



The Menorah

Inside This Issue*

<u>Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah</u>	2
<u>New Members</u>	3
<u>Lifelong Learning</u>	4
<u>October Highlights</u>	5
<u>Join Our Security Team</u>	5
<u>End of Sukkot Schedule</u>	6
<u>Share Shabbat</u>	6
<u>Social Action</u>	7
<u>Kol Nashim</u>	8
<u>KN Book Club</u>	8
<u>SHALEM Programs</u>	9
<u>Shepherd Tutoring</u>	9
<u>Gevarim</u>	10
<u>Nayes un Mekhayes</u>	11
<u>Kohen Blessing Medals</u>	12
<u>B'nei Mitzvah</u>	14
<u>Friday Night Minyan Assignments</u>	15
<u>Donations</u>	16

* On-line readers can move directly to any page by clicking on the desired article title.

President's Column: John List Respecting Boundaries

In a recent *drash*, Rabbi Seidel spoke about TI as a diverse community as to our individual ritual observance and spiritual practices. He also included a very appropriate and funny joke involving two observant men "not" discussing business on Shabbat.

This *drash* gave me much to think about in my practice, and that of others, of having conversations about TI business affairs on Shabbat and the *haggim*. In my many years of regularly attending services on Shabbat and holidays, I have found that coming together on these days is a wonderful way for many of us to stay connected. Thus I recognize how critical our Kiddushim are to sustaining the community.

Even though we are all very accessible by phone, email and in person during "ordinary" time, I and others use this opportunity to learn about TI business concerns and/or discuss our many projects. Probably the good news about a member's desire on Shabbat and holidays to discuss business with those managing projects or charged with an aspect of our operations is that it indicates the member is deeply connected to and concerned about TI.

Finding a Balance

However, what this *drash* helped me to clarify is that we need to find a balance. We must understand that many members want a break from what they might regard as business affairs, and respect their concept of what is appropriate on Shabbat.

At our home, we read a poem when we welcome Shabbat. Often it is the poem by Blu Greenberg that concludes: "Six days shall you enjoy the blessings of work; on the seventh day shall you understand that

being is as important as doing" (see full poem below).

I feel it is important for each of us to consider that many of our members who work on activities for all of us (TI staff, Board Committee chairs, Board members, and others who serve on ad hoc committees) are at services, Shabbat dinners and *kiddushim* to enjoy "*being*." We also need to consider that they may object to discussing certain business on Shabbat or holidays out of concern that they not profane those days by talking about money matters and especially by not exchanging money.



Learning Others' Preferences

So, while Shabbat and *haggim* may present an opportunity to discuss shul business matters, we should all take some time to figure out the preferences of the congregant or staff we would like to interact with. I know that the immediate past president, Jeff Davidson, enjoyed "holding office hours" at Kiddush and I used that time to discuss matters with him. However, in my past several months as President I have appreciated it when people approached me with an opening along the lines of: "can I discuss an issue/concern with you about TI?"

My initial response has been, and will continue to be, "yes," because it is important to me to understand a member's issue or concern and I feel comfortable doing that during Kiddush. But if the conversation requires more in-depth

(Continued on page 2)



President's Column (continued)

activity or, more likely, other people to join the conversation, I prefer to continue it at another time.

While this works well for me, I have found that for others it is important to allow them time "to be" and/or assure that this time can remain sacred, given their individual ritual observance and spiritual practice, by not bringing up concerns about "doing" on Shabbat or holidays. I hope that we all can get to know each other better and thus when to respect the personal and professional boundaries we each may have concerning Shabbat/holiday observance.

Please continue to communicate with me about my monthly columns and/or any issues or concerns you are having. I enjoy hearing your views and getting to know you better.

A Blessing for Shabbat, by Blu Greenberg

Six days shall you be a workaholic; on the seventh day, shall you join the serene company of human beings.

Six days shall you take orders from your boss; on the seventh day, shall you be master/mistress of your own life.

Six days shall you toil in the market; on the seventh day, shall you detach from money matters.

Six days shall you create, drive, invent, push; on the seventh day, shall you reflect.

Six days shall you be a perfect success; on the seventh day, shall you remember that not everything is in your power.

Six days shall you be a miserable failure; on the seventh day, shall you be on top of the world.

Six days shall you enjoy the blessings of work; on the seventh day, shall you understand that being is as important as doing.

The Menorah Tifereth Israel Congregation

7701 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20012
Voice: 202-882-1605 FAX: 202-829-0635

info@tifereth-israel.org
Office hours: M-Th 9-5:30; F 9-3
(Often open in evenings and on Sundays.
Appointments are recommended.)

Rabbi: Ethan Seidel, ext. 302
Rabbi Emeritus: A. Nathan Abramowitz, ext. 309
President: John List
Executive Director: Jevera Temsky, ext. 301
Administrator: Sheri Blonder, ext. 304
Lifelong Learning Director: Eitan Gutin, ext. 305
Memb. Accts. Coord.: Grant Maxfield, ext. 310
Kitchen Manager: Roz Kram, ext. 312
Facilities Manager: Steve Ross, ext. 301

Tifereth Israel is a traditional egalitarian congregation affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

Menorah Editor: David (Judy) Cohen
Copy Editor: Robert Rovinsky
Photography Editor: Jeff Peterman

Menorah submissions:
menorah@tifereth-israel.org

Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class

Janet Nesse

If you never had a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, or you want to learn some things you did not learn or experience the first time around, you might want to join the adult Anshei (Bar/Bat) Mitzvah class.

You will learn to lead parts of the service, Torah and/or haftarah trope, beginning synagogue Hebrew if necessary, and many (hopefully) riveting new things about text, customs, ceremonies, history, and prayer. If you have friends who are not members of TI but might be interested, bring them along too. TI membership is not required.

If you might be interested, contact me at inesse@mhlawyers.com or 301-441-2420 and we can discuss further.

If there are enough folks interested, we will set up a meeting after the holidays.

Shabbat Sukkot Services and Dinner

Join TI members on **Friday, October 2**, for a Family Service (6 p.m.) or Shabbat Festival Service (6:30 p.m.), followed by Dinner in the TI Sukkah

New Members

Jared Garelick

Jonas Siegel and Sara Baum

Jonas and Sara moved to Silver Spring from Chicago in 2009. The move was a return home for Jonas, who was raised and went to high school in Montgomery County, and whose parents still live in the area. Sara was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. The two met in college at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.



They have two daughters, **Lucy**, 8, and **Frida**, 5, and a son, **Reuben**, who is 1. They learned about TI and the Himmelfarb School from their friends, TI members Shoshana Eisenberg and Harry Burgess, when they were looking to start the girls in Hebrew School. That makes Shoshana and Harry TI's Magnet Members of the Month (Young Family Division).

Sara is a birth doula and co-owner of DC Birth Doulas; she also works as an audio/video transcriptionist. Jonas is a researcher at the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy. Lucy and Frida went to Ohr Kodesh Early Childhood Center for preschool and now attend Highland View Elementary School. Jonas, Sara, and their kids are vegetarians and are always on the prowl for new places to eat delicious vegetarian food.

Louis Blumen

Louis is Brooklyn-born but grew up mostly in Newport, Rhode Island. He had his bar mitzvah at the Touro synagogue there, the oldest synagogue in America. After college at Brown and medical school at Tufts, Louis trained as a heart surgeon. He had a full career repairing hearts, first in Wisconsin and then in Albany, New York.

Louis has three grown children living variously in Toronto, New York, and Bethesda, along with numerous grandchildren. He moved to this area about 15 years ago to retire near his daughter in Bethesda, though retirement includ-

ed several years of working in emergency rooms at local hospitals.

Louis learned about TI from member Len Bachman, who lives in the same senior living residence. That makes Len TI's Magnet Member of the Month (Senior Division). Louis has been attending a Torah study class at TI for the past year and half, which has given him an appreciation both of the synagogue and of Rabbi Seidel. His varied interests range from Judaism in the middle ages to keeping up with continuing medical progress. And reaching back to his first synagogue love, Louis sometimes gives talks on the history of the Touro synagogue.

Welcome this month's featured new members, to the merely 100-year old (almost) Tifereth Israel Congregation!

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 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

Lifelong Learning

Eitan Gutin

Himmelfarb & Chai Happenings

The largest group of students since 1989 opened the Himmelfarb and Chai schools on September 12 and 13. As of September 24, **96** students are registered for our programs in grades K through 8, including an amazing **20** new students, many from households new to TI.

While welcoming the new students we also welcomed new faculty:

Lisa Blumenthal & Dan Ring will be teaching the Daled Class on Sunday and Wednesday, respectively.

Arielle Derby, who is new to the DC area, is our new Jr. Chai teacher in the eighth grade.

Sara Rodenstein, a child of TI and recent *Olah* to Israel, is teaching an introduction to Zionism in our 7th grade Jr. Chai class.

Shabbat Morning Programs

Did you know that we run programs for kids from tots through the fifth grade every Shabbat morning? Here is what we offer:

Shultime with USY Madrichim, 18 mos. - Pre-K, room 4A. Our Shul-timers sing, play games, and read stories about Jewish holidays and Jewish values. Parents are welcome to stay or to attend services knowing their children are having a great experience up on the second floor.



Madrichim Ethan Fingerhut, Eliya Lister, Ellie Hart, and Esther Kimelman-Block

Bonim with Morah Silvia, Grades K through 2, 10:30 to 12:00, room 1.

Bonim is the younger of our two Jr. Congregation groups. Morah Silvia, a master early childhood teacher, makes every Shabbat morning special with *tefillot*, stories, games, and discussions of stories from the Torah.

Machar with Moreh David, Grades 3 through 5, 10:30 to 12:00, room 4B.

Every Shabbat morning in Machar begins with a short discussion with Moreh David before moving on to services led for kids and (often) by kids. After the service Moreh David prepares a different way to experience each week's Torah portion including improv, silly plays, quiz games, and more.

Every week all three groups gather for *Kiddush* and *HaMotzi* before heading down to the main sanctuary for dancing and *Adon Olam*.

TI USY (9th - 12th grades)

The theme of this year's USY program is service. Case in point, the TI playground. On Labor Day, as part of the annual Jeremy Goldberg cleanup days, TI's USY'ers gathered together to weed, clean, and re-mulch the playground. Jacob Suddleson, Aaron Shulman Englander, Raviv Levone, Chaya Blonder and Jacob Douglass, put in hours of hard work under the direction of our Assistant Youth Director, **Missy Mandell** (see photo to right).

TI's USY'ers are also invited to attend a special event hosted by **Rabbi Seidel** in the TI Sukkah. On **Thursday, October 1**, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., USY'ers and adults can join together in the TI Sukkah to learn how to participate in JUFJ's DC paid family leave initiatives. Please RSVP so we know how much dinner we need.



USY'ers Cleaning Playground

USY's Regional Fall Convention is November 20-22 at the Capital Retreat Center in Waynesboro, PA. Shabbat is an essential part of the USY experience, helping to create memories and friendships that last a lifetime. Contact Missy Mandell if your child would like to participate at Missy@Tifereth-Israel.org.

TI Kadima (6th-8th grades)

You can thank our TI Kadimaniks for the decorations in the TI Sukkah. On Sunday morning before Sukkot they did a really nice job helping to make the TI sukkah even more special.

This year's first **Kadima Babka in the Balcony** will be **October 3**, the Shabbat of Sukkot. First we will pray together in the balcony beginning at 10:00. Then, during the *drash*, we will head out to the Sukkah for some babka and shmoozing.

Seaboard Kadima's Fall Kallah will be **October 16-18** at the Capital Retreat Center in Waynesboro, PA. The theme is "Rock N Roll All Weekend." It promises to be full of fun activities, meaningful Jewish experiences, and new friends. Contact Missy Mandell for more information.

October Highlights at Tifereth Israel

October 1-6	See full Sukkot schedule on page 6
October 4	Hoshanah Rabbah Service, 9 a.m
October 5	Sh'mini Atzeret Service, 9 a.m.; Yizkor, 11 a.m. Simhat Torah Service, 7 p.m.
October 6	Simhat Torah Service, 9 a.m.
October 10	Solomon Murdock Bar Mitzvah
October 11	Gevarim Brunch: <i>The Archive Thief</i> , 10 a.m.-12 noon
October 12, 19, 26	Monday Lunch & Learn <i>Parashat HaShavuah</i> , 11 a.m.; Lunch 12 noon
October 17	Walter Osborne Bar Mitzvah
October 20	Kol Nashim Book Club, <i>The Mathematician's Shiva</i> , 7:30 p.m.
October 24	Yael Chiappori Bat Mitzvah SHALEM: "Israel Confronts the Holocaust," David (Judy) Cohen
October 25	Movie Nite, <i>Arguing the World</i> . 7:30 p.m.

Join Our Security Team

Chris Zeilinger

Friends --

I'd love to have some of you join the ranks of our shul's year-round volunteer security team. No special skills or credentials are required, although you're encouraged to take a AED/CPR class (perhaps another free class will be arranged at TI in the future).

There are some important attributes for being one of our security *shomrim* (guards):

- You have to have a cell phone that you're willing to use on Shabbat or *haggim* in cases of emergencies that are not life-threatening.
- You have to be okay with the possibility of getting involved with situations that may be a bit challenging, although such cases are incredibly rare at TI.
- It's helpful if you've been around TI for a while, so that you have a sense of who's who and what's

where in our extended TI community.

Interested? Curious? Drop me an email (either czeilinger@earthlink.net or chris.zeilinger@gmail.com), talk with one of our security *shomrim* when you see them at shul on Shabbat mornings, or chat with me when we're at shul together.

I'd love to have you think about this surprisingly easily, but important way to be of service to the TI community!

Hol HaMoed Sukkot, Sh'mini Atzeret & Simhat Torah Schedule

Thursday, October 1

6:30 p.m. Jews United for Justice House Meeting on DC Paid Family Leave Bill, including a Light Dinner in the Sukkah

Friday, October 2

6:00 p.m. Family Service, followed by Dinner in the Sukkah

6:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service, followed by Dinner in the Sukkah

Saturday, October 3

9:00 a.m. Shabbat Service, followed by Kiddush in the Sukkah

Sunday, October 4, Hoshanah Rabbah

9:00 a.m. Morning Service, followed by Kiddush in the Sukkah

Monday, October 5, Sh'mini Atzeret/Erev Simhat Torah (Office Closed)

9:00 a.m. Festival Service

11:00 a.m. Yizkor Memorial Service, followed by Kiddush in the Sukkah

7:00 p.m. Festival Service with Marching, Singing & Celebrating

Tuesday, October 6, Simhat Torah (Office Closed)

9:00 a.m. Festival Service

10:15 a.m. Kiddush in the Reamer Chapel

10:30 a.m. Hakafot with Marching, Singing & Celebrating

Share Shabbat with Newer Members

Susan Catler

In the last two years many people have joined Tifereth Israel. We have found that a wonderful way to welcome new members is for current members to host them for a Shabbat dinner. This gives new members an opportunity to meet longer-term families and makes it more likely that they'll see a familiar face when they come to synagogue events.

The Membership Committee has decided to invite all the new members to Shabbat dinner on the same day – **October 30**. Longer term members are asked to have one or more new members join them for Shabbat dinner on that evening. New members who joined TI in the

last two years are asked to sign up to be guests on the 30th. This is a great chance to meet members you may not already know while sharing good food and conversation.

TI member volunteers will then match hosts and guests and send the resulting information to each. We will match hosts and guests with similar dietary and Kashrut needs. If you'd like, we'll also make an effort to find guests with similar-aged children. **Please sign up by October 21.**

To sign up to host new members, go to <http://tinyurl.com/HostOct30>. To sign up to be a guest, go to <http://tinyurl.com/GuestOct30>.

HH Services Survey

Tifereth Israel has made several changes to High Holiday services: a new leader for the Cherner Service, new children and youth programs, Tot Services and the new High Holiday *mahzor*, *Lev Shalem*.

How did HH services work for you and your family? What worked especially well? What should we continue doing? Anything to avoid or adjust?

Please complete our anonymous, on-line survey, which should take about 5 minutes. See the weekly newsletter for details. Your feedback will help in planning next year's services.

Social Action at TI: Stephen Nelson Time for Reflection on TI's Commitment

I'm writing this article during the Days of Awe. It's a time of self-reflection, in which we as Jews are obligated to evaluate our actions of the past year, and to apologize to all we have wronged.

But for me, it's even more significant to evaluate what I have done in the past year to help the world at large. And so it often centers on social action.

As often occurs when evaluating my relationships with individuals, I often feel I've come up short. Yes, I participate in some of TI's social action activities, most notably the Martha's Table van run. But there is so much more I can do.

I feel this is true for the social action program as a whole. We have so many great activities, such as the Shepherd Park tutoring program, the Rosh Hashanah meal delivery, and our largest project in terms of participation, the Christmas meal program in which we serve a holiday meal at a number of local homeless shelters.

Yet there is more that we at TI can do. This became particularly evident when my wife and I recently saw the movie *Rosenwald*, which celebrated the life and social action activities of Julius Rosenwald.

As we learned several years ago during our Martin Luther King Shabbaton, Rosenwald, a successful businessman who played a key role in the success of Sears, Roebuck & Co., was the major benefactor in building more than 5,000 schools in the South during the Jim Crow era, as well as setting up the Rosenwald Fund to sponsor artistic and scientific endeavors in the African-American community.

Most notably for me, Rosenwald was able to tailor his philanthropic efforts to address the evils of his time. In

evaluating our social action program, we need to recognize that times change, and so do the challenges society faces. Today, it seems there are four issues permeating society at large:

Income Inequality

The gap between rich and poor has never been as great as it is now. In one of his recent speeches, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) pointed out that just 0.5 percent of the richest Americans have as much wealth as the lowest 90. There is just no excuse for those who are fully employed to be living in poverty or even near poverty. But we see an increasing number of working people who are either homeless or living in shelters.

Work-Life Balance and Family Protection

Over the past 20 years, a number of laws have been enacted to protect families, such as the Family Leave Act. Just 20 years ago, a woman could be fired from her job if she didn't return to work immediately after giving birth. More and more often, fathers are now taking advantage of the law.

On a related front, President Obama recently issued an executive order mandating that government contractors provide a minimal amount of sick leave to their employees. It's hard to believe that such protections weren't already in place.

Protection Against Discrimination

Back in the 1960s, discrimination was specifically outlawed on the basis of only race and sex. But over the past 40 years, society has recognized that all types of discrimination are wrong --- whether it's based on age, disability, veterans' status or, much more recently, sexual



preference and gender identity. (It's notable that the recent cataclysmic change regarding gay marriage encompasses both this trend and the one focused on protection of families).

Racial Discrimination in Our Justice System

The events of Ferguson, Cleveland, Staten Island and most recently, Manhattan, have focused a great deal of attention on police brutality against our African-American community. But racial injustice can also be seen in uneven application of drug laws and in how capital punishment decisions are made.

The challenge for TI is to select social action activities that can address these four areas. TI's tradition has been to focus on direct action, where congregants get to interact directly with recipients. Projects such as the October 1 Sukkot "house meeting" at TI, in conjunction with Jews United for Justice, to galvanize support for the paid family leave bill that will soon be written and then considered by the DC City Council reflects this kind of social action commitment.

The Social Action Committee's program does encompass organized protest, as was seen by our participation in the ultimately successful protests against the incarceration of State Department contractor Allan Gross. Participation in protests against fast-food restaurants and other employers who pay inadequate wages would be one option.

Another could be participation in events like last May's "Million Moms

(Continued on page 8)

Kol Nashim

Kol Nashim presents “**Pita and Flatbread with Jessica**” at Tifereth Israel on **October 18** at 10:30 a.m. Learn how to bake these tasty treats with help from **Jessica Weissman**.

Further food and fun events are coming up. Kol Nashim presents “**Improv Theater**” at TI the evening of **November 14**. Bring your skit ideas and we’ll have a good time entertaining each other. RSVP at KNimprov@tifereth-Israel.org.

The next meeting of the Kol Nashim Book Club is **October 20**. See the article below for the details of this and the following two meetings.

Game Night will be held on **January 30**.

Truffle Trip and Dip is scheduled for **February 7**. We will be touring a chocolate factory, afterwards learning how to dip our own goodies, and then get to munch them on the way home.



We will also be sponsoring a two-session class with **Rabbi Avis Miller**, “**Be the Wise Child at Your Seder**” on **April 3** and **10**. You can come to either or both sessions.

KN Book Club

Jessica Weissman

October 20: *The Mathematician's Shiva* by Stuart Rojstaczer. This is a funny but serious novel involving mothers, sons, mathematicians, the thrill of discovery, the thrill of mystery and more. We hope to have at least one actual mathematician available.

November 17: *What is Life Worth?: The Inside Story of the 9/11 Fund and Its Effort to Compensate the Victims of September 11* by Kenneth R. Feinberg. This is an excellent non-fiction book by the man who was responsible for dividing and allocating the 9/11 compensation fund. It addresses serious ethical issues.

December (date TBD): *An Officer and a Spy* by Robert Harris. An historical novel centering on the Dreyfus case.

More detail coming soon. We will pick more readings at the November and December meetings. Please send me your suggestions, and if you are able to host for November or December let me know as well.

Social Action (continued)

March” to protest police brutality and racial injustice. Other options could include activities along the lines of the Jews United for Justice’s interview program with residents facing eviction in Baltimore, or participating in neighborhood dialogues with law enforcement officials.

Most of all, the Social Action Committee is looking for input from TI members for new ideas for Social

Action. We want to ensure that we can involve those in the TI community, both old and young, in making the Washington, D.C. community and society at large a better place.

Please contact Co-Chairs **Claudine Schweber** (pariscs@gmail.com) and **Gene Herman** (gene511@aol.com), or Social Action VP **Larry Baizer** (lbaizer@yahoo.com) with any ideas.

Food Delivery Program Participants

Every year, TI participates in the Jewish Social Service Agency’s Rosh Hashanah food delivery program to the less fortunate members of the Jewish community. The Social Action Committee would like to recognize the following TI members and other contributors for their work, under the leadership of **Gene Herman**:

Alex Berg	Judi Berland	Wilma Brier & Jack Stone
David Cohen (Carla)	Ernie Englander	Anita Finkelstein
Seth Glabman	Paul Goldstein	Jenni Grabel
Melanie Greenfield	Sheryl Gross-Glaser	David Hart
Kim Levone	Tobi McFarland	Rabbi Sarah Meytin
David/Stephanie Rubin	Dick Siegel	Reva Snow
Steven Stoller	Gabe Tabak	Jennifer Taransky
Peter Trooboff	Susan Vitale	

TI Office Closed

The TI Office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, October 5 and 6, for Sh’mini Atzeret and Simhat Torah.

SHALEM Programs

Jessica Weissman

The fall SHALEM series, TI's after-Kiddush presentations, is off to a terrific start, and we have a varied menu of programs coming up.

September offered two programs. On September 12 we honored the many TI'ers who have participated in our Shepherd Park Elementary tutoring program. Over the years TI'ers have made a real difference in the lives of our neighbors through this program.

On Shabbat Shuvah the dynamic duo of **Rabbi Devorah Lynn** and **Michele Sumka** helped us get ready for Yom Kippur in a meditative way. Those of us lucky enough to participate in their program were able to identify things to keep more of and things to cast away, and to practice for the Grand *Aleinu*.

Up next is **David (Judy) Cohen** on **October 24**. As Americans, whose Jewish identity has been molded by the Holocaust, it comes as a surprise, if not a shock, to learn that Israeli attitudes toward, and treatment of, the Holocaust are very different from our own. David will discuss these differences and their sources and how they play out in Israel today.

Membership Package

- half price dues for the first year
- free religious school for the first child and half price for additional children for the first year a child is enrolled in our school
- two free Shabbat dinners at the shul for the entire family during the first year of membership.

Know someone who might be interested? Tell them about Tifereth Israel!

On **November 21**, **Yoni Appelbaum**, a senior editor at The Atlantic and a member of Ohev Shalom, will speak on "**Jewish Roots of American Communities, and their Future.**"

He will discuss the long arc of associational life in the United States – from the 19th century, when most contemporary communal institutions (including many Jewish ones) took shape, to the present day.

On **December 12**, new TI member **Rabbi Charles Feinberg** will discuss "**Criminal Justice in DC and Maryland.**" Look to next month's Menorah for more detailed information.

Please join us for these interesting topics. And if there's something of Jewish interest you would like to speak on, you can't ask for a better audience than the one that comes to SHALEM. Contact me with your ideas.

Shepherd Tutoring

Susan Catler

This is the 18th year adults and teenagers from Tifereth Israel and our neighborhood have tutored students from Shepherd Elementary, our local public school.

Each tutor is paired with a young student (grade 2-6) for the school year. The pair meets at the synagogue on Sundays from 5 to 6 p.m. to read, practice math skills, or review homework. The weekly hour can make a tremendous difference to participating students by reinforcing skills learned in school.

Tutoring will start this year with tutor training on October 4. The first tutoring session will be October 18.

To sign up to be a tutor, go to <http://tinyurl.com/ShepherdTutor1516>. If you have any questions, contact shepherd tutoring program@gmail.com.

Schmooze in the Sukkah

Join TI Millennials "Plus" (aka TI Young Couples)

for wine, cheese, and schmoozing on

Sunday, October 4 from 4 to 6 p.m.

TI members, friends and guests in their 20s and 30s are welcome to close out Sukkot together in TI's spacious 16th Street Sukkah

As Sukkot commemorates the wilderness and harvest season,

Rabbi Devorah Lynn will lead a discussion on climate change and our spiritual response

Sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/SukkahSchmooze>

Mikah & Alex Berg, Jessica & Jonathan Panikoff and Ruth & Gabe Tabak

Gevarim

Andrew Reamer



Sunday Brunches

We have filled out the Gevarim Sunday Brunch schedule for this fall and are getting a head start on speakers for winter-spring. Brunches are from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Tickets are \$12, with a \$2 discount for Gevarim and Kol Nashim members. Please take note of the first two events:

October 11: *The Archive Thief: The Man Who Salvaged French Jewish History*, Professor Lisa Moses Leff, History Department, American University. Moderator: TI member **Allan Tulchin**.

After the Holocaust, Jewish historian Zosa Szajkowski gathered up tens of thousands of documents from Berlin and France and moved them all, illicitly, to New York. In *The Archive Thief*, Lisa Moses Leff reconstructs Szajkowski's story. Born into poverty in Russian Poland, he first made his name in Paris as a communist journalist. In the late 1930s, seeing the rising threats to Jews in Europe, he broke with the party and committed himself to defending his people as a scholar.

Following a harrowing 1941 escape from France and U.S. army service, Szajkowski struggled to eke out a living as an archivist with the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York. He published scores of studies on French Jewish history that opened up new ways of thinking about Jewish emancipation, modernization, and the rise of modern antisemitism.

Szajkowski eventually sold the documents he stole to American and Israeli research libraries, where they remain today. *The Archive Thief* offers a window into the debates over the rightful ownership of contested Jewish archives and the powerful ideological, economic, and psychological forces that have made Jewish

scholars care so deeply about preserving the remnants of their past.

You can order the book for \$25 (compared to \$30 retail and \$27 on Amazon, plus no tax). Ordered books will be available for pickup at TI, if you wish to read it before the event, and at the event itself.

November 8: "The Water Resources Action Project: Environmental Stewardship in Israel and the West Bank," **Julie Weisman**, TI Board member. Moderator: TI member **Sylvia Horwitz**.

Water Resources Action Project, Inc. (WRAP) is a volunteer non-profit organization that seeks to improve the public health of underserved communities in the Middle East through greater water stewardship, while operating with strict political and religious neutrality.

WRAP actively sponsors, designs, and constructs rainwater harvesting systems in schools suffering from dire water shortages, complemented by a strong environmental educational program at the grassroots level on the value and interconnectedness of water. WRAP hopes to foster a greater awareness of, and appreciation for, human health and the environment.

Winter Brunches. Three additional brunches have been scheduled (details in future Menorah issues):

December 13: "Health Insurance in the U.S.: Past, Present, and Future," TI members **Jenny Bryant, Stan Dorn, Howard Gleckman, and Ruth Tabak**.

January (date TBD), "The Costs of the Israel-Palestinian Conflict," C. Ross Anthony, RAND Israeli-Palestinian Initiative (Discussant and Moderator TBD).

February 14: "The 2016 Presidential Primaries: A Look Ahead," TI member **Bill Galston**.

Movie Nite

Each event begins at 7:30 p.m. The movie is free. Nosh is available for \$4.

October 25, *Arguing the World* (1998, 106 min.). Discussion after the movie will be led by David (Carla) Cohen.

This documentary tells the story of a hotbed of Jewish intellectualism, New York's City College, c. 1930, and in particular follows the careers of four of the greatest minds to emerge from that environment: Daniel Bell, Nathan Glazer, Irving Howe, and Irving Kristol. The film is a powerful record both of American intellectual history and of the peculiar role of a generation of Jewish thinkers in riding and shaping that history.

November 15, *The Dybbuk* (1937, Yiddish with subtitles, 108 mins).

In a Polish shtetl, two young men betroth their unborn children. Soon after, one of them dies and the other's wife dies in childbirth. The children grow up in different towns, never knowing of the betrothal, but the power of the vow leads them to meet each other when they are marriageable. The young woman, Leah, is promised to another man, but Channon, a practitioner of mysticism, seeks to win his bride through sorcery. Based on the 1914 play *The Dybbuk, or Between Two Worlds*, by S. Ansky.

December 24, Chinese dinner and movie night. Time and movie to be determined.

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Barbara Raimondo

Es-teem

Mazel tov to **Shelley Heller** for being recognized by *INSIGHT Into Diversity Magazine* as one of 100 "Inspiring Women in STEM." *INSIGHT*, the oldest and largest diversity magazine in higher education, awards the honor to women who "inspire and encourage" a new generation of young women to consider STEM careers.

Shelley has held senior positions at George Washington University for the past 30 years. See the profile at <http://gwtoday.gwu.edu/seas-professor-among-100-inspiring-women-stem>.

John List retired in September after 43 years at the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC). He retired as Senior Vice President and Chief Lending Officer, after serving as General Counsel and Senior Vice President of CFC's Member Services Group.

Dream Team

The September issue of *Vanity Fair* has a super duper feature on **Linda Greer** and her work in China to reduce pollution in the textile industry. If you're stuck in the check-out line, stay away from the Snickers, but check out page 262, right after the article about her buddy, Taylor Swift. (Ms. Swift got the cover. Totally not fair).

Stella McCartney wrote about Linda, and Annie Leibovitz was on the business side of the camera. If you missed it, you can find it on the *Vanity Fair* website <http://www.vanityfair.com/culture/2015/08/stella-mccartney-linda-greer-clean-by-design>.

This summer **Melanie** and **Larry Greenfield** got to attend several

family *simchas*. At the end of July they attended the wedding of one of Larry's great nieces, **Jessie**, in Franklin, New Jersey. Then Melanie got to celebrate the 90th birthday of a high school friend's father in New York, where she stayed with another old high school friend. Then they went up to New Hampshire for Melanie's niece **Sarah's** wedding, and enjoyed several days in beautiful Portsmouth.

In early September **Alan Landay** attended a memorial/celebration of the life of his aunt, **Charlotte Wagner**, who passed away in July at the age of 95. Alan played his dulcimer, other family members danced, and there were paintings and poems from Aunt Charlotte. Most of the family members came from out of town. All wrapped things up at the National Zoo.

Ex-treme

Marcia Goldberg and her grandson, **Sam**, went to Costa Rica for his bar mitzvah present. They watched the turtles laying eggs, which were the size of baseballs. They also went on the zip lines, which were not exactly Marcia's cup of tea, but luckily a rugged, outdoorsy-type guy with a beard came along to whisk her to safety.



Sam Goldberg, back on terra firma

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *philoprogenitive*: "tending to produce offspring; prolific" (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 news for next time to baraimondo@gmail.com, with "Nayes un Mekhayes" in the heading, or to P.O. Box 466, Washington Grove, MD 20880.

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

TI Welcomes New Babies

On October 31, we will honor all the new babies born to or adopted by members of Tifereth Israel in the last year -- and their parents and guardians.

Please go to <http://tinyurl.com/NewBabies15> to let us know the name of the new addition to your family, date of birth, the names of the adults responsible for the little one, and whether you will be able to attend on October 31.

We would like to make a poster of all the new arrivals. Please send a picture of the child (with or without the rest of the family - your choice) to **Dori Klar** at doriklar@gmail.com or drop one off at the TI office by Friday, October 23.

Medallic Tributes to the Priestly Blessing

Simcha Kuritzky

One of the earliest pieces of liturgy is the *Birkat Kohanim*, the Priestly Blessing. Its text is given in Numbers 6:24-26, and it was recited twice a day in the Temple from priests who ascended a platform called a *dukhan*. This is the derivation for the Yiddish name for the blessing, *dukhenen*.

During Second Temple times, priests would also recite the blessing daily in synagogues, which is still the practice in Jerusalem. In most of Israel and in the Sefardi Diaspora, priests recite it at the end of the Sabbath *shaharit* or *musaf amidah*, but in the Ashkenazi Diaspora, priests recite it only in *musaf* of the high holidays and pilgrimage festivals.

However, the blessing is read by the service leader in the repetition of the *amidah* on all other days or if there are no *kohanim* available. In many Reform and Protestant congregations, the service leader recites it at the end of the service.

In 1988, Israel issued a medal to commemorate the 1980 discovery, in the Ketef Hinnom tombs southwest of Jerusalem's Old City, of the oldest known Jewish amulets, dating back to the First Commonwealth, seventh century BCE. These two small silver scrolls each contain part of the priestly blessing in Paleo-Hebrew, making them the oldest reference to Scripture.

The medal portrays one of the scrolls on one side, and two stylized hands making the sign of the benediction on the other. These medals were issued in bronze, silver, and gold, including small-size gold in bezels for wearing as jewelry.



The Priestly Blessing has appeared on modern amulets for decades. *Yeshivot* in New York and Jerusalem have issued medals sold to the public or given as premiums to donors since the early 1900s. One popular design has the Ten Commandments flanked by lions of Judah on one side, and the benediction in English on the other. Some versions show the hand sign in the middle.



Sometimes just the first line of the blessing (May God bless and guard you) is given on an amulet. A piece from the Jewish War Veterans gives the blessing in English around a Magen David with Zion in Hebrew in the center.



A modern amulet from Israel has the first line in Hebrew around a Magen David with just a *heh* (for HaShem) in the center.



A U.S. \$3 gold coin, minted from 1854 to 1889, was placed in a bezel with one side polished off and the first line engraved by a skilled jeweler. The inscription is dated 1892 and this coin was presumably given to a Bat Kohen.



One of the other functions in Judaism that is specifically reserved for the priests is the redemption of the firstborn son. For the past century, a number of private tokens have been issued for *pidyon haben*. Many of these include the priestly blessing, which is often given at the end of the redemption ceremony. One from De Vere Coins in London has the hand sign and the entire blessing in Hebrew on one side, and a Biblical verse on the *pidyon haben* with One Silver Shekel in Hebrew on the other.



(Continued on page 13)

Medallic Tributes to the Priestly Blessing (continued)

The Shekel Company of Tel Aviv issued a token with similar inscriptions and design, but which includes an image of a year 1 First Revolt shekel along with the hand sign and blessing. Both of these tokens were issued shortly after the Six Day War with certificates claiming they were made in preparation for the rebuilding of the Third Temple.



A *pidyon haben* shekel reportedly produced by the Lubavitch in Israel in the 1950s has a fish and *hai* together with the full blessing on one side, and a father or the priest holding the firstborn on the other.



A recent Djerba-inspired design only has the first verse of the blessing along with a five-branched *menorah* and two fish on one side and a *hamsa* with part of the redemption verse on the other.



The Judaic Heritage society had the Franklin Mint produce a series of ingots on Jewish holidays and life-cycle events, which included a

pidyon haben 1000-grain ingot. It does not include any of the words of the priestly blessing but shows the *Kohen* is making the hand sign over the father and child.



Below are two examples of more traditional artwork. Both the tray and stone pendant are from Persia a century ago. The tray is 713 mm in diameter and shows Moses seated with the two tablets, surrounded by the priestly blessing in Hebrew. The 18 x 30 mm blue stone has the *Shema* around the outside and just the first verse of the priestly blessing in the center.



Some amulet makers permuted the blessing text in order to enhance its assumed effects. The silver amulet below is a hexagonal cylinder with inscriptions on all six sides. It has just the initial letters (known as *notarikon*) of the verses, starting near the end of the top side with the first seven and continuing halfway across the bottom side with the last eight.



It is widely believed that the Name of 22, which appears on the triangular amulet below, is based on a permutation of the first 22 letters of the *birkat kohanim*. I have yet to find a description of how the Name of 22 is derived, but both *Yeverekhekha YHVH vayishmarekha, ya'eyr YHVH* and *Ankatam Pastam Paspasim Diyonisim* have 22 letters including ten unique letters, nine regular and one final.



The Priestly Blessing is one of the best-known pieces of Jewish liturgy, and has even been adopted by many Christians. It should come as no surprise that it appears on medals, amulets and jewelry.

Annual Appeal

Now is the time to give to TI's 2015 Annual Appeal.

Thank you to the many congregants who have already responded to support our incredible community.

Annual Appeal donations help meet costs for core synagogue activities: administration, building maintenance, ritual activities, weekly Shabbat Kiddushim and the many other events that make TI so special.

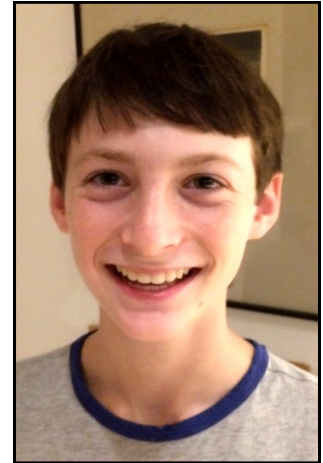
B'nei Mitzvah

My name is **Solomon Murdock** and my Bar Mitzvah is October 10.

I am in eighth grade at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, and I enjoy math and science. As extracurricular activities I play ice hockey and the drums. In my free time, I usually create or play strategy board games.

I tutored a child from Shepherd Park Elementary for my social action project.

Becoming a Bar-Mitzvah has been a great experience, and I will remember it my whole life.



Hi. My name is **Walter "Wally" Osborne**. I'm just your everyday nine-fingered giant, nothing special. I have been going to Tifereth Israel for about six years, and have been tearing up the front lawn playing football as long as I can remember. I am very excited to finally be having my Bar Mitzvah here on October 17.



The *Parashah* of *Noah* is very interesting. In the best known part God tells Noah that because he has been good, he will be allowed to survive when everyone else is slain in a flood. God tells Noah to build an ark and save a male and female from each species. All survive (except for the unicorns; darn lions.) *The Parashah* takes a dark turn, and Noah gets drunk, doing things he wishes he had not. I think the lesson to learn from the first part is that doing good can reward you, and, from the second part, that moderation is important.

I would like to thank my Mom, the questioner; Philip McQueen, who answers questions in great depth; my family; Benjy Kruger, who does not answer questions; my Hebrew school class, which explores and raises questions; Jacob Douglas, whose questions are hoops; my Dad, who in many ways is a question; and Grandma Wilma, who encourages questions. Also special thanks to Josh Furman and Myrna Goldberg for their guidance and patience.

Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

October 16

Luis & Karen Acosta
 Andrew Afflerbach & Joanne Hovis
 Seth & Elaine Akst
 Miriam Alpern
 Jon Alterman & Katherine LaRiviere
 Robyn M. Altman & Brendan J. Doherty
 Paula Amann
 Timothy Anderegg & Lisa Fogel-Anderegg
 Leonard Bachman
 Sidney & Heike Bailin
 Lawrence Baizer & Elaine Lewis
 Paul & Esther Bardack
 Burt Barnow
 Mae Cooper & Gideon Bass
 Charles Baum
 Leonard & Joy Baxt
 Mark & Mona Berch
 Alex Berg & Mikah Goldman
 Bruce & Laurie Berger
 Carl Bergman & Margie Odle
 Louis J. Blumen

October 23

Judi Berland
 Joe Berman & Marsha Gentner
 Ross & Shira Bettinger
 Dana Beyer
 Matthew Bigman
 Sheri Blonder
 Gideon & Lisa Blumenthal
 Ron & Dina Borzekowski
 Larry & Lise Bram
 Steven & Rachel Bressler
 Sharon Brown
 Stephen Burd & Laura Schiavo
 Harold Burgess & Shoshana Eisenberg

Joel & Alice Burton
 Susan Chapin
 Daniel Chazen & Ronit Eisenbach
 Steven Cheskin & Malia Hale
 David Cohen
 Joel Cohen

October 30

Ann Cohen
 David & Judy Cohen
 David & Elana Cohen
 Hal Cohen & Katie Benton-Cohen
 Raymond & Rebecca Coleman
 Jeffrey Colman & Ellen Nissenbaum
 Bill & Karen Copeland
 Nataliya Chernyak Cowen
 Tamir & Rebecca Damari
 Merry Danaceau
 Jeffrey & Miriam Davidson
 Ronni Davis
 Helen Disenhaus
 Allan & Vered Drazen
 Stan Dorn & Carla Ellern
 Earl Dotter & Deborah Stern
 Desirée Douglas
 Lisa Drazin

November 20

Pierre & Deena Dugan
 Ernie Englander
 Rabbi Charles & Krayna Feinberg
 Mark Feldman
 Miriam Feinsilver
 Gail & Roger Feldman
 Joshua & Mita Felman
 Bob Feron & Dione Pereira

Jeff Feuer & Sherry Klein
 Rona Fields
 Eric Fingerhut & Karen Beiley
 Anna Fink & Alberto Fernandez
 Anita Finkelstein
 Jay & Rachel Finkelstein
 Matthew & Susan Finston
 Violeta Fiorino-Schwartz
 Joseph & Rachel Firschein
 David & Patricia Fisher
 Paula Flicker
 Judah Flum & Lisa Itkin
 Claude Fontheim & Orit Frenkel
 Lee & Brenda Footer
 Ira Forman & Caryn Pass

November 27

Bruce Friedland & Jenny Bryant
 Arthur & Diane Friedman
 Brian Friedman & Angie Nichols-Friedman
 Jonathan Fritz & Lorien Abroms
 Judy Galat & Geoff Thale
 William & Miriam Galston
 Stephen Garber & Lynne Snyder
 Jared Garelick & Ellen Kramarow
 Andrew & Allegrgia Gelfand
 Seth Glabman & Martha Hare
 Rick Glaser & Sheryl Gross-Glaser
 Howard Gleckman & Ann Kline
 John & Marcia Goggin
 Sigfried Gold & Galia Siegel

Donations

GENERAL FUND

Donor

Harriet Ainbinder
Stanley Sorscher & Judith
Arms

In Honor of

Receiving an aliyah
TI's hospitality

BATHROOM RENOVATION FUND

Donor

Bruce Heppen & Bonnie Suchman
John & Lynne List

MARVIN CAPLAN SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Donor

Seth Glabman & Martha Hare

In Honor of

Isaac Snow

Eugene & Esther Herman

In Memory of

Estera Waldman

MOLLIE BERCH LIBRARY FUND

Donor

Anita Finkelstein

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Donor

Jessica Weissman & Louise
Kelley

In Memory of

Jack Weissman

TORAH REPAIR FUND

Donor

Matt & Linda Heller
Jessica Weissman & Louise
Kelley

In Honor of

Judy Cohen
Iris and Michael Lav

YAHARZEIT DONATIONS

Donor

Ruth Boorstein
Henry & Florrie Einhorn
Harvey Fernbach & Ann Birk
Eugene & Esther Herman
Maxine (Cookie) Kornstein
Maxine (Cookie) Kornstein
Lillian Kronstadt
Roslyn Mannon

In Memory of

Edward Boorstein
Anne Farber
Nirmala Khot Fernbach
Abraham B. Herman
Herman H. Corman
Stuart David Corman
Harry H. Naiman

YAHARZEIT DONATIONS (continued)

Donor

Marc Rothenberg & Ivy Baer
Lawrence & Pearl Schainker
Louis & Madge Lee Spector
Louis & Madge Lee Spector
Louis & Madge Lee Spector
Louis & Madge Lee Spector
Louis & Madge Lee Spector
Louis & Madge Lee Spector
Howard & Michele Sumka
Mike & Ruth Unterweger
Mike & Ruth Unterweger
Harry Waldman & Susan Morse

In Memory of

William Rothenberg
Sophie Schainker
I. Al Spector
Mollie Spector
Sandra S. Cohen
Janet Spector
Marjorie Axel
Corry Axel
Irving Sumka
Pearl Bloom
Milton Rodberg
Louis Edward Morse

