



The Menorah

Inside This Issue*

New Members	3
Purim Carnival Photos	3
Board Minutes Summary	4
Abramowitz Fund	4
Megillah Photos	5
Adult Education	6
Jewish Teacher Project	7
Kol Nashim	8
TI Reminiscences	8
Nayes un Mekhayes	9
LaserTag at TI	10
Library News	10
The Proud Hizzoner	11
Juniper St. Collection	12
Friday Night Minyan Assignments	12
Limmud Program	13
Schedule for Pesah	14
Mermelstein B. Mitzvah	15
March Highlights	15
Donations	16

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

President's Column: Joel Cohen

Paying for Synagogue

The Conservative movement's general organization is the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. According to USCJ's representative for our Southeast Seaboard Region, JoAnn Zemlak, most conservative synagogues in our region do not charge separately for High Holiday tickets and many do not have fixed dues. Some synagogues have a sliding scale dues structure and still others have no dues at all, but rely on all families to decide for themselves what to pay.

The Board of Directors has had some discussions about making tickets part of the dues structure, but has not come to any conclusion. Clearly, if the tickets were to be part of the dues, the dues themselves would have to increase. It is interesting that one of the strongest supporters of pricing them together is someone who never buys High Holiday tickets because her family is always out of town, and would therefore see her dues rise.

The second question, about a sliding dues scale or no dues at all, has just recently been raised and there has not yet been discussed.

I think that both questions deserve some consideration. A single price for both dues and tickets is probably less complicated. Each adult member would receive a ticket and each child in the family would receive a ticket for the appropriate service.

A Gradual Change

One possibility, if we decide to go in that direction, would be to do so gradually. Initially, we could increase the dues by, say, \$50-\$100 and decrease the ticket price by the same amount. Most people would not see any change in total costs,

but those who are usually not here for the holidays would see an increase. We could gradually increase dues and decrease ticket prices for a few years until the

ticket prices are reduced to zero.

How would **you** feel about such a change?

If you have strong feelings one way or the other, let me know, or talk to any member of the Board. (Elsewhere in this *Menorah* you will find a summary of the January 14 Board meeting, and it includes the names of everyone on the Board.)

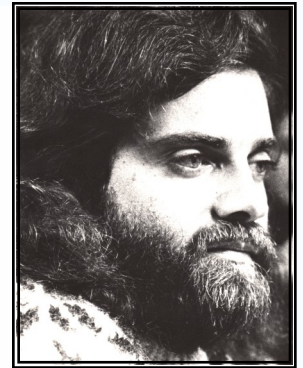
I think we can make this change slowly over the next few years, putting us on an equal footing with most other synagogues. Potential members will have a better idea of the costs, and a better sense of how to make a comparison.

Letting Each Member Decide

The second possible change — letting every member decide what to pay for dues — is a lot scarier. How would our members react? Is it fairer? Is it unfair to let everyone decide his or her own dues?

I began taking the proposal seriously as a result of a conversation I had with a friend who goes to an Episcopal church a few blocks from my house. We got onto a discussion of fundraising at our respective

(Continued on page 2)



President's Column (continued)

congregations and I asked if they had an actual dues structure. She told me they didn't. Rather, every family is supposed to give serious thought to what the church means to them – think about it, meditate on it, talk about it – and then come up with a figure that will be their annual contribution.

I asked her what she thought the average amount was per family. She said, "about \$5,000." I was very surprised. I would not have expected it to be so much more than TI dues. She asked what our dues were and I told her that once you included High Holiday tickets, it would be about \$2,600 per family. Now it was her turn to be shocked. She thought that sounded incredibly low.

How Would Our Members React?

This conversation led me to wonder how our members would react to such a system, where each family or single member decided what their appropriate dues ought to be.

I discussed this with one member who is familiar with our finances. He responded that in some sense we have that now: the synagogue expenses average out to about \$3,825 per two-adult household. The dues for a two-adult household are \$2,100, and High Holiday tickets on average add \$580, so on average, a two-adult household pays the synagogue \$2,680 for membership and tickets.

But about 20% of members receive abatements (which amount to about 10% of the dues) of varying amounts. And about half the members contribute to the annual Fall appeal or other fundraising throughout the year, so that in the end, each family more-or-less decides how much it will give to the synagogue.

Would Our Income Change?

If we were to make this system explicit, do you think that TI's income would increase, decrease, or stay about the same? How would *your own* giving be affected? Do you think that we should go to this type of fundraising? Again, let me or any member of the Board know.

I hope that there will be a lively discussion before any decision is reached.

The Menorah Tifereth Israel Congregation

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

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

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

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

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

Menorah submissions:
menorah@tifereth-israel.org

Support the Spring Fling, May 5

- Donate Goods or Services for the Auction:
<http://bit.ly/TIAuctionDonate13>
- Buy Raffle Tickets -- \$10 each or 3 for \$25:
<http://bit.ly/TIBuyRaffles2013>
- Solicit Your Favorite Restaurants and Stores
- Print a donation form to take with you
<http://www.Tifereth-Israel.org/SpringFling>
- Help Create an Auction Basket
- Come to the TI Spring Fling

New Members

Jared Garelick

Purim Carnival

February 24

Elaine and Seth Akst

Elaine and Seth are both originally from Cleveland, and have lived in the Washington area for more than a decade. Although they attended the same high school, they were different ages and did not know each other, meeting only later as college students at Yale.

Seth is now a physician at George Washington University Hospital where he works in both anesthesiology and critical care, dividing his time between the operating room and the ICU. He is now training for a marathon.

Elaine is a biologist who currently cares for their two children, ages 5 and 8. Prior to that, she worked at NASA, where she was involved with biology projects aboard the space shuttles and space station. She enjoys baking, and volunteers at the Washington Animal Rescue League; let her know if you need help adopting a puppy.

The Aksts had been members of a different synagogue, but were attracted to TI by what they thought was its superior religious school, and they have been pleased with the change. Welcome to the Akst family!



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



Summary of TI Board of Directors Meeting January 14, 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, Cynthia Peterman, Renee Brachfeld, Margie Odle, Joanne Hovis, Jeffrey Colman, Chris Zeilinger, Daniel Turner, Esther Herman, Susan Catler, Varda Fink, Sarah Meytin, Jeff Davidson.

Excused: Alice Burton

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

Membership Committee: There are two new TI families: Arthur and Diane Friedman (child Zoë, 13), and Trude and Carl Glitzenstein (two adults, mother and son)

Fiscal Sponsorship: The board approved the motion for TI to act as a temporary fiscal sponsor for Cynthia Peterman's non-profit organization

Jewish Teacher. The organization will help Jewish teachers to find historical and other resources.

Finance Committee: The current financial year is on budget.

Ritual Committee: The ritual committee is starting to plan for the High Holidays, which begin September 4, as well as for *Selichot* and the fall holidays. They would like to use the new large *sukkah* for evening programs during Sukkot.

Executive Director Search, Jeff Davidson: The North American Association of Synagogue Executives is helping with the search for a new Executive Director. The committee will screen candidates and then bring a subset of the candidates for interviews in March. Beside Jeff, Ray Natter, Laurie Berger, and Jennifer Taransky are on the committee. The Committee hopes to have a two-week overlap with David Zinner and the new ED, about July 1.

Lifelong Learning Committee: Eitan Gutin is re-examining building access to keep unwanted visitors away from the kids. The synagogue will hold a fire drill during some Shabbat. All Himmelfarb and Chai school members are being contacted to see if they will be sending their children to the school next year.

Sixth and seventh grade classes are going really well. Youth groups are going well. New mulch will be put down on the playground. Eitan Gutin's contract will be presented at the next board meeting.

Executive Director's Report: Ashrenu School, an orthodox girl's school, is planning to rent two classrooms upstairs next year. The board authorized the Executive Director to negotiate with the School.

Coordinators for funds that get contributions should give the office a personalized form for the thank-you notes from the office.

Rabbi A. Nathan Abramowitz Fund

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

To qualify, the youngster may attend a camp recognized for its Jewish educational component (such as Camp Ramah, Capital Camps, and Moshava), participate in an educational program in Israel (such as USY Pilgrimage or Ramah Seminar), or take part in a United

Synagogue Youth on Wheels Trip. Awards are made each spring. The Fund depends on your support and welcomes contributions in any amount.

Each year, all TI'ers who participate in a qualifying program are honored at a special Shabbat service and receive a gift. To apply for the award program, contact the TI office to secure an application. Applications for 2013 are due by March 31.

The Fund also awards scholarships based on financial need to facilitate participation in qualifying programs. Families who wish information about scholarships should contact Rabbi

Abramowitz. All such applications and inquiries are kept strictly confidential. Scholarship applications are due by March 15.

Maimonides Course

TI member Stan Dorn will teach a three-session course on *Maimonides the Subversive on Prayer*.

The class will meet on Sundays, March 3, 10 and 17, at 7:30 p.m. All materials will be in English.

Purim Megillah Reading, February 23



Adult Education

Cynthia Peterman

SHALEM

Josh Furman will be our speaker on **March 9** after Kiddush around 1:15 p.m. Winding his way back from up north (New York City), Josh will speak about his dissertation research on the topic *Parenting from the Pulpit: Childrearing Advice from American Rabbis, 1945-1965*. Whether you were parented or parenting during that time, or just interested, this is sure to be a wonderful program.

Trips

This year's spring bus tour will take us to Baltimore! Join us on **Sunday, March 10**, for a wonderful day at two museums: the Jewish Museum of Maryland and the Walters Art Museum. Trip highlights include:

- *Zap! Bam! Pow! The Superhero: The Golden Age of Comic Books, 1938-1950* exhibit at the Jewish Museum.

- Tours of the Lloyd Street Synagogue (oldest synagogue in Maryland) and B'nai Israel Synagogue (oldest Orthodox synagogue in continuous use).
- Self-guided tour of the exhibit *Threshold to the Sacred: The Ark Door of Cairo's Ben Ezra Synagogue*, displaying research and documents from the Cairo Genizah.

Bus departs TI at 10 a.m., returns at 4 p.m. \$30/members, \$40/non-members. Registration includes roundtrip bus, admission and guided tours. Register online at <http://tifereth-israel.org/jewish-museum-maryland-trip>.

Yom Hashoah

On **Sunday, April 7** the Jewish world will commemorate the Holocaust with the annual observance of *Yom HaShoah*. If you are interested in helping to design a commemoration at TI, please contact Cynthia Peterman at cynp25@gmail.com.

If you are a relative of a Holocaust survivor and would like to participate in the commemoration, please contact Cynthia Peterman at the above email address. subject line: Survivor.

Adult Education Catalog

The Winter/Spring Adult Education Course Catalog is always available. Get your copy at TI or online at <http://tifereth-israel.org/sites/default/files/spiritweb/AECatalog.Winter-Spring.2013.pdf>.

If you have suggestions for upcoming courses or programs, please get in touch with Cynthia Peterman (cynp25@gmail.com).



Ben Finkelstein, Michele Sumka, Carl Bergman and Margie Odle at the Library of Congress on February 18, as part of a TI trip to see the *Words Like Sapphires* exhibit

Social Action Addendum

Last month's Social Action column highlighting Tifereth Israel's participation in the Christmas Day homeless shelter meal program inadvertently omitted several TI members (and others) who delivered the food to the shelters.

Those participants were Aron Primack, Karen Primack, Julie Steinberg, Oren Steinberg, Jeffrey Colman, Ellen Nissenbaum, Andre Harris, Deena Dugan, and Sharon Cohen.

Introducing The Jewish Teacher Project

Cynthia Peterman

In January the Tifereth Israel Board of Directors voted unanimously to offer fiscal sponsorship to my venture, The Jewish Teacher Project. I would like to explain the project and why this is a good move for Jewish education and for TI.

You may know me in my role as Vice President for Lifelong Learning at TI. The Jewish education experience I bring to that role comes from my position as a Jewish history teacher and department chair for more than 20 years at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, and as Education Director at TI from 1986 to 1992. In 2010, I was named a Museum Teacher Fellow at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, and have served as an educational consultant to a number of Jewish organizations.

Making Teachers More Productive

When I left JDS last year I reflected on what would have made my own job as a teacher more productive. Applying my experience and skills, I created The Jewish Teacher Project to fill a gap in helping Jewish Studies teachers in their daily work.

Like most teachers today, Jewish Studies teachers are increasingly turning to websites and blogs to share information and locate materials to bring to their classrooms. Currently there are hundreds of websites devoted to Judaism, Hebrew, Israel, Bible, and other Jewish Studies topics. There are websites devoted to teacher professional development that offer online learning. And, there are websites that offer resources on integrating technology into the classroom.

These sites require multiple log-ins and memberships, and repeated

visits to stay up to date. There is no single access portal that brings all of these resources together with a target audience of teachers in non-Orthodox schools.

A New Single Website

The central component of The Jewish Teacher Project is the website www.jewishteacher.org, an open-source, single-site professional development portal for Jewish Studies teachers. The project's mission is to:

- Provide a single, open-source website for Judaic Studies teachers that provides pedagogic, discipline-specific, and professional development resources;
- Centralize all information important to teachers into a single portal with one internet address to remember, eliminating multiple log-ins, memberships, and visits to many websites;
- Offer a place for teachers from different day schools and different denominations to connect to one another. JewishTeacher.org will be for teachers, by teachers, and will not be sponsored by any single denomination. It aims to attract teachers in denominationally-specific schools, as well as pluralistic, community schools;
- Provide a platform for teachers to publish articles about their professional work.

Website content includes: curated links to existing websites; up-to-date lists of conferences and online learning; a dedicated page for teachers to publish articles about pedagogy and discipline-related

topics; original content around specific themes (Teaching about Jews and Civil Rights for Martin Luther King's birthday, for example).

Future plans for development include: creating original lessons using digital resources in partnership with Jewish digital library collections; development of online textbooks for Jewish history; creating teachers' guides to using curated weblinks. Currently the site has a target population of Jewish day school teachers. Future plans are to diversify the site for teachers in afternoon religious/complementary schools.

The Benefits of TI Sponsorship

TI's fiscal sponsorship brings the project under the umbrella of TI's 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt status, allowing it to seek funding from foundations with an interest in promoting education, as well as from private donors. As the project sponsor, TI benefits not only financially, but also as the incubator of a unique project with the potential to make a significant contribution to Jewish education.

Please visit The Jewish Teacher Project at www.jewishteacher.org.

Havdallah Potluck

Join Alice and Joel Burton, Saturday, March 2, 6:15 p.m., 4550 North Park Avenue, Apt. 907, Chevy Chase, MD, for a family potluck *Havdallah*.

Call (301-654-4149) or e-mail (burtonsocial@aol.com) the dish you can bring for 8 people. Children are very welcome. Parking is available on the street or around the corner in the Whole Foods parking lot.

Kol Nashim

Margie Odle



March is a busy month for Kol Nashim-sponsored programs.

Post-Purim Program

On **Sunday, March 3**, at 10:15 a.m., **Maxine Grossman** will lead a discussion of *The Mask of Esther and the Face Behind It*. The holiday of Purim provides some troubling aspects of the celebration: how do we confront the violence of this text, and its understanding of women?

Join us to look behind the mask of Esther and see what we might find. Maxine is a TI member and an Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Religious Studies at the University of Maryland.

Honoring Margorie Rosenthal

On **Saturday, March 9**, Kol Nashim will honor **Marjorie Rosenthal** for her many years of service as TI's Sisterhood President. As part of the recognition, Kol Nashim will also help prepare and sponsor the Kiddush lunch, and provide an encore presentation of the baked potato bar repast. Join us in honoring Marge that day.

Book Club

The February book club meeting on Tuesday, February 19, featured a lively discussion of the novel *The Autobiography of God* by Julius Lester. Continuing with the decision to alternate fiction and non-fiction

selections, the next book is *Miriam's Kitchen*, by Elizabeth Ehrlich. The book club will meet on **Tuesday, March 19**, at 7:30 p.m., at Esther Herman's house.

The new Kol Nashim board and committees for the next synagogue year will be identified in March and April. Anyone interested in participating actively in Kol Nashim as a board or committee member should contact me at margiedc@gmail.com.

TI Reminiscences

We introduce this month a new, hopefully continuing, feature: sharing reminiscences from members about people and events in the past at TI.

From David (Judy) Cohen:

One of my fondest memories of the "old days" at TI, is of Ed Reamer, for whom our chapel is named. He was a sweet, small man, a Shabbat services regular who used to sit to the right of the center aisle, close to the front. He was definitely a traditionalist, and was among those who fought the introduction of egalitarianism for women.

Nevertheless, when the board decided to gradually increase women's participation — first limited ark openings/closings, then some *aliyot*, and finally chanting *haftarot*,

reading from the Torah and leading services — Ed quietly accepted the changes without the histrionic protests of others of his generation.

Meanwhile, a number of women in the congregation, including my wife, Judy, took advantage of these increased opportunities and were setting a high standard of quality.

I recall one Shabbat morning, when a young man was butchering the Torah reading. He was totally unprepared. His Hebrew was full of errors, he had no idea when sentences began or ended, and he "chanted" it all in a droning, tuneless singsong that bore no relationship to the trope.

It was an excruciating, fingernails-on-the-blackboard, experience. and we all rolled our eyes in disbelief,

praying for it to end. Unable to stand it any longer, Mr. Reamer got up and came over to where Judy and I were sitting.

"Mrs. Cohen," he pleaded, "would you be willing to go up to the *bimah* and replace him?" Judy graciously thanked him for his vote of confidence, but explained that she couldn't possibly read from the Torah without having prepared in advance.

It was a remarkable demonstration of the capacity of people — even those advanced in age — to adapt to change.

In just a couple of years, Mr. Reamer had evolved from an opponent of women's participation to full acceptance, to someone who valued quality of participation over the gender of the participant.

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Barbara Raimondo

Everyone Wants to Get In on the Act

In March, **Sam Heimowitz**, son of **Mike Heimowitz** and **Dori Gillman**, is appearing in *Lucky's Tap Dancing Feet*, a story about a horse that wants to tap dance. He was inspired to take on the genre after hearing a story told by Mr. Ed.

Sam and his identical twin brother, **Max** (not a horse),¹² are in a tap performing group called Capitol Tap, which recently performed in New York City at Symphony Space and at Buster Brown's Tap Jam Theater. Remember Buster Brown and his dog Tige? These performances were in conjunction with events given by the American Tap Dance Foundation.

This month, they will be at the Duke Ellington School in Georgetown at DC Tap Fest (not the beer kind) and at an open mic night in Silver Spring. In June they will be at the Juvenile Diabetes Gala. Wow, this gives new meaning to "the pitter patter of little feet."

Pitter pattering down the aisle soon is **Sam Kassahun**, who recently became engaged. His fiancée is Israeli, and the wedding is being planned for Israel. Mazel tov!

A Hard Act to Follow

The **Heller** family has been on the move. First, all the Hellers spent two weeks in their usual December place of pilgrimage in Maui. So sorry to hear about that! In the annual Heller Invitational Tennis tournament the grandkids are starting to catch up. Must be the Wii.

From Hawaii, **Steve** went on to San Diego, a mere stone's throw away,

relatively speaking, to lead his yearly Plant and Animal Genome conference.

Shelly went to Ljubljana, Slovenia to fulfill her Fulbright Fellowship. She gave three talks, one of which covered the topic *The 'J's in "Ljubljana:" A Critical Analysis of an Often Misunderstood Word*. She was quoted (she thinks correctly, more or less) in the Slovenian national daily newspaper and started a research project looking at the status of women in the sciences in Slovenia.

Marcia Goldberg joined Shelly for a whirlwind tour of the country. From there Steve and Shelly left mid-February for a trip to Burma (Myanmar), Saigon, Ankor Wat, Bangkok, and Singapore, where they both participated in a conference. Home in time for Pesah!

A special thanks to the Helping Hands for the drivers who drove Shelly's mom, **Esther Silverman**, to shul in their absence.

Dennis Kirschbaum's first collection of poetry, *Clattering East*, will be published by Finishing Line Press. It will be available in August. Your faithful columnist calls it "the most stunning and breathtaking work in the history of the world!!!!" and she is not exaggerating either.

Rona Fields' book, *Against Violence Against Women*, was issued by Palgrave-Macmillan on February 28. It will be available through Amazon.com and Palgrave-Macmillan and is expected to be at book stores and book events in time for International Women's Day, March 8.

Les and **Judith Turner** were in Los Angeles (again!) to celebrate **Ruby**

Turner Klein's first birthday at the beginning of February. Her parents, **Carol Turner** and **Avi Klein**, hosted a big bash. In true child fashion, Ruby took a nap midway through the festivities.

Sad News

TI member **Audrey Lynn** died at the age of 90 in February. She was the mother of **Vivian (Bernard) Rubinstein** and **Rabbi Diana Lynn (Fredric Lipschultz)**, the grandmother of **Eli (Sara-Jean) Lipman** and **Erica Lipschultz** and great-grandmother of **Lucy Lipman**. She was the widow of **Sol Lynn**. The funeral was at TI.

Frances Eizenstat, former member of TI, died in February in Miami from complications from a stroke. Known as Fran, she was 68 and is survived by her husband, **Stuart Eizenstat**, her two sons, **Jay** and **Brian Eizenstat**, two sisters and seven grandchildren. The funeral was in Atlanta. May the families and loved ones be comforted among those who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *frigorific*: "causing cold, chilling" (Merriam-Webster Online).

Thanks to all who sent me news, sent me to others who sent me news, or otherwise helped sniff it out. Please send information for next time to baraimondo@gmail.com, with "Nayes un Mekhayes" in the heading, or to P.O. Box 466, Washington Grove, MD 20880.

This brings to a close this edition of Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers for all you quidnuncs out there.

Is LaserTag an Appropriate TI Activity?

Dina Borzekowski

So why am I the only TI member who has complained about having LaserTag for 6th to 12th graders as a synagogue activity?

When the email announcement came the morning of December 14, just hours before the Connecticut tragedy, I stared at it. Once more, I was upset and frustrated that a social event promoted for our teenagers involved simulated violence.

But I had raised my concerns before, to no avail. So I deleted the email, convinced that my ranting was pointless. The news just hours later, of more lost lives at the end of a high-capacity 30-round clip semi-automatic rifle, reenergized my passion to make our community (and country) less violent.

Maybe it is because I study the impact of media on children and adolescents that I am convinced that we need to improve the informational environment in which we raise our

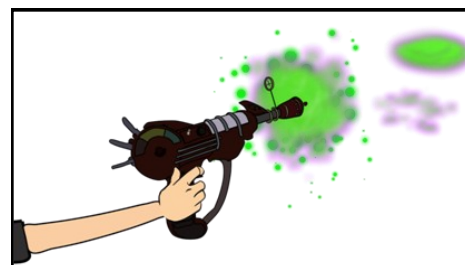
youth. With regard to violent content, there are thousands (yes thousands) of research studies that show that exposure to media violence produces significant short and long-term negative effects.

True, it takes a confluence of terrible factors to turn a person into a killer, but repeated exposure to media violence desensitizes us to violence and the suffering of others, makes us believe the world is a "meaner and scarier" place than it is, and teaches us behavioral scripts of aggression. Videogames, lasertag, and paintball take this exposure to a new level, where the "player" is emotionally and physically transported into the violent act.

By the way, there are NO empirical research studies supporting the "catharsis theory," which suggests that exposure to media violence helps purge aggressive behavior in the individual.

What makes me riled is I feel pretty alone about challenging what we do and promote in our community. I've been told that I am the ONLY parent at Tifereth Israel who has ever complained about these activities.

Maybe the next time another announcement comes to your inbox with the image (the picture below was the exact JPG in the most recent email about lasertag at TI), you'll join



me in saying that this shouldn't be an activity happening with our youth in our synagogue.

Library News

Michele Sumka

I'm pleased to announce that we have acquired a number of new titles:

Novels: *Away: A Novel*, by Amy Bloom, and *East of Broadway*, by Alexander Kruse;

Stories: *Jewish Tales of Mystic Joy*, by Buxbaum;

High Holidays: *Understanding the High Holiday Services*, by Jeffrey M. Cohen, and *Preparing your Heart for the High Holidays*, by Kerry Olitsky;

Spiritual Advice: *Yearnings, Embracing the Sacred Messiness of Life*, by Irwin Kula;

Archeology: *Ancient Israel: From Abraham to the Destruction of the Roman Temple*, by Herschel Shanks;

Jewish Culture: *The Trotskys, Freuds and Woody Allens*, by Ivan Kalmar, and *Jews, the Essence and Character of a People*, by Arthur Hertzberg.

We have also received a number of **Jewish Classics:**

Idelson's *Jewish Liturgy and Its Development*; Lamm's *The Jewish Way in Love & Marriage*; Fromm's *Psychoanalysis and Religion*; Heschel's *Man's Quest for God*;

Israel Meir Lau's *The Writings of Rabbenu Bachya, Practical Judaism*; *The Zohar*, translated by Daniel Matt; and Luzatto's *The Path of the Just*.

We acquired these books from the private libraries of some of our members, who graciously allowed me to look at them before agreeing to accept them.

If you have books you'd like to donate, please go to Librarything.com to see if we already have them, and then contact me before bringing them to the synagogue.

The Proud Hizzoner and the Ashamed Jew

Frank Solomon

I lived in New York City at different times in my life. New Yorkers always seemed to be loud, combative, pugnacious, brusque and pragmatic, whether I was in Flatbush or Manhattan, Flushing or Far Rockaway, Borough Park or Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Whatever my feelings about the city, one thing is unchanged: New York City mayors always seem to be larger than life. I particularly remember Ed Koch vividly, not only because I was working in the city when he was king of New York, but because he lived in an adjacent rent-controlled apartment building in Greenwich Village.

Buying Bagels Together

There were mornings when Ed Koch was behind me or I behind him, waiting in line for our bagels at the corner bagel store. Hizzoner always came across to me as a loud, restless, brusque, pragmatic and pugnacious Jew. When he found out that I had just returned from Europe as a foreign correspondent for one of the largest British dailies and was working for the only national U.S. daily he instantly turned into a friend. He pragmatically bought me many bagels.

When Ed Koch died on February 1, 2013, it seemed to signal the end of an epoch during which support for Israel was as natural to liberal American Jews as water is wet. It was an epoch during which rabbis wouldn't stop talking about Israel from the *bimah*.

When Israel was established in 1948, liberal American Jews, from labor unionists to college professors, artists and actors, were the loudest cheerleaders. Ed Koch was the product of that generation of liberal

American Jews who were proud of the new Israel and rejoiced in its triumphs.

A Generational Shift

Since then, America's liberal Jews have gradually made a generational shift. For many today, Israel has become a right-wing cause, and the movement to boycott, divest and sanction Israel has become a politically correct left-wing cause.

Ed Koch turned conservative during his 12-year reign in the 1980's, but his support for Israel never wavered. He loved the Jewish state despite its imperfections. While American Jews' attitudes toward Israel changed, he would not budge. Koch would not accept the double standard that many younger American Jews demand of Israel or that is imposed by the international community. He remained unashamed, outspoken and unapologetic for Israel.

Ashamed Jews

Which brings to mind what Howard Jacobson, the British novelist, in his *The Finkler Question*, called "the Ashamed Jews." Writing in the *British Jewish Chronicle*, Jacobson described the gathering of a group of this kind of Jews:

"Every other Wednesday, except for festivals and High Holy-days, an anti-Zionist group called Ashamed Jews meets in an upstairs room in the Groucho Club in Soho to dissociate itself from Israel, urge the boycotting of Israeli goods, and otherwise demonstrate a humanity in which they consider Jews who are not ashamed to be deficient."

Many liberal Jews champion the cause of the Palestinians under the guise of helping the Jewish state

become a more humane, democratic, and fair society. Many seem ashamed to support Israel, particularly in front of their liberal friends. Others think that this attitude came about because of changes in Israeli policy on settlements, or the occupation of the West Bank, or the policy on the Gaza Strip.

To some liberal Jews, such as Peter Beinart, who aspire to follow the traditional path of social justice and to right the world's wrongs, Israel seems the biggest evil of their time. Many of them say that they are simply championing the cause of the underdogs.

Koch Would Reject These Views

Ed Koch was never that naïve. If he were alive today, he probably would ask if Israel were to end the occupation, make peace with the Palestinians and agree to the establishment of a viable, non-militarized Palestinian state, would it change the attitude of many of these American liberal Jews? Would it change the Palestinians' attitude toward the Jewish state?

Koch would answer "no." He would say that much of the left today is opposed to the very existence of a Jewish Zionist state, even on the 1948 lines.

I miss having a pragmatic Jew pay for my bagels.

Mitzvah Knitting

Join fellow knitters or crocheters, **Tuesday, March 12**, 7-9 p.m., and make projects for others. Learners welcome.

Juniper Street Collection

Jeri Roth Lande sends her thanks to everyone who contributed children's books. The congregation is now collecting toiletries for the **Homeless Children's Playtime Project**.

This is a change in recipient from the recent announcement.

Congregants are urged to bring new individual or full-sized containers of:

- soap
- shampoo
- conditioner

- toothpaste
- toothbrushes

All donated items should be placed in the basket in the Juniper Street lobby.

Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

March 1

Barbara Abrams
Luis & Karen Acosta
Andrew Afflerbach & Joanne Hovis
Seth & Elaine Akst
Miriam Alpern
Jon Alterman & Katherine LaRiviere
Timothy Anderegg & Lisa Fogel-Anderegg
Charlotte Anker
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

March 8

Judi Berland
Joe Berman & Nancy 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
Josh Burton
Daniel Byerly & Katharine Clark
Susan Chapin
Daniel Chazen & Ronit Eisenbach
David Cohen
Joel Cohen

March 22

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

April 5

Pierre & Deena Dugan
Ernie Englander
Miriam Feinsilver
Joshua & Mita Felman

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

April 12

Bruce Friedland & Jenny Bryant
Arthur & Diane Friedman
Naomi Friedman
Jonathan Fritz & Lorien Abroms
Judy Galat & Geoff Thale
William & Miriam Galston
Stephen Garber & Lynne Snyder
Jared Garelick & Ellen Kramarow
Seth Glabman & Martha Hare
Rick Glaser & Sheryl Gross-Glaser
Howard Gleckman & Ann Kline
Carl Glitzenstein
Trude Glitzenstein
John & Marcia Goggin
Eliot & Traci Goldberg
Joseph & Dody Goldberg
Joshua & Sara Goldberg
Marcia Goldberg
Myrna Goldman
Paul Goldman & Debbie Pomerance
Tom & Lisa Goldring

Limmud Program in Baltimore

"Wherever you are on your Jewish journey, Limmud will take you one step further."

Limmud: A Day of Jewish Learning, will be held in Baltimore on **Sunday, April 21**, from 8:15 a.m.-5 p.m. at Johns Hopkins University's Glass Pavilion. The cost is \$36 for adults, \$10 for children. Lunch and babysitting are provided and there are also vendor opportunities available.

Limmud is the Hebrew word for "learning". At Limmud you will join hundreds of energized Jewish learners for a celebration of Jewish life and choose from over 60 different sessions during the course of the day.

Limmud is a transformational experience. It began in England in 1980 and has subsequently captured the imagination of over 30,000 people in 26 countries around the

world. The program is organized and led by volunteers and everyone is encouraged to "volunticipate" (volunteer and participate).

Limmud offers a smorgasbord of classes, lectures, panel discussions, experiential programs and cultural activities. At Limmud, every teacher is a student and every student can be a teacher.

Limmud is cross-communal, diverse and innovative. It engages beginners to scholars, the young to the young at heart. There is even a *Little Limmud* for children! Participants reflect the full spectrum of Jewish practices, beliefs and doubts.

You can also experience a **Taste of Limmud** at a number of venues in our area. These exciting mini-programs share the Limmud philosophy and are an excellent introduction to the all-day spring event.

A local *Taste of Limmud* event will take place at the University of Maryland-College Park's Stamp Student Union on **Sunday, March 3**, from 12:00-1:30 p.m.

To RSVP, please email info@limmudbaltimore.com. Light refreshments will be served. Sessions include "Not Your Mother's Judaism", "Torah Yoga", "Kosher Wine (with tasting for ages 21+)" and "Jewish A Capella".

If you are interested in coordinating transportation for the April 21 event in Baltimore, email TI member and Limmud co-chair, **Sherri Vishner**, at info@limmudbaltimore.com.

For more details and information, to "volunticipate", register, become a vendor, submit a proposal or locate a *Taste of Limmud* event, visit: info@limmudbaltimore.com.

Save the Date for a 'Dessert Roast'



at the TI Spring Fling & Auction

Sunday May 5

Come and Enjoy an Evening with TI friends, including

A Roast to Celebrate David Zinner's 10 Years at TI
Light Fare, Wine, After Dinner Drinks, and
Elegant Dessert Extravaganza

Two Fabulous Raffles – Bernie Shleien Art Work and iPad Mini
Silent Auction with Live Music

Kids Fling for Children 2-12 (babysitting for under 2yrs)

Details Coming Soon!

Schedule for Pesah

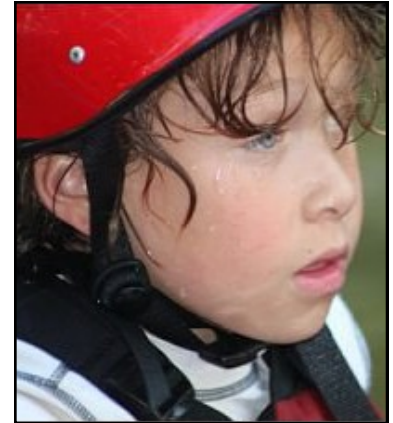
Sunday, March 24	Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m., followed by sale of <i>hametz</i>
Monday, March 25	Service & Siyyum for First Born, 7:00 a.m., followed immediately by final sale of <i>hametz</i> (no sales after 9:00 a.m.) First Seder
Tuesday, March 26	First day of Pesah, Morning Holiday Service, 9:00 a.m., followed by simple Kiddush Second Seder
Wednesday, March 27	Second day of Pesah, Morning Holiday Service, 9:00 a.m., followed by Kiddush sponsored by Mollie Berch z"l
Friday, March 29	Kabbalat Shabbat & Holiday Service and Dinner, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, April 1	Seventh day of Pesah, Morning Holiday Service, 9:00 a.m., followed by Kiddush
Tuesday, April 2	Eighth Day of Pesah, Morning Holiday Service, 9:00 a.m., Yizkor at 11 a.m.

Bar Mitzvah

Hi, I'm **Jacob Mermelstein**, and my bar mitzvah is on March 16. I am in seventh grade at the Field School, where I have played on the soccer and basketball teams. I also like to ski.

In the summer I go to Valley Mill Camp, in Germantown, Maryland. It's a great camp where you get to run around in the woods all day long. It's also where I learned to do what I really like -- paddle my kayak. I have been racing kayaks since I was 8 years old, and especially love whitewater slalom races. I have raced in three Junior Olympics, and last fall, in my first national championships, I raced against adults and even Olympians!

My Torah portion is *Vayikra*, the first chapters of Leviticus. It's all about the different sacrifices in the Temple. *Vayikra* is the same *parashah* that Kevin Youkilis (now a NY Yankee) had when he became bar mitzvah. I look forward to sharing my bar mitzvah with the congregation.



March Highlights at Tifereth Israel

March 3	Kol Nashim Program: Maxine Grossman, <i>The Mask of Esther</i> , 10:15 a.m.
March 3, 10, 17	Stan Dorn 3-session course, <i>Maimonides the Subversive</i>
March 4, 11, 18	Monday Learning <i>Parashat HaShavuah</i> , 11 a.m. Job Club, 1 p.m.
March 9	SHALEM: Josh Furman, <i>Parenting from the Pulpit</i> , 1:15 p.m.
March 10	TI Trip to Baltimore's Jewish Museum of Maryland and Walters Art Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
March 19	Kol Nashim Book Club, 7:30 p.m., at Esther Herman's home
March 26	Pesah, First Day, Morning Holiday Service, 9 a.m.
March 27	Pesah, Second Day, Morning Holiday Service, 9 a.m. (for full Pesah schedule see page 14)

Donations

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Donor

Lee & Hedy Ohringer

In Honor of

Sheridan & Dana
Neimark's 50th
Wedding Anniversary

GENERAL FUND

Donor

Earl Dotter & Deborah Stern

Marcia Goldberg

Phil & Ruth Shapiro
Marcia Goldberg
Marcia Goldberg
Lillian Kronstadt
Paul Bardack & Esther Roitman
Howard & Barbara White
Howard & Barbara White
Howard & Barbara White
Howard & Barbara White
Edith Lopatin & Freda Resnick
Michael & Eileen Pearlman
Andrew & Phyllis Isaacson

HIMMELFARB FUND

Donor

Joshua & Jennifer Kefer

Joshua & Jennifer Kefer

MARY JEWLER FLOWER FUND

Donor

Lee & Hedy Ohringer

Lisa Drazin

In Honor of

Ava Elizabeth Firschein

In Memory of

Dione Pereira's father
Leo Kramer
Audrey Lynn
Audrey Lynn
Audrey Lynn
Audrey Lynn
Harold Newman
Virginia Dublin
Leo Kramer
Audrey Lynn
Audrey Lynn
Audrey Lynn

In Honor of

Anita Kramer

In Memory of

Leo Kramer

In Honor of

Marjorie Rosenthal

In Memory of

Morris Tranen

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Donor

William & Miriam Galston

Les & Judith Turner

Esther Silverman

David Cohen

Refuah Shleimah

Audrey Smith

In Honor of

Arnold Revzin's birthday

In Memory of

Esther Rosenstadt

Audrey Lynn

YAHARZEIT DONATIONS

Donor

Gisele Tawil
Lisa Drazin
David Silber
Jonathan & Catherine Tuerk
Jonathan & Catherine Tuerk
Avi & Devra Weiss
Avi & Devra Weiss
Joseph & Nancy Schifrin
Kenneth Morris & Terri Zall
Mark & Mona Berch
Mark & Mona Berch
Stephen & Freda Resnick
Elihu & Sheila Leifer
Nathan & Judith Halpert
Charles & Nancy Wolfson
Michael & Maxine Kornstein

Annette Rosen
Jack Stone & Wilma Brier
Alan Landay
David & Felice Anderson
Robert & Judith Samuels

Melissa Perera
Judi Berland
Steve & Shelly Heller
The Siskind Family
Louise Sidman
Lillian Kronstadt
Dov Weitman & Sylvia Horwitz
James & Diana Zurer

In Memory of

Marie Amsellem
Sidney Drazin
Ethel Silber
William Miller
Isadore Tuerk
Goldie Back Goldberg
Michael Goldberg
Isidore Schifrin
Milton Zall
Julian Berch
Sadie Levine
Freda Lopatin
Rabbi Daniel Leifer
Sylvia Silverman
Reuben Isaac Wolfson
Herman Corman &
Stuart Corman
Rose Braverman
Etta Brier
Anna Wayne
Lenore Anderson
Philip & Florence
Samuels
Abraham Perera
Lucille Berland
William Silveman
Murray Schmutter
Charles Sidman
Annetta Himmelfarb
Seymour Horwitz
Fanya Woll

(Continued on page 17)

Donations (continued)

YAHARZEIT DONATIONS (continued)

Donor

Abraham & Dena Greenstein
Sandra Teplin
Edith Lopatin
Jeff & Cynthia Peterman
Eliot & Traci Goldberg
Eliot & Traci Goldberg
Eliot & Traci Goldberg
George & Marjorie Greenberg

George & Rosalyn Zitelman
Bert & Frances Abramson
Andrew Reamer
Andrew Reamer
Aron & Karen Primack
Jonathan & Catherine Tuerk
Michael Weiss & Phyllis Stanger
Marcia Goldberg
Beatrice Wattenberg
Arnold Sidman
Ann Macrory
Eileen Rose
Rabbi A. Nathan & Barbara
Abramowitz
Marshall & Andrea Jacobson
Rodney & Karen Brooks

In Memory of

Benjamin Gittleman
Sol Wolman
Saul Minsky
Aaron Gaizband
Michael Goldberg
Goldie Back Goldberg
Eric Kammer
Jay R. Siegel & Sidney
L. Siegel
Jack Barco
Irving Abramson
Ethlyn Reamer
Irving Reamer
Sadie Primack
Helen Tuerk
Vivian Weiss
Bette Fargotstein
Mary Harris
Charles Sidman
Ralph Temple
Iris Rose Kadin
G. Irving Hillson
Alma Jacobson
Milton Finkelstein

