



The Menorah

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Notes from the Rabbi: Ethan Seidel A New Class Offering for 5775

Among my usual course offerings in the coming year (a continuation of Beginning Hebrew on Sunday mornings, Advanced Hebrew/Book of Kings on Friday mornings, teaching the 7th-graders on Sunday mornings, and every other Torah Study Lunch and Learn on Monday mornings) I'm planning to try something new. I'm calling it **Judaism 201**, and here's my plan:

I'd like to start a 2-year course this fall, to include:

1. A group close-reading and discussion of the entire Torah, and other parts of the *Tanakh*, including the Book of Samuel, the five *megillot* and Jonah.
2. Extensive selections from later Rabbinic literature, both midrashic and halakhic.

All texts will be presented in English, though you may well find yourself learning some Hebrew words through osmosis. Tentatively, we'd meet every other week, on Sunday evenings.



I'm offering this because I've heard from a number of TI'ers – many of whom are regulars on Shabbat mornings -- that they would like to be able to participate more fully in the life of TI. They would like, for instance, to be able to contribute to the

(Continued on page 2)

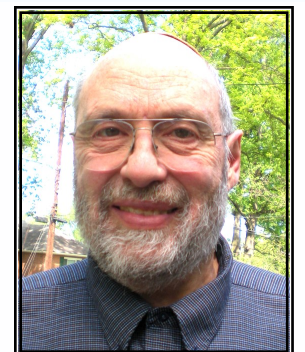
President's Column: Jeff Davidson Planting Trees for Future Generations

I started to write this column in August while Miriam and I were in Oakland, California awaiting the birth of our second grandchild. I am happy to report that Desmond Ravi Davidson (Raphael Zvi) has joined the family and that he and his whole family are all happy and healthy.

I thought it would be interesting to examine our traditional sources and see what they have to say about the relationships between grandparents and their grandchildren. I was even happier to see that the Rabbinical Assembly has published an article by Mark Greenspan entitled "The Halakhah of Grandparents: Planting Trees and Harvesting Riches."

Greenspan notes that the *Tanakh* contains relatively few stories about grandparents

and grandchildren. We do not know, for example, about Jacob's reaction to the death of Judah's children. The Book of Ruth is the obvious exception to this rule.



Our first visit to TI was to hear the great Torah teacher, Pinchas Peli, lecture. Here is his discussion about the other important grandparent story, as told in *Parashah Vay'hi*:

(Continued on page 3)

Notes from the Rabbi (continued)

public discussion of the *drash* on Shabbat morning, without feeling like they don't know enough to speak.

In addition, they would like to have some familiarity with some of our other foundational books -- like the Talmud, Rambam's Mishneh Torah, Rashi's commentaries -- to know a little bit about the books, and to explore some typical selections from them.

Though I reference all of this material in my regular *drashot* on Shabbat mornings, without a framework in which to put them it can be easy to confuse Rashi with Rambam, or the Jerusalem Talmud (*Talmud Yerushalmi*) with the Babylonian Talmud (*Talmud Bavli*). I'm hoping this course might offer TI'ers a framework within which they could organize -- and thus better understand and remember - my regular Shabbat morning teachings.

I also realize that many TI'ers feel that they just don't have the energy at this particular point in their lives to take up improving their Hebrew. Though there is no substitute for learning Hebrew, many of our great works can be profitably read in translation. And I understand (given that I myself have a number of language-learning projects which I feel are important, but may never be able to carve out time for) that often studying texts in translation is the best option.

Let me know if this new Judaism 201 class sounds right for you, and/or if there are tweaks you think I should make in the class content or meeting time that would make it more appealing to you.

And whatever study is part of your plans for the coming year, I wish you *L'shanah Tovah!*

Rabbi Seidel

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Looking for a Shul? Join TI Now!

Families and individuals who join Tifereth Israel by December 31, 2014, are eligible for our special Membership Promotion Package. It includes:

- 50% reduction off full regular dues in the first year.
- One year of free Himmelfarb School tuition for the first child and half price for additional children, in the year the first child starts school.
- Free High Holiday Tickets in 2014.
- Two free Shabbat dinners for the adults and children in your family.

Interested? Go to <http://tinyurl.com/TIApplication2014> for the membership application.

President's Column (continued)

"Upon meeting [his grandchildren] for the last time in his life, [Jacob] declares (Genesis 48:5): 'Your two sons who were born to you in Egypt before I came are mine.' To make sure that the dream of Israel is not buried in Egypt, Jacob turns to the younger generation...the blessing is directed to Joseph's children, not to Joseph. It seems, however, that sometimes the best blessing a father can wish for himself is the blessing conferred on his children.

"Furthermore, Jacob is not concerned about his own children, the first generation of immigrants, who still remember 'the old country' and the traditional home of Jacob in which they grew up. To make sure that the chain of tradition continues, he tries to communicate with the third generation, his grandchildren.

"While there are animals and birds that relate to their offspring, only humans, I believe, relate to grandchildren. For that relationship to be meaningful, one has to be able to transmit to grandchildren the tradition one received from grandparents...

"Jacob realized that grandparents, no less than parents (who are potential grandparents) carry responsibility for the fate and faith of their grandchildren.

"Who is a Jew? Not one who can boast about his Jewish grandparents...but one who can speak with confidence about his Jewish grandchildren. This one can do when following in the footsteps of Jacob who said to Joseph (Genesis 48:9): 'Bring them I pray thee, unto me.' " [Pinchas Peli, *Torah Today*, pp. 51].

A Terrifying Challenge

Peli's interesting message is actually quite terrifying for a new grandfather. It is a daunting responsibility to emulate the Patriarch Jacob! In these days of mobile families and

transcontinental distances, it seems even more difficult. This theme of preparing for the third generation is carried further by this story from the Babylonian Talmud:

"One day Honi was journeying on the road and he saw a man planting a carob tree; he asked him, 'How long does it take [for this tree] to bear fruit?' The man replied: 'Seventy years.' He then further asked him: 'Are you certain that you will live another seventy years?' The man replied: 'I found grown carob trees in the world; as my forefathers planted these for me so I too plant these for my children' " [BT Taanit 23a].

How Can We "Plant Trees"?

The interesting challenge for today's grandparent is the planting of the carob trees. Is our investment into a 529 account the equivalent of planting trees? In important ways, such as the attachment to the land and the nature of physical labor, it might not be, but for practical purposes, it will have to suffice.

In another section of the Talmud, Sota, 49a, we learn from this distressing story:

"Rabbi Aha ben Jacob reared Rabbi Jacob, his daughter's son. When he grew up, [the grandfather] said to him, 'Give me some water to drink.' He replied: 'I am not thy son.'

"Commenting on this, Rashi writes that it merely means that he doesn't have the same obligation to his grandparents that he had to his parents. In any case, he is still obligated to honor his grandparents!" [Rabbi Yehiel Michel Epstein, *Arukh Ha-shulhan, Yoreh Deah* 240:40].

Guide for Conservative Jews

In the recent guide for Conservative Jews, there are numerous

interpretations about these passages, and this great piece of wisdom, which I endorse wholeheartedly:

"Perhaps, in its reluctance to over-regulate the relationship of grandparents and children, our sages were teaching us the most important lesson of all; sometimes, the harvesting of life's greatest riches is not predicated on discharging responsibilities or fulfilling requirements. Sometimes what is required most of all is a giving heart" [*The Observant Life*, p. 709].

Perhaps I should not have looked at the traditional sources and relied, instead, on those teachers of my misbegotten youth, Reb John and Reb Paul, who taught us that love is all you really need.

Special Friday Night September 12

The next Friday night dinner at TI, on September 12, will be a good occasion for TI members (and prospective members) to get to know each other in a relaxed and festive atmosphere, starting with a happy half hour before services.

We will begin with beer, wine, chips and dips. This will be followed by a choice between a Carlebach service and the first family service of the year, in which some of our students will take a leading role.

After services there will be a delicious dinner. Sign up for dinner at <http://tinyurl.com/Sep12Dinner>.

Contact Eitan Gutin about participating in the family service.

New Members

Jared Garelick

Stephen and Jill Saletta

Steve, a native of Rochester, Michigan (one of the “other” Rochesters), originally came to this area to study at George Mason University, where he received a PhD in economics. A member of the Air Force reserves, Steve spent much of the period from 2005 to 2012 first in Kuwait and then shuttling between Washington and Iraq and Afghanistan, where he worked in economic development. He now works on procurement of telecommunications systems for the Department of Defense.

Jill, originally from Indiana, moved to Washington to work for the World Bank, and then worked for the DC government in grant management. She is now staying home caring for their three-month-old son.

The Salettas heard about TI from their Takoma Park neighbors, Sara and Josh Goldberg, making Sara and Josh TI’s Magnet Members of the Month.

The Salettas recently attended their first Tot Shabbat and greatly enjoyed the vibrant TI tot scene.

Sara and David Handwerker

The Handwerkers are part of TI’s growing community of parents of current members who have moved to the area in retirement to live near their children and grandchildren and have joined TI themselves (“New Grandmembers”). They are the parents of current member Dan Handwerker.



Sara, who grew up in Manhattan, and David, from the Bronx, were in the same homeroom class at the Bronx High School of Science – but they were not high school sweethearts. In fact, they never spoke. It was at orientation for medical school at New York Medical College that they recognized each other and really met. Both specialized as OB/GYNs, working in different practices.

Until moving to Silver Spring this past year Sara and David lived for nearly 40 years in Baldwin, Long Island, where they raised their three children. They have enjoyed being near their grandchildren and exploring Wash-

ington and its many museums and sites. David is an avid bridge player, and might be interested in some card action.

Yochanan Sullivan

An Air Force brat, Yochanan grew up in various places. He then joined the Air Force himself, after which he made Aliyah and studied at a yeshiva. Yochanan later spent many years living in Baltimore with significant periods in Israel.

He is the father of 11 children ranging in age from 7 to 27, and now has a few grandchildren as well (that’s a grandson with him in the accompanying photo).



Yochanan is a self-employed house painter, getting jobs mostly through word of mouth in the Baltimore Jewish community, though he will consider jobs around Washington as well. For the past year he has lived in South Silver Spring, conveniently close to TI, which he has found very welcoming. Yochanan found TI through his friend, Yvonne Shashoua.

Renee Gindi and Alan Zibel

Renee and Alan have lived in Takoma Park for about two years. Renee, who grew up in the Gravesend area of Brooklyn, is a health researcher at the National Center for Health Statistics, the workplace of several TI members (including this reporter’s spouse). She received a PhD from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

Alan, a Boston area native, is a reporter for the *Wall Street Journal*, where he writes about financial regulation. Renee enjoys cooking, and Alan aspires to work on his ultimate Frisbee skills.

Their two children, Ezra, who is six, and Hannah, who is three, are already stalwarts of TI’s tot Shabbat scene, where they can act as mentors to the growing number of younger members.

Welcome to this month’s featured new members, grandparents, parents, and tots alike!

Summary of TI Board of Directors Meeting June 9, 2014

Attending: Larry Baizer, Sharon Brown, Susan Catler, Joel Cohen, Jeff Davidson, Joe Davidson, Wilhelmina Gottschalk, Leah Grohsgal, Cynthia Peterman, Debbie Pomerance, Andrew Reamer, Morris Rodenstein, John List, Ray Natter, Dan Turner

Excused: Ariel Brandt Lautman, Howard Riker, Judy Tulchin, Chris Zeilinger

Absent: Jeffrey Colman, Lisa Goldberg, Judy Herzog, Joanne Hovis, Stephanie Roodman Murdock, Mark Verschell

Staff: Eitan Gutin, Jevera Temsky

D'var Torah. Jeff Davidson discussed seeking a diffused model of leadership, with emphasis on the need to avoid doing everything oneself and instead delegating and empowering others.

Meeting Minutes. The minutes and summary of the minutes for the May 12, 2014 meeting of the Board of Directors were reviewed. A motion to adopt the minutes and summary with a small amendment was moved, seconded and adopted without objection. Draft minutes for the May 29, 2014 Annual Meeting were also distributed for review.

Board Member Introductions.

Board Member Responsibilities. Jeff Davidson distributed a packet of documents on board member responsibilities. He also sought a volunteer to lead the planning of a congregational trip to Israel.

Vice President Reports. Each Vice President was asked to discuss his or her area of responsibility and goals for the coming year. Jeff Davidson also asked for a goal and measurable metric for the coming year.

Mortgage Update. Ray Natter gave an update on the status of the mortgage, which comes due on June 28.

President's Report.

TI was represented at the Capital Pride festival this past Sunday.

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism dues for the coming year are \$74.50 per adult member, with no regional supplemental payments.

Jeff is looking for a volunteer to work on outreach initiatives, especially to interfaith families.

The July board meeting will feature reports on High Holiday planning and school registration.

The board will be installed on June 14.

Membership Report.

New babies: Baby Boy Handwerker (June 5); Aviva Simone Taransky (June 5); Hannah Dove Perlmutter (June 3).

Summer membership activities: wine/cheese, open house, marching in July 4 Takoma Park parade and a table at the Takoma Park Folk Festival.

Good and Welfare.

Aviva Blonder is home and did well in surgery.

Larry Baizer reported that Social Action partnered with Fabrangen in May to refurbish the parish house of a church (through Yachad).

Susan Catler reported that beautifully decorated cards were submitted for the Rosh Hashanah card contest. The winning card will go in the bags of food delivered by

the Social Action Committee prior to Rosh Hashanah to needy members of the Jewish community. The greeting on the card is in English and Russian.

Lisa Goldring's father, Joseph Feigelis, died on May 26.

Cynthia Peterman reported that the end of year school programs were well attended by parents.

Jevera said final Spring Fling net income was \$15,641; online auction raised \$136.00.

Andrew Reamer expressed appreciation to Jevera on her upcoming one-year anniversary as Executive Director.

Morris Rodenstein talked about Wilson High School's Gay Pride Day and subsequent Westboro Baptist Church protest and counter-protest by students. One of the organizers of Pride Day and the counter-protest was Neila Rovinsky (from a TI family).

Eitan Gutin reported that Emma Rose Borzekowski will be in high school in Israel with Hashomer Hatzair for a gap year. Rebecca Dorn, Iliana Jaime and Ruth Secular will be in Israel this summer with Habonim Dror.

Carla Ellern received a permit for work on the alley pavement.

Mark Berch led another successful Tikkun Leil Shavuot last week. Wilhelmina Gottschalk reported on sessions at Ohev - one was on the new *mikvah* and during the other Rabbi Seidel led a very nice bibliodrama.

Adjournment. A motion was made, seconded and adopted without objection to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Lifelong Learning

Eitan Gutin

Support TI with Your Giant Card

Starting October 3, through March 19, 2015, the Himmelfarb School, Chai School, and our other youth education programs will have the opportunity to earn cash through the Giant A+ School Rewards Program. Just Log on to www.giantfood.com/aplus and select "Customer Registration" to register online using your Giant Card.

Important Upcoming Dates

September 6 and 7. School begins. Registration is nearly closed for the 2014-2015 school year. For the second year in a row we are seeing record enrollment. We plan to continue growing our wonderful school.

Shabbat, September 6. We will welcome the Vav class (6th grade) and the new Shabbat Chai School to the new school year.

Sunday, September 7. We will celebrate the opening of the school year with our Gan through Hey (K-5th grade) and Jr. Chai (7th grade) students and their families.

Friday, September 12. Join us for our opening **Family Service and Shabbat Dinner** (see box on page 3). Check TI's weekly newsletter for more information.

Professional Development

One of the reasons we do such a fine job in our school and youth programs is that TI is willing to invest in staff

development and training. In August Eitan Gutin (Director, Lifelong Learning), and Missy Mandell (Assistant Youth Director) spent a week at the NewCAJE conference in Los Angeles, CA.

Marla Sevi (Assistant Director, LLL) attended a number of workshops that NewCAJE offered online this year.

Youth Programs

We would like to welcome **Missy Mandell** as our new Assistant Youth Director. Missy will be part time with TI and is responsible for USY and Kadima.

Please make her feel welcome when you see her around the building.

Movie Nite

The Sunday, September 7 Movie Nite presentation will be a double feature of documentaries, **Constantine's Sword** and **Sister Rose's Passion**.

Constantine's Sword, a film from Oscar-nominated director Oren Jacoby, is an exploration of the dark side of Christianity, following acclaimed author and former priest James Carrol on a journey of remembrance and reckoning.

Sister Rose's Passion follows the career of a European nun who commits her life to fighting anti-Semitism.

The films will be shown at 7:30 p.m., and will be followed by a discussion. As always, the movies are free. A *nosh* will be available for \$4 a person.

Money will be collected at the door.

Funeral Practices Committee Always On-Call

Chaverim of the Funeral Practices Committee are on call to provide counsel and services to synagogue members and their dependents.

In the event of a death, prior to contacting the funeral home, please contact one of the following chaverim, Rabbi Seidel, or the TI office (202-882-1605).

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

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

Marcia Goldberg h: 301-589-0352

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

Lilmod U'ilamed: Eitan Gutin

Answering Your Children's Questions

In the Spring of 1987, my 4th grade teacher made a phone call to my parents with a very specific request -- that I stop bringing in articles about HIV/AIDS for current events. Her request made a lot of sense; I can still picture some of the graphics -- of viruses, DNA, and T-cells -- that *Time* magazine used to illustrate the then-emerging epidemic, and which I regularly brought to class.

By the 4th grade I was a regular consumer of adult news. It began at the breakfast table where I would always find my father's copy of the *New York Times*. I had begun reading the front page every day, and our weekly copy of *Time*, with its glossy pages and full-color images, was a natural extension of my curiosity about what was going on in the world.

What amazes me now, looking back, is that I don't recall my parents ever editing the news that I was reading. If I had questions they would answer them honestly and if I didn't they left me to my own devices.

A Difficult Summer

The interest in world events that I began to cultivate as a 4th grader remains with me to this day. As a result, this has been a difficult summer. Every day brought another piece of bad, even scary, news. As an American, a Jew, a Zionist, and the father of a black child, nearly every news story has felt personal to me.

Every night as I put my son, Lev, to sleep he has the opportunity to ask me any two questions he wants. While I don't think he has been exposed in any real way to what has been going on this summer I will admit relief that he has yet to ask anything about the conflicts that have been developing in our own backyard and around the world.

After all, one of my greatest fears as a parent is messing up -- by telling him too little, by inserting too many of my own biases into the conversation, by scaring him in sharing too much, or by failing to prepare him for what is at times a complex and even frightening world.

Of course when I write "mess up" I really mean "mess up my son." This is perhaps the biggest fear shared by the parents I know -- that either through action or a failure to act we will scar a child in a way that hurts his/her ability to function later in life. This fear often prevents parents from making choices that are, in context, good enough because we are so worried that "good enough" is far from perfect.

Being Ready for Questions

The reality is that the older our children get the more likely they are to notice that the world is a complicated place. While this summer's events hit close to home for many Tl'ers -- whether we are talking about Israel and Hamas or the killing of Michael Brown outside St. Louis -- there are complicated events going on in the world all the time. Parents, grandparents, teachers, and other adults in a child's life need to be ready for questions about our imperfect world.

Our children may be asking us questions about topics we ourselves are still figuring out, and we all want our children to maintain their innocence as long as possible. However, if a child asks a question, I firmly believe that the adult role models in that child's life have an obligation to give a real answer. After all, asking questions is an essential part of being a Jew!

Answering your child's questions may take both introspection and courage. What follows are three of

my own thoughts about how to go about answering.

What is your child really asking?

There is a famous story about a small child who asks his mother "where am I from" and the mother responds with a detailed description of the human reproductive process. About 15 minutes into this description the child asks "what I meant was, am I from DC or Maryland?"

It is very easy to misinterpret the questions asked by a child. One of the best practices (and, again, a Jewish one) is to answer your child's question with a question of your own. Why is your child asking? Did they see something, read something, or just overhear something at school?

What does your child need?

My 7-year-old son participated in the burial of his great grandfather at the beginning of the summer. In both the time leading up to the burial and afterward he had plenty of questions. Often the same question was asked again, but for different reasons.

More than once Lev asked "how did Super Saba die?" Sometimes the question was because he was curious. Other times he was trying to understand the whole binary concept of life and death. Finally, there were those times when he was really saying "Abba/Ema, are you going to die?" and needed reassurance that we do not plan on going anywhere for quite a while.

If your children ask a difficult question I highly recommend trying to figure out what they need to hear from you. It is easy to satisfy curiosity but it can be a lot harder to help a child feel secure as they learn about the complexities of the world.

(Continued on page 8)

Library News

Michele Sumka

Children's Books

Parents, have you noticed that the selection of children's picture books has diminished? When I moved the books from the Emsellem Room to the Book Nook a lot of our books disappeared from the shelves! Might you have some of these books in your house??? Please check and return them to the library, no questions asked.

Fortunately, the Children's Book Nook is getting quite a few new (used) books. As often happens, someone else's misfortune became our good fortune. Coincidentally, just

after the Book Nook was completed, I got word that two organizations were disposing of children's books.

The former Isaac Franck Library of the Board of Jewish Education is being dismantled, and I was able to acquire several boxes of books for a nominal fee. At the same time, The Children's Center in Aspen Hill closed its doors and sold its extensive collection of Jewish children's books for a pittance.

We are in the process of processing these books. We are also purchasing new books to augment our collection.

Adult Books

Thanks to the **Special Mollie L. Berch Memorial Fund**, we have just ordered new books. They include several commentaries by JPS, plus titles by Ruth Calderon, David Mandel, Tikva Frymer-Kensky, Rachel Adler and Jeffrey Salkin, among others.

I will tell more about the books in the next *Menorah*.

Once again, please let me know if there are particular titles you would like us to purchase.

Answering Your Children's Questions (continued)

Can you teach your child to have a Divine conversation?

The Talmud tells us that the House of Hillel, with its many followers, and the House of Shammai, which also had many followers, argued with each other about almost every facet of Jewish law. However, even though these two houses of study disagreed with each other on nearly everything, the daughters of the House of Hillel still married into the House of Shammai and likewise the daughters of the House of Shammai still married into the House of Hillel.

This is because Hillel and Shammai and their students were engaged in a *Mahloket B'Shem Shamayim*, a disputation that is carried out in the name of Heaven or the Divine. A Divine disputation is one in which the parties, though passionate, are still capable of treating each other with respect and even befriending each other in spite of their differences.

Unfortunately the world around us seems to undermine our collective ability to engage in Divine

disputations on many of the topics that matter most. We live in a world in which if something cannot be said in 140 characters or fewer it may not be heard.

Slogans Replacing Respect

Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and other social networking services have made it easier than ever for an organized and creative group to spread its message. But this has allowed slogans and talking points to get in the way of people's ability to speak respectfully with those with whom they disagree.

During the early days of Israel's current conflict with Hamas my Facebook feed was taken over by well-designed images and slogans but often lacked any real conversation. Friends publicly posted in their newsfeeds that they were "unfriending" people whose Facebook posts about Israel were counter to their own beliefs.

As both a parent and a Jewish educator, one of my responsibilities

is to encourage people to engage with each other in a respectful fashion even -- especially! -- in the midst of passionate disagreement. When I answer my son's difficult questions I am often tempted to just answer him with one of the slogans of the day but it is because I care so deeply about Divine disputations that I hold back and give him the most honest answer I can, even if it is a complex one.

Persistent Conflicts

Unfortunately, at the time of this writing, many of the summer's conflicts are still simmering or even boiling. As the year progresses all TI parents should know that I am available to discuss the above challenges from my perspective as a parent and Jewish educator.

May our children, and our children's children, one day build a world in which conflict and bloodshed are no longer at the top of our thoughts or at the top of our media feeds.

Jeremy Goldberg Commemoration Day

Each year on the Sunday prior to Rosh Hashanah, the congregation honors the memory of Jeremy Goldberg, past president, frequent floor gabbai, house chair extraordinaire, one-man team for High Holiday changeover, and greeter to all, by inviting volunteers of all ages to help prepare the synagogue for the holidays. This means that children are welcome.

This year the Commemoration Day will take place on Sunday, September 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be inside and outside work, sitting and standing responsibilities, and schlepping and stuffing. You do what you can do.

Among the tasks are changing the Torah mantles, removing the regular *siddurim* and *humashim* from the

book racks and replacing them with the High Holiday *mahzorim*, helping set up for the Cherner service, getting the outside grounds in shape and stuffing folders.

We will have food, of course, for all workers. There is no charge, but you must register by contacting the TI office by September 19.

News from Goettingen, Germany

Naomi Revzin

The Goettingen Gemeinde, TI's sister congregation in Germany, has a new metal tree of community life in its building. Its leaves will celebrate significant events in the Gemeinde and the lives of its members. Members' contributions will fund the inscriptions.

Gemeinde celebrated Israel Independence Day for the first time as a community with performances, presentations and slide shows. Shavuot was celebrated in the synagogue with homemade cheese cakes and sweet treats.

In June the Gemeinde staged an open house for the Goettingen

community. The theme was how Jewish sources understand Social Responsibility and Justice.

A Gemeinde member gave synagogue tours and the Gemeinde's Gold Quartet provided music, as guests visited the Geimeinde grounds. The children's program featured face painting and games. Balloons with wishes were released.

The Gemeinde noted Jeff Davidson's visit, expressing the wish for further and closer interactions with TI.

The Union of Progressive Judaism in Germany marked its 20th Anniversary at this year's annual meeting in Berlin with exchanges among its Jewish communities throughout Germany.

Heiko Maas, Germany's Minister for the Department of Justice, accepted the prestigious Israel Jacobson Prize for his leadership in actively engaging the Ministry against the Neo-Nazis' anti-Semitism. The conference also focused on cantorial seminars and workshops, and the place of women rabbis in the 21st century.

The 2015 European Maccabiah will be held in Germany.

AJWS Meeting

The American Jewish World Service, the leading Jewish human rights and development organization, invites you to celebrate the Jewish New Year with the launch of its DC action team on October 1.

Team volunteers will make their voices heard in Congress, the Oval Office and diplomatic circles through meetings with elected officials, social media, petitions, rallies and other activities.

Come and meet others in DC, Maryland and Virginia who share your passion for international human rights. Hear from AJWS President Ruth Messenger and an AJWS grant recipient from Africa. Find out how your actions can make a difference for global justice in the New Year.

The meeting will be 6-8 p.m., Wednesday, October 1, at Busboys and Poets on 5th and K Streets, NW. Free food and drinks will be provided.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Mike Salamon at 202-379-4265 or at: msalamon@ajws.org.

High Holiday Tickets

High Holiday tickets are still available.

You can pay for tickets on-line through [ShulCloud](#) by e-check or credit card. There is no fee to pay by e-check or credit card.

Tickets need to be posted to your bill before you can pay for them through [ShulCloud](#). This should take no more than five business days.

Social Action at TI: Stephen Nelson Honoring Pioneers of Desegregation

Tifereth Israel's Social Action Committee and the groundbreaking activist group **Neighbors, Inc.** are co-sponsoring a celebratory dinner on **September 14** to honor the efforts of individuals (including five present and former TI members) who played key roles in ensuring that "white flight" would not lead to continued segregation of neighborhoods in Northwest Washington east of Rock Creek Park.

Among those honored in the program will be **Rabbi Emeritus A. Nathan Abramowitz**, current members **Carl Bergman** and **Margie Odle**, former member and TI president, **Ed Cogen**, and the late **Marvin Caplan**, noted civil rights activist and one of the pioneers of Social Action at TI.

Other honorees include Joseph Hairston, Loretta Neumann, Steve and Nancy Smith, Ruth and Dan Jordan, Jean Bennett, Ray Hay, Susan Learmonth, Ed Hollander, Conrad and Marilyn Christiano, Warren Van Hook, and Marjorie Ware.

Countering White Flight

Following the desegregation of schools in Washington in 1954, Neighbors Inc. was founded by D.C. activists — both black and white -- who wanted to counter "white flight" to the suburbs.

That flight was encouraged by real estate agents who attempted to lower the sales price of homes by falsely



warning residents of Shepherd Park, Takoma DC, Brightwood, and Manor Park that their real estate values would decline or that the quality of schools would be affected by integration.

Neighbors Inc. responded with a multifaceted approach. In addition to lobbying for a city ordinance to prevent "Sold" signs from being displayed after real estate sales, the organization worked with more reputable real estate agents to focus on fair selling practices.

They also reached out to government officials and diplomats to interest them in the neighborhoods, and organized citizen tours to introduce prospective buyers to housing opportunities.

Improving Educational Programs

Fifty years later, these neighborhoods have all benefitted by the activities of these honorees. But the work of Neighbors, Inc. is not done. In recent years, the focus has been on improving educational opportunities for all residents.

The celebratory dinner will highlight the local work of Sistermentors, Rock Creek Mentor Group, the Conflict Resolution Workshop for Coolidge High School, and literacy enhancement programs at Takoma Education Campus.

The September 14 program will be held at TI, starting at 4 p.m. The program will begin with a reception, with dinner scheduled for approximately 5 p.m. For more information, please contact **Carolivia Herron** at carolivia@carolivia.org.

JUFJ Annual Meeting

Jews United for Justice will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, September 14, 4-6 p.m., at Temple Shalom, 8401 Grubb Rd, Chevy Chase.

JUFJ brings the local Jewish community together to take action on social justice issues. Its agenda is driven by the community, which selects the campaigns it works on. Over the past year, JUFJ helped earn significant wage increases for tens of thousands of workers in Montgomery County and across Maryland.

At the upcoming annual meeting, JUFJ will select its next campaign. What will it be? Affordable housing, renters' rights, or paid sick days? Come to the meeting and help decide.

At the September 14 meeting, we'll catch up with old friends and meet new folks, nosh on some snacks (kosher and vegetarian), and learn about crucial issues facing Maryland. We'll conclude with discussion, deliberation, and a vote on what JUFJ's next campaign in Maryland will be.

Contact Maryland organizer Katie Ashmore at katie@jufj.org with any questions.

Kol Nashim

Sharon Brown



Fall Kol Nashim programs and events are starting! We have developed an engaging calendar of activities. While representing “the women’s voice” at TI, the program offerings will interest all TI members, both men and women, and complement other adult education activities.

A Taste of Sage-ing

Ever wonder how you will handle your own aging? Come to an introductory workshop, **Getting in Touch with Aging**, to contemplate the practical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of getting older.

The workshop will be held on **Sunday, September 14**, from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., in the Library in the Emsellem Room. It is based on

the writings of Reb Zalman, and will be an introduction and taste of the brilliant insights of this great teacher. It will be led by Michele Sumka and Rabbi Devorah Lynn. Everyone is welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

An expanded workshop will be offered in the fall. For more information, go to <http://www.tifereth-israel.org/taste-saging-getting-touch-aging>.

Bite into Bagels and Bialys!

Join us on **Sunday, October 19**, from 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., for a demonstration and hands-on experience of preparing delicious bagels and bialys by baker extraordinaire Jessica Weissman. Tasting is, of course included!

This event will be held in the area in front of the kitchen. To better plan for hands-on participation, RSVP’s are appreciated but not required at <http://www.tifereth-israel.org/bite-bagels-and-bialys>.

Book Club

The Book Club continues to meet on the third Tuesday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome. The next meeting will be on **September 16**, at the home of Paula Flicker. Jonathan Sarna’s *When Grant Expelled the Jews* will be discussed. On **October 21**, a planning meeting will be held to discuss books for upcoming discussions. More information on this important meeting will be provided in next month’s *Menorah*.

Adult Education

Jessica Weissman

Summer is waning and the Nationals keep winning, so it must be time to talk about fall programming. Plans are still shaping up, and more detail will follow soon.

Gideon Amir returns to teach a four-session course, *The Tragic King Saul*. It will be held on Wednesdays, from 6:45 to 8:15 p.m., beginning **September 3** and continuing through **October 1**.

The cost is \$60 for members, \$80 for non-members.

Cynthia Peterman will repeat her popular course on Jewish history later in the fall.

Mark your calendar: On **December 12** and **13** there will a special **Shabbaton**.

The program will start with dinner on Friday night, continue through Tikkun-style talks on Shabbat afternoon and finish with *Havdalah* followed by an evening of skits.

Rabbi Loel Weiss, member of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Conservative Movement, will deliver a **SHALEM** talk in the Sukkah on **October 11** (the Shabbat of Hol Hamo’ed Sukkot). His topic is “Current Halachic Issues of the Conservative Movement.”

Other **SHALEM** talks are in the works later in the fall and beyond. If you would like to speak, or if you have a speaker or topic to recommend, please contact Jessica Weissman. Preferably before the Nats’ post-season begins.



Jeremy Steinberg, son of Jeff & Julie, on Tifereth Israel Road in Jerusalem, on a Haverford College class trip

Gevarim

Andrew Reamer and Ray Natter



Men's Network

We're pleased to introduce Gevarim, the men's network at Tifereth Israel. Gevarim seeks to organize activities that offer men opportunities for connection, growth, and enjoyment in the realms of the physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual. Gevarim has several programs lined up for the fall, with more in process.

Live from NY's 92nd Street Y

Tifereth Israel will host two Live from NY's 92nd Street Y™ ("92Y Live") interactive webcasts. The first, on **November 9** at 7:30 p.m., is "World Religions: Spotlight on Judaism," with panelists Susannah Heschel (Dartmouth), David Biale (UC-Davis), and Jack Miles (author/editor).

The second, on **December 4** at 8:15 p.m., is "America and Israel: The Way Forward," with panelists Dennis Ross (former ambassador), Dalia Rabin (Yitzchak Rabin Center), and Ethan Bronner (NY Times). These will be ticketed events. Details will follow.

Movie Nite@TI

Gevarim organizes TI's monthly movie series. On **September 7**, two movies by Oren Jacoby on Jewish-Catholic relations -- *Sister Rose's Passion* and *Constantine's Sword* -- will be shown, followed by discussion with TI member and Catholic University history professor Jerry Muller.

Ushpizin will be presented on **October 5**, in conjunction with Sukkot. And on the heels of Halloween, *The Golem* will show on **November 2**.

Schnaps

In September, several of TI's foremost experts on fine spirits and *prost schnaps* will be gathering to explore ideas for events of interest to the greater TI community. We'll let you know what they come up with!

Gevarim abide.

It Takes a Village to Move a Mosaic

Jessica Weissman

So, you think it's easy to take a 10 ft. by 17 ft. mosaic from a brick wall in Georgetown and move it to the National Gallery's Sculpture Garden? Just pry it off, put it carefully on a flatbed truck, drive it slowly over DC streets to the Mall, and glue it to a new wall, right? Piece of cake. So what's the big deal? If only it were that easy.

On **Saturday night, September 20**, at 10:30 p.m., prior to S'lihot services at midnight, **Shelley Sturman**, head of object conservation at the National Gallery of Art (NGA) and a TI member, will describe how the mission was accomplished.

She will share the dramatic story of how she and a team of conservators, curators, art handlers, designers, carpenters, masons, registrars, mosaic experts, engineers, lawyers, and security people collaborated in

the 3-year effort to bring Marc Chagall's beautiful mosaic, *Orphée*, to its present site on the Mall.

After spending several decades in the back yard of Chagall's friends, John and Evelyn Nef, the mosaic required serious conservation.

Tesserae were missing, the internal support system had deteriorated, and the mosaic needed cleaning. The NGA team worked together in what Shelley calls "an intricate ballet" to remove and conserve the mosaic, find just the right site, create a suitable wall, design a whole new mounting system, and finally install *Orphée* in its new home.

It's a fascinating story of what it takes to bring what is simultaneously a delicate physical object and a piece of glorious art safely to a place where we can all enjoy it.

Contemplating this intersection of art and science, of beauty and earthly stone and glass, will make a perfect introduction to the holiday season.

ShulCloud Donations

TI will soon process all online donations through ShulCloud. Donors will log in to ShulCloud and pay online by e-check or credit card, with **no fee**. Under the current system donors enter donation information online and are billed later.

Need help with ShulCloud? Call the office or send an email to inquiry@tifereth-israel.org. Prefer to be billed later? You will still be able to call the office to make your pledge.

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Barbara Raimondo

Diplomatic

Simcha Kuritzky put three exhibits into competition at the American Numismatic Association convention in Chicago. The Henrietta Szold and Israel's Money and Graven Images both took second place in their class. Also at the convention, Krause Publications inducted Simcha as a Numismatic Ambassador. As such, he will be sure to mind his *alefs* and *bets*.

Tania Peterman has been accepted to Project Search for the 2014-15 academic year. Tania will be interning at the Smithsonian, where she will be learning job skills and gaining work experience at a variety of sites throughout the Smithsonian complex.

Her mom, **Cynthia Peterman**, has been appointed to the Maryland Caregivers Support Coordinating Council, an advocacy and resource provider to caregiving organizations and individuals throughout the State of Maryland. Cynthia represents parents of children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder to the Council. Mazel tov to Tania and Cynthia!

In other work news, **Bruce Heppen** issued a stunner of an announcement: "I regret to inform you that the TI Branch of the Metro Red Line Complaint Department is permanently closed," he writes. "I have retired from Metro and am now working across the river at the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority." YES! Now we know whom to contact for our lost luggage! Thanks, Bruce!

David Levy spoke at the National Partnership for Community Leadership national conference in Memphis in June. During the event, programs and legislation to support children's frequent and continuing contact with their dads (as well as moms) were proposed.

Diaperatic

Batya Turner Fein, daughter of **Martha** and **Neil**, had her naming the first Shabbat in August at Temple Sholom in Bridgewater, NJ. Batya, who was born in January, was named for her father's father. She and her parents live in Highland Park, NJ. Proud grandparents, **Lester** and **Judith Turner**, brought their oldest grandchild, **Miriam Turner**, to the event with them.

And **Josh Furman** and **Alisha Klapholz** welcomed a daughter, **Tova**, born July 14. Everyone is doing well, and they enjoyed celebrating a *simchat bat* for her with the TI community!

Never Static

Esther and **Gene Herman** have had a whirlwind summer. In June, they attended the wedding of nephew, **Jeremy Freedman**, to the lovely **Anastasia Gonokhova Freedman** in San Diego; then came an exploration of the lower Chesapeake Bay, Patuxent River area near Solomons to spend some days with granddaughters, **Arielle** and **Talia Liu** and their mother, **Alisa**. Talia is heading for the engineering department at Rice University in Houston.

Next came a trip to Gene's home city, Minneapolis, to be with brothers **Mike** and **Bud (Norman)** and other relatives and friends. Lastly, an excursion to Petaluma, California, Esther's home, and a 60-year high school reunion! (Seems like only yesterday . . .) Many family members and friends were visited throughout the San Francisco Bay area. It's been a great summer!

Sad News

Sophie Elana Dorot, step-daughter of **Ann Cohen**, passed away.

Services were held at Washington Hebrew Congregation.

Longtime TI member, **Louise Libby Sidman**, mother of **Stanley (Jeanene) Sidman** and **Arnold (Tobyanne) Sidman**, died in July at the age of 94. She is survived by two sons, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She was buried at Mt. Lebanon Cemetery.

And **Sheldon Mermelstein**, father of **David (Dana) Mermelstein** and grandfather of **Aaron** and **Jacob Mermelstein**, died peacefully in July at his home in Key West, Florida. He was one month shy of his 91st birthday.

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, *estival*: "of or relating to the summer" (Merriam-Webster Online).

Thanks to all who sent me news, sent me to others who sent me news, or otherwise helped sniff it out. Perpend: 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.

Online Member Information

Need a member's address?

Members can sign in to [ShulCloud](#) and check the directory

Book Review: *Free Spirit* Joseph Davidson

The wave of I-had-a-horrible-childhood memoirs seemed to have crested and ebbed, but now another excellent one has appeared -- with a Jewish angle to boot -- Joshua Safran's *Free Spirit: Growing Up on the Road and Off the Grid*.

Safran was born in 1975 to a Marxist/Activist/Wiccan mother, Claudia, in San Francisco (where else?). While on welfare, she drifted from commune to crash spot. The people in them were more interested in changing the world, than changing diapers, so the two never stayed for long. When Joshua walked into a room he was more likely to find an orgy, including his mother, than a television set.

When Safran was a toddler, his mother and others decided that the way to the revolution is through art. They spent months painting a large political mural on the side of a building. "Much to my mother's surprise, the day after the mural was completed, people continued walking past the painted wall on Valencia Street as they had before. They weren't ripping off their neckties and taking to the ramparts. They were still going to work. While the mural didn't spark the flames of revolution its creators intended, it did inspire my mother, who was moved by her own illustration of Utopia."

Traveling the Country

When Joshua was 4, his mother decided that picketing San Francisco city hall each week would not bring the revolution, so she set out to the rest of the country. What followed was a multi-year flurry of male companions, hitchhiking, rickety vehicles and makeshift shelters, including unheated cabins, old sheds, and an abandoned ice cream truck.

The truck produced Joshua's first thoughts of rebellion. On seeing a popsicle painted on the side, he thinks "Popsicles. Not the crappy kind we made in San Francisco by freezing apple juice on a plastic spoon. No, the genuine artificial article, glowing in unnatural colors and brimming with ingredients like Yellow No. 5 and enough preservatives to embalm a mammoth."

Starting School

A massive cultural clash followed Joshua's start of first grade at a local public school. "In fact, it seemed the worse you did at your studies, the more popular you were. Dwayne couldn't even recognize any lowercase letters, and he had a whole gang of boys that followed him around. 'Guys,' I called out to Dwayne's gang. 'Did you hear that Anwar Sadat was assassinated?' Dwayne shook his head in pity, and his gang continued trading Matchbox cars."

After a few weeks Joshua went back to home schooling where he studied Russian literature and native American genocide. Claudia's revolutionary evangelizing did not go well. She notes "The people in town are drunksThe only acceptable topics of conversation are sports and Jesus."

Joshua was forever ending up in adult situations. "The [adults] were acting like children. Which was weird because I felt like an adult." However, there were good aspects to his mother's non-helicopter parenting. "They were the happiest [months] of my childhood. I woke when I wanted and slept when I felt like it. I played and wandered wherever I pleased. I experienced what few have: freedom to the fullest. There can be, perhaps, no purer

freedom that of a boy loosely supervised by a free-spirited mother in the midst of the wilderness." His incongruous situation is highlighted by snapshots throughout the book showing him as an ordinary-looking kid.

Safran writes beautifully. The book is un-put-downable. The literary highlight comes in Safran's seventh year. Claudia (he never addresses her as "Mom") heads for a Rainbow Family festival. What follows is one of the most hilarious chapters I have ever read.

The campsite on a hillside is hit by torrential rains, which collapse most of the tents. Claudia leaves Joshua to fend for himself. He finds an intact tent with heat and food, but the Rolling Turtles inside do not want to deal with a six-year-old. Joshua in a deep Russian accent, convinces them that he is a Russian spy. "This sudden turn of events was a lot for [the Rolling Turtles] to handle, and they quickly medicated themselves with billowing clouds of Moroccan hash."

His Mother Marries

When Safran is nine Claudia meets, falls head over heels over, and marries Leopoldo, a Salvadoran refugee. Things turn sour when he starts regularly beating her. To Joshua's horror his mother accepts the beatings. Leopoldo does not physically abuse his stepson, but you can only imagine the emotional abuse from witnessing these scenes.

When Joshua was 11, his stepfather forced him to ride on his back while he had sex with his mother. This is the only place in the book where Safran abandons his matter-of-fact reporting and discusses his trauma. Finally, when Joshua is 12, his

(Continued on page 15)

The Self-Discovery of a Marrano Jew

Frank Solomon

TI members **Bob Feron** and **Dione Pereira** probably have a more interesting and complicated story than most Jews-by-choice. Unlike converts who became Jewish because they were married to or marrying a Jew, neither was involved with anyone Jewish when they decided to convert. And both could arguably have been Jewish without formal conversion.

Pereira's Jewish heritage went all the way to "hidden Jews" in Portugal and Spain who fled the Inquisition in the 15th and 16th centuries. Many of these New Christians, or *conversos*, were not assimilated despite their forced conversion, and many maintained their Jewish practice in their daily Catholic life.

In 1500, the Portuguese discovered Brazil, and the New Christians were heavily involved in its development. In fact, New Christians there became synonymous with Portuguese. They established sugar mills, refineries, railways, and dominated almost every sector of the Brazilian

economy. Through their family connections throughout the known world they came to be important movers in the burgeoning sugar trade.

When the Dutch took Brazil, Jews arrived from Holland. When the Portuguese took Brazil back, a small cluster of Dutch Jews set sail in 1654 from the northeastern coastal city of Recife — where the first synagogue in the Americas was established — to New Amsterdam and established the first synagogue in the United States.

Grandparents from Portugal

Pereira's ancestors followed the footsteps of the early conversos in the 15th century. Her maternal grandparents (Pereira-Santos) came to Northeast Brazil from Portugal during the period of the rubber boom around the First World War. Her paternal grandfather (Broocks-Pereira, from the Netherlands) also came to Brazil and became a leader in the river navigation business in

Manaus, then the largest city in the Amazon Basin.

In her discovery of her Jewish heritage, Pereira noticed that "Pereira" was a well-known Sephardic name and that there were many Sephardic names for women in 14 generations of her family, such as "Anna," "Hannah," and "Judith." She also noticed that her family didn't eat pork and that her grandparents ate lamb, ostensibly to avoid pork and shellfish. Her grandmother would light two candles at sunset on Friday, saying that these were for "the archangel Gabriel."

"It was a common practice for many crypto-Jews to do these rituals without knowing the reasons behind the rituals," said Feron. "The way they killed the animals for food was different. They drained the blood out of animals and salted the meat like Jews did. The link that was missing was the accompanying prayers."

Led Different Lives

Both Pereira's parents traced back to crypto-Jewish heritage, although neither family was officially Jewish. She said these hidden Jews lived lives that were "a little different from their Catholic country folk." Like Jews in Europe, they tended to be business people, financiers and entrepreneurs, to have international and family connections outside Brazil, and to marry among themselves.

When her mother was born, the family decided to "get out of the ghetto" so that they could become part of the Brazilian elite. "My mother married into the richest family in the Amazon. They married 'outside the community.' My mother and aunt became Catholic, although my father was a non-practicing Jew."

Book Review (continued)

mother comes to her senses and the two of them show Leopold the door.

A visitor notices that Joshua and Claudia are Jewish -- fellow *landsmen*. This is the first time Joshua has heard of Jews, let alone realizes that he is one. He notes the visitor sounds like Grandma Harriet. During this time, he used the library as a refuge and devoured the whole section on Judaism, even teaching himself Hebrew. He dreamed of far off ancient tribes wandering and fighting in the desert.

Joshua went back to public school in sixth grade, where his deep knowledge of Russian literature did not help him with his ignorance of

mathematics. A kind teacher helped him catch up. Meanwhile, totally ignorant of the dog-eat-dog society of middle school, he was beaten up and bullied.

Joshua and his mother eventually found a welcoming commune. He graduated from high school and from Oberlin in Jewish studies, and spent a year at a yeshiva in Israel. Upon returning to the States, Safran got a degree from Berkeley Law School.

He is now a successful law partner, father of three, and an activist in issues of domestic violence. His work is featured in the award winning documentary *Crime after Crime*.

(Continued on page 16)

9/11 Unity Walk

Larry Baizer

In a dramatic display of unity, September 21, as part of the annual commemoration of the terrible tragedy of September 11, 2001, every house of worship on Embassy Row will open its doors to each other and symbolically the world.

Each year since 2005, over a thousand people of all faiths and no faith put aside their differences and participate in a Unity Walk to build bridges of respect, knowing we are one human family. The impact is huge and the intention is simple: greater understanding, acceptance and friendship. As people come together, they experience a world of

traditions through complimentary food, music, art, architecture, and service projects.

Join us on this exciting day, to celebrate, to learn, to serve, and to remember. The walk is in partnership with the President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge and Day to Serve. See www.911unitywalk.org.

The event starts at 1:30 p.m. at Washington Hebrew Congregation (3935 Macomb St. NW, just off Massachusetts Avenue). The walk goes down Massachusetts Ave. headed toward the halfway point, the

Islamic Center of Washington (2551 Massachusetts Ave.). After some refreshments and a program there, the walk continues to the Salt Walk statue of Gandhi at the Indian Embassy (2107 Massachusetts Ave.).

Walking with and talking to people unknown to you is encouraged, and found by many to be one of the highlights of the walk.

The walk organizer is Terry Connell, Unity Walk Outreach Committee. He can be reached at 703-861-8713 or at TLConnell@verizon.net.

The Self-Discovery of a Marrano Jew (continued)

Pereira went to college in Manaus in 1982, married in 1991, and moved to the northeastern coastal city of Natal in 1992. There she became involved with a group of some 30 Marrano Jews who studied together and practiced at a synagogue that was in ruins and without a Torah.

As Pereira read about the colonization of Brazil and the expulsion of Jews from Spain, she began asking her maternal grandmother questions about crypto-Jews, and was told that her mother's side of the family "was all Jewish." Her mother did not approve of her quest to rediscover her heritage.

Disapproval of Family

"Everybody in the family said I was crazy. My mother would say 'We have moved so far away. We are now Christians. Why would you want to go backward to Judaism?' I told her that I didn't want to be a Catholic anymore. That was a big shock to my mother. It was very hard. It was

like heaven and hell. It hurts when your mother doesn't support you."

After a decade of study with a Sephardic *hazzan* and other Marranos, and three months pregnant, Pereira decided on a formal conversion to ensure that her children would never be questioned about their Jewishness. Leonardo Alanati, a visiting rabbi from Rio de Janeiro, who had received his ordination from Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, organized a *beit din* and arranged to have her immerse in the *mikvah* at the Ashkenazi synagogue, Kahal Zur Israel in Recife in February 1997.

On the day of her immersion, the synagogue, which was known to be ambivalent toward conversion of crypto-Jews, announced that the *mikvah* was not available. So Rabbi Alanati decided that Pereira would use the ocean as her *mikvah*.

"To get to the ocean, we had to go through the beach. So we had to wear clothes when we started out.

Then we had to take off our clothes while we were in the water," Pereira relates. "That's something I will never forget."

A Divorce and a Birth

Pereira got divorced in 1997, the same year she converted and her daughter, Gabriella, was born. Bob Feron, who himself has a rich Jewish heritage but had to go through a formal conversion to become "officially" Jewish, met Pereira in 2000 when he went to Recife for a conference. The *hazzan* at the Sephardic Synagogue in Natal urged him to take a 3.5-hour bus trip to visit the synagogue — and unbeknown to him, to meet Pereira. The rest is history.

Pereira arrived in the United States in 2001 and the two were married the same year by Rabbi Avis Miller. Their daughter, Esther, was born in 2002. Pereira was a proud graduate of Madeline Nesse's TI adult bat mitzvah classes in 2009.

Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

September 5

Jonah & Stephanie Murdock
 Myron Murdock
 Beth Naftalin
 Ray & Adele Natter
 Sheridan & Dana Neimark
 Michael H. New & Linda
 Turnowski
 Stephen Nelson & Leslie
 Goodman-Malamuth
 David Ogilvie & Miriam Lederer
 Lee & Hedy Ohringer
 Sarah Osborne
 Jonathan Panikoff & Jessica
 Goldings
 Larry Paul & Joye Newman
 Perry & Fylis Peckham
 Daniel Pederson & Dafna Spear
 David Pelzer & Ellie Tiemann
 Melissa Perera
 Adam & Jessica Perlmutter
 Jeff & Cynthia Peterman
 Michael Pitch & Elaine Weiss
 Joshua Pitlick & Janet Blank
 Lisa Plotkin

September 19

David & Laurel Rabin
 Glenn Rapoport
 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
 Aviel Roshwald & Alene Moyer
 Ari Roth & Kate Schechter
 Nancy Roth
 Marc Rothenberg & Ivy Baer

September 26

David & Stephanie Rubin
 Howard & Hannah Rubin
 Mark & Diann Saltman
 Lawrence & Pearl Schainker
 Eric & Shira Schechtman
 Daniel Schiff
 Michael & Mical Schneider
 Keith Secular & Susan Catler
 Paul Seltman & Jeanne Ireland
 Hershel & Judith Shanks
 Phillip & Ruth Shapiro
 Yvonne Shashoua
 Scott Shoreman
 Nathaniel Shyovitz
 Richard & Marjorie Siegel
 David Silber & Eileen Rose

October 17

Morton Simon
 David & Rona Siskind
 Audrey Smith
 Aaron & Reva Snow
 Jeffrey & Marcine Snyder
 Dan & Elizabeth Sokolov
 Frank Solomon & Laurie Russell
 Louis & Madge Lee Specter

Phil & Dianne Spellberg
 Masha Spiegel
 Barry & Sari Siegel Spieler
 Gregory Stackel & Genevieve
 Dara Sapir
 Jeffrey & Julie Steinberg
 Lois C. Steinberg
 Jack Stone & Wilma Brier
 Herman & Malka Stopak
 Noam Stopak & Shelley Sturman
 Alexander & Laura Strashny
 Edwin Stromberg & Rose Ellen
 Halper

October 24

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

B'nei Mitzvah

Hi, I'm **Mira Diamond-Berman**. My bat mitzvah is August 30. I go to Takoma Park Middle School and am on a soccer and a swim team. In the fall I hope to do cross country.

I LOVE animals! I have a pet rat and a broody hen. I put eggs from Ebay under her and got three healthy chicks. I belong to a 4-H group, which inspired me about chickens. Also, I belong to the Young Activist Club. We are trying to stop polystyrene and learn about reusing, reducing and recycling.

Instead of buying new kippot, often made by poorly-paid laborers, that clutter your cabinets, I am collecting old kippot and reusing them for my bat mitzvah. If you have any to contribute please email my mom janesberman@yahoo.com and we will pick them up.

For my bat mitzvah project I'm volunteering at Washington Animal Rescue League. For the past five summers I've been going to Camp Moshava. My *parashah* is *Shoftim*, which teaches us "justice, justice you shall pursue." I saw a counselor at Mosh wearing that quote on his shirt because Mosh teaches justice, Jewish and Zionist values. Hope to see you at my bat mitzvah!



My name is **Rafi Pedersen** and my bar mitzvah is on September 13.

I was born in Jerusalem, Israel, in 2001. After being raised there for ten years, my family and I moved to the United States. I have one brother and two sisters, all of whom are older than me. My sisters, and many other family members, live in Israel, and I'm hoping to visit them next summer.

In my free time, I like cooking and coding. I hope to be a programmer when I grow up, because I think that would be a very interesting career.

I speak Hebrew and English, and am in my third year of learning Spanish. For the past two years, I've been growing out my hair so I can donate it.



B'nei Mitzvah (continued)

My name is **Jacob Suddleson**. My bar mitzvah is on September 20, and my parashah is *Nitzavim-Vayeilekh*. I live in Silver Spring and am in the 8th grade at Briggs Chaney Middle School, where I am an Honor Roll student. My favorite subject is history. My parents are Marc Suddleson and Molly Surden. I have a younger twin sister and brother, Emily and Nathan, who are in 2nd grade.

This past summer, I went for a month to Camp Ramah in Pennsylvania, my first time at sleep-away camp. My favorite part of camp was the group trip to Ithaca and Syracuse, New York. I really love to watch and play sports. My favorite is baseball, and I am a member of the Burtonsville Storm travel team. My favorite major league team is the Philadelphia Phillies. My favorite sport to watch is football, and I love watching the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Washington Team.

For my bar mitzvah project, I helped disabled kids play sports. I made a friend named Adrian who surprised me by how good he was at baseball despite having cerebral palsy. I also helped out last winter by playing basketball with elementary school kids for the Special Olympics. I was again surprised how good the kids were. Some were even better than the counselors who were 3 to 6 years older!



September Highlights at Tifereth Israel

August 30	Mira Diamond-Berman Bat Mitzvah
September 3, 10, 17	Gideon Amir 4-session course, <i>The Tragic King Saul</i>, 6:45-8:15 p.m. (last session, October 1)
September 7	Movie Nite, <i>Sister Rose's Passion</i> and <i>Constantine's Sword</i>, 7:30 p.m.
September 8, 15, 22, 29	Monday Lunch & Learn <i>Parashat HaShavuah</i>, 11 a.m.; Lunch 12 noon
September 13	Rafi Pedersen Bar Mitzvah
September 16	Kol Nashim Book Club, home of Paula Flicker, 7:30 p.m.
September 20	Jacob Suddleson Bar Mitzvah S'lihot: Program, 10:30 p.m.; Service, 12 midnight
September 24, 25, 26	Rosh Hashanah (see pages 20-21 for detailed schedule)
September 28	Cemetery Service, 10:45 a.m., Mt. Lebanon Cemetery

High Holiday Schedule

Saturday, September 20 – S'lihot

10:30 p.m. – S'lihot Program: Shelley Sturman; Moving a Chagall Mosaic
Midnight – S'lihot Service

Sunday, September 21

Jeremy Goldberg Synagogue Clean Up

9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Social Action Holiday Food Delivery

9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 24 - Erev Rosh Hashanah

6:30 p.m. Ma'ariv - Wolman Sanctuary

Thursday, September 25 - Rosh Hashanah Day 1

Wolman Sanctuary (assigned seating)

8:45 a.m. Psukei D'Zimrah & Shoharim
10:00 a.m. Torah Reading
11:00 a.m. Sermon by Rabbi Ethan Seidel, Musaf

B'Yahad - Cherner Auditorium

9:15 a.m. Shoharim
10:15 a.m. Torah Parade & Torah Reading followed by Musaf

Tot Service - Reamer Chapel

10:30 a.m. Following the B'Yahad Torah Parade
(For children aged 18 months to 5 years together with their parents)

Youth Activities & Babysitting

9:15 a.m. Babysitting opens for children ages 18 months to 5 years
10:00 a.m. Quiet room (reading, studying) opens for children grades 4 to 7
10:30 a.m. Youth activities begin for children grades K to 7
12:30 p.m. Youth activities end; Supervised play for all ages begins
1:00 p.m. Babysitting and supervised play end

Afternoon & Evening

5:00 p.m. Tashlikh walk from TI to Rock Creek Park
5:45 p.m. Potluck at the home of Lillian Kronstadt, 1733 Juniper Street, NW
7:00 p.m. Minhah & Ma'ariv Service – Reamer Chapel

Friday, September 26 - Rosh Hashanah Day 2

Wolman Sanctuary (open seating - no assigned seats)

Service schedule same as Day 1

(Continued on page 21)

Youth Services

- 10:30 a.m. Tot service in Reamer Chapel
 10:30-11:15 a.m. Special service for kindergarten through grade 3 in Cherner
 11:30 a.m.- 12:15 p.m. Special Service for grades 4-7 in Cherner

Youth Activities & Babysitting

See Rosh Hashanah Day 1

Sunday, September 28 - Cemetery Service

10:45 a.m. Mt. Lebanon Cemetery

Yom Kippur

Friday, October 3 - Kol Nidre

- 5:45 p.m. Activities and babysitting for children 18 months to 3rd grade
 6:15 p.m. Services in both Wolman Sanctuary and Cherner Auditorium
 Youth activities for 4th-7th graders begin after Kol Nidre chanting

Saturday, October 4 - Yom Kippur**Wolman Sanctuary**

- 8:45 a.m. Psukei D'Zimrah & Shaharit
 10:30 a.m. Torah Reading
 11:30 a.m. Sermon - Rabbi Seidel
 12 noon Yizkor Memorial Service
 12:30 p.m. Musaf

B'Yahad - Cherner Auditorium

- 9:15 a.m. Shaharit
 10:15 a.m. Torah Parade & Torah Reading
 11:15 a.m. Yizkor followed by Musaf

Tot Service – Reamer Chapel

- 10:30 a.m. Following the B'Yahad Torah Parade
 (For children aged 18 months to 5 years together with their parents)

Youth Activities & Babysitting

- 9:15 a.m. Babysitting opens for children ages 18 months to 5 years
 10:00 a.m. Quiet room (reading, studying) opens for children grades 4 to 7
 10:30 a.m. Youth activities begin for children grades K to 7
 12:30 p.m. Youth activities end; Supervised play begins for all ages
 1:00 p.m. Babysitting and supervised play end

Afternoon & Evening (services in the Wolman Sanctuary with open seating)

- 3:30 p.m. Minhah
 5:05 p.m. Talk & Discussion; Teen Shmooze with Eitan Gutin
 6:05 p.m. N'ilah
 7:25 p.m. Shofar & Ma'ariv
 Break Fast* Immediately following the Service

** Advance Registration is required*

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(Continued on page 23)

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