



# The Menorah

## Notes from the Rabbi: Ethan Seidel Maybe Things Aren't So Bad?

It's only a few weeks after the election, and it feels like America has been upended. And while there is surely cause for grave concern (health care, consumer protections, among a long list), already some of our worst fears seem to be subsiding, at least slightly. Outrageous campaign promises (e.g. prosecuting Hillary, torturing terror suspects), and frightening collaborations (with the alt-right) have already been downplayed or discarded by the incoming administration.

This doesn't mean that we should let up our guard – of course not. I think we can reasonably expect awful policies to be proposed by the new government, given some of the appointments that have already been announced. And part of our job as a community will be to resist the most harmful of these policies. That may

even be the most important part of our mission during the coming four years.

However, there are also other issues to be addressed, foremost among them

the fracturing of our populace. Not that this is a new thing – even during the Obama years, we were hardly a unified country. But – perhaps because many of us feel on the losing side of this last election -- it seems much worse now.

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## President's Column: John List Leadership Planning and Member Participation

At the November Board meeting, I spoke about initiatives I believe would improve and enhance leadership at the Board level. The focus of my remarks was how the Board can and should take time now to consider actions that would help guide the future of TI.

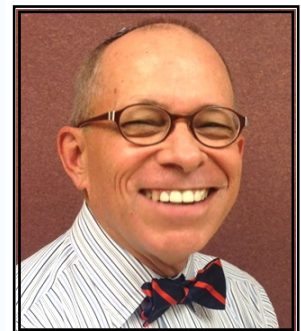
This seems like a good time to consider leadership initiatives in light of our Centennial Year and the listening campaign the Rabbi has undertaken under the auspices of the Jewish Organizing Institute and Network for Justice.

Fortunately, the Board can be guided by the work of past TI Boards and by the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ), whose materials and professional resources are available to TI as a

USCJ member. Also available to the Board are past descriptions by Board committees (such as Finance, Development, House, Membership, Communications) of their responsibilities, and their annual reports to the Board on their work.

I believe the current Board can focus on committee responsibilities and composition in the very near future. Engaged committees, composed of both Board members

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Notes from the Rabbi (continued)

It may well be that part of our work in the coming years will be getting to know and understand the other side. I'm reminded of a moment in the (otherwise very funny) presentation by Benji Lovitt, in which he appeared to mock folks from West Virginia – there was a very uncomfortable hush in the audience.

As I explained to Benji after the show – that line would have been funny two weeks ago; now we all feel bad for having trivialized the concerns and the lives of a large percentage of Americans.

We must work against our natural human tendency to demonize the other side. I see it already: an assumption on the left that American Muslims are about to be registered – a proposal Trump apparently never pushed

during the campaign. Or the assumption that Trump's new slightly more moderate stances are just a feint, as opposed to the (in my mind much more realistic) assumption that these were campaign promises which he has now discarded upon election – surely not an unusual political move. (Think of Bernie's proposed universal free college tuition as another example of unrealistic campaign promises).

When there are clear demons, we call them out. When the demons are not clear, we should hold back from assuming the worst.

The Talmud was good at setting us an example. Rarely do debates in the Talmud end with a refutation of one side or the other. Much more common is a lengthy attempt, usually successful, to prove that a particular Rabbi was not inconsistent.

In fact, one of the central goals of the Talmud seems to be showing that Rabbi "X", despite his minority opinion, can nevertheless be seen as consistent, both with the Torah and with his own previous statements.

We have work to do. It's not clear yet exactly what we will be fighting on the policy side, but we can be sure our energy will be needed. What's more clear already is a need to understand the other. Let's follow our tradition's path and work towards such an understanding.

This doesn't mean that we need to agree with the other side's positions. We may even come to reject some of their positions outright. But we must come to understand those positions before we as a country, a United States of America, can move forward.

Rabbi Seidel

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## Visits by Rabbi Seidel

Are you homebound, or hospital-bound, and would like a visit from Rabbi Seidel? Or do you know of someone in the congregation who could use such a visit?

Please let Rabbi Seidel know, either by phone at 202-882-1605 x 302. or by email at [tirabbi@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:tirabbi@tifereth-israel.org).

## Feed Your Neshama with Chef Michael Twitty

As part of TI's Centennial celebrations and events, an amazing Shabbat dinner is scheduled for **Friday evening, December 16**.

Chef and food historian Michael Twitty is serving up a southern kosher meal. The showcases will be West African brisket, Ethiopian collard greens, and Southern style matzo ball soup. There will be many vegetarian and gluten-free options.



Michael Twitty was recently recognized as one of the "Forward 50," which is *The Forward's* list of Jews who have impacted American life. He blogs at [afroculinaria.com](http://afroculinaria.com).

This event is supported by a grant from the Jewish Food Experience, a program of The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

Member dinner rates are \$25 for adults, \$18 for children 8-12, and \$13 for children 4-7, with a family maximum of \$75.

Non-member dinner rates are \$36 for adults, \$18 for children 8-12, and \$13 for children 4-7, with a family maximum of \$90.

Reservations for the dinner are due by Friday, December 9. Space is limited. **Sign up for dinner at [tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/twitty2016](http://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/twitty2016).**

### Help Prepare the Dinner

Join Michael Twitty in the TI kitchen on **Wednesday, December 14** and **Friday, December 16** to assist in making the dinner for Friday night. Children who accompany adults

should be able to assist in basic kitchen duties.

Michael Twitty is a born storyteller. Cooking with him is an experience not to be missed! Sign up for daytime or evening slots at [tinyurl.com/twittycooking](http://tinyurl.com/twittycooking).

### Tot Shabbat Schedule

All at 11:10 a.m.

December 17

January 21

February 18

March 18

April 5

May 20

June 17

**Mark your calendars now!**

## President's Column (continued)

and non-Board members, allow for: consideration of different perspectives as a committee undertakes a particular activity; development of future leaders for the Board; and documentation of the committee's work for analysis and evaluation by the full Board.

Every member of TI should consider participating in the Board's policy and priority setting by joining a Committee. I hope you will contact me, or a committee chair, to explore joining one of our Board committees.

In addition, I spoke to the Board about setting aside time in our

regular meeting schedule to focus on how we work together as a group and how we assess and improve our role in guiding TI for the future.

On October 30, five Board members along with Jevera Temsky, TI's Executive Director, participated in a half-day USCJ Conference at Har Shalom in Potomac for congregations in the Middle Atlantic States.

The conference provided an introduction to USCJ's efforts to help synagogue leaders develop thriving congregations. In addition, we heard from leaders of other congregations, one of which has many charac-

teristics that are similar to TI, as to how they are creating a place that engages their community.

During our Centennial Year we are celebrating the past, exploring the value of TI to each of us, considering what keeps us up a night, and thinking how our community might support us and we, in turn, can contribute to the synagogue community.

I know the Board will continue to be committed to these celebrations and explorations, and I believe leadership planning can facilitate and strengthen this process.

## New Members

### Jared Garelick

#### Lois and David Shapiro

Lois and David are new part-time residents of the area. They own a home in Albany, New York, which they are keeping, but recently bought a condominium in Silver Spring. They plan to spend part of the year here, including most of the winter, so that they can be near family, including their daughter, **Jennifer**, a lawyer who works on Capitol Hill.

They are both retired. Lois worked as a psychologist for the State of New York and in private practice. David most recently worked as a computer programmer for the state, and earlier was in arts management, during which career he managed an arts center. His focus was on media, film, and video arts. These days he is discovering iPhone photography.

David grew up in Miami Beach and Lois in Queens. They met while working one summer at a Catskills resort where Lois was a counselor and David a wait-

er. Yes, they saw some of the Jewish comedians there learning their trade. After they were married they lived in various parts of New York City and then Buffalo before moving to Albany.

The Shapiros have found people at TI to be both interesting and nice, and enjoyed the High Holidays here. They have been busy setting up their new home "like newlyweds" because they are furnishing it from scratch, not moving much from their home in Albany. Once settled, they look forward to meeting more people. They would especially like to meet some other retired newcomers.

Welcome to the Shapiros!

### Shabbat Children's Programs

#### Machar (3rd - 5th Grade) - 10:30 a.m.

Older children begin to take ownership of *t'filah*, practice taking leadership roles, and learn about the structure of the Shabbat morning service.

#### Bonim (Kindergarten - 2nd Grade) - 10:30 a.m.

For younger, school age children, Morah Silvia -- a master early childhood teacher -- offers special *t'filot*, stories, games and discussions.

#### Shultime (18 months - PreK) - 10:30 a.m.

Children sing, play and read stories about Jewish values and special days. Shultime meets on days that we do not have Tot Shabbat (see *Tot Shabbat schedule on page 3*).

### Funeral Practices Committee Always On-Call

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

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

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

**David 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

## ShulCloud Update

Grant Maxfield, Membership Accounts Coordinator

As you may have seen in last month's *Menorah*, starting December 1 TI members are required to pay at the time of purchase of tangible goods (i.e., meals, coffee, Pesah wine, etc.) and certain events. You can still bill dues, tuition, and donations to your account, and refunds may be available with adequate notice for certain activities such as Friday night dinners.

Since most payments will be made online via ShulCloud, I want to take this opportunity to review the system:

**Every TI member has a ShulCloud account.** Because some people have not yet started utilizing ShulCloud, I will send out a special email to all members early this month. The email will have a unique log-in link to your ShulCloud account.

If you already log into your ShulCloud account regularly, you can disregard the email. If you are not already using ShulCloud, please take a moment to reset your password and look around. If you have trouble logging in you can call the office for assistance.

**To credit your payment to your account right away, you must first log in.** Many TI members successfully make payments through ShulCloud, but do not log in first.

That means someone in the office has to take another step to associate the payment with the member's account. It's a cumbersome process and it delays you from getting a 'real-time' picture of your account.

**In ShulCloud, you can make payments via eCheck or credit/debit card.** ShulCloud securely saves payment information so you can easily use it again as long as you have logged into your account. You can also save multiple payment methods and set up payment plans.

**The most inexpensive way for you to make a payment is via eCheck.** While TI covers eCheck transaction charges, credit card payments have a 3% convenience fee, due to higher transaction costs.

If you have not used an eCheck before, it is similar to using your credit card online. Rather than entering numbers from your plastic card, you enter account and routing numbers from one of your paper checks.

**You have an important role to play in keeping your account up to date!** Once you have logged into your account, you can add or update information such as email addresses, phone numbers or home addresses. You can also add, change or correct *yahrzeitn*, birthdays, Hebrew names and other information for yourself and any family members.

Below are a few common questions and answers that may help you with ShulCloud. If you have any others, please feel free to contact me at [bookkeeper@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:bookkeeper@tifereth-israel.org) or 202-882-1605 x310.

### ShulCloud FAQs:

**How do I log into my account?** You can log in by going to <https://tifereth.shulcloud.com> and clicking on the "Login" button in the top right hand corner. Use your email address and password. Please call or email Grant if you need a new password.

**Why should I bother logging in when signing up on a form?** Most events have special TI member prices. If you are not logged in you will not be able to see those lower prices AND you will need to enter your payment information from scratch each time.

**How do I access the membership directory?** Log in first. For your

security only logged in members of TI have access to the directory.

**How do I update my information?** After logging in, go to "My Profile" in the pull down menu below "MY ACCOUNT."

**Can I see my payment information in ShulCloud?** Yes, go to "My Billing" in the pulldown menu below "MY ACCOUNT." Click on the words "Search by Date Range" to specify what you want to see.

**How do I set up automatic payments?** Go to "My Billing" under the "MY ACCOUNT" pull down menu and split your total bill into a number of smaller monthly or bi-weekly payments. You can also set it up to pay a set amount each month. You can change or stop a payment plan at any time.

## Christmas Dinner at Local Shelters

Join volunteers from Tifereth Israel and Adat Shalom as we serve 400 dinners at four DC homeless shelters on Christmas Day.

Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve food, wrap presents, entertain the homeless and help organize various aspects of this event. Sign up to volunteer at: <http://tinyurl.com/TI-Signup2016>.

Whether or not you participate this year, please make a donation to support this effort. Donate at <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/xmas2016>.

## TI Centennial, 1916—2016

### Cynthia Peterman



#### December 3

**During services:** "TI History From the Bimah." Join Rabbi Abramowitz for a first-hand account of TI and the tumultuous changes of the 1960s and 1970s.

**After lunch:** SHALEM, "Let My People In: Accessibility and the Synagogue." Panel discussion on how our community can be welcoming to all people.

#### December 16

"Feed Your Neshama with Chef Michael Twitty." A Southern Kosher Shabbat dinner and program. Michael Twitty is a noted culinary and cultural historian. Register at <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/twitty2016>.

#### Coming in January

**January 7 during services:** Tribute to Mollie Berch by her son Mark Berch.

**January 21:** Special Shabbat to honor TI Presidents.

**January 28 during services:** Tribute to Madeleine Nesse by her sister Janet Nesse.

## DC Council Ceremonial Resolution, October 11, 2016

To recognize Tifereth Israel Congregation located at 7701 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, for its contributions to the city and to the Shepherd Park community on the occasion of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

WHEREAS, Tifereth Israel Congregation was founded in 1916 by 6 recent European immigrants and incorporated in 1917;

WHEREAS, Tifereth Israel Congregation is a lay-led, traditional, egalitarian member of Judaism's Conservative Movement, and its families include intermarried couples, persons of color, young families, older adults, deaf persons, and LGBT congregants;

WHEREAS, Tifereth Israel Congregation has a tradition of advocacy and support of civil and human rights and social action, which has included the founding of Neighbors, Inc., the recognition of women's equality in religious and congregational roles, as well as marriage equality, and it continues this tradition through its vital social action program;

WHEREAS, Tifereth Israel Congregation led the region's Jewish community in providing funerals for its members in a caring manner, without undue pressure and at no cost, and its efforts resulted in the formation of the Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington.

WHEREAS, the spiritual leaders of Tifereth Israel Congregation, Rabbi Ethan Seidel and Rabbi Emeritus A. Nathan Abramowitz, have provided scholarly, thoughtful programs and pastoral leadership to the congregation; and

WHEREAS, the congregation recently demonstrated its environmental commitment through its rain garden project that not only diverts 3,000 gallons from the city's storm water system, but is also an ecological education site.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Tifereth Israel Congregation Centennial Celebration Recognition Resolution of 2016."

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes Tifereth Israel Congregation for its contributions to the community and celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.

## Himmelfarb & Chai School Happenings

Rina Rebibo

After the hustle and bustle of the Hagim, our students spent the month of November getting into the routine of learning Hebrew, the *parashiyot* and Judaic topics. Both 1<sup>st</sup> grade and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade re-enacted what it was like to be in Avraham's tent (see photo to the right).

The 4<sup>th</sup> grade learned from Rabbi Seidel about *t'fillin* and how it ties in with the Shema. They then made their own mock pair to take home.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade learned about the Hamsa symbol. Feel free to come upstairs to the classrooms hallway and check out the art gallery of painted Hamsas or other "lucky symbols."

We are grateful for the laptop donations from the Zibel/Gindi and



Levone families. The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is taking advantage of our new technology by using a Hebrew software in class to help their reading fluency. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade has started a new online learning component for their Hebrew homework.

### Gift Card Fundraiser

In December, the Himmelfarb School will be selling gift cards, for a school fundraiser, to the new Corner Market & Pharmacy, 8309 Grubb Road, (in the Rock Creek Shopping Center). For \$40, TI members will be able to purchase through the synagogue a \$50 gift card to the market.

In addition, the school will make \$5 for every card sold! The money raised will go towards the purchase of new furniture for room 4A/B (the only room with old furniture) as well some new digital equipment for the school. To order gift cards: go to <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/gift2016>

The market is beautiful and has a full inventory of both regular and organic/health foods and even a good selection of kosher items. Prices are generally consistent with other grocery stores too! Old fashioned excellent customer service is the rule, not the exception, and the pharmacist knows your name!

## 6th Annual TI Hanukkah Extravaganza! Wednesday, December 21, 6:30 to 8 pm

**Festivities include:** dinner, an interactive olive oil-making activity for kids, and an olive oil bar for adults.



**Menu features:** Grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup, with artisanal grilled cheese for adults. For dessert, enjoy Rabbi Seidel's famous freshly made sufganiyot!

\$15 per person. Ages 0-4 free.  
\$65 maximum per family.

Reserve your space by  
**December 16** at <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/hanukkah2016>

Questions? Email:  
[Rina@Tifereth-Israel.org](mailto:Rina@Tifereth-Israel.org)

### Important Upcoming Dates

**Wednesday, December 21:** TI's Family Hanukkah Extravaganza, 6:30 -8 p.m.

**Shabbat, December 24:** No Class for Kitah Vav – Winter Break

**Sunday, December 25:** No School – Winter Break

**Wednesday, December 28:** No School – Winter Break

**Shabbat December 31:** No Class for Kitah Vav – Winter Break

**Sunday, January 1:** No School – Winter Break

## Social Action at TI: Larry Baizer Christmas Dinner & Refugee Projects



The ever-popular TI Christmas dinner project is continuing this year, with plans to serve about 400 people at four shelters in the District. Recent news reports indicate that the homeless population in DC has increased significantly in the past year, so the need has never been greater.

People of all ages are encouraged to participate in this timely and rewarding effort, which can be a particularly meaningful experience for families. There are many different aspects of the overall effort that volunteers can sign up for, including:

- cooking beforehand
- the ever-popular turkey carving event at the **Hermans'**
- setting up and serving food at the shelters, and
- wrapping presents for shelter residents.

If anyone wishes to brighten the day for shelter residents by providing

some musical entertainment that would be most welcome as well.

We will be sending out a formal call for volunteers soon, which will include a sign-up sheet to let you know the timing and location of the various activities associated with this event and to permit you to adapt your participation to your schedule and interests. Thanks in advance for joining us! The sign-up link is <http://tinyurl.com/TI-Signup2016>.

The Christmas dinner project relies entirely on donations for support. Please consider making a contribution to help finance the project at <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/xmas2016>.

The TI Social Action Committee is also exploring the possibility of facilitating the transfer and resettlement in the DC area of a refugee family from an area of conflict like Syria or the Congo. We are currently conferring with a few local social service agencies to learn about and assess

the options and levels of involvement available to us.

We are also considering the possibility of joining forces with other congregations, either Jewish or other faiths, in the project to help build additional bridges in the local community.

We hope to have an organizational meeting this month to inform potential volunteers on available options for participating in the resettlement effort and to determine overall levels of enthusiasm and commitment.

Please stay tuned for additional information, and contact **Larry Baizer** ([lbaizer@yahoo.com](mailto:lbaizer@yahoo.com)) or **Gene Herman** ([Gene511@aol.com](mailto:Gene511@aol.com)) if you have any questions or concerns on either the Christmas dinner or refugee resettlement projects.

## SHALEM

Jessica Weissman

November saw two SHALEM programs. The Centennial SHALEM topic on November 19 was Jews in Public Places. The session highlighted the unique historical figure of Benjamin Disraeli.

History professor **Aviel Roshwald** of Georgetown University spoke about Disraeli's political career and his pride in Jews as a racial/ethnic group. TI member **Rhoda Truboff** covered Disraeli as an author of several novels. His output included many novels of Jewish interest along with works that discussed politics more directly.

Thanks to TI'er **Judy Shapiro**, and in support of TI's interest in social justice of all kinds, we were lucky enough to host **Sebi Medina-Tayac** on November 26, speaking on "Water is Life: Resistance at Standing Rock." A citizen of the Piscataway tribe, raised in Takoma Park, he was recently at Standing Rock and had much to share with us.

December's Centennial SHALEM focuses on TI's commitment to accessibility for all, and ways in which we can become more inclusive.

Join us after Shabbat Kiddush on **December 3** for "Let my People in: Accessibility and the Synagogue," a panel discussion moderated by **Lisa Handelman**, Disability Specialist at the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. Members of the panel include TI members **Mark Berch**, **Stephanie Murdock**, **Debbie Pomernace**, and **Betsy Wohl**.

If you have a topic or a speaker to suggest, please contact me. While we are set for the Centennial year, it's never too soon to plan for future programs



## Kol Nashim

### Sharon Brown



#### Book Club

The Kol Nashim Book Club will next meet on **December 20**. See article below for details.

#### Baking Stuffed Breads

Kol Nashim continued its annual baking presentation on November 13 when **Jessica Weissman** taught us about "Baking Stuffed Breads." The program drew a very attentive crowd, eager to learn from a master baker and to taste results. Voted the favorite was the hallah stuffed with

chocolate hazelnut cocoa ricotta. See photos below by Jeff Peterman (top row) and Dione Pereira.

#### Meet and Mingle

Kol Nashim is hosting a **Meet and Mingle** for recent women members of TI at the home of **Rose Ellen Halper** on **December 11**. In addition to welcoming new women congregants at this event, we will also recognize those women who have contributed to Kol Nashim programs and activities in the past.

#### Game Night

Our popular January event, **Game Night**, held jointly by Kol Nashim and Gevarim, is being rescheduled. Stay tuned for a new date!

Kol Nashim wishes everyone a Happy Hanukkah!



## KN Book Club

### Jessica Weissman

The Kol Nashim book club met November 15 for a lively discussion of Zora Neale Hurston's *Moses, Man of the Mountain*. Our consensus was that Hurston folded her perspective on a figure who lies at the heart of Judaism and is also vital to African-American mythology into an engaging novel, but that she was too hard on Miriam especially toward the end of the book. In the current climate, the observations embedded in the book on the nature of power and how it affects those who have it and those who want it were especially apt.

Our next meeting is at on **December 20** at the home of **Jessica Weissman** and **Louise Kelley** to read Bruce Feiler's *Abraham: a Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths*. Copies

are available at the DC and Montgomery County libraries. The book is also available at bookstores.

Our discussions start at 7:30 p.m. and run until 9 p.m. or so, or (theoretically) until we run out of things to say about the book. We are TI'ers, so we usually don't run out of things to say. ALL are welcome, including those who have not finished the book or even started it. Our discussions will inspire you to finish, I am certain.

Please RSVP to [knbook@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:knbook@tifereth-israel.org) so we can scare up enough chairs; no need to scale the snacks as I tend to bake too much anyway. I hope to see many of you at this meeting and future ones.

## Gevarim

### Andrew Reamer



#### Movie Nite@TI

This fall, Gevarim has been showing a movie series, "Life After the Camps," about the lives of Jewish concentration camp survivors in four nations (Canada, Italy, Germany, France) immediately after the war ended.

The fourth movie in the series, *Almost Peaceful* (France, 2002, 94 mins.) will be shown on **Sunday, December 18**.

After surviving the Holocaust, Albert and his wife Lea must begin their lives anew. The Jewish couple reopens their modest tailoring business in the midst of the rapidly changing city of Paris, a broken but hopeful city suddenly free of hostile German forces. Albert and Lea share love, grief and a newfound prosperity as they struggle to rebuild their lives with their young children and a close-knit group of employees.

The movie is at 7:30 p.m., free, subtitled, and in the Cherner. Nosh is available for \$4.

#### A Great Course on Medieval Jewish Civilization

Gevarim and Adult Education are pleased to present "Jewish Civilization from Mohammed to Spinoza," a series of 24 half-hour video lectures by Professor David Ruderman, University of Pennsylvania. On Sundays mornings continuing until June 2017, **Allan Tulchin** has been showing two of Ruderman's half-hour lectures and facilitating 45 minutes of discussion. Each session runs from 10:15 a.m. to noon in the Library and is free.

The next two sessions are on **December 11** (Lecture 5: "Saadia Gaon and His World," Lecture 6: "The Philosophy of

Saadia Gaon"), and **December 18** (Lecture 7: "The Rise of the Spanish Jewish Community" and Lecture 8: "Judah ha-Levi's Cultural Critique"). The audio for Lectures 1-4 are available on the TI shulcloud.

#### Talmud Study

Rabbi Seidel teaches large sections of Tractate Brakhot approximately twice a month after Shabbat lunch from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m. in the Reamer Chapel. We read the text in English (photocopies are provided) and discuss. Upcoming sessions are scheduled for **December 10** and **17**. Even if you've never studied Talmud before, you might enjoy dropping in on our ongoing exploration of this tractate of the Talmud.

## Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

### Barbara Raimondo

Not a lot of news to report this month, but we have several proud members:

**Simcha Kuritzky** recently returned from the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatics convention in Pittsburgh. His exhibit on Branch Davidian scrip won first place in paper money and his exhibit on Dutch Israel fantasy gold coins won second in Medals and Tokens.

TI members **Jen Lav** and **Jane Gilvin** are delighted to announce the birth of their son, **Ira Lev Gilvin**, on Friday evening, November 11. He was 9 lbs., 6 oz. at birth. TI members **Iris** and **Mike Lav** are thrilled and excited about the arrival of their grandson. All are all doing well.

Likewise, TI members **Miriam** and **Jeff Davidson** are thrilled and excited about the arrival of their

grandson, **Mischa Colbert Davidson**. He was born Saturday, November 5 at 7:44 p.m. in California. He weighed in at 6 lbs., 12 oz. His parents, **Gillian** and **Sam Davidson**, as well as Mischa, are all doing well.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *anent*: "about, concerning" (Merriam-Webster Online). Thanks to all who sent me news, sent me to others who sent me news, or otherwise helped sniff it out.

Send items about your comings and goings 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 abbreviated edition of Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers. We will print no news unless you send it.

## Neighborhood Havdalah

Join other TI members at 6 p.m. on **December 3** for a community havdalah service and potluck dinner at the home of **Jennifer & Josh Kefer**.

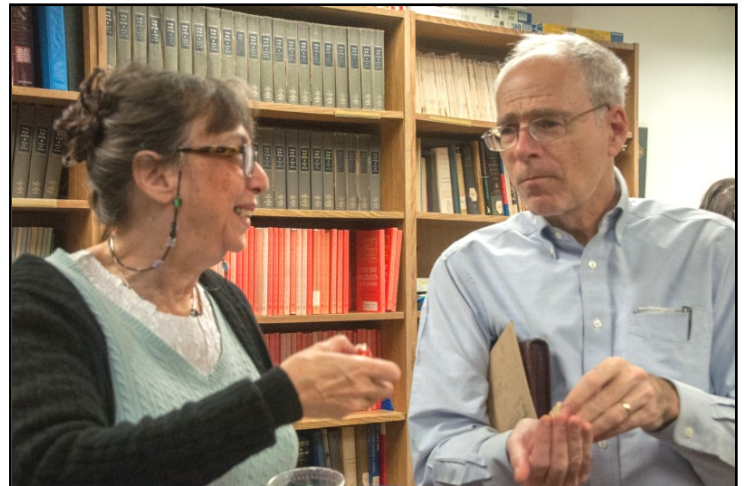
Please bring a kosher dairy or vegetarian dish, enough for eight people to share.

If you plan to attend, RSVP to TI, so the Kefers will know how many people to expect.

Future neighborhood havdalah dinners are scheduled for January 7 and February 25. Mark your calendars.

## Comedy Night with Benji Lovitt, November 16

(Photos by Julie Steinberg)



## B'nei Mitzvah

Hi! My name is **Seth Riker** and I am looking forward to my Bar Mitzvah on December 10. I am a seventh grader at Lowell School. My favorite subjects are History and English. I am excited to go to the National Museum of African American Culture & History this year with my school class.

My parents are Danielle Glosser and Howard Riker. I also have a little brother named Adam who is in second grade, and a pet fish. In my free time I like playing sports, especially baseball. I also enjoy reading, and being with my brother and friends.

For my Bar Mitzvah project, I organized a blood drive at TI. Many thanks to those of you who participated.

I also would like to thank my tutor, Rabbi Mark Novak, for helping me learn how to read and chant my Torah and haftarah portions and other parts of the service. Finally, I thank my family for supporting me throughout this entire process.



My name is **Alexander Israel Wolfson**. My bar mitzvah is December 17. I am a seventh-grader at North Bethesda Middle School, where my favorite subject is English. I have two sisters, Margaret (17) and Rachael (11) and a brother, Thomas (14). I also have a yellow lab named Ira and two cats named Leo and Benny.

I am a year-round swimmer on All Star Aquatics and am in the pool nearly every day for practice. My two favorite strokes are butterfly and breast-stroke. I also love baseball and this past fall played on the BCC Select Yankees (this year I'll be on the Indians). I look forward to playing basketball for Kadima this winter. I play clarinet in my school's advanced band.

Next to my bar mitzvah coming up, the high point of this year for me was the Cubs winning the World Series. I am the fourth generation of Cubs fans in my family. I also enjoy reading. Some of my favorite books include the *Harry Potter* series and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

For my bar mitzvah project, I'll be volunteering at the Charles E. Smith Life Communities. I have really enjoyed working with Judy Cohen to get ready for my bar mitzvah and have learned so much from her. I hope to see you at my bar mitzvah!



## Israel's Money and Idolatry

### Simcha Kuritzky

After Israel's independence, her government decided to adopt designs from ancient coins and artifacts. This effectively adopted the millennia-old prohibition against graven images showing people or animals on coins. At first, Israel's notes only portrayed landscapes, buildings and geometric designs.

Israel officially adopted the rule that living people could not be portrayed on coins, notes, or even medals (by comparison, Congress only prohibited living people from being shown on stamps and banknotes). Then Israel's Chief Rabbis decided that a flat image, such as printing on a bank-note, was not an engraved image, and in 1958 Israel added allegorical figures to their notes, followed in 1968 by images of real people.

When it came to commemorative coins (not released into circulation), the Chief Rabbis followed the advice of the *Shulhan Arukh* and required the image be sunken and show only one eye. Israel's coins commemorating Herzl's birth centennial in 1960, the tenth anniversary of first President Weizmann's death in 1962, and the death of Israel's first Prime Minister Ben Gurion in 1975, all follow this formula, with a side view bust in a small sunken rectangle.



Meanwhile, Israel placed first President Weizmann on her 50 lirot and Herzl on her 100 lirot banknotes.

Both were retained on the same denominations in the next series of banknotes, then changed to 5 and 10 shekalim after the 1980 monetary reform.



In 1981 and 1982, Israel replaced her 5 and 10 shekalim notes with coins. Two years later, the Bank of Israel wanted to issue a circulating commemorative coin portraying Herzl, but were concerned that the Haredim might ban the coin as a graven image.

The solution was actually developed by the Swiss five years earlier when they commemorated Einstein's birth centennial. The portrait on the 5 franc coin is actually composed of the letter E repeated to make the dark sections of a photographic image. When light hits the smooth part of the coin, it turns white, so the "positive" part of the photo is actually the field of the coin.



This technique was approved by Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren and so Israel hired the Bern Mint to issue similar coins portraying Herzl. In 1984 and 1985, Israel issued three such commemoratives as they phased out the 10, 50, and 100 shekalim notes. Herzl's portrait is composed of the name Herzl in tiny Hebrew letters, Ben Gurion's portrait

has tiny menorot, and Jabotinsky's has tiny interlocking Magen David. While all these coins were sold at face value by the post offices, the rampant inflation caused the coins to be demonitized before any significant number actually circulated.



In 1985, the Bank of Israel created the shekel hadash, whose sign is ₪ equal to 1000 shekalim. By then inflation had been arrested and the new shekel actually climbed in value against the dollar.

The 500 and 1000 shekalim banknotes were replaced by half and one shekel hadash coins, and special commemoratives portraying Baron Edmond de Rothschild (the rough areas are made up of the names of the 44 villages he helped found) and Maimonides (the rough areas are simply dots) in 1986 and 1988.



PM Eshkol's coin was issued in 1990 when the ₪5 note was replaced with a coin, the rough areas are just a series of thin lines. Realizing they

(Continued on page 14)

## December Highlights at Tifereth Israel

- December 3** Rabbi Abramowitz, "TI History From the Bimah," during Shabbat morning service.  
SHALEM, "Let My People In: Accessibility and the Synagogue," 1:15 p.m.  
Havdalah Potluck, home of Josh & Jennifer Kefer, 6 p.m.
- December 4, 11** "Drashot of Chassidic Masters," Stan Dorn, 7:00 p.m.
- December 5, 12, 19** Monday Lunch & Learn  
*Parashat HaShavuah*, 11 a.m.; Lunch, 12 noon
- December 10** Seth Riker Bar Mitzvah  
USY Lock-in, 5:30 p.m.  
TI Millennials Plus Havdalah and Dessert, at home of Ruth & Gabe Tabak, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- December 11** Kol Nashim Meet & Mingle at home of Rose Ellen Halper
- December 11, 18** "Jewish Civilization from Mohammed to Spinoza,"  
Lectures 5, 6, 7 & 8, 10:15 a.m.-12 noon
- December 16** Shabbat Dinner and Program, "Feed Your Neshama with Chef Michael Twitty," on kosher African American cooking
- December 17** Alexander Wolfson Bar Mitzvah
- December 18** Movie Nite, *Almost Peaceful*, 7:30 p.m.
- December 21** Sufganiyot Baking with Rabbi Seidel, 4:30-6:30 p.m.  
Family Hanukkah Extravaganza, 6:30-8 p.m.
- December 25-  
January 1** Hanukkah

For further details on these and other TI events go to our website at [www.Tifereth-Israel.org](http://www.Tifereth-Israel.org),  
Facebook at [www.facebook.com/TiferethIsrael](https://www.facebook.com/TiferethIsrael), or Twitter at [www.twitter.com/TiferethDC](https://www.twitter.com/TiferethDC).

## Israel's Money and Idolatry (continued)

should have honored Weizmann with a 5 shekalim coin back in 1984, the Bank belatedly put him on his own ₪ 5 in 1992 on the fortieth anniversary of his passing while still in office. The rough areas are made with dots.



The latest coin of this series was produced when the ₪10 note was replaced with a coin in 1996, and it shows Gold Meir using vertical lines.



All the shekel hadash coins circulated (if you're lucky you might still find them in your change in Israel), and they also include the honoree's name in Hebrew.

The modern State of Israel is the Third Jewish Commonwealth. Her coinage mixes images from the ancient Second Commonwealth and modern times. Her use of portraiture reflects both current techniques and ancient/medieval sensibilities.

## Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

### December 2

Rabbi Jason & Devora  
Kimelman-Block  
Alexandra Kincannon & Paul  
Moorehead  
Shemaya & Dori Klar  
Morris Klein & Naomi Freeman  
Aaron Kofner & Anat Shahar  
Roger Kohn  
Edward Koren & Claudine  
Schweber  
Michael & Lisa Kraft  
Anita Kramer  
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

### December 9

Alexander Laufer & Jennifer  
Siegel Laufer  
Jen Lav & Jane Gilvin  
Michael & Iris Lav  
Mitchell Lazarus & Judith  
Shapiro  
Beverly Lehrer  
Elihu Leifer  
Ken & Rachel Lemberg  
Martin Libicki & Denise Mazorow  
Steve LeVine & Nuri  
Nurlybayeva  
Wylie & Kim Levone  
Mark Lewis & Janet Nesse  
Dan Liebman & Lis Davis  
Lisa Traiger  
Michael Linden & Rebecca  
Melsky  
Fred Lipschultz & Rabbi Devorah  
Lynn  
John & Lynne List  
John Lister

### December 23

Oscar & Amy Mann  
Sarna Marcus

Stephen Marcus & Renee  
Matalon  
Ilana Marmon & Paul McLeary  
Joseph & Paula Martin  
Robert Mathis & Tali Stopak-  
Mathis  
David & Carla Matusow  
Stephanie & Yony Mazal  
Allison & Colin McMillan  
Tobi McFarland  
David & Janice Mehler  
Robert & Laura Meisnere  
Stephen Meltzer  
Ethan Merlin & Joelle Novey  
David & Dana Mermelstein  
Sarah & Rachel Meytin  
Josephine Mickelson  
Michael & Barbara Milton  
Emily & Adil Moiduddin  
Jacob & Elaine Mondschein  
Ken Morris & Terri Zall

### December 30

Jonah & Stephanie Murdock  
Myron Murdock & Judy Herzog-  
Murdock  
Beth Naftalin  
Ray & Adele Natter  
Ari Ne'eman and Ruti Regan  
Sheridan & Dana Neimark  
Michael H. New & Linda  
Turnowski  
Stephen Nelson & Leslie  
Goodman-Malamuth  
Lee & Hedy Ohringer  
Sarah Osborne  
Jessica & Jonathan Panikoff  
Larry Paul & Joye Newman  
Perry & Fylis Peckham  
Daniel Pederson & Dafna Spear  
Melissa Perera  
Adam & Jessica Perlmutter  
Jeff & Cynthia Peterman  
Michael Pitch & Elaine Weiss  
Joshua Pitlick & Janet Blank  
Lisa Plotkin

### January 6

David & Laurel Rabin  
Glenn Rapoport

Jacqueline Ratner  
Andrew Reamer  
Sanford & Shelley Reback  
Naomi Reem  
Jay Renbaum & Shannah Koss  
Arnold & Naomi Revzin  
Ruth Reynolds  
Howard Riker & Danielle Glosser  
Morris & Judy Rodenstein  
Joseph Rofrano & Lynn  
Golub-Rofrano  
Charles Rombro & Pamela  
Stone  
Chris Romer & Amy Nelson  
Elliot Rosen & Sharon Cohen  
Andrew Roshwalb & Jackelyn  
Lopez Roshwalb  
Aviel Roshwald & Alene Moyer  
Ari Roth & Kate Schechter  
Nancy Roth  
Marc Rothenberg & Ivy Baer

### January 20

Robert Rovinsky & Renana  
Brooks  
David & Stephanie Rubin  
Howard & Hannah Rubin  
Stephen & Jill Saletta  
Mark & Diann Saltman  
Lawrence & Pearl Schainker  
Eric & Shira Schechtman  
Daniel Schiff  
Michael & Mical Schneider  
Keith Secular & Susan Catler  
Paul Seltman & Jeanne Ireland  
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