!



## July Highlights at Tifereth Israel

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| July 1, 8, 15,<br>22, 29 | Monday Learning<br><i>Parashat HaShavuah</i> , 11 a.m.<br>Job Club, 1 p.m.    |
| July 10                  | Social Action Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m., at home of Gene and Esther Herman |
| July 15                  | Erev Tisha B'Ave Service, 8:30 p.m.   |
| July 20                  | Gigi Levin Bat Mitzvah  |
| July 23                  | Kol Nashim Book Club, 7:30 p.m., at home of Jessica Weissman                  |
| July 28                  | Kol Nashim Networking Get-Together 4-6 p.m., at home of Paula Flicker         |

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(Continued on page 15)

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