

The Menorah

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President's Column: Jeff Davidson Arguments for the Sake of Heaven

Like many of you, we receive a countless stream of email. Over the past several weeks, some of it has been particularly hateful and vile. It comes from all over the political spectrum and from colleagues and friends, as well as strangers.

While I received these postings, I was studying *Parashat Korach*. A major theme of this *parashah* is the nature of language and when arguments have value and when they are valueless and detract from the community. The standard commentary usually includes these words from *Avot*:

An argument for the sake of Heaven will endure; but an argument not for the sake of Heaven will not endure. Which is an argument for the sake of Heaven? The arguments of Hillel and Shammai. Which is an argument not for the sake of Heaven? The argument of Korach and his company. (Mishnah Pirkei Avot/ Ethics of the Fathers 5:17)

Nobody needs me to pontificate about the coarsening of public rhetoric and the possible influence of the internet upon this coarseness. Too often, the rhetoric in the public square is clearly not for the sake of Heaven. We, therefore, tend to think of these issues in terms of commission, rather than omission.

Separating from the Community

Rabbi Goldfeder, a contemporary commentator from Boulder, Colorado, notes that Korach's original sin was removing himself from the community:

How do we balance Hillel's advice, "Do not separate yourself from the community," with the Torah's command not to go after the majority toward evil? Again, we reach that uncomfortable situation where we cannot hide behind

general rules. We have to figure out each case.

Look at Korach, for example. Korach's crime, before he took on Moshe and Aharon, was separating



from the community. Vayikach Korach – and Korach took – took what? The verse lacks an object. What did he take? Rashi answers – he took himself out of the collective.

Rav Kook Walked a Tightrope

We sometimes think that there is something unique about our time, that the problems are terrible and somehow more unsolvable. In our recent history, Rav Kook, the first Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Palestine, had to walk carefully on a tightrope between the traditionally observant community and the secularly oriented *olim*.

He was regularly assailed by one side or the other for favoring the other. After a particularly vicious attack, his brother wrote him to complain about this treatment. The Rav's response (Jaffa, 1910) reads in part:

While your words are true and said in the spirit of justice and pure faith, it nevertheless behooves us to constantly expand our horizons, and to give every person the benefit of the doubt (Pirkei Avot 1:6). Even to those on a distant and undecipherable path! We must never forget that in every battle waged in the war of ideas, once the initial agitation

(Continued on page 2)

President's Column (continued)

subsides -- lights and shadows can be found on both sides of the argument.

Indeed by attunement to Divine will we know that all human action and ideas in the world -- large and small -- are set and arranged by the One who Reads All Generations, to improve the world and bring about progress, to increase light and stamp out darkness. And even as we battle in fervor for those issues that are closest to our heart, we must not give in to our emotions.

Rather we must always keep in mind that even those sentiments opposite to ours -- have a wide place in the world, and that "the God who gives breath to all flesh" (Numbers 27:16) "has made everything beautiful for its time" (Kohelet 3:11). (Letters of Rav Kook, I:314)

The Menorah Tifereth Israel Congregation

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Evolutionary Progress

Rav Kook hints at the radical nature of his theology in the theme of gradual improvement of the world and the people in it. In the Western world, these sentiments, somewhat akin to a global theory of evolution, are identified with the theology of Teilhard de Chardin, or various theistic philosophers of evolution:

Evolution sheds light on all the ways of God. All existence evolves and ascends. Its ascent is general as it is in particulars. It ascends toward the height of the absolute good. Obviously the good and the comprehensive [whole] all go together.

Existence is destined to reach a point when the whole will assimilate the good in all its constituted particulars. No particularity will remain outside, not a spark will be lost from the ensemble... The doctrine of evolution... has a greater affinity with the secret teachings of Kabbalah than all other philosophies. (*Oret HaKo-desh 2, p. 555*)

Spiritually Preparing for Holidays

Although it might seem early, we have already begun work on preparing for the High Holidays at TI. While volunteers and staff work on this preparation, the rest of us may be beginning the spiritual preparation for the holidays and the New Year to come. Rav Kook talks about how even the most common of gestures can provide an opportunity for spiritual growth:

If we imagine we are rectifying universes with our service of God, but we don't know the worth of our soul -- or, in general, the make-up of spirituality -- we will be filled with fantasies and delusions.

But we may know the following. With every moral improvement, every good trait we attain, every worthy teaching we learn, and every good deed we perform -- even a pleasant conversation – we lift the spirituality within ourselves, that spirituality which is the foundation of our entire being.

And so by lifting that spirituality within ourselves, an entire being is lifted. Each one of us is a piece of reality that is powerfully linked to all of its existence. In that way, with every bit of goodness, we rectify endless worlds...*Midot Harayah*, *p.03*

In the coming year, may we all work to lift our spirituality individually and in the *kehillah*. At TI we are fortunate that we have many pleasant conversations.

New Members Jared Garelick

TI serves many roles for its members, but if you were to judge solely on the basis of this issue's featured new members, you might guess that it is largely a place to arrange a wedding ceremony.

Alexander Berg and Mikah Goldman

As Alex and Mikah report it, they fortuitously discovered TI while they were dating, when Alex made the decision to convert with Rabbi Seidel. Alex is a labor and employment lawyer, and Mikah is a political communications strategist. Alex is originally from the Baltimore area, and Mikah is from New Jersev. They were married on



March 30 in Asbury Park, NJ. Rabbi Seidel performed the ceremony, and they declare it was lovely!

In their spare time, Alex is a trivia aficionado and loves all forms of sports. Mikah volunteers at Common Good City Farm (an urban farm in Shaw), competitively swims, and is a member of The District of Columbia Aquatics Club.

Jessica Goldings and Jonathan Panikoff



First the big news: Jessica and Jon were married in late May. You might have attended their aufruf at TI. Because they both speak somé Spanish and have a background in Mideast studies, they took a honeymoon to Morocco and Spain.

Jessica, a Dallas n undergraduate degree from Brandeis and

native, has an undergraduate degree from Brandeis and a master's degree from Georgetown's School of Foreign Service. She works for the Department of Defense on programs combatting human trafficking. Jon, originally from Groton, Connecticut, did his undergraduate studies at George Washington University before attending law school at Syracuse University. He now works for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

The two love to travel and have taken up tennis together. Jessica enjoys yoga, while Jon is the family cook.

Jessica and Jon live in the District in Columbia Heights. When they decided to get married, they also decided that they needed a shul. After some online research, they visited TI for a Friday night service that they enjoyed. They met with Rabbi Seidel, and also happened to meet TI member Rabbi Devorah Lynn. They hit it off with Devorah so well they asked her to officiate at their wedding. That makes Devorah, who was herself featured in this column in June, TI's Magnet New Member of the Month.

So if you see a young couple visiting TI, offer to officiate at their wedding! Or, if you have not been invested with such authority, at least say hello and welcome them. You might be the friendly person who convinces them that TI is a nice place to be.

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

Summary of TI Board of Directors Meeting May 12, 2014

Attending: Sharon Brown, Susan Catler, Joel Cohen, Jeffrey Colman, Joe Davidson, Varda Fink, Ray Natter, Ariel Brandt Lautman, Margie Odle, Cynthia Peterman, Debbie Pomerance, Andrew Reamer, Howard Riker, Morris Rodenstein, Vivian Seidner, Mark Verschell, Chris Zeilinger.

Excused: Larry Baizer, Jeffrey Davidson, Lisa Goldberg, Stephanie Murdoch, Ruth Shapiro, Daniel Turner.

Absent: Wilhelmina Gottschalk, Joanne Hovis.

Staff: Jevera Temsky, Eitan Gutin.

Ray Natter, Administrative Vice President, convened the meeting at

8:03 p.m. Susan Catler agreed to be acting secretary.

Minutes. The minutes of the April 28, 2014 meeting of the Board of Directors were adopted as presented. The motion was adopted without objection, with an amendment that Ari Roth be added as a guest.

Proposed Constitutional Amend- ment. The Board reviewed the proposed constitutional amendment passed last month to be presented to the membership. The Board adopted a motion to change the constitution.

Report of Spring Fling, Jevera Temsky. The Spring Fling generated \$18,287 in income and \$1,289 in expenses.

Report on the Status of the Mortgage, Ray Natter. TD and Eagle Bank have approved loans and a line of credit and refinancing the mortgage is moving forward.

Nominating Committee Report,
Joel Cohen. The 2014-2015 slate
presented by the Nominating
Committee was adopted without
opposition.

Good & Welfare. The Board reported on various events and milestones. Ray Natter thanked Margie Odle, Varda Fink, Vivian Seidner and Ruth Shapiro for service on the Board.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Officers, Directors Elected at Annual Meeting

At the Congregation's annual meeting on May 29, the following officers were elected for one-year terms to fill vacant positions:

John List, Financial Vice President Susan Catler, Membership V. Pres.

Incumbent officers re-elected for oneyear terms are:

Jeffrey Davidson, President
Ray Natter, Administrative V. Pres.
Joel Cohen, Immediate Past Pres.
Debbie Pomerance, Communications
Vice President
Daniel Turner, Development V. Pres.
Joe Davidson, Governance V. Pres.
Mark Verschell, House V. Pres.
Cynthia Peterman, Lifelong Learning
Vice President
Stephanie Roodman Murdock,
Recording Secretary
Wilhelmina Gottschalk, Ritual Vice

Larry Baizer, Social Action V. Pres.

President

The following were elected as atlarge members of the board for threeyear terms ending June 2017:

Leah Grohsgal Chris Zeilinger Judy Herzog Judy Tulchin

Incumbent at-large board members continuing to serve for terms ending June 2016 are:

Ariel Brandt Lautman Lisa Goldberg Morris Rodenstein Howard Riker

Incumbent at-large board members continuing to serve for terms ending ending June 2015 are:

Andrew Reamer Joanne Hovis Jeffrey Colman Sharon Brown Incumbent Cemetery Trustees* continuing to serve are:

Laurie Berger Steven Marcus Bob Saks Sheryl Gross-Glaser Audrey Smith

Incumbent Building Preservation Fund Trustees* continuing to serve are:

George Greenberg Hilary Sachs Anita Kramer

*not members of the board

TI Office Hours

The TI office is open Mondays to Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Fridays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Other hours by appointment.

What Would You Do?

Deena Dugan

What would you do if you were president of TI for a day? You might work to make us a more spiritually inclusive community, heighten or diminish our commitment to the Conservative movement, stabilize our finances, or improve relations with our neighbors.

However, when I purchased the honor of being President for the Day at the live auction at the Spring Fling (thanks to Sarah Meytin for bidding on my behalf), I had my own agenda.

My dream is to make using the bathrooms on the Cherner level a tolerable experience. Doing so is not simply a matter of appearances. The current bathrooms are a sorry representation of TI, leading to lost revenue. A number of people have refused to hold events at TI because they do not want to subject their guests to the bathrooms. Others have taken one look and refused to join.

As you may know, the Board has now made renovation of the downstairs bathrooms a priority and a committee has been working to make this dream a reality. We have been working with an architect and intend to renovate the men's, women's and handicapped/family facilities.

When completed, the bathrooms will be attractive, well-lit and modern. The handicapped bathroom will, for the first time, be fully compliant with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The architect has incorporated a number of environmentally-friendly components, including water-saving toilets and urinals, along with stalls made of recycled material. Rabbi Seidel has been involved in the process to insure that all members and visitors will be comfortable using the facilities on Shabbat.

Unfortunately, there is no money in the TI budget for these much-needed renovations. After some initial fundraising, we have over \$80,000 to spend, but renovating three bathrooms will cost more.

Please help make my "presidency" a success by contributing to the Bathroom Renovation Fund.

You can mail in your donation or ask to have it put on your bill. If you contribute \$5,000 or more, we will consider naming a toilet or urinal in your honor.

If you are not convinced that the renovations are necessary, stop in and have a look around.

Please contact me, at <u>Deena.Dugan</u> <u>@gmail.com</u> or (240) 694-7917, if you'd like to discuss this matter, even though my term ended at midnight on May 31.

Some Thoughts on Minyan Assignments

Recent listserve messages from folks requesting switches for Friday night minyan assignments prompted the following two responses questioning the appropriateness of the assignments for families with children:

From Elizabeth Richman:

"[I]s there perhaps another way that families with young kids can contribute aside from attending Friday night minyan? At least for our family, it's really hard to get to minyan because it happens during our child's mealtime and bedtime.

"Weeknight minyanim are easier for us since they happen later and we've been trying to attend and contribute that way. I wonder if there are other families for whom that would also be a more manageable option than Friday nights."

From Ariel Lautman:

"...We've found the Friday night minyan assignments incredibly disruptive to our shabbat routine.

Making sure one of us can get to the minyan means increased stress, preparing two meals (an early dinner for Ezra, a later dinner for the adults), and shabbat dinner/bedtime for the kids without one of their parents (if Dan goes that means he basically doesn't see the kids at all on Friday).

"This is exactly the opposite of the restful, family oriented Friday night welcoming of shabbat that we have on other weeks of the year. For us a weeknight minyan is also much easier."

Movie Night

The next film is *When Jews Were Funny*, Sunday, July 20, 7:30 p.m.

Alan Zweig's insightful and often hilarious documentary surveys the history of Jewish comedy, from the early days of the Borsht belt to the present. It explores not only ethnicity in the entertainment industry, but what it means to be Jewish.

The movie is free. A buffet table of movie nosh will be available for \$4 per person. Refreshments include popcorn, pretzels, fruit, beverages, and the like.

Lifelong Learning

Eitan Gutin

Himmelfarb Registration is Open

Registration is now open for this coming school year. TI member households who have children in grades K-6 who are not enrolled in day school should have received an email with a link to our new online registration system.

Our school now boasts an average class size of between 11 and 12 students and the school community continues to grow. Don't be left out -- register today!

Do you know someone who has a child in grades K-6 who needs a place for their child's Jewish education? Please make a connection between that person and our Director of Lifelong Learning, Eitan Gutin. Remember -- our school is open to members and nonmembers alike.

Changes Coming To Chai

In close consultation with parents, synagogue leaders, and the Rabbi, we are in the midst of making

changes to the Chai and Jr. Chai programs this coming school year.

We know for certain that 7th Grade Jr. Chai will meet on Sunday mornings. Each Sunday morning will be split into two periods, with the Rabbi teaching the second period. By the time you see this, registration will have opened for Jr. Chai.

Our 8th through 11th graders will be offered a new program on Shabbat mornings. As of the time of this writing we are still putting the finishing touches on just what this program will be. Please see the TI website for more information.

TI Welcomes Missy Mandell

In order to build on the successes of the past three years, we have created the new, part-time, position of **Assistant Youth Director**. **Missy Mandell** has been hired to fill this new position, and will be responsible for our USY and Kadima programs for Tl'ers in grades 6-12.

Missy is a former national officer of USY, is an alumna of USCJ's Nativ

program in Israel, a graduate of Brandeis, and is in town to study as part of a new Jewish cultural education program at GW. If you see Missy in services or at any other time please welcome her to the congregation.

Save the Dates

Shabbat, September 6: First day of Shabbat morning programs, Vav, and 8th-11th grade classes.

Sunday, September 7: First day of the Himmelfarb School for grades K-5 and Jr. Chai for grade 7.

Friday, September 12: First family service of the year. We will have family-led Kabbalat Shabbat services at 6:00 p.m., followed by a community dinner at 7:00.

Community & Adult Education

There is no summer break for Monday Learning. Every Monday at TI begins with Parashat HaShavuah Class at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at 12. All are welcome to join the crowd -- no experience necessary.

Juniper St. Collection

We are now collecting toiletries for **A Wider Circle**. They would like unopened individual or full-sized containers of the following:

soap shampoo and conditioner toothpaste and toothbrushes lotion deodorant

This collection will run through Thursday, July 17.

Join Tifereth Israel this Summer

Individuals and families who join Tifereth Israel between July 1 and December 31, 2014, are offered our special **Membership Promotion Package**, which includes:

- 50% reduction off full regular dues in the first year.
- Free 2014-2015 Himmelfarb school tuition for the first child in the family and 50% off tuition for other children (must be used within 12 months of joining).
- Free High Holiday Tickets (must be used within 12 months of joining).
- Two free Shabbat dinners for the adults and children in the family.

Are you shul-shopping? Are you a TI member who knows somone who is Interested in joining TI? Go to:

http://tinyurl.com/TIApplication2014 for the membership application.

Chapel and Stairs Spruced Up

Jevera Temsky

In June, a dedicated crew of workers re-carpeted the Reamer Chapel and installed new baseboard. Steve Ross moved everything out of the chapel and replaced it after the work was completed.



Rolls of carpet await installation in chapel



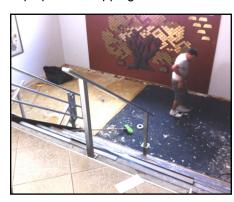
The Reamer Chapel with new carpeting

The new carpet is pleasing to the eye and gives more cushioning to the foot than the old threadbare one.

Stair Treads Replaced

The stair treads leading from the first floor to the library level and Cherner Auditorium were also replaced, as was the carpet on the landing where Bernie Shleien's sculpture and the Eitz Chayim reside.

The new treads feature a wide white stripe made of abrasive material. The bright white makes the steps more visible and the abrasive material helps prevent slipping.



Carpet installer works on landing after stripping stair treads and old carpet

The landing with new carpeting and stair treads

Order Mahzor Lev Shalem

Mahzor Lev Shalem, the prayer book Tifereth Israel uses for the High Holidays, is available for purchase. You can order a book for personal use or donate a book to TI. Donors can personalize a dedication to go on a TI bookplate in the mahzor.

The cost of a regular-size book is \$35 (including postage). Large-print soft-sided three- volume sets (one volume for Rosh Hashanah, two for Yom Kippur) are available for \$75.

Place your order by Monday, July 28, for the books to be delivered to TI before the High Holidays. Orders placed after July 28 may not be received in time for the High Holidays.

Order books online at http://tinyurl.com/Mahzor2014 or call the TI office at 202-882-1605 x101.

News from Goettingen, Germany

Naomi Revzin

The Gemeinde, our sister congregation in Goettingen, Germany, will host this month a showing of the film, *Snow from Yesterday* by the Society for Jewish-Christian Cooperation.

The film, directed by Yael Reuveny, is a family history, from the perspective of the children and grandchildren, that moves between Germany and Israel in the background of the Holocaust. Accompanying the film will be a lecture on the German-Israel film history.

The Gemeinde is also sponsoring a lesson on Social Responsibility and Justice in the context of Jewish sources, and will visit the Jewish cemetery Adelebsen. And, as always, Hebrew and German (for Russian immigrants) language courses continue.

I will be in Goettingen for a weekend in August. That will give me the opportunity to visit the Gemeinde congregation and to learn more about their growth and development.

Social Action at TI: Stephen Nelson Sukkot in Spring Project

Historically, the Social Action Committee has participated in spring projects refurbishing D.C. properties owned or used by the underprivileged. For several years those activities were discontinued for budgetary and other reasons.

However, on May 18, TI joined forces with Fabrangen, under the auspices of Yachad's Sukkot in Spring program to work at St. Paul AME Church on 14th Street NW. Two shifts of approximately ten volunteers from each congregation worked together to spruce up and paint several large rooms in the church's annex.

The annex is used by the church for several programs, including tutoring for children in the DC area, who are also served dinner. The annex also houses the church's clothing boutique for the homeless as part of a job connection program.

The TI/Fabrangen volunteers' efforts helped to brighten up areas that had been damaged by water leaks, and to make the building a safer and more welcoming environment. Both TI and Fabrangen look forward to

working with Yachad on similar projects in the future.

Yachad was formed in 1990. In addition to Sukkot in Spring, its programs include:

Neighbor to Neighbor, which underwrites the costs of home or nonprofit facility renovations;

Hard Hats and Helping Hands, which mobilizes the expertise and services of real estate and construction professionals;

Faith-to-Faith and Neighborhood Development, which part-

ners Yachad, houses of worship and nonprofit organizations to plan and undertake development projects; and

House/Mitzvah Party, which allows groups, companies, organizations or clubs to team build or to through hands-on repair projects.

We Care

Take Action



TI Social Action Committee Chair **Larry Baizer** coordinated this year's project for TI.

Volunteers included Susan Vitale, Alan Landay, Ernie and Aaron Englander, Rachel and Jonathan Tickner and Sheri and Chaya Blonder.



Pictured are some of the TI members who marched the 1.25-mile route in Takoma Park's July 4th parade: Susan Catler, Danielle & Sasha Meitiv and children Raphael and Dvora, Sarah & Rachel Meytin and children Ruthie and Coby, Sheridan Neimark, Andrea Kline, Parade Director Gene Herman, Morris Rodenstein, Louise Kelley and Deborah Stern (photo by Earl Dotter).

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Barbara Raimondo

Cry

Oh, and what a quiet summer it has been – except for the welcome wail of newborn humans! Hannah Dove Perlmutter was born on June 3 to parents Adam and Jessica Perlmutter and big sister Abigail.

Aviva Simone Taransky was born on June 5 to parents Naomi and J.T. Taransky, big brother Benji, and grandparents Fred and Felice Taransky. Her stats: 7 pounds and 15 ounces, 20.5 inches long, and a little hair as a big bonus.

Samuel Handwerker also was born June 5, to Elizabeth and Dan Handwerker, big sisters Amira and Ilana, and grandparents Sara and David Handwerker. He weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces. But wait, there's more!

On June 4, Shavuot, Martin Kessel, together with all of his family in Israel, welcomed the newest little Kessel, a daughter born to Martin's son, Allon, and his wife, Sharon, and a sister to Orr. Martin was able to see the baby at four and half hours old before returning home early the next day.

While in Israel, Martin also attended the annual meeting of the Israel Society of Microscopy at the Weizmann Institute. He was back in the U.S. of A. for a bit, then, on the way to the Gordon Research Conference near Girona, Spain, he stopped in Israel again on June 18. (Israel is on the way to Spain, right?)

At this time, Martin attended his eldest granddaughter, **Shai**'s graduation from the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. Now back in Bethlehem, New Hampshire, Martin and Gail invite everyone at TI to this beautiful corner of the Northeast for an exciting summer of communal and cultural activity.

Barb "Wimpy Little Thing" Raimondo completed a Half Ironman triathlon: a 1.2-mile swim in the Choptank (MD) River (so named because the water chops your tank), a 56-mile bike ride through the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge, and a 13.1-mile run. Strange what some people do for fun, isn't it though?

Her son. Asher Kirschbaum. who coincidently is also the son of **Dennis** Kirschbaum. helped lead Rochester Institute of Technology/ National Institute for the Deaf team to victory in Atlanta at the College Bowl, a Jeopardy-like competition sponsored by the National Association of the Deaf. Asher was also on his winning Academic Bowl team in high school at the Maryland School for the Deaf. Word is that he gets his brains from his parents, although that is hotly disputed.

Aylat Lifshitz, daughter of Lisa Traiger and Kobi Lifshitz, is spending the summer as an inclusion counselor at JCC-GW's camp, while brother Ophir returned to Boston for his second summer as a software engineering intern at TripAdvisor. Four stars, my eye! The family was also very happy to host an Israeli sh'lihah, Maria Sabshin (who attended TI services in late June), for part of the summer while she was teaching hip hop at Camp JCC.

Neilah Rovinsky is in her second summer as a National Cathedral Scholar.

TI

The **Snyder/Garber** family recently traveled to Israel (the first time for three of them) and saw a few familiar TI faces. After a week at the beach in Tel Aviv and points north, they met up with neighbors and fellow Tl'ers, **Maxine Grossman**, **Hayim Lapin** and sons in Jerusalem for a series of

great meals together. The hospitality extended to introducing them to the physician for the Jerusalem basketball team, who made sure that Steve fully recovered from his interesting response to street food.

They also visited a number of sites, hung out at cafes, and rode buses everywhere, relying on their kids to helpfully (at times) translate from Hebrew into English for the benefit of their parents.

TI quotient was Their upped considerably once they attended Shabbat services Shirah at Hadashah in the German Colony and saw Sylvia Horwitz, Dov Weitman, Renee Brachfeld, and Mark Novak. The TI circle was complete when, midway through the 12-hour flight home, they spied Marisol Ravicz, also traveling with her family back to the US.

Myrna Goldman and her usual travel companion, her sister, Harriet Ainbinder, took a river cruise in Belgium and the Netherlands after Passover. Stops were Antwerp and Ghent in Belgium, and Veere, Rotterdam, Kinderdijk, Enkhuizen, Hoorn and Amsterdam in the Netherlands. Jewish highlights included the Portuguese Synagogue and the Anne Frank house. Although they missed the best of the tulip fields, there were lovely tulips in a large variety of colors at the Keukenhof Gardens.

Soon after their return, the sisters went to Boulder, Colorado to celebrate a big birthday with their other sister, **Sharon Rubin**. Myrna got to spend time with two grandnieces and two grandnephews, ranging in age from two to 13. She also visited the Conservative shul in Boulder, still meeting in a Unitarian church after being flooded last summer. There she met the son-in-

(Continued on page 10)

Kol Nashim

Margie Odle

Kol Nashim Happenings

Before describing some of the programs and events that are in the planning stages, I want to make sure that all Tl'ers, both men and women, know they are welcome at all KN programs. While representing "the women's voice" at TI, we try to fill a niche with program offerings that are of general interest and that coordinate with and complement other adult education activities.

"Taste of Sage-ing" ®

Fall KN programming starts with a "Taste of Sageing" on Sunday, September 14, from 10:15 a.m. to noon in the Library. When Reb Zalman Schachter- Shalomi z"I turned sixty, he began to study and

reflect on his own aging. He opened a gateway to look at aging as a time of sage-ing. He has passed this wisdom on to his students. This program will be an introduction and taste of the brilliant insights of this great teacher.

Book Club

The book club continues through the summer and into the fall on the third Tuesday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

The next meeting, is on July 15 at the home of David Levy, to discuss *The Hare with Amber Eyes* by Edmund de Waal. On August 19, place TBD, the book is *Rav Hisda's Daughter* by Maggie Anton. The September book will be selected at the July meeting.



Mitzvah Knitting

The summer mitzvah knitting session was held July 9 at Andrea Kline's home. The group will "be on vacation" until September.

Bagels & Bialys

We are scoping out a date on the very busy fall calendar for another baking session with baker extraordinaire **Jessica Weissman**. This time she will focus on "The Beauty of Bagels and Bialys".

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers (continued)

law of former TI members and the son-in-law of Ohr Kodesh Cantor Gerber. Always a small world, eh?

Alan Landay just got back from a week at a music and arts festival at McDaniel College in Westminster, MD. He had a rockin' time playing and listening to music. He was enrolled in three classes: "Just Enough Music Theory," "Mountain Dulcimer II," and "Old-Time Slo-Mo Jam." The jam class, playing with other musicians, was especially – well – jammin'.

Lyle Nesse (son of Madeline Nesse) and Jessica Otis were married on July 12 in Cooperstown, NY. Lyle began teaching in Baltimore with Teach For America and has been there for his entire teaching career. Although he has received a master's degree and principal certification he remains in the classroom because for some

reason he dotes on wild teenagers. For those of you who knew him in the day that may not be entirely surprising.

Jess has a Ph.D. in microbiology and studies large quantities of zebra fish for enormously important but somewhat inscrutable reasons. The charming couple will be living in the Charm City -- how perfect.

Sad News

Anna Miskinyants, mother of Nataliya Chernyak Cowen and grandmother of Yana Chernyak, died on July 5. She was 85. She is also survived by her husband, Vladimir Miskinyants. The funeral was held in Virginia.

Lester Robert Morss, brother of TI member, Rhoda (Peter) Trooboff, passed away peacefully at his home

in Columbia, MD, surrounded by his family. The funeral was in Maryland.

And **Daniel Wial**, father **Howard Wial**, died on Shavuot, June 4, after a long illness. He was 87. The funeral was held in New Jersey. 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, *kith*: "familiar friends, neighbors, or relatives" (Merriam-Webster Online).

Thanks to all who sent me news, sent me to others who sent me news, or otherwise helped sniff it out. Please send information for next time to baraimondo@gmail.com, with "Nayes un Mekhayes" in the heading, or to P.O. Box 466, Washington Grove, MD 20880. This brings to a close an estival issue of Nayes un Mekhayes for Tl'ers.

New Art Show in the Cherner

Audrey Smith

Pied Beauty

Glory be to God for dappled things --For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow:

For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim:

Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings:

Landscape plotted and pieced -- fold, fallow and plough;

And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;

Whatever is fickle, freckled (who know how?)

With swift, slow, sweet, sour; adazzle dim;

He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:

Praise him.

Pied Beauty is a favorite poem from Gerard Manley Hopkins, 19th century priest-poet. It perfectly expresses the new art show in the Cherner, the donors of the pictures and, indeed, Tifereth Israel members in general.

We are a congregation not only participatory and egalitarian but

unique in what Martin Buber called our "thou-ness." Led by a composer-pianist-unicyclist-juggler-beer connoisseur-scholar Rabbi, TI is a study in diversity. The spectrum of ages, professions, interests, ethnic backgrounds, experiences -- all united in our love for Judaism, our concern for our fellow congregants and our commitment to tikun olam.

The infinite variety of "Art by Jewish Artists from Members' Collections," means that each piece has special significance. However, I will take the liberty of mentioning some pictures that hold special meaning to me:

Len Bachman's paper cut of *Rebecca*, by his late wife, Sarah ("Chookie");

Rona Fields' original *Jeremiah* by Marc Chagal;

Simcha Kuritzky's collection of bronze Israeli medals; and

Two micrograph examples -- the entire Torah as a globe from **Lisa Traiger** and the Psalms as musical instruments from **Eitan Gutin**.

There are also items for sale, with 60% for the artist and 40% to TI, from Bernie Schlein, Earl Dotter and Fylis Peckam. All are current or former members of the Art Committee.

And special recognition to the Art Committee: **Bernie** our "Artist in Residence," who conceived the show; **Earl**, who hung the show and was invaluable in so many ways; and **Laura Schiavo** and **Cyndy Weitz**, who helped put up the show.

It is an honor to chair the Art Committee and work with such "participatory" members. We are the people who facilitated all the permanent pictures and sculpture around TI, including our magnificent Aron Kodesh.

This new art show generated so much interest that we will mount Part 2 after the High Holidays, so you can start to think about your contribution. We have other projects in the works, including the exterior signage that will clarify our address and proclaim our existence to the outside world. We appreciate your suggestions, comments and interest in our work.

High Holiday Tickets

Members should be receiving a High Holiday mailing from Tifereth Israel in the next few days. The deadline for ticket orders is **August 15**.

High Holiday tickets may be ordered by completing and mailing in the forms received.

Alternatively, members may order tickets online at www.tifereth-israel.org/ hiho2014.

Library News Michele Sumka

The Book Nook Is Here!

Many, many thanks to Ben Verschell for building and installing our new Children's Book Nook! Look under the stairs on the landing and you'll see the beautiful, professional-looking shelves. The Book Nook will be named in memory of Mollie L. Berch.

We've already moved all of the children's books, plus most of the youth/young adult books, there. We

are now in the process of reorganizing some of the shelves in the Emsellem Room.

With the help of the special Mollie L. Berch Memorial Fund, we are planning to go on a 'buying spree' for books. We are planning to buy a number of titles from the Jewish Publication Society catalog and the Kar-Ben catalog. If you have suggestions for other titles, please send them to me as soon as possible.

Faith and Radical Islam

Frank Solomon

Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran, the world has witnessed a growing tide of terrorism. Al-Qaida, Hamas, Taliban, Muslim Brotherhood and other extremist groups appear on TV news almost every day. Most terror acts have one common link — most of the perpetrators are Muslims and most of the targeted victims are Jews and Christians.

Most radical Muslims who rose to power in Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, and other volatile spots of the world can trace their roots to something called the radical Islamic tradition. The first time I heard about terror in the Islamic tradition was during an interview in Lebanon with Bachir Gemayel shortly before the newly elected president was assassinated on September 14, 1982.

Gemayel said the world should pay attention to the development of "Sunni Muslim fundamentalism." He asserted that radical Islam would shatter the Middle East political fabric, and its "Qur'anic concept of war" would bring the world "back to the Dark Ages."

A day after the Gemayel meeting, I first heard the word *Jihad* used in the context of "holy war" during an interview with a military leader from Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement. He said *Jihad* is rooted in the ancient theology of Islam and would eventually lead to a pan-Middle East Islamic empire.

Fundamentalism Is Not New

Islamic fundamentalism is not a recent development. In the Qur'an, there are verses that tell Muslims to fight unconditionally, verses that give the order to fight but with certain conditions, verses that present the religion without any call to arms, and verses that announce Islam's love of peace. Militant Muslims tend to focus on those verses to fight and

take them out of context to legitimize terrorism.

The Qur'an is not the only holy book that contains call-to-arms passages. So do the New Testament and the Torah. The Book of John calls Jews "children of the devil." Think about the Crusades, pogroms and the Holocaust. Deuteronomy commands the Israelites to practice genocide against the native peoples of the holy land. Leviticus contains dozens of frightening pages.

Quoting passages in the Qur'an and using Islamic writings to show that Islam has an inherent propensity for *Jihad* is therefore not the best approach. Most imams today would have a very different interpretation of these texts and passages.

Recent Academic Studies

Nevertheless, academics have been delving into current events and ancient texts of the Qur'an to understand radical theology and terrorism and their link to Islam. Three books are must-reads in understanding the development of Muslim fundamentalism.

The first, Political Islam From Muhammad to Ahmadinejad: Defenders, Detractors, and Definitions, contains essays by several professors of history and political science and several with military background. The compiler, Joseph Morrison Skelly, is a specialist on international terrorism, diplomatic history and military affairs. He was a U.S. Army Reserve officer who took part in Operation Iraqi Freedom that began in 2003.

The authors introduce the notion of "political Islam," which they say is different from Islam as a religion. Skelly quotes Daniel Pipe: "as an ideology, militant Islam can claim none of the sanctity that Islam the religion enjoys." Skelly also uses

Pipe's explanation for the term Islamism, which is often identified with radical, politicized Islam.

Several of the essays use specific historic events as case studies and examine the religious, historic or political justifications for Muslim military actions. Another chapter examines some of the non-Muslim origins of political concepts often used by Islamists.

U.S. Army officer Joseph C. Myer's essay, whose title, "The Qur'anic Concept of War," uses the same words Gemayel did in our 1982 interview, offers much insight into the place of terror in the Islamic tradition. Myer quotes Pakistani Brigadier General K.S. Malik, who believes that "terror is an effect, the end state," and that the "war of will" will win over the "wall of muscle."

The most politically astute chapter is offered by Ofira Seliktar of Gratz College and Temple University, who provides an analysis of Iranian politics since the revolution and an explanation of the structure, policies and history of the Iranian government and its relationship with Islam.

Sunni Muslim Fundamentalism

The second book, Radical Islam: Medieval Theology and Modern Politics, written by Emmanuel Sivan, traces the development of Sunni Muslim fundamentalism and how it rejected Western values, broke with pan-Arabism, and took on an activist political position. One chapter analyzes the growth and influence of Shi'ite radicalism since the Iranian revolution, reviews the main areas of controversy between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims, and assesses the likelihood of rapprochement between the two groups.

Sivan introduces the reader to scores of important but little-known Islamic

(Continued on page 13)

Faith and Radical Islam (continued)

thinkers, from ancient times to the modern era, who have shaped Muslim theology and ideology. He provides an excellent write-up on the interpretations of the Qur'an that fundamentalists use to justify holy war.

He also examines Islam's fundamentalist appeal in Egypt with the Muslim Brotherhood (the group responsible for the 1981 assassination of Anwar Sadat) and Islamic *Jihad* in Lebanon and Syria, and touches on the *shi'i* revolution in Iran. At the heart of each of these groups is disaffection with the Middle East's place in the world economy and the notion of a nation-state.

Focus on Sunni Muslims

One major flaw of the book is that it focuses predominantly on the Sunni fundamentalist movement and does little justice to other sects of Islam. Shi'ii's are scarcely mentioned, and when mentioned, they are discussed in a negative light. Wahahbiism, perhaps the first fundamentalist movement within Islam, is completely ignored.

The third book, written by Daniel Lav, Radical Islam and the Revival of Medieval Theology and Modern Politics, focuses on "faith" as the modus operandi of Islam fundament-

alism. The book seeks to demonstrate how the revival of an age-old and half-defunct theological polemic helped foster rifts within various Islamic movements and helped the emergence of radical Islam as a political school of thought.

Lav, son of TI members Michael and Iris Lav, writes with intimate knowledge of the debate among Muslims: heart (belief), tongue (speech) and limbs (action), whether it takes all three to be a "true believer," and when one becomes an "unbeliever."

Khawarij and Murji'a

The first Muslim groups in the history of Islam that tackled this issue were the Khawarij and the Murji'a. While the Khawarij believes that any gravely sinful act turned one into an unbeliever, the Murji'a excludes acts from faith altogether and thus is seen as the more moderate of the two. Modern-day radicals have often been accused of being like the Khawarij.

Lav explores the history of the two movements, their doctrines and conflicts, from medieval times when Muslims treated Jews much better than Christians to modern-day Jihadism. The book details important theological debates within Islam with authoritative theological writings, a

challenge for anyone with less depth and academic understanding of Islam.

Influence of West

While Islamic terrorism is independent regional phenomenon, some foreign experts argue that the West's intervention in other countries, more than any other factor, might have helped nurture resistance and terrorism movements. There were no Islamic terrorists in Iraq or Afghanistan prior to invasions by Russians and Americans and our allies. One could even argue that the West's invasion of Libya helped produce the tragic event in Benghazi.

With more than a billion Muslims in the world, these analysts say perhaps the question should not be why there are so many terrorists, but why there are so few.

While the majority of Muslims simply want to live in peace, Islamist terrorism is the primary external enemy that menaces the Western world today. The challenge is to meet that enemy and defeat it without alienating the Muslim majority. Understanding the complex relationships between Islam, faith and politics is a monumental challenge, but is essential as long as radical Islam and terrorism continue to haunt the world.

Register for Himmelfarb School Today!

It is time to register children entering grades K-6 this September for Tifereth Israel's Himmelfarb School. Registration is due by July 15.

The Himmelfarb School welcomes children of members and non-members. New TI members receive free tuition for the first year for one child and 50% off tuition for other children attending TI's school.

If you have family members or friends looking for a new Jewish religious school, please tell them about TI's Himmelfarb School!

Memorial Plaques

Honor a deceased relative or friend by purchasing a permanent memorial plaque, for a one-time contribution of \$500 for each plaque.

New memorial plaques will be installed in the Wolman Sanctuary by Yom Kippur if ordered by Thursday, July 3.

The Lemba Community of Zimbabwe

Mickey and Mordy Feinberg

The authors are long-time members of our neighboring congregation, Ohr Kodesh, in Chevy Chase.

We plan to spend the month of August sharing our Jewish knowledge and skills with members of the Lemba community in Zimbabwe, under the auspices of the international Jewish organization, Kulanu, a nearly all-volunteer 501(c) (3) organization that supports communities all over the world.

Lemba Came 1000 Years Ago

The Lemba Jews of Zimbabwe, who entered Africa from Israel via Yemen approximately a thousand years ago, currently number about 150,000 in a country of 14 million people. They live among -- and look like -- the predominant local Shona tribe in southern Zimbabwe, and speak the Shona language. However, they are actually Jews who have kept their Jewish practices secret from their neighbors.

Although they lost their "Book" (the Torah, which Lemba oral history says was lost during their journey from

Israel to Zimbabwe), the Lemba have been able to maintain their devout Jewish religious observances (customs and laws) passed down through generations of oral tradition.

Many writers have recorded claims of Jewish descent by Lemba leaders from Zimbabwe and South Africa, pointing to Lemba religious observances as proof of their origins.

These claims have now been validated by DNA testing by Dr Karl Skorecki, identifying a priestly "Cohen" gene haplotype in more than 50% of all males in the Bubha clan of the Lemba people. This figure is the same or a little higher than the percentage for *Cohanim* in worldwide Ashkenazi and Sephardi Jewish groups.

The Lemba Jewish community today Jewish experiencing а renaissance." Their goals include learning Hebrew Torah. and establishing synagogues and engaging in mainstream Judaism. Lemba leader Modreck Maeresera visited the United States on a US speaking tour in the winter of 2012 and was converted by Orthodox credentialed rabbis during the trip. Modreck stayed at our home at that time and spoke at Ohr Kodesh.

We will stay at the Lemba community guest house/community center/ synagogue in Harare. We will meet community members daily, teaching them prayer and Torah and Jewish life skills. Most Lemba live in villages accessible to Harare by public transportation, the costs of which pose a financial challenge to them.

Contributions Needed

Please help us facilitate participation in our classes by contributing to Kulanu's website at http://tinyurl.com/helplemba. Then click on "Make a Donation" in the top right corner, under the "Help Our Cause" section.

If you prefer to send a check, write it to "Kulanu" and mail it to Kulanu, 165 West End Ave, 3R, New York, NY 10023. Write "Lemba Jews of Zimbabwe" in the memo field.

For more information contact us at mmfeinberg@verizon.net. Thanks so much!

Takoma Park Folk Festival

Susan Catler

The Takoma Park Folk Festival is a very special, all-volunteer, community-supported event held each September for the past 35 years. This year it will be held on **Sunday, September 7**, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The festival features six stages of volunteer performers, a juried craft show, kids' games, and 100+ "Community Tables" highlighting a wide array of causes and organizations. It attracts thousands of

visitors of all ages, talented musicians, creative craft artisans, delicious food, and the best of Takoma community volunteers.

Tifereth Israel will again be present at the festival with a "Community Table." This provides a good opportunity for us to meet people in the community who might be looking for a new synagogue. Many other faith organizations will be present, and we want to ensure that we're included in the mix.

We are seeking people to sit at the table and talk about TI to anyone who comes by.

We are asking people to take twohour shifts. If we get sufficient interest, we will try to place volunteers at the table in pairs.

Here's a link to our form for volunteers to sit at the table: http://tinyurl.com/TlatTPFF2014.

Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

July 25

Eliot & Traci Goldberg
Joseph & Dody Goldberg
Joshua & Sara Goldberg
Marcia Goldberg
Myrna Goldman
Paul Goldman & Debbie Pomerance
Tom & Lisa Goldring
Paul & Rachel Goldstein
Michael Gotthelf & Rachel Vile
Stefan & Wilhelmina Gottschalk
Stan Grabia & Varda Fink
Lee & Jenni Grabel
George & Marjorie Greenberg
Larry Greenfield & Melanie Gross
Greenfield

August 1

Abraham & Dena Greenstein David Greisen & Jessica Bell Franca Brilliant Leah Weinryb Grohsgal & Corey Goettsch Richard Gryziak & Leigh Verbois Stefan Gunter & Lisa Goldberg Eitan & Aviva Gutin Jonathan Halpern Daniel & Elizabeth Handwerker David & Sara Handwerker Eliot Harrison & Wendy Blake-Coleman David Hart & Lois Frankel Michael Heimowitz & Dori Gillman Matt & Linda Heller Steve & Shelly Heller Bruce Heppen & Bonnie Suchman

August 8

Eugene & Esther 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
Harvey Kabaker & Andrea Kline
Steven Kalish & Anita Bollt
David Kass & Iris Amdur
Joshua & Jennifer Kefer
Kenneth Kellner & Nina Bronk
Kellner

August 15

Rabbi 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 Joel Kramer & Adena Galinsky Joshua & Francesca Kranzberg David & Amy Kritz Richard Kruger & Naimah Weinberg Matthew Kunkin & Hilary Sachs Simcha Kuritzky Susan Laden Alan Landay Robert Lande & Jeri Roth Lande

August 22

Alexander Laufer & Jennifer Siegel
Laufer
Dan & Ariel Lautman
Adina & Refael Lav
Michael & Iris Lav
Mitchell Lazarus & Judith Shapiro
Beverly Lehrer
Elihu & Sheila Leifer
Ken & Rachel Lemberg
Shirley Levine
Steve LeVine & Nuri Nurlybayeva
Mark Lewis & Janet Nesse
Dan Liebman & Lis Davis
Kobi Lifshitz & Lisa Traiger
Fred Lipschultz & Rabbi Diana Lynn

John & Lynne List John Lister

August 29

Oscar & Amv Mann Stephen Marcus & Renee Matalon Joseph & Paula Martin Robert Mathis & Tali Stopak-Mathis David & Carla Matusow David & Diana Meyer 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 Jacob & Elaine Mondschein Ken Morris & Terri Zall Eli & Laura Muller Jerry & Sharon Muller

September 5

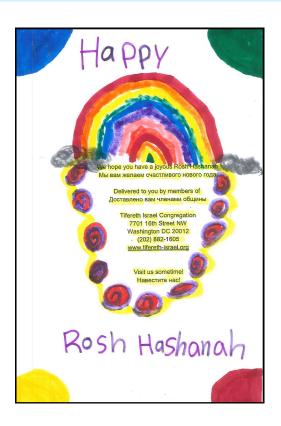
Jonah & Stephanie Murdock Myron Murdock Beth Naftalin Ray & Adele Natter Sheridan & Dana Neimark Michael H. New & Linda Turnowski Stephen Nelson & Leslie Goodman-Malamuth David Ogilvie & Miriam Lederer Lee & Hedy Ohringer Sarah Osborne Jonathan Panikoff & Jessica Goldings Larry Paul & Joye Newman Perry & 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

Winner Chosen in Card Contest

Each fall, TI members deliver Rosh Hashanah food baskets to needy members of the Jewish community.

The Social Action Committee held a contest, open to TI members under the age of 13, to design a card to include with our baskets this year, making clear they come from Tifereth Israel.

Many entries were submitted. The Committee selected a design by **Karenna Seltman**, shown to the right. It will be used in all the baskets delivered this fall.



Late July/August Highlights at Tifereth Israel

July 12	Raviv Levone Bat Mitzvah
July 14, 21, 28	Monday Lunch & Learn Parashat HaShavuah, 11 a.m.; Lunch, 12 noon
July 15	Kol Nashim Book Club, 7:30 p.m., at home of David Levy
July 18	Summer Shabbat Service & Dinner: Appetizers, 6 p.m.; Children's Service, 6:30 p.m.; Carlebach Service, 6:30 p.m.; Dinner, 7 p.m.
July 19	Tot Shabbat, 11:10 a.m.
July 20	Movie Night, 7:30 p.m., When Jews Were Funny
August 4, 11, 18, 25	Monday Lunch & Learn Parashat HaShavuah, 11 a.m.; Lunch 12 noon
August 19	Kol Nashim Book Club, 7:30 p.m., place TBD

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Weinberg Richard Kruger & Naimah Weinberg John & Lynne List

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(Continued on page 18)

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Leonard Jewler & Andrea

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Rosen

Evelyn Jellinek

Jean Rosen Louis Gilman

(Continued on page 19)

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Lesley Zark Diana Zurer Diana Zurer Diana Zurer Diana Zurer

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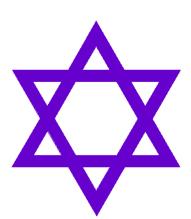
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