Tifereth Israel Congregation

May 2013

lyar/Sivan 5773



# The Menorah

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# President's Column: Joel Cohen Cat News

Normally, the subject of my columns percolates inside me for a couple of weeks before I sit down to write. This month was very busy. We have been searching for a replacement for David Zinner, TI's executive director for the last ten years. The committee has been meeting continually.

This evening I will be at TI for our third search committee meeting of the week! At the same time, I have been thinking about the search committee for the new TI Board. Plus a bit of attention to my son's Bar Mitzvah at the beginning of next month.

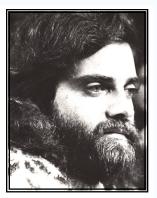
So with all that, I had, for the first time, completely forgotten to plan a column. Until 15 minutes ago! Judy (David) Cohen, the wife of David (Judy) Cohen, the Menorah's esteemed editor, called, on David's behalf, to remind me that my column was due last night. I promised her that I would get right to it.

### A Call From Italy

Just as we hung up, I got a Skype call from my Italian brother-in-law Gino. His wife, Mariella, died about three weeks ago. Her death came very suddenly. Although she had been very ill, she had been stable for a long time. I had been very close to the two of them for about thirty-five years. This was our first conversation of more than a few seconds since Mariella passed away.

We were in the middle of making plans to see each other during my family's next time in Italy, when suddenly his cat, Mowee, named by doing a syllable switch

on the one clear word she can pronounce. decided she needed attention and jumped up on Gino's lap and hogged the camera, so I got a good clear look at her fat self.



Mowee's arrival led to a discussion of cats. Gino reminded me of the "elevator cat" that used to visit them at their sixth-floor apartment in Trento. The cat lived a few buildings away, and every few days would decide to visit Mariella and Gino.

#### Waiting for the Elevator

The cat would walk over to their building, park himself in front of the elevator, and when someone went in or out he would jump in the elevator and stay there until someone got on or off at the sixth floor. He would then dart over to their door and meow until let in, where he knew that he would be petted and spoiled.

I know a little about cat craziness. My children have two cats, a male and a female who don't exactly get along. They don't fight, but they tease each other and play the jealousy cards for who gets the most attention. As with all cats, petting and snuggling occurs when they decide, not necessarily when their human slaves wish.

### President's Column (continued)

Whenever the boys are away without their mother, the first words of each conversation with her are requests for news about Rusty and Annabelle.

At the beginning of this week, I was visited by my Italian colleague, Massimo Picardello. In addition to being a distinguished mathematician, he is one of the most requested cat show judges in the world. He is one of a handful of European judges (and the only Italian) licensed to judge in the US. Massimo was here to judge a show near Baltimore, and thus ended up with me.

Massimo is thinking about or talking about cats, whenever he is not thinking about and talking about mathematics. He was with me during one of the many evenings this week that I spent at TI in search committee meetings. While at TI, Massimo spent the entire time

### 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. 102Rabbi Emeritus:A. Nathan Abramowitz, ext. 106President:Joel CohenExecutive Director:David Zinner, ext. 103Administrator:Sheri Blonder, ext. 101Lifelong Learning Director:Eitan Gutin, ext. 105Bookkeeper:David Mackoff, ext. 110Kitchen Manager:Roz Kram, ext. 101Facilities 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

sitting in the office correcting proofs of his latest math book.

#### A Serious Cat Bite

My final bit of cat news regards one of our fellow congregants who is a cat lover. She was playing with her cat last Wednesday, when the cat took a bite of her arm. She didn't think too much of it at the time, but when it swelled up later, she went to the emergency room where they supposedly took care of it and sent her home. The next morning it had gotten worse, and she returned to the hospital. She was not released until three days later!

When he heard the story, Massimo said the problem was that she waited four or five hours. He said that he always carries antibiotics when he goes to a cat show, and if he is bitten (which is not unusual) he takes medicine immediately, and if he is too slow, he feels the reaction for several days.

That is all the cat and medical news.

### How Is All This Connected to TI?

And now to tie this in more closely with the synagogue: There are more than 8,000,000 Google hits for "Jewish Cats" and another 4,000,000 for "Jews and Cats." And an amazing 15,000,000 hits for "Synagogue Cats." So the connection is there. I have just given you 27,000,000 places for you to follow the dots!

And finally, here is the internet's most quoted Jewish-Cat Haiku (it is by David Bader):

Left the door open for the Prophet Elijah. Now our cat is gone.

Keep your letters and postcards coming, and my successor will solve all your problems!

### Annual Meeting, May 29

The annual meeting of the Congregation will be held at 8 p.m., Wednesday, May 29. At that time elections will be held for synagogue officers and a third of the board of directors. The congregation will also vote on proposed membership dues for the coming year.

# New Members Jared Garelick

Regular Menorah readers probably realize that the "New" in this column's title is sometimes a bit exaggerated. Some people have been members for many months before they are profiled here, and have already befriended other congregants and become active in TI activities.

Most people join a synagogue during a narrow season, around the high holidays. Their profiles are then spread throughout the year. This schedule permits this reporter a relatively leisurely and contemplative lifestyle, unlike, say, the *Nayes* columnist who must constantly work her sources and monitor multiple Twitter feeds. Still, fresh news occasionally breaks this reporter's way. This month's column includes news of TI's Newest Member, a title that, in light of both TI's membership growth and fertility rate, is likely to be passed on by the time next month's column appears.

#### **Daniel Byerly and Katharine Clark**

Dan and Kate got together in high school and have been together ever since. They even attended Brown University together. They moved to Washington after college for Kate to attend Georgetown law school, while Dan taught history at the Maya Angelou public charter school. After a brief detour while Kate did a year clerkship in Boston they returned to this area.

Kate is now an attorney for the Department of Justice, where she specializes in immigration litigation. Dan now works for the Discovery Channel in its education division, where he helps develop and edit on-line textbooks. Dan and Kate are the proud and happy parents of **Alexander**, just born in April 2013, believed at press time to reign as TI's Newest Member. That's big news!

Dan and Kate enjoy hiking and outdoor activities, and walking their beloved golden retriever. They knew Rabbi Seidel previously from some courses they had taken with him, and were members of a synagogue where they became close to Rabbi Avis Miller, one of TI's most prolific Magnet Members.

#### **Diane and Arthur Friedman**

The Friedmans have been Washington area residents for decades. Diane is originally from Augusta, Maine, and Arthur grew up in the Bronx. Diane previously worked in international development and health programs, and is now a management consultant in project management and process improvement, mostly for federal agencies.

Arthur was originally a cultural anthropologist (he did some field work living at 13,000 feet with an Indian group in Peru). He is now also a consultant. His firm, Friedman Consulting, helps executive management clients see the big picture in their IT development. When not consulting, Arthur manages an on-line investment room. He has a special focus on alternative energy investments.

The Friedman's daughter, **Zoë**, a student at JDS, is scheduled to have her Bat Mitzvah at TI this June. That's big news too! You will learn more about Zoë as her Bat Mitzvah nears; among other things, she is reported to be a good cook and photographer.

Diane and Arthur also help manage the DC International Film Festival each year, and Diane is a certified beekeeper. The Friedmans had visited TI on occasion previously, and were encouraged to join by Frank Solomon, earning Frank the title of Magnet Member of the month. Diane and Arthur enjoy the community feel of TI, and are especially impressed by the Shabbat lunch. They have set a goal of using that time to meet one new person each Shabbat. Maybe some of us veteran members can learn from their example.

Welcome to this month's new, and very new, members.

# 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 March 11, 2013

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

**Excused:** Sharon Brown, Joanne Hovis, Cynthia Peterman.

**Staff:** Eitan Gutin and Rabbi Ethan Seidel.

**President's Report.** Dues & High Holiday Tickets: If dues are raised \$100 to \$1135/adult (a little less than \$100/adult increase) and the High Holiday tickets are decreased by \$100/adult and \$50/child then the net income to TI is the same. Repeated a second and third year, then by the third year the cost of High Holiday tickets would be included in the dues.

**Membership.** Alice Burton presented the following information and questions:

1. Should we treat people who sign up for our newsletter as member prospects? Or should we wait until they show some further interest in the synagogue?

2. There were three *havdalah* events with a total of 75 people. They were enjoyed by all.

3. The Membership Committee spoke to people that joined the synagogue within the last year or two about their interest in joining a *havurah*.

4. Segulah would like to cohost a seudat shlishit.

**Social Action.** Deena Dugan presented the following information: We will be collecting toys for the Homeless Children's Play project. On May 5, we will help with food packing at the Capital City Food Bank. A group has formed to discuss food policy and distribution.

**Ritual Committee.** Fall Holiday issues are being discussed. The cemetery service will be between

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. A *Selichot* program is in discussion with the Adult Education Committee. Second Day B'Yachad: Eitan will conduct two services, one for younger kids and one for older children.

**Lifelong Learning.** Registration for next school year will begin after Pesah break.

**Finance,** Chris Zeilinger. Budget – 2013-2014: July 1 is when the new fiscal year begins. May 29 is the annual membership meeting. By May 15 a proposal to change the dues needs to be sent to the TI membership. The draft budget was discussed.

Administration, Jeff Davidson. Executive Director Search: About twenty applications were received.

**Good and Welfare.** A synagogue member felt left out at Kiddush after services when all the seats in the library were saved. It was suggested that more chairs be available either at the tables or in the corner.

TI Spring Fling & Auction, May 5, 7-9:30 p.m. Adults: \$54, Teens \$18, Kids \$10 Family maximum not to exceed \$128

Contribute to the memory book for David Zinner http://bit.lv/ZinnerMemoryBook

Donate Goods or Services for the Auction http://bit.ly/TIAuctionDonate13

Buy Raffle Tickets -- \$10 each or 3 for \$25 http://bit.ly/TIBuyRaffles2013 Himmelfarb School News

The Himmelfarb School celebrated

Israel in April as we marked the

country's 65th birthday. Our fantastic

faculty took the entire school on a

virtual trip through Israel that

included praying at the Kotel.

swimming in Eilat, and "buying"

falafel in Tel Aviv. Thanks to the

entire faculty who created such a

wonderful morning for the students.

Registration for the 2013-2014

school year will be opening this

month. Watch your mailbox (not your inbox) for the full registration packet.

**USY Helps Communities Rebuild** 

Kol HaKavod to Gabriella Pereira-

Feron, our USY Chapter President,

who volunteered as a participant in

USY's Alternate Spring Break. Gabi

and about 80 other USY'ers from all

over the country gathered down on

# Lifelong Learning Eitan Gutin

the Jersey Shore during the intermediate days of Pesach to help local communities rebuild from Hurricane Sandy.

One Week of Jewish Camping for only \$300!!!

USY Encampment (9th-12th) and Kamp Kadima (6th-8th), August 19-25, provide an incredible week of traditional camp experiences and Jewish celebrations all rolled into one. Thanks to the Himmelfarb Fund, any TI child who has not yet spent a Shabbat with Seaboard USY or Kadima qualifies for a 50% subsidy camp. Please contact Eitan Gutin, Director of Lifelong Learning, for more information.

#### **A Weekend Celebration**

We are looking forward to June 7-9, when we will finish our school and program year with a full weekend of celebrations. The festivities will include:

**Friday Evening, June 8:** Family Service and Shabbat Dinner.

Shabbat Morning, June 9: We honor our 10th Graders who have completed the Chai School with Confirmation. In addition, we will honor and bid farewell to those TI young adults who are graduating from high school.

**Sunday, June 10:** A full day to end the school year. The morning will include a Siddur Party for our rising Gimel (3rd grade) class and a graduation ceremony for the Vav (6th) class, most of whom will enter Junior Chai in September. The day will be capped off with our annual ummer Celebration. Check your email for details.

#### First of all, I want to thank **Dov Weitman** and **Andrew Reamer** for the books they donated in February. Most of these books are on the shelf outside the Emsellem room on the shelves labeled New Acquisitions. They have been joined by the books we have just acquired from **David** (**Carla**) **Cohen**, who graciously offered to donate to the library all the Jewish books he is giving away.

David and I went over every book he had set aside, to determine if the library already owned them. Although we already had many of them, I was glad to accept more than two large boxes of books for our collection. They range from music to fiction to theology to memoir to Holocaust literature to U.S., European, and

# Library News Michele Sumka

Israeli history. My committee and I are busy processing them and putting them on the shelves. Some of the titles we have already processed include the following:

**Novels:** The Baker: A Novel by Paul Hond; Safe in America by Marcie Hershman; Herzog by Saul Bellow; The Fifth Corner of the Room by Israel Metter; The Book of Israel by Jeremy Gavron; and The Flame Bearers: A Novel by Kim Chernin.

**Short Stories:** *Missing Pieces* by Stanislaw Benski; and *A Crown of Feathers and Other Stories* by IB Singer.

**U.S. History**: People Walk on Their Heads by Moses Weinberger; A Fire in Their Hearts: Yiddish Socialists in New York by Tony Michels: Jews in the American Academy by Susanne Klingenstein; Jews without Mercy by Earl Shorris; A Jew Looks at America by Louis M. Levitsky; and Being Jewish in America by Arthur Hertzberg.

**World History:** *The Sacred Chain: The History of The Jews* by Norman F. Cantor.

**Israel History:** Next Year in Jerusalem by Daphna Golan-Agnon.

Jewish Thinkers: A Land of Two Peoples by Martin Buber; The Healer of Shattered Hearts: A Jewish View of God by David Wolpe; and Judaism: The Key Spiritual Writings of the Jewish Tradition by Arthur Hertzberg.

Bible: For Thou Art with Me: The Healing Power of Psalms by Samuel (Continued on page 6)

# Dues Increases Should Not Be Inevitable Sarah Osborne

The Finance Committee, while formulating a budget for next year, is assuming a 3% increase in membership dues over the 2012 level. This follows increases of 3% in 2012, 3% in 2011, 5% in 2010, and 3% in 2009. I don't believe a dues increase is appropriate for the current economic situation.

The policy of increasing dues by a modest amount every year is based on a document known as *The Galston Report*, a study prepared many years ago by a committee headed by TI member William Galston. The study concluded that large intermittent dues increases were neither successful in closing revenue gaps nor conducive to attracting new members, and recommended that a small increase every year is a more palatable and effective financial strategy.

#### **Present Realities Not Addressed**

I have no doubt that *The Galston Report* was well thought-out and well -researched, and that its conclusions were valid for the time of the study. I do not believe, however, that it predicted the economic contraction, decelerating growth and low inflation rates of the last years, nor the effects on the area economy of a 3-year wage freeze on federal government employees or the sequester. How could it? How do we measure the impact of all these factors on our members and their relationship to TI? I suspect we don't have the data to do so. But I'd like to share with you a more visceral reaction:

How can we continue to increase dues year after year when many of our members are, if not economically distressed, at least uncomfortable and working very hard to make ends meet? How can we continue to increase dues at a rate generally higher than inflation? Why were we raising dues when we had deflation?

#### **Three Responses**

When I have asked these questions, I received three responses: The first is that TI members would not be affected by the recession. This is either far too optimistic about the length and breadth of the economic slowdown, or simply too elitist for words. Some TI members may have been immune, but many have not. TI is a warm and caring community, and I hate to see us leaving people behind by assuming all have a comfortable economic status.

A second, more reasonable, response is that members who cannot meet their dues obligation

receive abatements. This is indeed true, but while there should be no stigma attached to abatements, it would be naïve to believe this is always the case. Why should the onus to be on persons who need help, rather than on the congregation as a whole to be more conservative in the face of economic reality?

The final argument is that the dues increases are equivalent to less than the cost of a cup of Starbucks coffee every day. Or even every week. But many of us gave up Starbucks coffee long ago and have struggled to make our budgets meet our real income. And TI can do the same.

#### **Keep Dues Unchanged**

I propose that membership dues and their proxy, High Holiday tickets, remain flat this year. Where salary increases have already been signed into staff contracts, savings need to be found in programmatic areas. This exercise will be difficult and demanding, but it is what many TI members have had to do personally.

I ask us to show regard for all TI members by undertaking fiscal restraint as a community. This would be in the same spirit of kindness and *tikkun olam* that I've always found at TI.

# Library News (continued)

Chiel; *Genesis: Translation and Commentary* by Robert Alter; and *The Bible as Literature* by Buckner B. Trawick.

**Bible Commentary:** A Treasury of Chassidic Tales: On The Torah by Shlomo Yosef Zevin.

**Memoir:** Upon the Head of a Goat by Aranka Siegal; Solidarity and *Treason* by Lisa Fittko; Dobryd by Ann Charney; and Castles Burning: A Childs Life in War by Magda Denes.

**Holocaust:** Blessed is the Match: The Story of Jewish Resistance by Marie Syrkin.

**Music:** Tenement Songs: The Popular Music of the Jewish Immigrants by Tony Michels.

If you also have books you would like to donate, please look first at Librarything.com, our online inventory of books in the Mollie L. Berch Library to see if we own them. If you have too many books to do that yourself, please contact me before dropping them off at the synagogue, and I will help you determine whether we have a need for them. We do have a need for Jewish children's books, so please consider us before giving those to another place.

# Thirteen Stories David (Judy) Cohen

Holocaust consciousness has been part of our lives since childhood, but most of us did not lose immediate or close family members in the conflagration. Almost all of us were born in the United States, as were most of our parents, and even a few grandparents. We are predominantly the grandchildren of European Jews who wisely chose to immigrate to the U.S. in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Some of us, however, did not experience the Holocaust from a distance. Some Tl'ers are the children of Holocaust survivors, had family members who were murdered by the Nazis, or had American parents whose lives were changed by the Shoah's impact.

On Sunday, April 7, in a moving *Yom HaShoah u'Gevurah* program in the Sanctuary, organized and led by **Cynthia Peterman**, an audience of about 50 heard the personal stories of 13 TI members whose lives were changed or intimately affected by the Holocaust.

We heard from members whose parents survived the death camps or forced labor camps, some of whom met in post-war displaced persons camps. Others told of relatives who survived to make it to Israel, or of many who did not survive. We learned some startling facts, and about extraordinary resourcefulness and resiliency. We learned how the kindness and bravery of Gentile neighbors—and even strangers saved many lives.

#### The Fate of Hungarian Jewry

Lisa Kraft, whose parents came from Hungary, reminded us of the tragedy that befell the Hungarian Jewish community. They had survived the fiercely anti-Semitic (but not murderous) policies of the wartime Hungarian fascist government, only to succumb in the last year of the war, after the Nazi take-over of Hungary in March 1944.

She cited two mind-chilling, contextual facts: In one year, from April 1944 (when the Nazis already

knew they would lose the war!) to April 1945, over 500,000 Hungarian Jews were murdered in Nazi death camps, more than all U.S. military deaths in three and a half years in World War II! In just one day, June 6, 1944 — D DAY — twice as many Hungarian Jews were murdered as the number of American soldiers who died on the beaches of Normandy!

We learned how the element of luck played a role in saving lives. Neutral Switzerland had a law that permitted the war-time entry of refugees if one of their group was under age 16. This was how **Claudine Schweber**'s mother, a teenager whose family had escaped post-Anschluss Austria to France, managed to enter Switzerland just a month before her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.

We learned of many ironies. Lynn Snyder's great aunt was born and raised in Germany, but she and her husband made *aliyah* to Palestine, only to return to Germany in 1933 when they could not find work in (Continued on page 8)





Tifereth Israel members in the Juniper Street lobby read the names of over 1,000 Jews who were killed in the Holocaust



Tom Goldring lights memorial candle as Esther Herman speaks

# My Friend Marge Audrey Smith

What a dear friend and companion Margorie Rosenthal was. Sitting beside her at TI (second row, right center, Marge on the aisle), traveling with her -- and earlier, Nathan also -to Kauai, Myrtle Beach and on local forays, shopping, movies, dining out, chatting on the telephone almost every day. Her spirit pervaded my life.

Marge was committed, competent, caring and courageous. Her ancestors were among the founders of Washington's first synagogue. First as a teacher, then as longtime Sisterhood President, she took her Jewish heritage seriously. She bought supplies for the Hanukkah Boutique on sale after the holiday for next year, and pushed sales of Entertainment Books. She came from Olney to Shabbat services and monthly Sageing meetings via the dreaded Metro Access.

She cared so much, particularly for her family. She shepherded Nathan through his last illness and worried so about her daughter's health problems. She delighted in the accomplishments of her family and had pictures and mementos from each happy occasion. Even in the pain of her final illness she always was concerned for my health problems -- insignificant by comparison.

Her final year was a testament to her indomitable will. Until the last, she maintained much of her life. Singing in chorus and making plans for the future showed her dogged determination to endure the terrible treatments and live to enjoy upcoming family *simhas*. How fortunate we at Tifereth Israel were to celebrate Marge on Shabbat only a month ago.

We can't forget Marge's love for her cats, Tony and Cleo. It was my privilege to keep her well supplied with cat *tchatchkes* and jewelry. I remember pinning a golden dancing cat pin on her jacket when last we met and the delight she found in each new object.

This caring cat love was just an extension of the dear affection that was Marge.

### Thirteen Stories (continued)

Palestine. Fortunately her aunt was able to immigrate to South Africa, and eventually to the U.S.

**Rona Fields**, who talked about many relatives caught up in the Holocaust, including some who died in the camps, told of one cousin who survived and settled in Chile, where he became a leader in the Communist Party and a minister in the Allende government, only to be tortured to death by Pinochet's ensuing fascist regime.

#### **American Parents Also Affected**

There were also some compelling stories about American parents. **Esther Herman** told of her father, who upon learning that many immediate family members still in Europe had died in the Holocaust, lost his sense of joy in life, and discouraged his children from smiling and laughing—even on Esther's wedding day!

**Dana Neimark** spoke of her early childhood years, when her father, **Ben Perlzweig**, a TI member for over 40 years, was a U.S. army medic and intelligence officer in Europe from 1942 to 1946. He had helped liberate the death camps and had taken photos of the emaciated survivors, which he felt were too disturbing to show his children. Dana saw them for the first time only after his death.

Other TI members who spoke were Tom Goldring, Hedy Howard, Elihu Leifer, Bernie Shleien, Deborah Stern and Morris Rodenstein. Upon completing his or her remarks, each speaker lit a memorial candle on the *bimah*. With so many speakers, Cynthia chose not to speak but rather to include her mother's story in the event's program booklet.

#### **Reading of Names**

In the Juniper Street lobby throughout the morning (before, during and following the program), people read more than one thousand names of Jews who were killed in the Holocaust. Many Tiers sat and listened as names, birthdates, last known residence, and date of death were read of Jews from many different countries--some in their eighties, some children.

Sometimes all that was read was the name, just enough so that the person's memory should not be erased from the earth. Many shed tears as they realized the magnitude of the loss, but were proud to bear witness to their lives.

# Kol Nashim Paula Flicker

End the "school year" with Kol Nashim at the following events in May and June:

Kol Nashim Book Club, May 21, 7:30 p.m.

The book club will meet at the new home of **Cynthia** and **Alan Weitz**. Two nonfiction books will be discussed; read one or both. The books are *Sacred Trash* by Adina Hoffman and Peter Cole, and *Sacred Treasures* by Mark Glickman. Both are about the Cairo Geniza.

*Sacred Trash* is found more easily. Montgomery County libraries own 11 copies and Washington DC libraries own two copies plus one electronic copy.

RSVP to <u>knbook@tifereth-Israel.org</u> or e-mail Cyndy Weitz to get the address.

Hallah Three Ways, June 2, 10:30 a.m.

Most Sunday mornings, Jessica Weissman can be found baking breads in her kitchen. But Sunday morning, June 2, Jessica will be demonstrating *hallah* baking at TI.

Whether you've never baked bread or you bake *hallah* every week, you'll



learn something new. Of course, there will be *hallah* tasting as well.

Meet, Greet, Eat and Network, June 9, 4-6 p.m.

Join other Kol Nashim members at the home of **Paula Flicker** for part of your Sunday afternoon. We'll have wine, cheese, and networking. Come make new connections within TI. Learn something new about women you know already.

# Kolot HaLev Annual Concert, May 19

On the Wings of Song, a Musical Portrait of Modern Life in Israel, will be presented by Kolot HaLev on May 19, 2013, at 4 p.m., at Ohr Kodesh Congregation. Kolot HaLev is the Jewish Community Choir of

### Juniper St. Collection

Thanks are extended to all TI members who donated toiletries for the Homeless Children's **Playtime Project**. That collection has now ended.

Our new collection is spring or summer clothing for **Shepherd's Table**. Men's, women's or children's clothing is fine. Everything should be in good to excellent condition. No underwear, please.

This collection will run through May 23.

Suburban, Maryland. TI members Loretta Saks and Larry Baizer sing in the group.

The program features songs composed by Israelis and inspired by the daily realities of life in modern Israel. The songs are humorous, tender, and joyful, representing the yearning of lovers, the arrival of new immigrants, parents watching grown children leave for an uncertain future, friends saying farewell to fallen comrades, and other facets of life in a vital and complex 21st century Mid-Eastern nation.

"Israel is a modern nation facing all of the social and economic dilemmas of our new century," says Ramón Tasat, artistic director. "At the same time, Israel will always be the living fulfillment of Jewish aspirations. The melodies of these songs are beautiful and fresh. The lyrics portray Israelis deeply moved by the things that all of us care about and shaped by all aspects of life, not just war." Joining Kolot HaLev are soloists Cantor Rachel Hersh, Mina Tzoukerman, and an array of virtuoso instrumentalists.

Tickets are \$18 for adults when ordered on-line at <u>www.kolothalev.org</u> or \$20 when purchased at the door. Admission for students and children is \$6. The full program for *On the Wings of Song* is also available on-line.

Please contact Larry Baizer, <u>lbaizer@yahoo.com</u>, if you need additional information.

### **Tot Shabbat**

Saturday, May 18, 11:10 a.m. Join other families with tots (5 and under). Parent-led program includes *tefillah* (prayer), songs, Shabbat stories, Torah parade and minikiddush. Then stay for Kiddush.

# Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers Barbara Raimondo

### Hit the road, MACS

**Cynthia** and **Jeff Peterman** are proud to report that daughter **Tania** received an award for exceptional achievement from MACS, the Maryland Association of Community Services. Tania was nominated by her agency, the Meaningful Opportunities for Successful Transitions (MOST) program at the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes (JFGH). Way to go Tania! And if you, faithful reader, can keep track of all those acronyms we're proud of you too!

The Nesse Lewis girls are now embarked on careers of doing good deeds, making them fully certified good deed doers. Naomi is living at Camphill Village in Kimberton, Pennsylvania, an organic farm with group homes for people with developmental disabilities. Thev have a weavery and pottery studio as well as an apiary (for apes) and various other farm things such as draft horses with which her family is totally unfamiliar. (Editor's note: Draft horses bring beer, don't you know anything?)

Gabriella will be joining Teach for America and will be teaching in the Mississippi Delta. She is looking forward to a break from the muggy Washington summers. Parents Janet and Mark have promised to Skype.

Barbara Raimondo's poem "The Better Life" was published in the poetry journal, *Right Hand Pointing*. Despite its extremist title it has no political agenda. The poem or the journal.

#### There He Goes Again

Simcha Kuritzky's exhibit on Pidyon Ha-Ben coins and tokens won first

place at the Whitman Coin Expo in the Baltimore Convention Center in March. He will bring this exhibit to the World's Fair of Money in Chicago this August.

Judi Berland went to Costa Rica where she did white water rafting, zip lining and horseback riding. Ask to see her pics! She got to see sloths (the furry kind), monkeys (ditto), crocodiles (no, not lawyers, these have fewer teeth) and iguanas (everyone's favorite pet), as well as lots of flowers and birds.

For *Pesah* Judi led a seder at one of JFGH's homes for 20 residents and their counselors. Judi has been doing this for more than 15 years now and always looks forward to this *Pesah* tradition.

Fellow adventurer Alan Landay went cross-country skiing in West Virginia. One day he was at White Grass cross-country ski center and the other on hiking/cross-country ski trails at Blackwater Falls. Sounds like nature has an interesting color scheme out there.

Alan had a great time and showed up at Friday night services wearing his ski bibs. Hey, everyone is welcome at TI, even if you don't know how to dress. He also attended the excellent Friday night Passover dinner.

# Everything Happens If You Wait Long Enough

**Claudine Schweber** presented a webinar for federal employees on March 21, organized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Chief Information Officer. That's HUDCIO to you. It was called "Managing Disasters, Re-Organizations and Other Crises."

And believe it or not, the sequester was not even part of the plan for the session. Just goes to show -- you can't go wrong preparing for chaos.

TI members **Wilhelmina** and **Stefan Gottschalk** are pleased to announce that Baby Boy Gottschalk was born on Monday, April 8, at exactly 1:00 a.m. Baby was born healthy, and weighed 8 lbs 4 oz.

Copycat Tl'ers, **Kate Clark** and **Dan Byerly**, announce the birth of **Alexander Gabriel Byerly** at 10:51 a.m., April 10, at 8 lbs, 8 oz and 21.5 inches long. Everybody is doing great.

#### Sad News

Member Marjorie Broder Rosenthal died April 11 at age 83. On March 9, Marjorie was honored at Tifereth Israel Shabbat morning services for her many years of service as Sisterhood President. Funeral services were held at TI on April 14. She was buried at Arlington National Cemetery, where Marjorie's late husband, Nathan Rosenthal, is buried.

Alice Woll, mother of Diana (Jim) Zurer, died April 1, at age 100. The burial was in New York.

Marion Weis Cohen, mother of Ann Cohen and grandmother of Sarah and Rachel Cohen Strum, died on March 22 in Boca Raton, Florida.

May family and loved ones be comforted by their memories.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *piebald*: "composed of incongruous parts" (Merriam-Webster Online).

# Moses and the Ten Commandments Simcha Kuritzky

Shavuot is a peculiar holiday. Though we are commanded to celebrate it in the Torah, it does not commemorate any event. It is also one of the few holidays that is not on a new or full moon. The rabbis decided that Shavuot marked the anniversary of Moses receiving the Torah on Mt. Sinai, and we read about this event in the day's Torah reading.

While Jews have often eschewed iconography due to the Second Commandment's barring of images, the image of Moses with the Ten Commandments has become a popular icon, especially after the *Haskalah*, when Jews began imitating their Christian neighbors.

### **19th Century Pendants**

I have two 19th century pendants that show Moses with the tablets on one side and the *Shema* (Deut. 6:4, which was treated like a Jewish creed) on the other. These may have been made by gentile artists, as the commandments are represented by Roman numerals.

A later pendant, made in Israel probably in the 1950s or 1960s, shows Moses with the Commandments in Hebrew. Christians also issued medals portraying Moses. I have a 19th century German medal that shows Moses receiving the tablets from God (represented by a trinity of 3 yud's) and an angel.



Moses also appeared on souvenirs from the 1930s. In 1933, at the Chicago World's Fair (Century of Progress), the Jewish Agency for Palestine sponsored Jewish Day with a spectacular pageant called "The Romance of a People" that told our history. Over 6,000 actors, singers, and dancers performed before an audience of 125,000 at Soldier Field.

Commemorative medals were sold at the fair which show Moses descending Sinai with the tablets. The pageant name appears in English and part of Exodus 19:25 in Hebrew. An elongated cent (rolled in a jeweler's mill) with the image of a hooded Moses holding the tablets in Hebrew was probably sold at the New York World's Fair in 1939-40.



This image was so closely associated with the Jews that even the Nazis used it on notes issued for the Theresienstadt Ghetto in 1943. Unlike notes issued in other ghettos, like Litzmannstadt (Lodz) where they were used as pay and to ration food, the Theresienstadt "Moses crowns" were only for show.

They were part of an elaborate scheme to portray Nazi treatment of the Jews as humane for the Red Cross. An aged, wrinkled Moses appears with the tablets in Hebrew on notes of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 kronen (crowns).



# Nayes un Mekhayes (continued)

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

This brings to a close a jocose edition of Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers.

The only other government-issued portrait was on a 2005 commemorative from Israel.

In 1994, Israel started a series of coins commemorating Biblical art (that is, modern art portraying Biblical events and personalities). The tenth *(Continued on page 12)* 

### Moses and the Ten Commandments (continued)

coin of the series shows a beaming Moses holding the Tablets inscribed in Hebrew. These were issued as silver 1 and 2 new *sh'kalim*, and gold 1 and 10 new *sh'kalim*.

This design was judged the most inspirational coin of 2005 by a panel of experts organized by Krause Publications, a major numismatic publishing house.





The next two were produced by the Medallic Art Company. The first shows an unconventional portrait of Moses from the back with the *Shema* in English, while the second, part of a series commemorating different religions, shows a bust of Moses with the tablets (using Roman numerals) behind.



The Franklin Mint of Philadelphia minted a 120-medal set on Jewish history (sponsored by the Judaic Heritage Society) in 1974. Medal 2 shows Moses with the Commandments inscribed in Hebrew.



The Franklin Mint also issued a series of medals showing Michelangelo's works which includes

his sculpture of a horned Moses seated with the tablets.



The last medal shown here is a Mardi Gras doubloon, given out to revelers by the Krewe of Mid-City New Orleans in 1979. It is entitled Bible Stories (using a Hebrew-style English font) and shows Moses with the tablets at bottom left.



These are just a sampling of the many works of art portraying Moses and the tablets. It is perhaps the most iconic image in Judaism, but also used by Christians. It is a symbol of one of the seminal moments in Jewish history, one so important the Rabbis repurposed a Biblical holiday to commemorate it. Have a happy Shavuot.

Join other Tl'ers and volunteer at the **Capital Area Food Bank** on Sunday, May 5 from 12:30 to 4 p.m. This leaves plenty of time to still attend the Spring Fling that evening.

The Capital Area Food Bank is at 4900 Puerto Rico Ave., NE. Please contact Larry Baizer, at

# Social Action Sunday, May 5

<u>Ibaizer@yahoo.com</u>, for further information and directions.

Families are welcome--talk with Larry regarding minimum age.

This project typically involves packing and/or sorting donated food, and assisting with various other tasks at the food bank. The work is considered light/medium labor which requires standing for up to three hours and lifting up to 35 pounds.

The temperatures in the work area can fluctuate, so dress for the weather and wear closed-toe shoes.

## Tikkun Leil Shavuot Mark Berch

Have you been studying some Jewish topic and want to give a presentation on it? Have you read a good Jewish book with issues you think worth discussing? Is there some Jewish analysis of history or culture you want to present?

Or would you like to hear some of those items?

One of the most distinctive Jewish study forms is the *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*, a study session on the eve of Shavuot. This year it's the evening of Tuesday, May 14.

We do this every year at Tifereth Israel. Except for the presenters, there's no preparation to do in advance. Just tell yourself that, for one night, or part of a night, or even just one hour, you will give yourself over to study.

As in the past, we will conduct the program jointly with Ohev Sholom and Shirat HaNefesh, and for the second time we will be joined by Minyan Segula. Attendees will likely have a choice of three to four presenters for all but the first two sessions. Most people don't stay the entire night, but each year, people are surprised at how long they stay. After it's over, we have a morning service, which starts at 5 a.m.

I am seeking presenters, for about 45 -50 minutes, including discussion time, and really, ANY specifically Jewish topic is suitable; we always want variety, and we'll have six slots.

If you are interested, please contact me at <u>mberch@mac.com</u> or 301-681-7625.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot Schedule			
8:55-9:20 p.m.	Ma'ariv and Kiddush		
9:20-9:35 p.m.	Refreshments		
9:35-10:20 p.m.	TI Session #1, William Galston		
10:20-10:30 p.m.	Break		
10:30-11:15 p.m.	TI session #2		
11:20-11:35 p.m.	Hazzan Dr. Ramon Tasat		
11:35 p.m12:45 a.m.	Rabbis program with Guest Scholar, Sarit Bendavid: "The King and I: My relationship with King David"		
12:45-1:00 a.m.	Refreshments		
1:00-1:50 a.m.	Communal session #1, Gideon Amir: "Holiness and the Holiness of the Land of Israel"		
1:50 a.m.	All Proceed to Ohev Sholom-The National Synagogue		
2:00-2:50 a.m.	Communal session #2		
2:50-3:00 a.m.	Break		
3:00-3:50 a.m.	Communal session #3		
3:50-4:00 a.m.	Break		
4:00-4:45 a.m.	Communal session #4		
5:00 a.m.	Minyan Segulah service, co-sponsored by Tifereth Israel at Ohev Sholom-The National Synagogue		

# **Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments**

### <u>May 3</u>

Eugene & Esther Herman Mitchell & Patti Herman Carolivia Herron James & Annie Hershberg Judith Herzog William & Nira Hodos Robert & Helen Hovis Hedy Howard Neil Hyman & Rachel Decter Hyman Anita Isicson David & Shana Jacobs Leonard Jewler & Andrea Rosen Shira Jones Harvey Kabaker & Andrea Kline Steven Kalish & Anita Bollt David Kass & Iris Amdur Joshua & Jennifer Kefer Kenneth Kellner & Nina Bronk Kellner

#### <u>May 10</u>

Jason & Devora Kimelman-Block Alexandra Kincannon & Paul Moorehead Shemaya & Dori Klar Morris Klein & Naomi Freeman Roger Kohn Allan Kolker Edward Koren & Claudine Schweber Michael & Lisa Kraft Anita Kramer Joshua & Francesca Kranzberg David & Amy Kritz Richard Kruger & Naimah Weinberg Matthew Kunkin & Hilary Sachs Simcha Kuritzky Susan Laden Alan Landav Robert Lande & Jeri Roth Lande David & Mariama Lantner

#### <u>May 17</u>

Hayim Lapin & Maxine Grossman Alexander Laufer & Jennifer Siegel Laufer Dan & Ariel Lautman Michael & Iris Lav Mitchell Lazarus & Judith Shapiro Beverly Lehrer Louis Leibowitz & Beth Kanter-Leibowitz Elihu & Sheila Leifer Ken & Rachel Lemberg Stephen Lerner & Marilyn Sneiderman Shirley Levine Steve LeVine & Nuri Nurlybayeva David & Ellen Levy Mark Lewis & Janet Nesse Dan Liebman & Lis Davis Kobi Lifshitz & Lisa Traiger John & Lynne List

### <u>May 24</u>

Sean & Jara MacDermott Oscar & Amy Mann Stephen Marcus & Renee Matalon Joseph & Paula Martin Robert Mathis & Tali Stopak-Mathis David & Carla Matusow David & Diana Mever Tobi McFarland David & Janice Mehler Alexander & Daniel Meitiv Ethan Merlin & Joelle Novey David & Dana Mermelstein Sarah & Rachel Meytin Josephine Mickelson Michael & Barbara Milton Emily & Adil Moiduddin Ken Morris & Terri Zall Eli & Laura Muller Jerry & Sharon Muller

### <u>May 31</u>

Jonah & Stephanie Murdock Myron Murdock **Beth Naftalin** Ray & Adele Natter Sheridan & Dana Neimark Stephen Nelson & Leslie Goodman-Malamuth Lee & Hedy Ohringer Sarah Osborne Larry Paul & Joye Newman Perry & Fylis Peckham Daniel Pederson & Dafna Spear Melissa Perera Adam & Jessica Perlmutter Jeff & Cynthia Peterman Michael Pitch & Elaine Weiss Joshua Pitlick & Janet Blank Lisa Plotkin Aron & Karen Primack

### <u>June 14</u>

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 Mover Ari Roth & Kate Schecter Nancy Roth Marc Rothenberg & Ivy Baer

# Tl's Got Talent Frank Solomon

Like Jewish art, Jewish music is hard to define. Klezmer music is definitely Jewish music, created by Jews within a Jewish cultural context. But does Leonard Cohen write and perform "Jewish music?" Cohen is Jewish, and a lot of his music speaks to themes that concern Jews. Do Bob Dylan and Neil Diamond write Jewish music because they were born Jewish? Perhaps the best answer is "if it feels like Jewish music, then it's Jewish music."

Though many Jews have written American classical music and Broadway shows, there is not a lot of Jewish music being written or performed in the United States. Two exceptions are Flory Jagoda, a Sephardic musician who made a name for herself with her Ladino songs, and the late Debbie Friedman, who is credited with transforming music at Shabbat services. But unless one is Orthodox, the odds are that talented Jewish musician will seek a career in making non-Jewish music.

#### Many Talented Musicians at TI

TI is filled with great legal minds, but TI is also home to many accomplished musicians. Rabbi Seidel was a concert pianist and won an award at a Jewish music festival for his own composition. Until recently, Jeff Steinberg led the TI havurah service with his guitar. Ben Dreyfus strummed his to the tune of Pink Floyd's "Wish You Were Here" at a Tikkun Leil Shabbat service. Judy Cohen and Mike Lav play violin at the Symphony of the Potomac, formerly known as the JCC Majorie Odle plays Symphony. recorder in a recorder group.

Two TI members have made a name for themselves as super musicians

who play Jewish music. **Dov Weitman** grew up in an Orthodox home with exceptionally musical parents. "I grew up singing *zemirot* at the Shabbos table Friday night and Shabbos afternoon, and my parents tell me that I began harmonizing practically since I was a baby, most likely because my mother would harmonize when we sang Zemirot," Weitman says.

#### Not Initially Into Jewish Music

But Weitman didn't take to Jewish music when he was young. Like most of us in the 60s, he was a big fan of Fabian, Ricky Nelson, Beach Boys, Beatles, the British invasion. "I started playing guitar when I was 9, and began to get serious about it when I was 15," Weitman says.

"My participation in Jewish music is a natural outcome of my upbringing and of my general love of music of many kinds. However, the truth is that while I continue to sing in shul and at the Shabbat and festival table, I'm generally playing secular music at home when I pick up an instrument."

Weitman plays some Klezmer music, but otherwise it could be bluegrass, rock, jazz, or folk. As he got deeper into music, he expanded into oldtimey, bluegrass, and Irish music. He also began to play other instruments—harmonica/blues harp, mandolin, banjo, fiddle, dobro as well as the electric bass.

In 1978, at the age of 26, Weitman moved to D.C. and met local Jewish musicians like the Fabrangen Fiddlers. He started playing gigs at bar mitzvahs and parties, though still playing mostly folk and old-timey music for fun. A few years later, he met Robyn Helzner, sister of cantor Rochelle Helzner of Tikvat Israel. With three others, they formed a group that has lasted more than 30 years. Today, the group is known as the Robyn Helzner Trio.

Weitman says that as long as there is Judaism, there will be Jewish music. "I think wherever people are Jewishly involved, their culture will reflect that, and ditto when they are not. Orthodox and other religious American Jews will always have Jewish music in the synagogue, at communal celebrations, and to a more limited extent at home. Some others will hold onto some ritual or other social-spiritual-cultural connections."

#### No Instruments on Shabbat

Weitman prefers music for Shabbat without instruments. "There are times when I get itchy fingers on Shabbat, but I wouldn't trade in my practice of not playing on Shabbat. I think that the reason so much great music exists in our liturgy and in Shabbat *zemirot* is that Jews were forced to rely on their voices on Shabbat and holidays. I never miss instruments in shul."

By contrast, another TI musician uses instruments to celebrate Shabbat and enhance the Shabbat experience for other Jews. Cantor Mark Novak, singer, musician, band leader and storyteller, who recently added "rabbi" to his titles, uses the guitar and other instruments during Shabbat services.

"I use different kinds of music to connect to Jews, not only Jewish music," Novak says. "I have been singing Jewish liturgical music since I was a child, and it is literally in my kishkes. It was the music that brought me back to my Jewish roots (Continued on page 16)

# **Bat Mitzvah**

Hi, I am **Ellie Hart**, and my bat mitzvah is on May 11. My parashah is Bamidbar, and I look forward to discussing it in my d'var torah. I am in sixth grade at JPDS, though this is sadly my last year there. I have been going to TI since I moved to the Washington area when I was three, and am very excited about having my bat mitzvah here.

I am on a swim team and an ultimate Frisbee team, and I play violin. I also love to read, especially historical fiction. I have attended Shiloh Quaker Camp for three years (and counting) and I love it so much. I am an only child but am delighted to have such a rich community of friends and family coming to my bat mitzvah.

In my bat mitzvah project I helped to clear invasive species from a few different places in Virginia. This is important to me, because I really care about the environment, and through this project I am helping the environment to renew itself.



### TI's Got Talent (continued)

in the mid-1980s. Go to any lay-led minyan, and you will hear not only music by Shlomo Carlebach, but liturgy being sung to traditional folk music as well. That works best when there is some connection thematically between the liturgy and the music being used."

#### **Davening With Instruments**

Novak doesn't always use instruments when he leads services, "but some days the instrument calls to me and it feels right. It should only be done if the instrumentalist is davening with his/her instrument, using it as an extension of his/her voice. Instruments provide a gateway into prayer for some people, and I like to honor that For others it is a distraction—especially when they are musicians who are not very good."

Like Weitman, his friend for more than 30 years, Novak has been

playing music in the Jewish wedding, bar/bat mitzvah and other musical circuit for decades. He has his own klezmer/rock 'n' roll band, and was actually a member of the Robyn Helzner band in its early years.

Novak says that to be able to use music to connect with Jews, the music must be done with sensitivity to the moment as the prayer service unfolds. "All of these things are merely tools to lift us up and serve as a transportive aid during a service. They are not needed, but can provide a beautiful foundation on which to place oneself during prayer.

"The rabbis were onto something when they decided that we should chant our liturgy. It is really too bad that we have forgotten how the Levites sang during temple days, what musical phrases they used.

"Music reminds us who we are. It can place us in time and space.

Jews sing all the time, during happy *simha-dik* moments, during moments of self-reflection, during moments of remembrance, during moments of despair."

#### **His Own Monthly Minyan Service**

Novak started his own Oneg Shabbat Minyan service several months ago at the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, meeting every third Shabbat morning. There he fuses stories with soulful Shabbat music, and stirs the daveners with poetry, storytelling and meditation.

One recent visitor called the service "filled with energy, with the *kavanah*, *shekhinah* and *tefilah* of the Hassid and the musicality of Shlomo Carlebach." The service combines the best of the *havurah*, independent *minyan* and Carlebach-style service, with a sprinkle of New Age meditation and old-time *kabalah*.

# May Highlights at Tifereth Israel

- May 5 TI Spring Fling and Auction, 7-9:30 p.m.
- May 6, 13, Monday Learning 20, 27 *Parashat HaShavuah,* 11 a.m. Job Club, 1 p.m.
- May 11 Eleanor Frankel Hart Bat Mitzvah
- May 14 Erev Shavuot

Pre-Erev Shavuot Dairy Dinner, 7:45 p.m.

Holiday Maariv Service, 8:55 p.m.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot, 9:35 p.m. (continues all night; see page 13 for detailed schedule)

May 15 Shavuot I

Minyan Segulah Early Morning Service co-sponsored by TI, 5:00 a.m.

Holiday Morning Service, 9:00 a.m.

May 16 Shavuot II

Holiday Morning Service, 9:00 a.m.

Yizkor Service, 11 a.m.

- May 18 Tot Shabbat, 11:10 a.m.
- May 21 Kol Nashim Book Club, home of Alan and Cynthia Weitz, 7:30 p.m.
- May 29 Annual Congregational Meeting, 8 p.m.

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### In Memory of

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### In Memory of

Alice Woll Carla Cohen, Gertrude Cohen, & Joseph Cohen

(Continued on page 19)

# **Donations** (continued)

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