



The Menorah

Notes from the Rabbi: Ethan Seidel The Loss at Theatre J

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I was very disappointed to read in the *Washington Post* last month that Ari Roth had been fired from his job as Artistic Director of Theatre J.

I don't have any inside information about what happened. From my vantage point on the sidelines, it seemed like the organization calling itself COPMA (Citizens Opposing Propaganda Masquerading as Art) had generated enough support to threaten the income stream of the DCJCC (which controls Theatre J).

COPMA's members felt that the Israeli plays that Ari staged (in translation) were anti-Israel propaganda, and eventually, the leadership of DCJCC either agreed with COPMA, or felt forced to cave to the pressure. I feel sorry for the next artistic director of Theatre J.

I discussed the issue in some detail in my Shabbat *drash* on December 20 (*Parashat Miketz*), and will summarize and elaborate here:

Art Always Has a Point of View

What art is there that doesn't have a point of view, that is not trying to communicate something? Drama in particular, even if it imagines itself as just entertainment, is never merely entertaining. There are always cultural norms that are either being reinforced or challenged, whether directly or subliminally.

Think of the horror movies that first kill off young women seen by the director as not chaste enough.

Or (more subtly, and more insidiously) the many movies that cannot pass the Bechdel test (which hinges on whether there are two named female characters who have a conversation with each other about something other than a man). According to Wikipedia, about half of all contemporary films fail that test.

Finally, imagine the new, "improved" Theatre J, where only productions that present Israel in a flattering light are staged. Wouldn't that also be propaganda?

A Tolerance for Complexity

Different subgroups of any population will have different tolerances for complexity. Some like their heroes pristine. Others – and these would include (I had hoped) most Jews – prefer more complex heroes, finding such models more realistic, and thus more inspiring.

I know that I am more moved by the depiction of a person taking a small

(Continued on page 2)



Notes from the Rabbi (continued)

step on the way to overcoming a selfish habit, than I am by the portrayal of a superhero able to leap tall buildings at a single bound.

Similarly, I'm more interested in hearing about a country that grapples with its demons (occasionally even vanquishing them), than hearing about a country depicted as being without serious flaws. The former feels miraculous, the latter merely incredible.

I am not nearly as left-wing on Israel as Ari seems to be. But I don't go to theatre to look in the mirror; I go to raise my awareness of complexities I had not

suspected. Sure, a play sometimes goes too far – I have walked out occasionally on stuff that I felt was no better than propaganda. But in all the years I've had season tickets to Theatre J, that has never even come close to happening.

How Best to Defend Israel

Now, you might argue, Israel is criticized relentlessly in the larger American community. Surely we American Jews should be a source of strength for Israel; we should avoid adding fuel to the fire. I agree, but I feel that Israel can best be defended honestly.

Israel has plenty of strengths upon which we can base our defense, and we should mention them early and often. But let us not forget that among Israel's greatest attributes is a strength not so common in the Middle East -- its ability to criticize itself.

And ignoring Israel's weaknesses is not only dishonest, it is ineffective. Though it be unfair, Israel's weaknesses are constant front-page news. We cannot pretend those weaknesses don't exist; we can only try to give people a balanced perspective.

This is, by the way, something Theatre J has always done well, I think. The Israeli plays that Theatre J has presented in recent years have always taken pains to present whole, balanced pictures: they never feel to me like one-sided propaganda.

Pleasing Patrons, Not Presenting Art

The tension between artist and patron is not new. The people who foot the bill have always had veto power. I do not pretend to know if Ari could have, or should have, made nice to the powers that be. But I do worry that Theatre J will not be the same invigorating, challenging place it has always been, that it will focus more on pleasing its patrons than critical observation, more on safety, than art.

After Ari's firing this week, the onus is on Theatre J and the leadership of the DCJCC to see that this does not happen.

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New Members

Jared Garelick

This month's column focuses on some "New Grandmembers" – people who have joined TI after their adult children (and, perhaps more importantly, grandchildren) are already members. If this month's sample is representative, it is not necessary to move to the Washington area full-time to join as a New Grandmember, but travel to China seems common.

Steve and Judy Richman

The Richmans are parents of TI member **Rabbi Elizabeth Richman** (and in-laws of **Ben Dreyfus**), and live in central New Jersey. They have adult children and grandchildren in New York and Chicago as well as here in Washington.



Steve is an electrical engineer who teaches cybersecurity, secured systems, and engineering management at Rutgers, as well as now at the University of Maryland.

Judy is retired from working as a real estate and land use attorney, although retirement includes serving as chair of her town zoning

board and on various other boards, including an organization called the Sisterhood of Salaam/Shalom, which builds relationships between Muslim and Jewish women.

The Richmans enjoy traveling to visit their various grandchildren and other places as well. Their most recent big trip was to China. In New Jersey, they are members of both a conservative synagogue and an independent minyan, and when they visit Washington they enjoy attending TI as well as the Segulah minyan that meets at TI. They were at TI this year for Rosh Hashanah as well as a happy baby naming (see photo).

Gail and Roger Feldman

The Feldmans are parents of TI member **Seth Feldman** (and in-laws of **Lisa Ellern**). If you have not seen Seth and Lisa and their family around lately there is a good reason: they moved this past year to Shanghai for Seth's several-year work assignment. But that doesn't mean his parents can't come to TI.

The Feldmans live in Chevy Chase, Maryland and are long-time area residents. Gail is retired after a career as a financial analyst and Roger is an attorney.

And yes, they recently visited the kids and grandkids in Shanghai, where they toured and learned a good deal about the surprisingly rich Jewish history of Shanghai, which has received several waves of Jewish emigration to or through it.

Besides the family connection, the Feldmans are also old friends of TI members **Larry** and **Pearl Schainker**.

Welcome to this month's featured new members!

Funeral Practices Committee **Always On-Call**

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

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

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

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 November 10, 2014

Attending: Larry Baizer, Susan Catler, Joel Cohen, Jeff Davidson, Wilhelmina Gottschalk, Judy Herzog, Stephanie Roodman Murdock, Andrew Reamer, Morris Rodenstein, Judy Tulchin, Dan Turner, Mark Verschell, Terri Zall, Chris Zeilinger.

Excused: Sharon Brown, Jeffrey Colman, Lisa Goldberg, John List, Ray Natter, Cynthia Peterman, Debbie Pomerance, Howard Riker.

Absent: Joe Davidson, Joanne Hovis, Hannah Rubin.

Staff: Eitan Gutin, Rabbi Ethan Seidel, Jevera Temsky.

Guest: Richard Siegel.

Immediate Past President Joel Cohen gave a *d'var torah*. Minutes for prior meetings were amended and approved.

Membership Report, Vice President Susan Catler.

- a. New members: Reenie Wagner, Jonathan Bogen, Robyn Gopin and her two children Lexi and

Isaac, Corey Goetsch, Laurie Russell.

- b. Recent and upcoming membership-related events: Monthly Learner's Minyan, New Baby Shabbat, Annual Veteran's Day Shabbat, Hallah Baking with the Rabbi, Havdallah Pot Luck.

President's Report, Jeff Davidson.

- a. The rain garden and new Julian Berch memorial ramp were dedicated on November 9.
- b. A structural engineer will inspect and make recommendations on various building leaks.
- c. Wine will be put away after everyone has used the Kiddush table to prevent young children from helping themselves.
- d. The JCRC asked local shuls to declare themselves gun-free zones. Two board members will research the request and report back to the board.
- e. Thanks went to outgoing Rabbinic Consultative Committee members. The board unanimously confirmed new members Dick Siegel (chair), Rabbi Elizabeth Richman, Lee

Footer, and Brad Brooks-Rubin.

House Report. Vice President Mark Verschell proposed a link on the TI website for comments and suggestions for the House Committee.

Good and Welfare

- a. David Levy is in Holy Cross Hospital and would like telephone calls.
- b. New babies: Eliza Rose Goetsch, Elizabeth Rose Natter, Avital Nechama Richman-Dreyfus.
- c. Passings: Elsie Novak, mother of Rabbi Mark Novak, June Kuffler Nelson, mother of Stephen Nelson, and Mark Fox, uncle of Judy Tulchin.
- d. 70 High Holiday surveys were filled out.
- e. Mark Verschell built a large movie screen.

The board held a closed session to discuss issues raised by the arrest of Keshet Israel's Rabbi. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Loss and Bereavement Support Group

Adas Israel Congregation and The Washington Jewish Healing Network are jointly sponsoring a support group, which will meet twice a month for an hour of comfort and support, with insights from Jewish teachings on mourning and healing.

Six sessions are scheduled on Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., at Adas Israel, 2850 Quebec St. NW, on January 7 and 21, February 4 and 18, and March 11 and 25. The sessions will be led by Rabbi Charles Feinberg and Dr. Carol Hausman.

Ira Forman at Brown Bag Lunch

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington, the American Jewish Committee, and the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists invite you to the next session in our brown bag lunch speakers' series:

"State Department Efforts to Combat Anti-Semitism," with TI member **Ira N. Forman**, State Department Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, Wednesday, January 14, 12:15-1:30 pm, 1775 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Suite 800, Washington, DC.

Please bring a brown bag lunch; drinks, chips and cookies will be provided.



Lifelong Learning

Eitan Gutin

USY & Kadima

Tifereth Israel is proud to field our first ever **Kadima Basketball** team. Through the months of January, February and March, our team of eight 6th-8th graders will be playing against 11 other teams from Conservative synagogues all over the DC metro area.

The season begins with a game against Shaare Torah of Gaithersburg on January 11 at 6:30 p.m. All games take place at Richard Montgomery High School in Rockville, MD.

Kadima SNL is an evening of bounce houses, gaga, arts & crafts, dancing, lasertag, and plenty more for kids in grades 6-8. This regional event will draw over 300 Jewish middle schoolers to Bnai Israel in Rockville on Saturday night, January 10. See your email for details.

TI USY is partnering with Jews United for Justice in its efforts to pass sick leave legislation in Maryland. Please contact our Assistant Youth Director, **Missy Mandell**, for details, at Missy@Tifereth-Israel.org.

Bonim & Machar

Picking up again on January 10, Bonim (K-2nd) and Machar (3rd-5th) are TI's signature Shabbat morning programs. Bonim is led by **Morah Silvia Edenburg** and Machar by **Moreh David Smolar**.

All are welcome for these wonderful programs mixing services, Torah study, and activities for each age and stage. Contact Eitan with questions.

The Himmelfarb School

Sure, it is the middle of winter, but it is already time to get ready for next fall. We are proud to announce that

registration for the 2015-2016 school year will open on **Sunday February 8**, coinciding with our Winter Open House for prospective students. Contact Eitan for information.

A December to Remember

December 2014 was one of the busiest months in memory at TI. Lifelong Learning would like to thank everyone who made the following programs a success:

- **The TI Shabbaton** on the weekend of December 12-13 could not have happened without the efforts of **Jessica Weissman**, **Cynthia Peterman**, and **Mark Berch**. Thank you to all our moderators and panelists: **Alan Tulchin**, **Katie Benton-Cohen**, **Jim Hershberg**, **Marc Rothenberg**, **Phil Shapiro**, **Sigfried Gold**, and **Rabbi Devorah Lynn**.

Special thanks to **Rabbi Seidel** for bringing in his teacher, and our Artist in Residence, **Peter Pitzele**. Also thanks to **MoED Community** for providing fun and engaging programs for kids in grades K-5 and to **Rafi Glazer** for chaperoning overnight.

- The **Fourth Annual Family Hanukkah Celebration** was this year conceived and implemented by **Alexandra Kincannon**, **Judah Flum**, and **Laura Schiavo**.

Special thanks to **Brichs2U** who provided thousands of legos for the tots through 2nd graders as part of the party. Also thanks to **Hersh Garelick**, **Eli Cohen**, and **Naomi Rubin** for facilitating the awesome Temples built by the 3rd-5th graders.

- Hosting 82 USYers and staff from Metropolitan NY USY took a large group of people. Thank you to **Allison Turner** for arranging all the

housing and to our host households (as of the time of this writing):

the **Turners**, the other **Turners**, **Barbara Milton**, **Myrna Goldman**, the **Brooks-Rubins**, **Yohannes Zeleke**, **Jessica Weissman** and **Louise Kelley**, the **Renbaum-Kosses**, the **Morris-Zalls**, the **Raviczkes**, the **Gottschalks**, the **Bergman-Odles**, **Janice Mehler**, **Rachel Vana**, the **Martins**, the **Pereira-Ferons**, the **Gryziaks**, the **Kranzbergs**, and the **Roshwalbs**.

Special thanks also to the **Meytins** and **Paula Tucker** for taking care of transporting both teens and luggage during the visit.

None of the above could have taken place without the amazing team of staff at Tifereth Israel. **Jevera**, **Sheri Grant**, and **Emma** provided vital support during the registration and logistics preparation and implementation for all of the above.

Roz Kram and her kitchen crew supported every event in December by going above and beyond in preparing great meals for everyone.

The Lifelong Learning staff, including **Marla Sevi** and **Missy Mandell**, were central to every program's success.

Dedicate a Humash

An anonymous donor has offered to match purchases of the *Etz Hayim humash*, up to a total of 100 books.

Meet this matching challenge by purchasing a *humash* and donating it to TI. Honor a loved one by dedicating each *Etz Hayim* you donate. The cost per book is \$50.

A Tribute to David Levy

Frank Solomon

David Levy was a big man with a big heart and a big smile. He rubbed shoulders with President Clinton, Eleanor Roosevelt, Governor O'Malley, foreign ambassadors, U.S. senators and state and local legislators.

Washington Post freelancer, lawyer, children's rights advocate, co-founder of the National Council for Children's Rights and later CEO and president of the Children's Rights Council, author of four books and hundreds of articles, and guest speaker at numerous top network shows, David was named "one of the 25 most influential people in our children's lives" by *Children's Health* magazine in 2009.

But you can find all his accomplishments in *The Washington Post's* obituary section. I would like to describe the small things about him.

The first time I met David was in 1991, when I went to Beth Torah in Hyattsville for Shabbat service. A handsome man with a grin greeted me after the service. David had been president of the financially-troubled congregation and had organized a fundraiser that put the shul back on sound footing. He asked me to join Beth Torah. I did.

David was always there for everyone. He was omnipresent at all of the congregation's life cycle events, celebrations, dinners, dances. He and his wife, Ellen, were the first to show up for the *bris* of my first son, Aaron, in 1994.

Mild-mannered, well-respected and immensely popular, he exuded energy and lighted up the room wherever he went. People would flock to greet him as if he were the emperor of China.

David never had a bad word to say about anyone, even after just about

everyone at Beth Torah had stopped talking to the leadership. Like a patriarch who keeps the family together, over the years David remained the link between members who broke away from the shul and those who stayed. He would gather and disseminate information to far-flung members and brought us back together at his regular brunches—to which all were invited—at his Hyattsville home.



David was funny and childlike. In 2001, he showed up at one of my dinners in College Park in a Hawaiian T-shirt and shorts. When he saw that most of the other male guests were in tuxedos, he turned around and drove home. He came back in a suit and tie that shamed all of us, and prompted a few to suggest that he should be on the cover of the following month's *GQ* magazine. At subsequent dinners, David would always put the men—especially the rabbi—to shame with his taste in suits and ties.

David was determined, direct and insistent, and was not shy about asking for help. Once he decided that he wanted to do something, he put his heart and soul into the endeavor. He never stopped asking

for contributions to help his cause to help children in broken families and to spread the idea that helping the parents would help the children. I don't remember how much money he managed to get from me over the years for his cause. He knew the trick: There was no way out when someone with an infectious smile asked you for money to help kids.

David was wise. When Beth Torah closed several years ago and members flocked to other shuls. I invited him to join TI. He did.

David was a man of great fortitude, energy and spirit. Whenever I visited him at the hospital or house after his numerous cancer therapies, he would fill me with questions about my family and facts about his family and work. He would laugh so much that I often wondered whether he was ill at all, and we would laugh so hard that I would begin to cry. Undaunted by his failing health, David was flying all over the world and the country right until his last months, never losing sight of the children's plight. He worked till he couldn't walk.

As his health was failing and he was unable to navigate the steps up to the *bimah*, David was determined to take an aliyah as often as he could at Shabbat services. As the floor gabbai, whenever I failed to give him the honor—mostly because I couldn't bear the sight of him struggling with the steps—he would tell me that I owe him a doughnut. When we brought him dinner on December 8, David was bedridden and unable to speak. But his familiar smile came up when he heard that there were eight doughnuts waiting for him.

David passed away in his sleep the morning of December 11. He was 78. He stared down death in its eyes, and left with a twinkle in his own.

January Highlights at Tifereth Israel

January 3	Jeremiah Alterman Bar Mitzvah
January 5, 12, 19, 26	Monday Lunch & Learn <i>Parashat HaShavuah</i> , 11 a.m.; Lunch 12 noon
January 7, 14, 21, 28	<i>A Beginner's Guide to Jewish History</i> , Cynthia Peterman, 7-9 p.m., first four sessions of 6-session course
January 9	Shabbat Dinner & Art Show Opening, 7 p.m.
January 10	New Member Shabbat Game Night, 7:30 p.m.
January 17	Social Action Shabbaton, "Saving Children: Latin American Immigrant Children in the U.S." Tot Shabbat, 11:10 a.m.
January 18	Movie Nite, <i>A Serious Man</i> , 7:30 p.m.
January 20	Kol Nashim Book Club, <i>Marching to Zion</i> by Mary Glickman, at home of Marcia Goldberg, 7:30 p.m
January 24	Alison Weinberger Bat Mitzvah
January 25	Brunch for Better Bathrooms, 12 noon
January 31	Learners' Service, 10-11:30 a.m. Havdallah Potluck, home of Jennifer & Joshua Kefer, 6 p.m.

Art Show Opening & Shabbat Dinner

The second half of TI's continuing art exhibit, "Art by Jewish Artists on Jewish Themes from Members' Collections," opens this month. The exhibit will kick off on **Friday, January 9**. Following Kabbalat Shabbat services at 6 p.m., and a dinner at 7 p.m., members lending pieces to the exhibit will relate the stories behind their artwork.

The deadline for reservations for the dinner is Monday, January 5. The

cost for members is \$18 for adults, \$13 for children age 8-12 and \$8 for children age 3-7. The maximum cost for a family is \$60. The respective costs for non-members are \$21, \$15, \$10 and \$70. After January 5 there will be a \$5 late fee per adult.

Members who wish to lend any art for the new show should contact **Audrey Smith**, at acs36933@yahoo.com, or 301-275-3402, with a description of your artwork.

TI Archive Project

Did you join TI before 1980? Come and share your stories and memories for the TI Archive Project as we prepare for our Centennial Year, 2016-2017. Come to TI on **Sunday, January 18** from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. for a group interview.

Please contact either **Marcia Goldberg** at goldbergm@verizon.net or **Cynthia Peterman** at cynp25@gmail.com to let us know you will attend.

Baking Sufganiot with Rabbi Seidel, December 14, 2014



Ezra Zibel



Chief Baker Seidel and new (and some old) members



Julius Cohen



Jaclyn Shettler, Renee Gindi, son Ezra Zibel



C'nai Zecharya



Group Hanukkah Learning Session

Accentuate the Positive

David (Judy) Cohen

Since Tifereth Israel is so lacking in controversy, I thought I'd start one — by promoting some “fine tuning” in our religious services. No, I am not suggesting any change in the *content* or *structure* of our liturgy, but only in the way we pronounce — or accent — the words in our prayers.

The Hebrew language is one of the glories of the Jewish people, and the medium of our prayers, wherever in the world we live. It therefore deserves respect, nurturing and proper attention.

Where the Accent Falls

The default in Hebrew is to accent the *last* syllable, except when a suffix, such as a possessive or verb declension, is added. There are other exceptions to this rule, some very esoteric and some quite common, such as two-syllable nouns like *YE-led* (boy) or *A-retz* (land).

Unfortunately, we have developed a lot of ingrained bad habits, dating back to our Ashkenazic origins in Central and Eastern Europe. We often, incorrectly, accent the first syllable of many words.

Yiddish Is the Culprit

I don't claim any linguistic expertise, but it is clear that our beloved *mameh loshen*, Yiddish, played a major role. Yiddish incorporated a lot of Hebrew words, but in doing so changed the vowel sounds and shifted the stress from the last syllable to the first or second syllable.

A good example is the word for “family.” In Hebrew, it is *mish-pa-HAH*. In Yiddish, it is *mish-PUH-heh*. This carried over into Hebrew prayers, and holiday and proper names: *To-RAH* became *TO-rah*; *Suk-KOT* and *Shab-BAT* became *SU-kes* and *SHA-bes*; and *Ra-HEL* and *Riv-KAH* became *RO-hel* and *RIV-keh*.

I know old habits are hard to break, and the correct pronunciation of some words in our prayers sounds absolutely jarring after years of pronouncing them in a linguistically incorrect way. And I don't pretend to holier-than-thou status; despite my own best conscious efforts to change, I find myself falling back into doing things the “old” way. But change is not beyond us.

Remember when, many years ago, the Conservative and Reform movements shifted to the Sephardic pronunciation used in modern, Israeli Hebrew? Remember how hard it was to say *AdonAI* instead of *AdonOY*? But we (or, at least, most of us) eventually made the adjustment, and it is now pretty automatic.

I also realize that the music in our service was written to fit the cadences of Yiddishized Hebrew, so it sometimes takes some ingenuity to fit the correct pronunciation to the melody. But it can be done.

Sim Shalom Makes It Easy

The typography in the *Sim Shalom* prayer book makes it very easy to accent every word correctly. When the last syllable of a word is *not* accented, a short vertical line is placed, to the left of the vowel sign, under the syllable which bears the accent. If there is no such vertical line, the last syllable is accented. Thus *a-VOT* (fathers) has no vertical line underneath either syllable, while *a-vo-TEI-nu* (our fathers) has a vertical line under the third syllable.

Some common examples of glaring mispronunciations come at the end of the Shabbat morning service. The worst, to my mind, is in the concluding sentence of *Aleinu*, when the congregation lustily sings out *v'HA-ya Adonai*, instead of *v'ha-YA Adonai*. Thus, instead of conveying

the correct meaning, “God shall be,” the mispronounced word always sounds to me like a casual (and disrespectful) English greeting, “Hi yuh, God!”

Ein Keloheinu Errors

In *Ein Keloheinu*, at the start of the last four stanzas, are four more examples in a row of congregational mispronunciations: *NO-deh*, *BA-rukH*, and *A-tah* (twice), instead of *no-DEH*, *ba-RUKH*, and *a-TAH*. Take a look at the prayer book. There is no vertical line under the first syllables of any of those words!

You wouldn't say in English “I AT-tempted to PRO-nounce the words COR-rectly.” So, I urge you to join my movement for change.

Christmas Gift Donations

Thank you to the following people who made donations so we could give gifts to those who attend our Christmas meals in DC shelters:

Alan Landay
 David (Carla z”l) Cohen
 Brenda and Lee Footer
 Rachel and Joseph Firschein
 Miriam and Jeff Davidson
 Janice and David Mehler
 Paula Flicker
 Marc Rothenberg and Ivy Baer
 Gene and Esther Herman
 Andrea Kline and Harvey Kabaker
 Janet Nesse and Mark Lewis

Gevarim

Andrew Reamer



Gevarim is pleased to offer the TI community several events in January and February.

Annual Game Night

Saturday, **January 10**, 7:30 p.m., co-sponsored with Kol Nashim. Join your fellow TI'ers, the young and the mature, for an evening of fun and games. And food and drink.

Movie Nite @ TI

Sunday, **January 18**, 7:30 p.m. The Coen Brothers' ***A Serious Man*** (2009). "Imaginatively exploring

questions of faith, familial responsibility, delinquent behavior, dental phenomena, academia, mortality, and Judaism – and intersections thereof."

Sunday, **February 15**, 7:30 p.m. ***Caesar's Writers***. A two-hour 1996 reunion of comic Sid Caesar and nine of his writers from *Your Show of Shows* and *Caesar's Hour*.

Mel Tolkin, Caesar, Carl Reiner, Aaron Ruben, Larry Gelbart, Mel Brooks, Neil Simon, Danny Simon, Sheldon Keller, and Gary Belkin share stories about their time working

on Caesar's shows and offer their insights about writing comedy.

Sunday Brunch

Sunday, **February 15**, 10:00 a.m. Speaker: **Alan Elsner**, Vice President for Communications, J Street. Topic: "A Positive Agenda for Peace and Democracy in Israel." Mr. Elsner joined J Street in 2012 after serving as a Reuters correspondent for more than 30 years and as the executive director of The Israel Project.

Bill Me Later!

John List, Finance VP

We have heard that some members are unhappy about being required to pay via credit card or eCheck in order to register for events or make a purchase through ShulCloud.

Some people find it hard to pay a relatively large sum of money all at once, such as fees for the Shabbaton. Others find it annoying to pay on the spot for lots of little items rather than log into ShulCloud later and make one payment.

Before you read on, rest assured that we are going to restore the option to be billed later!

We want to clarify, though, why we set up ShulCloud forms to require immediate payment.

Two Reasons for Policy

The first reason was to bring down processing costs and save time. When you pay at registration, there is no outstanding balance and no follow-up needed — by you or the TI staff.

The second reason was to ensure that folks pay for things in a timely manner. No one intends to build up a lot of unpaid items, but it is possible to make a lot of charges over time and then get overwhelmed at the thought of paying off the bill. It is uncomfortable to make collection calls, and no fun to get one, so we were trying to encourage people to pay as they go.

Responding to Feedback

After listening to your feedback, we have now gone back to the system of giving members the option to be billed at a later date. Non-member registrations, however, will continue to require immediate payment.

Remember, with the ShulCloud system you do not have to wait to get your monthly statement to pay your bill. You can go on ShulCloud at any time to view your statement and pay whatever amount you want. If you need help logging into ShulCloud, viewing your account or making

payments, Grant Maxfield, TI's Membership Accounts Coordinator, can help you. He can be reached at bookkeeper@tifereth-israel.org or 202-882-1605 x110.

On a related note, we are trying to encourage prompt payment and timely registration. Beginning in January, anyone registering prior to the deadline will pay a slightly lower fee than those registering after the deadline. As always, you will be able to pay via ShulCloud or by contacting the TI office.

Caregivers Support Group

The next scheduled meeting of the Caregivers Support Group is Sunday morning, January 18, at 10:15 a.m., in Rabbi Seidel's office.

Kol Nashim

Adele Natter



Book Club

Kol Nashim's book club, under the leadership of KN member, **Jessica Weissman**, continues to draw a variety of readers. The next meeting will be **January 20**, at the home of **Marcia Goldberg**. The book is *Marching to Zion*, by Mary Glickman.

On **February 17**, the group will discuss *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?*, by Roz Chast (location TBA).

The Book Club is open to women and men.

Game Night

Kol Nashim and Gevarim are teaming up to present the 5th Annual Game Night on **Saturday, January 10**, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. With games of all kinds (and you are welcome to bring your own games, too), the opportunity to learn bridge and mah jongg, a knitting circle, and snacks and beverages, there is no reason to stay home!

February Program

On **Sunday, February 22**, 10:15 a.m.-noon, psychotherapist **Adele Natter** will present "Self-Help for the

Stressed-Out" and demonstrate simple, effective techniques for emotional self-management.

March Program

Rabbi Avis Miller will present a two-session class on "The Music and Meaning of Seder Songs," on **March 8** and **March 15**, at 7:00 pm. Cost: \$15/session for KN/Gevarim members, \$18/session for non-members.

Adult Education

Jessica Weissman

One of the highlights of our fall programming was the December 12-13 Shabbaton. Scholar in residence **Peter Pitzele** led us through bibliodrama that opened up the story of Joseph in a fresh way. Friday started with a spirited Kabbalat Shabbat service and dinner.

After dinner, participants got their first visceral view into Jacob's family, as Peter brought everyone in the story on stage. Watching a dozen sons, one daughter, two wives and two concubines jostling and orbiting around Jacob helped everyone see just what a big, complex and dysfunctional bunch they were.

In the *drash* on Saturday morning, Rabbi Seidel interviewed Jacob (Peter Pitzele). While the questions included a few NPR-style softballs, Jacob surprised us over and over with his combination of irritability and political acumen.

The afternoon featured three very different sessions:

- An inside view of Jacob's family, led again by Peter Pitzele, who

put every attendee into the minds of Joseph and Jacob.

- A sample of the work and most surprising discoveries of four TI professional historians.
- A discussion where participants shared personal details regarding how belief or non-belief in God informs our own practice of Judaism.

Thanks to everyone who helped plan and organize the Shabbaton, including **Mark Berch**, who recruited presenters for the Saturday afternoon sessions; **Eitan Gutin**, who set up and ran the youth sessions; **Roz Kram**, who created the superb meals; and **Cynthia Peterman**, who guided the whole thing.

The December SHALEM program was presented by **Jan Lisa Huttner**, independent film critic and *Fiddler on the Roof* scholar, and this writer's college roommate. She captivated the audience with her enthusiasm as she took us through the changing concepts of tradition as exemplified

in the Tevye stories, the *Fiddler* musical, and the *Fiddler* movie.

An illustrated version of her presentation is available at: <https://secondcityzivi.files.wordpress.com/2014/09/14aug11yivo.pdf>. Her book in progress, entitled *Tevye's Daughters: No Laughing Matter*, is available in electronic form.

Coming in the spring are SHALEM programs on how senior villages can help us age in place, and on the Jewish aspects of possible life on other planets.

Cynthia Peterman will teach her popular, six-session survey course, *A Beginner's Guide to Jewish History*, starting January 7. Afraid to admit you don't know the significance of the year 70? Don't know Mendelssohn from Maimonides? Then this course is for you.

Do you have a topic of Jewish interest that you would like to present as a SHALEM talk? Please contact me – even if it is just a glimmer of an idea.

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Barbara Raimondo

Linked In

It's show time! **Isaac Solomon**, son of **Frank Solomon** and a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, played Link Larkin, the lead character in *Hairspray*, at his school in November. The performance led to an interview by D.C. Metro Theater Arts. Isaac is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Thespian Society.

Frank and his wife, **Laurie**, went on a Viking Longboat cruise on the Danube in November and visited Hungary, Austria and Germany. They went to the Belvedere Museum, enjoyed a baroque opera concert at the Vienna Concert Hall, and wined and dined at Hotel Imperial Vienna.

On the boat, Frank ran into an Irishman who served in the British Royal Corps of Engineers but has lived in Toronto since both he and Frank left the British army in 1972. They found that they served in several places at the same time, and their regiments were often in the same barracks. It only took them more than 40 years to meet. So the next time you are waiting for Frank – be patient.

Not waiting any longer, **Cyndy** and **Alan Weitz's** daughter, **Rebecca Weitz-Shapiro**, an Assistant Professor in Political Science at Brown University, has authored a book, *Curbing Clientelism in Argentina*, published by Cambridge University Press. Look it up.

Run In

Esther and **Gene Herman** returned home to the cold after thawing out in the fun and sun of Cancun after Thanksgiving. With them were sister **Naomi Freedman** and husband **Alan**. Granddaughter **Jenny Firschein** has been performing as a party girl in *Nutcracker* at the Warner Theater. Her sister, **Ava**, age two,

has been attending George Washington University basketball games for entertainment. Better than a babysitter!

Granddaughter **Jessica Cohen**, daughter of **David** and **Elana Cohen**, ran a 5K race with her father, leaving him in the dust. She had been training for several months for the event.



In other running news, **Barb "Not Just Bells and Whistles" Raimondo** placed first in her category in the Jingle Bell Jog, an 8K race in Montgomery County.

Deborah Greenberg, daughter of **George** and **Marjorie Greenberg**, and her husband, **Ruben Seenivasa Pillai**, welcomed a 6.2-pound future runner in December. Her name is **Aliza**, Hebrew for "joyful." Mother and baby are doing well. Grandparents are, well, joyful.

Bob "Genes Are in My Genes" Rovinsky spoke on December 7 to the Jewish Genealogical Association of Greater Washington on his perspectives as a storyteller on genealogy. A large group showed up, even though it conflicted with the Washington football team's home game and the Jewish Folk Arts Festival. Guess you pays your money and takes your choice.

JGAGW contains a lively crowd of folks mostly in their 70s and 80s. Bob's talk announcement is at (<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgagw/currentprograms.html>). Bob used a lot of family material that he has collected plus several of his daughter **Neshama's** writings about his family.

Speaking of the competing Jewish Folk Arts Festival, **Rabbi Ethan Seidel** won its *hallah* baking competition. Against Ethan the other competitors — including two bakeries — were toast. Winning did not come with any dough but the victory left a great taste in Ethan's mouth.

Ski In

Gail Robinson was honored at a special symposium at Abt Associates, in Cambridge, Mass. on her retirement in December. After 14 years Gail leaves behind a thriving Behavioral Health Practice of more than 50 people. She is now headed to the ski slopes of Cannon Mountain, New Hampshire, where husband **Martin Kessel** awaits her with a steaming cup of hot chocolate.

Martin visited Israel in November to spend time with his family and seven grandchildren. Martin's daughter, **Dalit Avrahamoff**, will be featured in a special Israel TV production commemorating 30 years since Operation Moses when Dalit started her work with the Ethiopian community. Martin's granddaughter, **Liron**, has begun her army service in the IDF Education Corp.

Sad News

Nicki Nicklas, mother of TI member **Daphna Spear (Daniel Pedersen)**, and grandmother of **Rafi, Yoni, Ariana** and **Keren Pedersen**, has died. The funeral was in California.

Blanche Murdock, mother of **Myron Murdock (Judy Herzog)**, died on Tuesday, December 9, in Florida at age 94. She was grandmother of **Jonah (Stephanie) Murdock** and great grandmother of **Eve** and **Solomon**. The funeral was held in Florida.

(Continued on page 13)

Torah Art/Writing Collective

Sheryl Gross-Glaser

Have you ever thought about writing out, illustrating or commenting as you go on the entire Torah? Or, perhaps, all three? Well, here's your chance! We are forming a Torah Art/Writing Collective, or study hall, at TI to do this as a group, each at his or her own pace, in his or her own media. Use a notebook, fabric, canvas or a roll of brown paper, whatever pleases you. We will supply some pens, water color, and markers for use during the sessions.

We plan to meet regularly for the Torah "study hall" (thank you, **Jessica Weissman**, for that description), to discuss our approaches, discoveries, "handmade *midrash*," and perhaps to have a mini *drash* at each session. Our unstructured study hall approach will allow each of us to spend time on what attracts or troubles us.

During meetings we can share our artwork, our discoveries, our concerns and our insights. People can join and rejoin as time and inclination allow. It is hoped that members will also work on the project at home so that the entire Torah can be contemplated and completed within one's lifetime.

Our first meeting -- in true collective, inclusive, fashion -- will be 2 p.m., **Sunday January 11**, to discuss just exactly what this collective will be. We will talk about materials, having some structure or *drashot* at each meeting, and the frequency of our get-togethers. The meeting will be in Classroom #2 upstairs.

I must explain the genesis of this idea. I never thought there was anything magical in those conversations in the sanctuary when services ended and everyone made their way to the *Kiddush* lunch. I never thought a single comment in a *drash* could spark the same light-bulb moment in more than one congregant. But that is what happened.

Several months ago, **Jason Kimmelman-Block** gave a *drash* in which he commented that every Jew has an obligation to write the Torah. I did not know that the idea forming in my mind at that moment was also simultaneously appearing in **Fylis Peckham's**. I later talked to a few people about my "write and illustrate the Torah with a bunch of people" idea, but, honestly, I had no momentum. Still, the daydreaming continued.

One Shabbat morning, at the conclusion of services, I happened to start talking to Fylis. We didn't know each other well, but I knew Fylis was an artist, so I mentioned my idea.

She gave me a look that one sees in science fiction movies when the protagonist finds out that someone else knows that a ghost/alien/fill-in-the-blank life form is out and about. She gave me the same look a second time, when I mentioned the exact comment that sparked the idea. Fylis added the momentum. She said let's do it now.

I hope that our idea sparks something in at least a few TI'ers. No art, calligraphy, or other experience or knowledge is needed. This will be a friendly venue for sharing one's work and for discussion.

Thanks to **Jessica Weissman** for shepherding through this idea in record time. Similar thanks to **Eitan Gutin**, **Sheri Blonder**, and **Debbie Pomerance** for their support. And my gratitude for the look on Fylis' face when she realized that at least for a moment we had inhabited the same creative space in the universe.

Nayes un Mekhayes (continued)

Jerome Rosenberg, husband of **Shirley Sirota Rosenberg**, died on November 21 at age 94 after a long illness. He is also survived by his son, **Jonathan (Sharon) Rosenberg**, daughter **Hindy Rosenberg**, brother **Leonard (Miriam) Rosenberg**, and granddaughters **Melanie Mento** and **Marissa Trainor**. The funeral was held at Mt. Lebanon Cemetery.

Marion Krakow, sister of longtime TI member **Dorothy (Todd) Filderman**, died on December 3 in Silver

Spring. Marion Krakow is survived by her four children and two sisters. She was the loving grandmother of seven and great grandmother of 10.

David Levy, husband of **Ellen Levy**, died early on December 11 at age 78. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his son **Justin (Ilana) Levy** and granddaughter **Corina Levy**, daughter **Diana (Danny) Moldovan**, and sister **Carol Levy**. He was buried at Mt. Lebanon Cemetery. Our condolences to family and loved ones.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *nabob*: "a person of great wealth or prominence" (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 omnibus edition of Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers.

The Quiet Little Towns on the Danube

Frank Solomon

Budapest, Vienna, Melk, Passau, Regensburg and Nuremberg sit on the banks of the Danube. Their museums and Roman ruins showcase the history of the Roman and the Austro-Hungarian empires that dominated Western civilization.

Many people have visited Budapest, Vienna and Nuremberg, but few people know about Melk, Passau and Regensburg, historic hamlets in Bavaria. All six cities were among the thousands in Europe where all hell broke loose for Jews during the Second World War.

I was in a group of mostly American tourists visiting these cities in November on a riverboat cruise.

Melk

Melk, Austria, is known for its Renaissance castle Schallaburg and the massive, elegant Melk Abbey, a red-roofed Benedictine monastery completed in 1732. Our local tour guide never mentioned the Melk forced labor camp built by the Nazis and their Austrian collaborators during WW II. Because of the instability of the fine sand and quartz in the nearby hills, scores of prisoners were buried alive beneath cave-ins while working there.

A well-camouflaged gas chamber was constructed of brick, with double walls 25 centimeters apart and inner walls tiled like a bathroom. The soundproofing double walls prevented passing prisoners or the general public from hearing the screams of the dying.

Melk also had its own crematorium, covering a large area, whose tall smokestack was a conspicuous landmark. In the summer, the crematorium accounted for eight to 16 deaths per day, while in the winter of 1944–45, the number increased to between 20 and 30 a day.

Passau

Passau, Germany, on the tip of a peninsula bordered by three rivers—the Inn, the Danube and the Ilz—started as a Celtic settlement that became a Roman outpost. It grew into a center for the salt trade and sword and bladed-weapon manufacturing. The city boasts a glass museum, Gothic and baroque architecture, cobblestone streets, St. Stephen's Cathedral and the largest church pipe organ in the world.

Again, our local guide never mentioned that during WW II, Passau housed three sub-camps of the Mauthausen-Gusen Concentration Camp. Most travelers go there for its fairy-tale-like history, museums, castles, river locks, vineyards and wine cellars. Few talk about the horrors of Nazism. Of some 180 passengers on our cruise, only one—a retired U.S. Air Force sergeant—mentioned that Hitler's childhood house was in Passau.

Hitler's Boyhood Home

Adolf Hitler and his family lived in Passau from 1892 to 1894. The town was the birthplace of Hitler's "Brown Shirts," the vanguard of his paramilitary supporters. Heinrich Himmler and his family also lived there from 1902 to 1904. Himmler maintained contact with the locals until May 1945.

Passau was where Nazi doctors performed forced abortions on 7- and 8-month-old fetuses without their mothers' consent, and without anesthetics. The fetuses were ripped out of their mothers' wombs limb by limb.

Years later, in her daughter, Gina Roitman's Canadian documentary film, *My Mother, the Nazi Midwife and Me*, Holocaust survivor Sula Miedwiecki, who lost her five sisters, first husband and 3-year-old son in

the concentration camps, described the 52 baby deaths at the displaced persons camp outside Passau.

Looking at the quaint riverbanks, where elderly Germans walk their dogs, one would have never known the history of the town. But Anna Rosmus knows.

As a 16-year-old native of Passau, Rosmus won a national school history contest, documenting the city's history during the Third Reich. Although she faced silence from community leaders and the local library, she documented from newspaper clippings and local archives that local leaders and prominent families were not only complicit in war atrocities, but Nazi Party members long before the war, and helped round up 500 Jews sent to concentration camps.

Threats from the townsfolk forced Rosmus to flee the country. She later published books about Passau in the 1930s, the plight of Passau's Jews, and her departure from the city. Her writing led to the production of the 1990 German film, *The Nasty Girl*, based on her story and life in Passau, which won the Golden Globe Award, and an Academy Award nomination, for Best Foreign Language Film in 1991. She now lives in a Virginia suburb of Washington, D.C.

Passau is reputed now to be among the centers of Neo-Nazism in Germany. The local police chief was stabbed in 2009, allegedly by an ultra-rightwinger, leading to a nationwide furor, but as in Rosmus' day, the public protests gave way to silence and the case has remained unsolved.

Regensburg

Regensburg, Germany is the northernmost city on the Danube. Its stone bridge is more than 1,000

(Continued on page 15)

Turning Age-ing into Sage-ing

Michele Sumka

How do we think about and prepare for the rest of our lives? What does it mean to grow old? Can one prepare consciously for the challenges ahead? Is there any advantage to that, since we don't know how our lives will turn out?

Do we have regrets and is there anything we can do about them?

What is the meaning of our successes and failures?

Reb Zalman-Schachter-Shalomi z'l began examining these questions when he turned 60. This resulted in his book, *From Age-ing to Sage-ing*, which was reprinted in an updated version shortly before he passed away in July. He also spent hours

being interviewed by and speaking with journalist Sara Davidson about the last phase of life, which resulted in her book, *The December Project*.

Facing these questions takes courage. To help people with this process ALEPH (The Alliance for Jewish Renewal) developed a series of courses to train facilitators to run groups. I recently completed this training, and Rabbi Devorah Lynn is in the process of doing so. Together, we are offering a class to help people begin to address these questions and more.

The class will include discussions and exercises designed to help us look back at our life experiences, learn lessons from them, and determine whether we want to make any changes in how we are living our lives. The program incorporates guided meditations, journaling, and lessons on relevant Jewish concepts and practices.

We plan to begin at the end of January. We will send the dates as soon as they are cleared by the TI office.

Library News

Michele Sumka

"We miss Mollie." That's what a group of us talked about at lunch one recent Shabbat. Not that the Library doesn't seem to be in good shape (with a lot of new books), but none of us, me included, has felt competent to teach the kinds of wonderful classes that Mollie used to do.

What to do about that? Several ideas were floated, all of which revolved around the idea of having different people teach a one- or two-session class (or longer) on a topic they know well. For instance, could **you** teach a class on Yiddish

writers, or modern Russian-Jewish fiction, or recent Holocaust literature, or new Israeli fiction, etc., etc.? Pretty much any topic that's been written about would interest some subset of TI members.

We could schedule the classes on Sunday morning after minyan, Sunday evening, or an evening during the week, depending on your availability. Please let me know what you might want to teach. We do have some people working on specific ideas, which we're not yet ready to share. Check this space for a future announcement!

The Quiet Little Towns on the Danube (continued)

years old — the oldest on the river — taking 11 years to build, from 1136 to 1147. Originally a Roman fort, the town has 1,500 listed buildings, 984 of which comprise a UNESCO World Heritage site. The Italians were influential in building the city, known for its many Italian-style tower residences.

Jews had lived in Regensburg since the early 13th century. The original synagogue was built between 1210 and 1227 on the site of the former Jewish hospital in the center of the ghetto. In 1519, after the death of Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian, a longtime protector of Jews, the town

expelled 500 Jews. A total of 224 Jews from the administrative district of Lower Bavarian and Upper Palatinate, which included Regensburg, were sent to Dachau on the night of Reichskristallnacht, November 8–9, 1938. Only 11 survived.

During later waves of persecution and killings, a poster at the train station read "Exodus of Jews" sarcastically mimicking the exodus from Egypt.

To this day, the Gothic Cathedral's façade still shows the "Jews' Sow," an example of anti-Semitic

propaganda used to ostracize the Jewish minority. At the train station, a reminder of Reichskristallnacht appears on a mural at the entrance.

A plaque outside a house in downtown Regensburg documents a glimmer of goodness, noting that Oskar Schindler, who saved 1,200 Polish Jews, lived there toward the end of WW II. He had fled Poland as the approaching Russians were liberating cities and towns across the Eastern front. The destitute Schindler later moved to Munich. He subsisted for the rest of his life on assistance from Jewish organizations.

Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

January 2

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

January 16

Eugene & Esther Herman
 Carolivia Herron
 James & Annie Hershberg
 Judith Herzog
 William & Nira 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 23

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

January 30

Hayim Lapin & Maxine Grossman
 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
 Steve LeVine & Nuri Nurlybayeva
 Mark Lewis & Janet Nesse
 Dan Liebman & Lis Davis
 Lisa Traiger
 Fred Lipschultz & Rabbi Diana Lynn
 John & Lynne List
 John Lister

February 6

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

February 13

Jonah & Stephanie Murdock
 Myron Murdock & Judy Herzog
 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
 Jessica Goldings & Jonathan Panikoff
 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

B'nei Mitzvah

My name is **Jeremiah Henri Daniel Alterman**, but everybody calls me Jed. My bar mitzvah is on January 3. I am an 8th grader at Westland Middle School, where my favorite subjects are math and Spanish. I have an older sister, Bella (15), and an older brother, Sam (18). I attended the Alvin Browdy Religious School at Ohr Kodesh for many years.

Outside of school, my favorite activities are sports. I play rec league basketball but focus most of my time on baseball. I am a pitcher and catcher, and last season played with the 12u BCC Select Athletics. My team went 25-1 and won the spring championship.

Although winning was extremely fun, the best part was bonding with the other players and learning life lessons from our superb coach, such as how to stay calm under pressure. I also enjoy listening to music and hanging out with my friends.

My *parashah* is *Vayehi*, the last part of Genesis. I look forward to sharing my special day with the TI community.



My name is **Alison Rae Weinberger**. My bat mitzvah is January 24. I am a 7th grader at The Siena School and have two older brothers, Ben and Michael, and two dogs, Zeke and Chloe.

I am on the tumbling and trampoline gymnastics team at Dynamite Gymnastics Center. I also love basketball and play on the middle school team at my school.

For my bat mitzvah project, I am participating in the Shepard Park Tutoring Program at TI. It's really fun and I like working with the younger kids.

I am really looking forward to becoming a bat mitzvah and celebrating with my family and friends from Capital Camps, The Siena School, Hebrew school, and my gymnastics team!

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(Continued on page 19)

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 Shaye Lipshitz
 Benjamin Goodman
 Eva Sussman
 Martha Levy
 David J. Cohen
 Sadie Rosenthal
 Goldstein
 Samuel Wagshal
 Bernard Rubinstein
 Isaac Joel Shleien
 Jerry Winnick
 Bernard and Bertha
 Trupp
 Bernard Tucker
 Gloria Newman
 Sadie Nathanson
 Betty and Esther A.
 Nathanson
 Selmajean Schneider
 Joseph Levin
 Maurice Cowan
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 Morris Hodos
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 Isaac Nacson
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