



The Menorah

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President's Column: John List Learning from Mistakes and Moving Forward

While I have apologized to some people directly, I would like to take this opportunity to provide an apology to the TI community as a whole. My decision and announcement that Eitan Gutin would not be offered an extension to his contract was a mistake for which I take full responsibility. My actions caused hurt to many and created a tear in the fabric of the community. It is my sincere hope that together we can heal and grow stronger.

Since the Board meetings of November 9 and November 11, I have begun a personal *teshuvah* process to learn and to improve. With the help of the Rabbi, selected friends and family, I am focusing on better ways to handle such decisions and how best to communicate delicate subjects to the entire congregational community.

Change in Orientation Needed

In addition, I have had many conversations with many congregants whose views and advice I have taken to heart. This *teshuvah* process has, for example, taught me that I must move away from the corporate orientation that I had been using for over 40 years and think in terms of being a leader of a caring community.

Similarly, while I have always respected the dedicated and talented group of people on the Board, going forward, I plan to show that respect by involving them more significantly in important congregational issues.

Importance of Building Consensus

In addition, I can now better understand how community consensus on large sensitive issues is critical to change. Going forward, I believe that I can and will perform my duties as president of this

congregation differently and with Jewish values paramount in all the steps along the way.

As an update to our process concerning Life-long Learning,

I would like to reiterate that with the support of Eitan, and as a result of a thoughtful and thorough process with the Board, I am in the midst of appointing an Ad Hoc Committee to explore our Lifelong Learning program.

Lifelong Learning captures a wide range of activities: our Himmelfarb School; our Adult Education and Programming; tot and youth programs for Shabbat and Haggim; our youth group activities; and, many other aspects that together comprise an important segment of our congregational life.

Ad Hoc Committee's Mission

The Ad Hoc Committee will first define goals guided by our precepts and values that are the basis for Lifelong Learning ("What are we trying to do?"). Then, the committee will develop and present options to the Board for a structure – including paid and volunteer positions with their job responsibilities -- that are needed to accomplish these goals and that are possible within the resources of our congregation.

The committee will begin its work soon and will gather information and ideas by interfacing with as many congregants and professional staff as possible. We will

(Continued on page 2)



Social Action Shabbaton

The 2016 Shabbaton, whose theme will be "Commemorating Social Action at Tifereth Israel," will be January 15 and 16. Save the dates

Following a dinner on Friday night, Rabbi Abramowitz will lead a discussion on social action at TI. On Saturday, at 1 p.m. there will be a panel discussion with representatives of organizations that work with TI volunteers: Martha's Table, Luther Place, Shepherd Elementary School and, possibly, Yachad or Project Hope.

Members may sign up for the dinner at <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/jan2016dinner>.

Who are the people in the photos below? Top: a TI retreat. Do you know where? When? Bottom: a TI Hebrew School class circa 1966. Reply to Cynthia Peterman at cynp@gmail.com.



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Appointments are recommended.)

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President's Column (continued)

continue to update you on the progress of this effort. I hope all of you will participate. The committee's charge is to present its recommendations to the Board in mid-February, 2016. I am optimistic that this communal process will allow for all voices to be heard and will lead to a positive outcome for TI.

Fifth Annual Tifereth Israel Hanukkah Celebration

TI's annual Hanukkah celebration will be held on **Wednesday, December 9**. The festivities begin at **6:30 p.m.** with dinner.

This will be followed by candle lighting, Hanukkah songs, and organized activities for every age and stage.

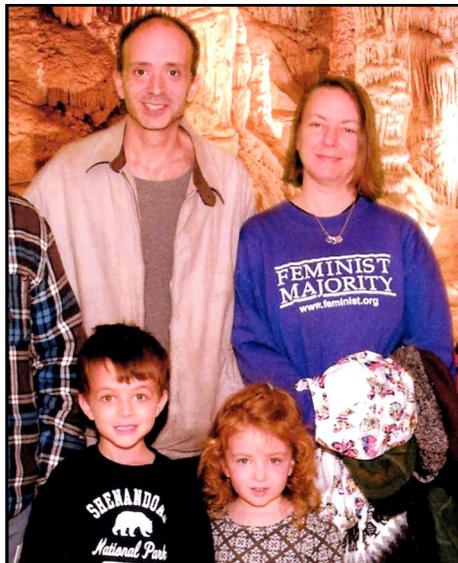
This year's activities include movement games with Jim Gagne and building recyclable menorahs!

New Members

Jared Garelick

Sherry Klein and Jeff Feuer

Sherry and Jeff are area natives. Sherry grew up in the District, and Jeff in Silver Spring. Jeff's family attended Beth Sholom Congregation when it was one of the



“Big Three” Shepherd Park synagogues, before it retreated to Potomac.

Sherry and Jeff have two children, **Jaden**, their son, who is 5, and a daughter, **Kyra**, who is 3.

Jeff is a telecommunications specialist at the Voice of America, where he has been for 16 years. He works mainly on television broadcasts, which involves arranging and scheduling feeds and remotes and myriad other details that go into a broadcast program.

Sherry is in the IT field, with experience in computer testing, analysis, and related tasks. The family, which lives in the Silver Spring/Wheaton area, was looking for a conveniently located synagogue with a good Hebrew school program, and what they heard about TI fit the bill. They checked it out and found it did. Jeff plays piano when he can, and will be happy to talk to you about sports.

Funeral Practices Committee Always On-Call

Haverim 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 haverim, 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 Goggin h: 301-593-8480
w: 301-754-1963

Bruce Heppen h: 301-299-3255
c: 202-997-1890
w: 703-417-8983

Ann Kline h: 301-946-2693
c: 301-346-9862

Robert Rovinsky h: 202 237 1036
c: 202 815 8707



The Copeland family — Karen, Lia, Josh & Bill — featured in the November issue of *The Menorah*

December Highlights at Tifereth Israel

December 5	Jayden Matusow Bar Mitzvah
December 6	Gevarim Brunch, "Food for Thought: Health Insurance in the U.S.," 10 a.m. Rabbi Avis Miller, "Fall Holidays," 2nd session (Hanukkah), 11:15 a.m.
December 7-14	Hanukkah (first candle, evening of December 6)
December 7, 14, 21, 28	Monday Lunch & Learn <i>Parashat HaShavuah</i>, 11 a.m.; Lunch 12 noon
December 9	Hanukkah Celebration and Dinner, 6:30 p.m.
December 12	SHALEM, Dr. Ann Saab, "Writing Bathsheba's Story," 1:15 p.m.
December 13	Rabbi Avis Miller, "Fall Holidays," last session (Christmas), 11:15 a.m.
December 15	Kol Nashim Book Club at home of Varda Fink & Stan Grabia, 7:30 p.m.
December 24	Movie Nite/Chinese Food Dinner, Films at 5 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Luncheon for the Homeless at seven area shelters

Volunteers Needed for Christmas Luncheon for Homeless

Frank Solomon

TI needs lots of good men, women and children for this year's Christmas luncheon for the homeless.

We are adding three more shelters this year, in addition to the four shelters that we have served in the past. Five of the shelters are in Washington. Two are in Rockville. We expect to serve close to 600 women, men and children, compared with the usual 300-plus.

We will be working with volunteers from Adat Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington in Rockville. Last year, we had nearly 200 volunteers helping

with every facet of this operation, some coming from as far as Texas and California who were visiting with their families. The additional shelters this year will require more volunteers than in the past to help with food preparation, cooking, pickup and delivery, gift wrapping, and serving at shelters on Christmas Day.

In addition to our expanded reach to serve more shelters and people, we are ramping up our entertainment offering for the occasion. So if you've got talent, we want you. We are looking for singers (Torah-chanting doesn't count), musicians, comedians, story tellers, magicians,

dancers, jugglers, unicyclists, flame eaters, worm eaters and more to entertain those less fortunate while they eat.

If you can make them laugh, we want you. If you can make them cry, we want you. A half hour of singing or story-telling could make them smile and warm their hearts.

An online call for volunteers will be coming shortly. Please be generous with your time for this worthy cause. Can't wait to sign up to show your talent? Contact Frank Solomon at f50solomon@gmail.com.

Gevarim

Andrew Reamer



Sunday Brunch: Food for Thought

December 6, 10 a.m. "Health Insurance in the U.S.: Past, Present, and Future." A distinguished expert panel of TI members will give their views of trends in the ability of U.S. residents to obtain insurance for health care services:

- **Jenny Bryant**, Senior Vice President, Policy and Research, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America

- **Stan Dorn**, Senior Fellow, Health Policy Center, Urban Institute

- **Howard Gleckman**, Senior Fellow, Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, Urban Institute

- **Ruth Tabak**, Health Insurance Specialist, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, HHS

Tickets are \$12 each, with a \$2 discount for Gevarim and Kol Nashim members. Sign up at <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/health2015>

Movie Nite@TI

December 24. Chinese Food and Movies.

- 5:00 p.m. through closing: *Rocky & Bullwinkle Season 1*

- 5:00 p.m.: *Hava Nagila (The Movie)*, a documentary romp through the history, mystery and meaning of the great Jewish standard. Featuring interviews with Harry Belafonte, Leonard Nimoy, Connie Francis, Glen Campbell, Regina Spektor and more, the film follows the ubiquitous party song on its fascinating journey from the shtetls of Eastern Europe to the kibbutzim of Palestine to the cul-de-sacs of America.

High on fun and entertainment, *Hava Nagila (The Movie)* is also surprisingly profound, tapping into universal

themes about the importance of joy, the power of music and the resilient spirit of a people.

- 7:30 p.m.: *Duck Soup* (Marx Brothers)

- 8:45 p.m.: *The Producers* (Zero Mostel, Gene Wilder, directed by Mel Brooks)

The movies are free, dinner is \$21 for adults and less for children. Sign up at <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/dec2015dinner>.

Shabbat Talmud Study

December 5 and 19, 1:00–1:45 p.m. Tractate *B'rakhot* is the first tractate of the Talmud, and also one of the most accessible. In addition to the normal "talmudic" discussions of *halakhah*, there are also many enchanting stories and fables.

Starting last spring, Rabbi Seidel, who has studied this entire tractate, has been teaching large pieces of it to those who are interested, approximately twice a month after lunch on Shabbat afternoons.

Even if you've never studied Talmud before — especially if you've never studied Talmud before — you might enjoy dropping in on our ongoing reading of the last chapter of Tractate *B'rakhot*. We read the text in English (photocopies are provided, although folks are encouraged to buy the book, an English translation published by Koren), and discuss.

We'll continue to cover a fascinating passage about dream interpretation which is, of course, about much more than dreams.

SHALEM

Jessica Weissman

On **December 12**, scholar and author **Dr. Ann Saab** will deliver a SHALEM presentation on "Writing Bathsheba's Story." After a long Midrashic engagement with the story of Bathsheba and David, Dr. Saab recently finished her novel *Bathsheba's Book*.

The novel fills in the gaps in Samuel 2 to tell a nuanced story of family drama, politics, and prophetic manipulation, with Bathsheba moving from naïve country girl to powerful Queen Mother. The talk will focus on the interpretive decisions Dr. Saab faced, and how she used her imagination, her experience of living in the Middle East, and her historical research to create a striking novel.

Dr. Saab is Professor Emeritus of History at UNCG. She has served as Associate Dean of the UNCG Graduate School and head of the History Department. Her research interests focus on cross-cultural understanding and misunderstandings.

We are looking for future SHALEM speakers. Is there a topic of Jewish interest you can talk about for 45 minutes in front of a highly engaged audience of TI'ers? Do you have an interesting story to tell? Or can you suggest someone at TI you think would make a good speaker? Please contact me with your ideas.

In the great Jewish tradition:
December 24 Dinner & Movies



Movie Schedule:

- 5:00 – *Hava Nagila* (with subtitles)
- 7:30 – *Duck Soup* (Marx Brothers)
- 8:45 – *The Producers* (Brooks/Mostel)

Featuring a delectable collection
of Chinese dishes from our own
Roz Kram!



<https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/dec2015dinner>



And last but not least...Also showing:

Rocky and Bullwinkle!

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Barbara Raimondo

Three Babies

TI members **Lee** and **Tim Anderegg** and big sister **Penn** are delighted to announce that **Kellan Anderegg** was born on October 1 at 12:15 p.m. At birth he weighed 7.5 pounds and was 19 inches long. Baby, sister and parents are doing well.

And **Dov Micah Levy** was born November 8 at 7:06 a.m. He is the son of **Justin** and **Ilana Levy** and the grandson of **Ellen Levy** and the late **David Levy**. At birth he weighed 7 pounds 13 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. Mom, Dad, big sister **Corina** and **Granny El** all are happy and well.

Finally, TI members **Alan** and **Cyndy Weitz** are delighted to welcome a new grandson, and TI member **Charlotte Gottlieb** is thrilled to welcome a new great-grandson. The third child of **Bethanie Weitz** and **Joshua Costa**, he was born on November 18 at 2:42 a.m. At birth he weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces and was 20 inches long. Mom, Dad, and big brothers **Jacob** and **Zachary** are all happy and well.

Two Weeks

Gail Phillips just came back from a two-week vacation to Israel with HAZAK, a 55+ group. They spent a day in Tel Aviv and seven days and nights touring around the Jerusalem area seeing the historic sights, museums, and, best of all, traffic! To confuse things they went to an Orthodox synagogue for Friday evening services and a Conservative synagogue for Saturday services; the latter is attached to the Fuchsberg Center.

They stayed at a kibbutz and met a woman who had been on the KinderTrain in the Holocaust. She was invited to join them for dinner and told about how she survived the

Holocaust and what her life has been like since. The talk took place on November 9, Kristallnacht. Very meaningful. The group also toured Eilat and Petra, Jordan.

One of the guides on the trip thinks that Tel Aviv is like New York City: it never sleeps. To Gail, Eilat is like Las Vegas: palm trees, exotic hotels, and even a casino on the water's edge. Jerusalem: so much history to see and learn about.

Mazel tov to **Paula Flicker's** mother, **Shirley Engelman**, who turned 90 in October. Paula helped her celebrate the following month.

First place. And second place. And first place. And first again, kinda.

At the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists (PAN) show in Pittsburgh, **Simcha Kuritzky** gave a talk on modern Zionism in numismatics. His exhibit on the same subject took first in medals, while his exhibit on Israel's holy sites commemorative coins took second in world coins. He also gave a talk on Israel's money and graven images at the Montgomery County Coin Club.

Sydney Bergman, daughter of **Margie Odle** and **Carl Bergman**, won the 2015 Kim Foglia award for AP biology service at the 2015 National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) (work it into a rap if you can: "I was totally wrapped when I went to the NABT, and meetings were apt for my future intact," okay that's enough) meeting on November 14 in Providence, RI.

Earlier in November, Sydney was a co-host of the podcast "Horizontal Transfer on Twitter," episode 42. The episode discussed, among other things, why biology teachers should participate in a writing group. Mom and Dad understood only some of

what was discussed, revealing both generational and scientific gaps. The link to the podcast is <http://www.horizontaltransfer.com/podcast/2015/11/7/episode-42-maybe-you-should-write-with-us>.

On a recent Shabbat, it is believed that **Jeff Peterman** set the record for the longest distance traveled to go to a Friday night service. He left Seoul – Korea, that is -- that morning and after landing at Dulles Airport drove directly to TI, traveling approximately 7000 miles in 23 hours. A long way, but he couldn't miss supporting **Cynthia** in the hallah bake-off. Cynthia's always tops in Jeff's book, hallah or no hallah!

Sad News

Hyman Suchman, father of **Bonnie Suchman (Bruce Heppen)**, and grandfather of **Emily** and **Jonathan**, died in October after a long illness. He was 94.

Also, **Ari Sokolov**, father of **Dan (Elizabeth) Sokolov**, and grandfather of **Avi** and **Aaron**, died early in November in California after a long illness. He was 78. The funeral was in California.

And **Lucille Kram**, sister-in-law of **Roz (Ted) Kram**, passed away in November in New York after a long illness. She was 86.

Finally, member **Debra Shleien**, wife of **Bernard Shleien**, died after a long illness. She was 80. She is survived by her husband, daughter **Sara (Eric) Waskowicz**, son **Joshua**, and grandchildren **Sam**, **George** and **Lucy Waskowicz**.

May family and loved ones find strength in their memories.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *multifarious*: "having or

Kol Nashim



“Shpiel-In” Great Success

Laughter (and snacks) were the order of the evening at the first ever KN **Improv Night**, emceed by **Louise Kelley** (see photo below).

Audience members were treated to a typical KN Board Meeting (disjointed, but united in the search for chocolate); a musical selection for kazoos; and TI current events and how they will impact the future at TI's 200th year anniversary.



Participants in Kol Nashim's Improv Night, November 14, included (left to right): Adele Natter, Louise Kelley (producer/director), Pearl Schainker and Debbie Pomerance.

Book Club

See the article below on the Kol Nashim Book Club.

Watch for Upcoming Events

January 30: Game Night. Co-sponsored by Kol Nashim and Gevarim, the program will feature games of interest to adults and young people. Added this year will be competing teams for charades.

February 7: “For the Love of Chocolate.” Featuring a chocolate factory tour and dipping class.

KN Book Club

Jessica Weissman

In November, the KN book club held a lively discussion of Kenneth Feinberg's *What is Life Worth*. Feinberg was the Special Master for the 9/11 compensation fund, and had to make decisions that stayed within the limits set by Congress but also satisfied both the 9/11 families and the rest of the public. Not an easy job, as the two lawyers in the group attested.

Our next meeting is on **December 15**, at the home of **Varda Fink** and **Stan Grabia**. We will read *An Officer and a Spy*, by Robert Harris. This is an historical novel covering the Dreyfus case, in terms that might seem right up to date in today's world. Many copies are available at libraries, and the book is also in paperback and electronic form. Everyone is welcome to the meeting, even if you haven't finished the book!

For January we will read *The Lady in Gold: The Extraordinary Tale of*

Gustav Klimt's Masterpiece, Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer, by Anne-Marie O'Connor. This nonfiction work traces the story of the portrait and its subject, branching into many related areas. This book was the source of the movie *The Woman in Gold*.

Our February reading is *All of a Kind Family*, by Sydney Taylor. Many of us, perhaps most of us, read this series as children. I can assure you that it supports re-reading and that what you take from it as an adult may overlap with what you thought of it as a child, but new insights into the immigrant family experience await.

Feel free to read the other books in the series if you like, but we will focus on the first one.

If you have suggestions for other books, or if you want to host the January or February meetings, please let me know, at jweissmn@his.com.

Nayes un Mekhayes (continued)

occurring in great variety: diverse” (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 items 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 oneiric edition of Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers.

Zemer Chai Concert

Wednesday, December 9, at 8 p.m., Ohr Kodesh Congregation, with special guests: **Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Chamber Singers**.

All Tickets \$10. Order at www.ZemerChai.org, or 301-963-3462.

Earl Dotter Photography/Bernie Shlein Art Exhibit in Cherner

Audrey Smith & David (Judy) Cohen

The Art Committee is pleased to announce an outstanding new show in the Cherner, opening in December. The exhibit features the work of two very accomplished artists, both members of the committee, who have made great contributions to our programs at Tifereth Israel.

Earl Dotter, a well-recognized photographer and photojournalist, has had many shows, in many locations. His work emphasizes the dignity and beauty of labor. He has contributed to past TI shows and is invaluable in their mounting. Earl has taken over responsibility for hanging our exhibits – a function we used to contract out -- and is teaching members of the committee this important skill. He is also responsible for the signage for our shows.

Bernie Shleien is our stalwart contributor. Over the years, he has worked with the Art Committee to make TI a significant art site. He found the fiber artist who designed and executed our beautiful ark. His work in painting, printing, sculpture and mixed-media graces our walls and halls. Many TI'ers have his work in their homes. His generosity is legend. He has always contributed his art to fund-raising and gives a large percentage of any works sold through TI to the synagogue. For this show, he has offered 100% of the proceeds to TI.

Earl Dotter

The exhibit of Earl's photographs now on display in the Cherner Auditorium is entitled *Life's Work, a Fifty Year Photographic Chronicle of Working in the U.S.A.* It represents Earl's initial work in preparation for a retrospective that will tour in 2019, marking 50 years since he began his photographic career.

The selection of photographs on display in the Cherner spans the first part of that time period (photos from the second part will be exhibited at TI sometime in 2016). This is the first time these photos have been shown together as a group. Two photos from the full retrospective are shown below and on the following page.



Emergency Responders, Lower Manhattan, 2001

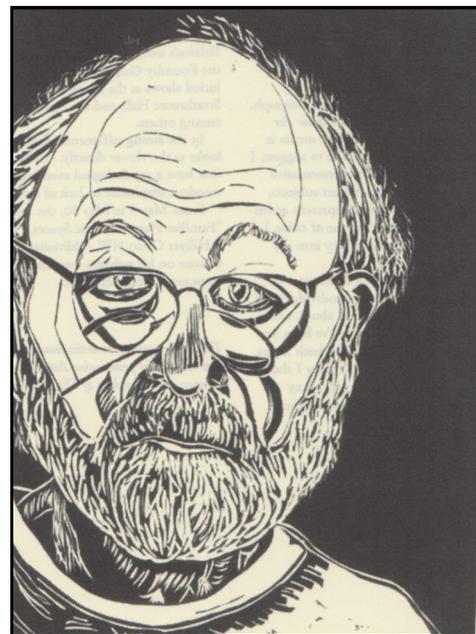
The earliest photographs in the exhibit were taken in 1968, while Earl was a student at the School of Visual

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Bernie Shleien

Bernie's early artistic talents led to his being accepted to the High School of Music and Art in his native New York City, but his equal love for science and his family's opposition to an art career resulted in his following a distinguished career as a health physicist. Nearly 20 years ago he returned to his interest in art and attended the Maryland College of Art and Design, where he became a continuing education faculty member.

Bernie's woodcuts (including the self-portrait below) and pastels have been exhibited at the Foundry and in juried



(Continued on page 10)

Earl Dotter (continued)

Arts in New York City, the year Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy were assassinated. The images continue through the War on Poverty, when he was a VISTA volunteer in Tennessee, and his years photographing coal miners when that was the most dangerous job in America.

The images chronicle workers in the Mississippi Delta cotton fields, textile mills in the South and auto plants and factories throughout the United States. They include photographs of commercial fishermen working in the North Atlantic Ocean, emergency responders on Ground Zero after 9/11 in New York City and migrant farmworkers in Maine, California, Wisconsin and, most recently, Maryland's Eastern Shore.



A Morning Prayer at Maimonides Hospital, 2011

Earl says that a transformative moment in his artistic development was when his photography instructor, Paul Elfenbein insisted that every photo express the photographer's own personal point of view. That message led to a complete change in direction in Earl's career.

Earl also acknowledges the support of his wife and collaborator, **Deborah Stern**, for believing in the significance of his work. As an attorney for the United Mine Workers of America Deborah has shared completely his goal of advocating for safe, healthy and rewarding work.

Drashot on Line

The TI website has Rabbi Seidel's *drashot* from the first day of Rosh Hashanah, Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur services.

Bernie Shleien (continued)

shows at the Maryland State House, Strathmore Hall and the University of Maryland Gallery.

In Bernie's own words: "I try to present nature and humanity through a mix of sensitivity and strength. My artistic roots are in German Expressionism. Without losing the power that woodcuts have, through exaggeration and color, I attempt to emphasize the emotional content of the subject of the picture. Awe of nature, my understanding of science, and the emotionality of music all inspire me."

Bernie's cosmos series of hand-colored woodcuts, using oil pastels, was inspired by the photographs in space taken by the Hubble telescope. He has also depicted many Jewish themes, using color to inject emotionality and spontaneity into his work.

"I have been fortunate," he says, "in having had training and a passion for both [science and art] in my life. So it is not surprising that after a long journey I should be inspired by advances in science to create art."

Bernie dedicates his work displayed to the memory of his dear wife, helpmate and inspiration, Debra.

Course on Fall Holidays

In December, **Rabbi Avis Miller** continues to lead two more sessions of her three-part course, **Fall Holidays: Yours, Mine, and Ours**, exploring the connection (or disconnect!) between our identities as Americans and as Jews.

In the first session, on November 22, she discussed the Jewish roots of Thanksgiving.

On **December 6**, Rabbi Miller will present the Hanukkah story as a Rorschach for contemporary Jewish concerns of assimilation.

On **December 13**, she will explore Jewish/rabbinic themes in Jesus' birth narrative as presented in the Gospels. Both sessions run from 11:15 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

Rabbi Miller is Rabbi Emerita of Adas Israel and President of Open Dor Foundation, Inc.

Costs for TI members: \$15 per session. Costs for non-members: \$18 per session.

Medallic Tributes to the *Shema* Simcha Kuritzky

Just after the repetition of the Ten Commandments in Deuteronomy is one of the most recognized verses (6:4), commonly called the *Shema*.

Jews are commanded to recite the *Shema* once in the morning and once in the evening. Later Jews began reciting it again at bedtime; it was believed this would keep demons away. It is also traditional to recite the *Shema* in the Torah service, at the end of Yom Kippur, and on one's deathbed. The scrolls inside the *mezuzah* and *tefillin* contain the *Shema*.

Judaism, unlike her sister Abrahamic religions, is not based on creeds, but for many Jews, the *Shema* became a creed. For early Reform congregations, the *Shema* was the only piece of liturgy recited in Hebrew.

Although many of Israel's medals contain a relevant Biblical phrase, the first medal Israel issued where the central design and subject matter was a Biblical verse is the *Shema* medal of 1980. Just the first two words are shown in Hebrew on the obverse and the entire verse in English on the reverse.

The medal was produced in bronze, silver, and gold. When it was issued, the Chief Rabbi said it should be worn as an amulet. Although he didn't specify the purpose, many amulet makers believe the *Shema* protects against fever.



I have several medallions, probably from the 19th century, that contain the *Shema*. The first one is .840 fine silver and appears to be Russian. Moses is shown holding the Ten

Commandments (represented by Roman numerals going left to right) with rays coming out of the top of his head. The reverse has the *Shema* in Hebrew, with God's Name given as two *yuds* with *shva'im* (no other *nekudot* are shown).



A contemporary Italian porcelain charm also shows Moses but without rays. The reverse shows the *Shema* (God's name is a *dalet*) followed by the traditional response "Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom forever and ever. For both medals, I changed the *heh* in *Elokeynu* to a *resh* so the newsletter doesn't have to go into a *geniza*.



Two of my items were engraved by hand. The first was engraved on a half sovereign or \$2½ gold piece where both sides' designs were polished off. One side has fancy intertwined initials while the other has the *Shema* in Hebrew, where God's name is given as *yud heh vov heh* (I turned the first *heh* into a *resh* in the photo). The second is from Persia and engraved on Turquoise in a silver bezel. The center has the first verse of the Priestly Blessing, while around is the *Shema* with God's name is two *yuds*.



Two modern, small medals or pendants probably come after World War Two. The first is a copper-nickel medal smaller than a dime with a 1950 copyright to Rabbi Rubin. One side shows *Zion* inside a *Magen David*. The six letters across the top are the initial letters (*notarikon*) of the *Shema*, while below is *notarikon* for "I always keep God before me" (Psalm 19:8). Interestingly, God's name in the *Shema* is represented by *heh* while from the psalm verse it is represented by *yud*. The other side shows a *menorah* composed of the verses from Psalm 67.



The second came from the Meditag Company of Italy. It is the size of a quarter and made of silver, with a representation of the Ten Commandments in the center surrounded by the *Shema*. The other side has a *menorah* inside a *Magen David* surrounded by the twelve signs of the tribes.



(Continued on page 12)

Bar Mitzvah

Hi, I'm **Jayden Matusow** and I am in 7th grade. I go to The Siena School in Silver Spring and I love it there. Some of my favorite hobbies are karate and tennis.

My Bar Mitzvah is on December 5 and is *Parashah Vayeishev*. My tutor was Beryl Feldman. I chose to donate to SOME for my Bar Mitzvah project. I baked casseroles once a month.

I am really excited about having my Bar Mitzvah. I remember when my custom tallit was finished and it was so cool. I also remember recording everything that I had to sing and listening to the recordings every night.

When I was starting my *maftir*, I practiced with my mom. My math teacher always says "if you can explain it to someone then you've got it." So I taught it to my mom and that helped me learn it better.



Medallic Tributes to the *Shema* (continued)

Two large medals show Moses with the Ten Commandments along with the *Shema*. The first, produced in high-relief silver by the Medallic Arts Company, has Deuteronomy 6:4 in English translation, and has the unique view of Moses facing away from the viewer and towards the people looking up at him. The second, a bronze medal, shows Moses facing right with rays of light and holding the Ten Commandments numbered *alef* through *yud* and the *Shema* in Hebrew.

On both medals, Moses holds up one arm and points with one finger skyward, presumably to emphasize "one". Both show a lion and *menorah* on the reverse.

Today in Israel there are craftsmen who make amulets utilizing the *Shema*. Below is an octagonal piece with a floral design in the center, the *Shema* around the outside and the response *Barukh shem kavod malkhutkha leyolam va'ed* around the center.

The small *hamsa* charm below has just the *Shema* with *heh* for God's name and also uses *elokeynu*.



As one of the most recognized (and some would argue, important) pieces of Jewish liturgy, the *Shema* has appeared and continues to appear on numerous medals and pieces of jewelry. These items bring the declaration of God's uniqueness out of the sanctuary and into the public space.

Upcoming Friday Night Minyan/Tot Shabbat Assignments

Friday Night Minyan

December 4

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

December 11

Abraham & Dena Greenstein
David Greisen & Jessica Bell
Franca Brilliant
Leah Weinryb Grohsgal & Corey Goettsch
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
Larry Held & Sara Feinstein
Matt & Linda Heller
Steve & Shelly Heller
Bruce Heppen & Bonnie Suchman

December 18

Eugene & Esther Herman
Carolivia Herron

James & Annie Hershberg
William Hodos
Gayle & Erik Hope
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

January 1

Rabbi Jason & Devora Kimelman-Block
Alexandra Kincannon & Paul Moorehead
Shemaya & Dori Klar
Morris Klein & Naomi Freeman
Aaron Kofner & Anat Shahr
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

January 8

Alexander Laufer & Jennifer Siegel Laufer
Michael & Iris Lav
Mitchell Lazarus & Judith Shapiro

Beverly Lehrer
Elihu & Sheila Leifer
Ken & Rachel Lemberg
Steve LeVine & Nuri Nurlybayeva
Wylie & Kim Levone
Mark Lewis & Janet Nesse
Dan Liebman & Lis Davis
Lisa Traiger
Fred Lipschultz & Rabbi Diana Lynn
John & Lynne List
John Lister

January 22

Oscar & Amy Mann
Stephen Marcus & Renee Matalon
Lynne Margolies
Joseph & Paula Martin
Robert Mathis & Tali Stopak-Mathis
David & Carla Matusow
Allison & Colin McMillan
Diana Meyer
Tobi McFarland
David & Janice Mehler
Robert & Laura Meisnere
Stephen Meltzer
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

Tot Shabbat

December 19

David Ogilvie (Set up & Story)
Allison Turner (Service)

January 16

Daniel Turner (Story)

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