



# The Menorah

**Notes from the Rabbi: Ethan Seidel**

## Attention: Parents of Intermarried Children

I am thinking of starting a support group for parents of intermarried children. This can be a tricky subject to talk about, but let me try by enumerating a few basic principles upon which I think we may be able to agree:

We parents know that by the time a child reaches a certain age we have little control over their choices. We can offer advice – we *should* offer advice – but we have to be careful; too much pressure can send our children the other way. Finding the right balance between advice and support is a tricky proposition; what constitutes the right balance differs with every child. Sometimes chatting with other parents in the same situation can be enormously supportive, both by providing consolation, and by exposing us to new ideas.

There is another difficult balance to be struck when it comes to intermarriage. On the one hand, we need to welcome all who want to join our community, who want to live a Jewish life, who want to raise Jewish kids.



On the other hand, the statistics tell us what our intuition also insists: families with two Jewish parents are the most likely to have kids who identify as Jews. On yet another hand, we have seen in our own

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**President's Column: John List**

## Lessons Learned in a Caring Community

It was with great sadness and respect that I recently attended the funerals and *shivah minyanim* and served as a *shomer* for our TI members Debra Shleien and David Cohen. These events helped me to bring into focus many thoughts about the strength of our community. I got to know more about some of the values-centered individuals who affiliate with TI, and regretted not knowing them better during their lifetime. I also learned how our tradition helps with loss and can motivate future actions.

These recent deaths and others bring us together in our tradition's practices of care and respect. We are fortunate to have an active Funeral Practices Committee and *Hevrah Kaddishah* who are available to us at all times, Rabbinic guidance and office

support for funerals and all the related activities.

The way that TI can and does bring all of these functions together is a shelter of tradition and warmth that often goes unrecognized until one reflects back

on it all after the intense emotion of the loss. It has been my privilege to participate as a *shomer* and to attend *shivah minyanim*. It is gratifying to be part of a congregation with many members who

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Notes from the Rabbi (continued)

congregation children of intermarrieds who do indeed so identify.

The problem: how can we uphold the ideal of inmarriage, while at the same time welcome intermarrieds. Some would say this is impossible, that to be really welcoming to intermarrieds, we must renounce, or at least not mention the ideal of inmarriage. I respectfully disagree. But I don't pretend this is an easy balance to strike.

Though I'm told (I hope this is true!) our congregation seems to be doing a pretty decent job of welcoming in intermarried families and supporting them in their efforts to live Jewish lives and raise Jewish children, I'm also told (I think with some accuracy) that we're less good when it comes to supporting parents of children who have married (or are likely to marry) non-Jews. I'm thinking

that my leading a support group for such parents might help us do better.

If you're interested, let me know!

Rabbi Seidel

## Dinner & Theater J Reading

TI's **Friday Night Dinner** on **February 26** will feature a reading by Theater J on the play *Falling Out of Time*, based on the novel by David Grossman, translated from the Hebrew by Jessica Cohen. The play is adapted and directed by Derek Goldman.

Save the date! Sign up now online at <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/feb2016dinner>.

A synopsis of the play: The Walking Man leaves on an expedition to find his lost son in that shadowy and mysterious place where the living and the dead may meet again. As he paces in ever-widening circles, townsfolk fall into step with him and share their grief over their own departed loved ones.

A new adaptation of acclaimed Israeli author David Grossman's novel about enduring loss. This incandescent fable of parental grief powerfully distills the experience of accepting death in a way that is moving, beautiful and timely in Israeli society, and across cultures.

"A richly emotional, mystical and philosophical tapestry... [in the] tradition of art that pushes back against catastrophe." - *The Jewish Daily Forward*

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## Financial Topics Survey

Conversations with TI members have led **Howard Gleckman** and **Andrew Reamer** to think there might be sufficient interest in a speaker series on **household finance topics**, such as saving for children's college education, wisely choosing charitable contributions, saving for retirement and deciding about long-term care insurance.

Please go online to the TI website to take a quick survey -- estimated time required is only three minutes -- to let them know what topics are of interest to you.

Once they hear back from people, they'll figure out how to proceed.

## President's Column (continued)

give time and attention to the many activities prior to and following a congregant's or family member's funeral.

An active committee of volunteers, supported by paid staff, organizes funerals and burials, recruits *shomrim* and arranges *shivah* services. Other dedicated volunteers perform *taharah*, and still others coordinate or prepare meals for bereaved families. This attention and concern for one another makes TI a caring and respectful community.

It makes me proud to remember that members of TI were the driving force in the formation of the Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington. For many years that committee has negotiated contracts with area funeral homes through which TI and other congregations can provide *halakhic* funeral services and burials at low, fixed costs while relieving bereaved families of the stress of financial arrangements.

The concept of a pre-arranged funeral contract that followed *halakhic* requirements gained

### Thank You from Bernie Shleien

I cannot come close to the depth of feeling Debra found in her use of words. However, I wish to express my sincere thank you for the cards, contributions and food that came to our home.

Affectionately,  
Bernie

momentum after a TI Retreat focused on this topic.

As you may know, in addition to owning a cemetery in Southeast Washington, TI also has its own section in the Mt. Lebanon Cemetery in nearby Maryland, another significant asset of our congregation.

Listening to the eulogies and remembrances at recent funerals and *shivah minyanim* has helped me to think about the qualities in those we have lost that I valued first-hand and was fortunate to experience. This is both affirming and comforting, but also leaves me with a sense of regret for not having reached out more often to spend time with those who are now gone.

### When to Begin

I have been thinking about how to address that regret. A first step for me is deciding when to begin. The loss of Debbie and David occurred as I was beginning with my teacher a study practice using the daily *siddur*.

In our daily worship, Hebrew verbs are often used in the imperative: do it with emphasis and do it now! There are many examples (often in the plural) in words and phrases that we commonly recite: *Barkhu* (Praise!); *Hodu* (Give thanks!); *Gadlu* (Acclaim!); *Shiru* (Sing!); and, for the singular *Barkhi* (Praise!), as we meditate before putting on a *tallit*. So, taking a lead from the imperative verb form in the *siddur*: do it emphatically and do it immediately!

With this in mind, I have started to use some of the ideas that I took

away from the remembrances of Debbie and David. As suggested in one eulogy for Debbie, I read *An Uncommon Reader* as a way to learn more about Debbie's spirit. It may be a small step but I think of it as overcoming regret for not knowing her better or not having saved some of her handwritten notes to me and Lynne.

In listening to the remembrances of David, what stood out to me to try to immediately work on is the way he was able to bring people together and how he could always be optimistic that good could be achieved.

Other ways that their spirits are influencing my self-improvement are in the areas of overcoming reticence about meeting new people, remembering to contemplate with care the challenge of new ideas, broadening my perspectives, teaching as well as learning, and mostly about moving forward.

### Dance Demonstration

TI'er **Frank Solomon** will demonstrate eight ballroom dances at the Dance Expo at the Silver Spring YMCA, Wednesday evening, **January 6**. The expo will feature five instructors, with Frank doing the ballroom category.

His performance will alternate between Standard and Latin: Waltz, Triple Swing (Jive), Viennese Waltz, Rumba, Foxtrot, Cha-cha, Tango and Samba. Frank will perform from 7:45 to 8:15 p.m. The showcase is free to both Y members and non-members.

## New Members

### Jared Garelick

#### Aaron Kofner and Anat Shahar

Aaron and Anat, following coincidental childhood trajectories, were both born in Israel, then moved with their families to the US at age four and five. Aaron grew up in Gaithersburg and Anat in New Jersey. Together they have lived in Takoma Park for the past five years, following a period in Santa Monica, California.



The couple originally met in gorgeous Ithaca, New York, where both were attending Cornell University.

Aaron works as a research programmer at the RAND Corporation, specializing in health policy.

Anat earned a PhD in geochemistry at UCLA while they were out west and now works

as a planetary scientist at the Carnegie Institution. She has a special research interest in how planets are formed.

Aaron and Anat have a son, **Adam**, age seven, and a daughter, **Lyla**, who is five. The family was looking for a synagogue convenient to their home and a few people suggested TI would be a good fit for them. The whole family enjoys hiking, biking, and other outdoor activities.

#### Amy Nelson and Chris Romer

Amy and Chris moved to Washington about three years ago from Berkeley, California. Amy is originally from New York and Chris grew up in an American family in London, repatriating himself as a young adult. While they were out west, Amy earned a PhD in political science and international relations at Berkeley. She now works at the Council on Foreign Relations, specializing in nuclear security and arms control issues. She is writing a book on arms control practices in a changing security environment.

Chris is a sculptor working mostly in wood. This past semester he was an artist in residence at Montgomery College. He also does work for an art installation company helping install and move artworks. The family includes

two daughters, **Isadora**, who is five and a half, and **Zinnia**, one and a half.

Among other interests, Chris maintains a notable collection of antique ice fishing decoys. Amy is a serious cook, having cooked at various restaurants and catering her way through graduate school. She also spent a year as a fromagere (working with cheese).

The family decided to join TI after falling in love with its Himmelfarb Hebrew school, and they enjoy the kid-centered holiday programming. It also turns out that longtime TI congregant Ray Natter was best friends in high school with Amy's father, earning Ray the TI Jewish Geography Committee's "Small Jewish World" award of the month.

Welcome to this month's featured new members.

### **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).

<b>Shelly Heller</b>	h: 301-942-1836 w: 202-242-6698
<b>David Cohen</b>	h: 301-652-2872
<b>Marcia Goggin</b>	h: 301-593-8480 w: 301-754-1963
<b>Bruce Heppen</b>	h: 301-299-3255 c: 202-997-1890 w: 703-417-8983
<b>Ann Kline</b>	h: 301-946-2693 c: 301-346-9862
<b>Robert Rovinsky</b>	h: 202 237 1036 c: 202 815 8707

## TI Centennial, 1916–2016

### Cynthia Peterman



Mark your calendars!

The TI Centennial year opens on the weekend of **October 22-23, 2016**, and our year of programming will conclude on the weekend of **May 6-7, 2017**.

We are still collecting memorabilia from Tifereth Israel's history, and we hope you can help us.

We are especially interested in any of the following:



Is that Carla Cohen in the back right of the image? Who are the other individuals in the photo and when was it taken?? Contact us at [tcentennial@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:tcentennial@tifereth-israel.org).

- Photographs of TI events (religious school programs, retreats, Purim and other holiday celebrations).
- Video that shows events in the synagogue building or at retreats.
- Documents such as committee reports (e.g., building renovation, social action) and event planning (e.g., 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations).

No item is too small, so please let us know what you have. Contact [tcentennial@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:tcentennial@tifereth-israel.org).

## Winter/Spring Membership Package

- **Dues reduction:** 50% reduction off full regular dues until June 30
- **Two free Shabbat dinners** for the adults and children in your family
- **Tuition reduction:** free Himmelfarb school tuition for the first child in your family and 50% off tuition for your other children, for the first year you have children attending our school.

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

## Social Action at TI: Stephen Nelson Social Action Shabbaton, January 16

Tifereth Israel's Social Action Shabbaton has featured speakers and discussions of many social action topics through the years, ranging from the contributions to the African-American community by Julius Rosenwald (recently the subject of a full-length documentary by Aviva Kempner) and the important role played by Jewish physicians during the civil rights marches and protests.

This year, on **January 16**, the Shabbaton will focus more inwardly on the programs that the committee sponsors on a regular basis, including the Martha's Table van run, the Luther Place Dinners, the Shepherd Park Tutoring Program, and the Passover Food Delivery.

The featured speaker during the Shabbaton will be **Patty Stonesifer**, the President and CEO of Martha's Table, a D.C. institution focused on providing less fortunate D.C. residents nutrition, clothing and educational opportunities. She will discuss the role that Martha's Table plays in the community.

For more than 20 years, TI has been participating in the organization's van run program, in which TI members and friends have been delivering hot meals, sandwiches, desserts, and beverages to the homeless at two locations in downtown D.C.

### Worked with Gates Foundation

Stonesifer joined Martha's Table in 2013. She spent 10 years as the co-chair and Chief Executive Officer of the Bill and Melinda

Gates Foundation. Before that, she spent two decades working in the technology industry, particularly for Microsoft.

In an interview with the *Washington Post* right after she was hired by Martha's Table, Stonesifer recognized the value of volunteers like TI's. "The strength of Martha's Table is in the thousands of small donors and volunteers that ensure we deliver services every day. I don't want my coming here to make people step back in any way," she said.

### Panel Discussion

As usual, the Shabbaton continues after lunch with a panel discussion, this year moderated by **Rabbi Seidel**. Among those participating will be:

- **Shroeder Stribling**, Executive Director of the N Street Village, founded by members of the Luther Place Memorial Church.
- **Jack Ventura**, immediate past president of the Chesapeake Region of B'nai B'rith International and an active member of its Project Hope.
- **Cynthia Prather**, co-director of the Early Readers program at Shepherd Elementary School, which she developed with the assistance of TI members Margie Odle and Carolivia Herron.
- a representative from Martha's Table.



The Shabbaton will also feature a Social Action Fair, which will be open during Shabbat and on Sunday morning. Plan to stop by the booths to learn about current and proposed social action projects.

We are particularly pleased to announce a program to share the stories of Jews of Color from Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

### Friday Night Dinner

On Friday evening, **January 15**, before the Shabbaton, there will be a dinner following Erev Shabbat services. After dinner, **Rabbi Abramowitz** will lead a discussion of social action at TI. To sign up online for the dinner, go to <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/jan2016dinner>.

### Tot Shabbat Schedule

11:10 a.m.

January 16

February 20

March 19

April 16

May 21

June 18

Mark your calendar today!

## A Response to TI's Health Care Panel

David Rabin MD MPH

On December 6, a panel of TI member health experts discussed the Affordable Care Act (ACA). I was to have been part of that panel, but was unable to participate on the rearranged date. I, like those on the panel, support the ACA, but I may go beyond the panel in believing that the ACA is such severely compromised legislation that it fails to address our nation's health care needs.

Since its passage the ACA has been further compromised by constraining states' adoption of Medicaid and defunding some other provisions. The ACA's greatest failure, however, is the assumption that a failing private insurance market can provide sustainable health care.

It is difficult to reconcile that assumption with both our nation's own and other developed nations' health care experiences. A dramatic illustration of the ineffectiveness of

our health care system is that death rates from conditions amenable to medical measures are consistently higher for the U.S. than for other developed nations. We -- whether infant, mother, or working-age adult - - are disabled and die sooner than those in other developed nations. And other developed nations ensure care for their entire populations at substantially less cost and with better health outcomes.

Our private insurance market is beneficial primarily for the wealthy, and affordable only for the healthy. This market has therefore failed repeatedly to cover the poor. In 1965, after years of failed state efforts, the state-federal Medicaid program was developed to address states' failure to adequately care for the sick and poor.

At that time, the private insurance market's inability to provide

affordable health insurance for those over 65 led to federal universal coverage, Medicare. In 1972, when those with end-stage kidney disease treatable by dialysis could not obtain private insurance, Medicare expanded to include them.

By 2009, private insurance was unaffordable or unattainable for many with incomes up to \$80,000. In response, an ACA provision subsidizes their purchase of private health insurance. To ensure that such insurance would be purchased, the ACA initiated a mandate and penalties for those deemed able to afford private insurance. But the ACA still leaves 31 million uninsured and unable to afford insurance.

Our national experience shows that public insurance, Medicare, controls costs more effectively than private insurance. Further, Medicare is more cost-efficient, providing health care for 97% of a dollar compared with 80 or 85% of a private insurance dollar. Under Medicare, an over-65 person's life expectancy now compares favorably with that in other developed nations.

Why then, when we say that private companies should stand on their own feet and fail if they cannot compete, do we subsidize the purchase of costly private health insurance? Why do we perpetuate private insurance at levels burdensome for business which provide ever more restrictive access to care?

It is ironic and unsustainable public policy to subsidize mandated costly private health insurance, which fails to provide affordable health care to an ever increasing proportion of the insured. There is a better way -- based on our own experience with our most respected insurance program, Medicare. This better way is called Medicare, but not just for those over 65, rather Medicare for All.

## News from Goettingen, Germany

Naomi Revzin

The Goettingen Gemeinde celebrated the first night Hanukkah with music, games and a congregational candle lighting ceremony. Members brought cakes and cookies to augment the traditional Hanukkah desserts. The 6th candle was lit before the Kabbalat Shabbat service which also marked Rosh Hodesh.

The Ozarichi concentration camp near Minsk was remembered in December. This camp is remembered as the German army's single most horrific crime. General, Friedrich Hobach, who was from Goettingen, played a significant role in establishing this camp. A 2006 documentary film describes how in 1944 the German army moved 50,000 people into this improvised death camp. When the Red army liberated Ozarichi in 1945, more than

9,000 prisoners had died or been killed.

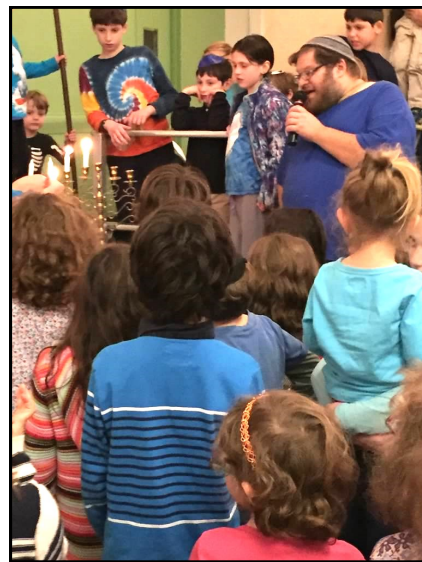
Overcoming being the foreigner was the Gemeinde's December study focus, as Germany welcomed Syrian refugees. The congregation investigated what its response should be in light of Jewish traditional texts.

The Gemeinde's children learned about the approaching New Year celebration, as 2015 is ending and 5776 continues. The children are exploring the many Jewish years and how Jews celebrate the Jewish year.

Like TI, the Gemeinde continues its ongoing schedule of courses in Hebrew and, unlike TI, also in German (for Russian immigrants).

# Hanukkah Celebration, December 9, 2015

(photos by Jennifer Kefer)





## A Message from the TI Environment Committee: How to Create Your Own Rain Garden at Home

### Mud No More!

Devorah Lynn and Fred Lipschultz

Many of you know that we moved back into the house I grew up in on 17<sup>th</sup> Street after an extensive renovation. The backyard, in the wake of the contractors, was denuded of its mature azaleas and lovely dogwood. In exchange for a wonderful screened porch we got a yard leveled to red dirt and clay.

Well, leveled would have been nice. Actually the backyard is a 45-degree slope up the Jonquil Street hill. At every rainstorm last spring, and there were many downpours, I watched the hill slide down the side of the garage in a torrent of mud, straight into the storm sewer and into Rock Creek, and continuing to the Potomac.

That's when the DC Department of Energy and the Environment (DCDOEE) came to the rescue. We had applied last year for a grant from the River Smart Homes project to do Bay-Scaping, plantings that were not just "skin-deep" and would anchor the soil far better than grass. We were now ready to carry through with our plan.

DCDOEE assigned our file to Bona Terra, a small, local company, who, with a \$1300 River Smart Homes grant, helped us actualize a landscaping plan designed by Carla Ellern, a landscape architect. Within weeks we had a beautiful stair-step up the side of the garage looking like it walked across the street from Rock Creek Park. Large pavers, washed stone, deer-resistant, shade-loving ferns, azaleas and cherry laurel lined the walk.

At the next rainstorm I grabbed my umbrella and watched as the rain was stopped COMPLETELY by the hard-and live-scape. Not a teaspoon of mud came onto the driveway and little clear rain-water spilled over the new staircase, all of it being soaked up by our new and old plantings.



In addition to the Bay-Scaping we purchased two rain barrels from District Gardener and two trees, a redbud for the front and a magnolia for the back, from Casey Trees, all subsidized by DCDOEE. We are really excited to see our new garden when the spring returns next year.

### “Green Infrastructure” Needed

Sylvia Horwitz

Do you have a rain barrel or two? Have you put in a rain garden or swale? Installed a green roof? Paved your driveway with permeable pavers? How about “Bay-Scaping” or other “conservation landscaping”?

If so, the TI Environment Committee would love to hear about it.

If not, we hope you'll be inspired by TI's rain garden on Juniper Street and permeable pavement in the alley, as well as by what other Tiers have done at their homes.

The Environment Committee will be featuring members' “green infrastructure” projects in a series of *Menorah* articles. The first (see article on left) describes the transformation of the yard at Devorah Lynn and Fred Lipschultz's house.

Here are some local resources to get you started:

District of Columbia: <http://doee.dc.gov/service/riversmart-homes/>

Casey Trees (DC): <http://caseytrees.org/programs/planting/rebate/>

Montgomery County, MD: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/water/rainscapes.html>

Prince George's County, MD: <http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/StormwaterManagement/Services/RainCheck/Rebates/Pages/default.aspx>

Arlington County, VA: <https://environment.arlingtonva.us/stormwater-watersheds/stormwater-at-home/>

Fairfax County, VA: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/cap/>

More information: <http://www2.epa.gov/soakuptherain>

To tell us about what you have done at your home, please contact Sylvia Horwitz at [sylvia.horwitz@verizon.net](mailto:sylvia.horwitz@verizon.net).

We look forward to featuring *your* green infrastructure in a future *Menorah* article!

## Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

### Barbara Raimondo

#### What's the matter with kids today? It'll take a . . .

Opening with a nod to TI's used-to-be-children and their current goings on, dontcha remember when they used to scoop up the candy at bar mitzvahs? Congratulations to **Asaf Rodenstein**, son of **Judy** and **Morris Rodenstein**, who has completed his military service in the Israel Defense Forces.

To **Jeremy Halpern**, son of **Jonathan Halpern**, who was named a Fulbright Scholar for the 2014-2015 academic year.

To **Ezra Marcus**, son of **Renee Matalon** and **Stephen Marcus**, who graduated with honors from Harvard Law School in May 2015 and is now in Houston on a year-long clerkship with a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

And to **Sara Marcus**, of the same parentage (such a small world!), who was living in Boston until August 2015, working as a senior strategy consultant for the global consulting firm Oliver Wyman. Sara recently moved to Denver to join the corporate strategy team at Earthbound Farms, the largest organic produce company in the U.S.

And last but not least, to **Natan Seidel**, son of **Rabbi Ethan** and **Rachel Seidel**, who graduated from Emory University's School of Medicine this spring and is currently in his residency program in pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital.

All finished with all that work stuff is **Sheridan Neimark**, who can now announce that he's retired entirely (say that three times fast) as senior partner/member and co-owner of the intellectual property law firm Browdy and Neimark. Sheridan spent more than 50 years in practice. Bet he's pretty good at it by now (hahaha).

**Jeff Peterman** left Maryland for Seoul on Friday December 4, and was in Seoul for the first night of Hanukkah. He left Seoul after dark on Saturday December 12, flying for 10 hours and arriving in San Diego on Saturday morning, December 12, staying overnight in San Diego. That means he experienced that night of Hanukkah twice, and so celebrated the holiday for nine nights this year. It was only supposed to last eight nights. A miracle?

For a miracle of a different sort, for Thanksgiving, **Alan Landay** visited his niece, **Dyanna**, husband **Pramodh**, and their 5-month old daughter, **Leela** (newest grand-niece!), in Brooklyn. They had dinner with their upstairs neighbor family, just like in the movies. They went to see the balloons for the Macy's Thanksgiving parade in their staging area on Wednesday evening. There were no reported escapes, luckily.

On Sunday, Alan did his own NYC walking tour, over and yonder through Brooklyn and across the famous bridge on a beautiful sunny day. He took in the tourist spots and hopped the subway back to Brooklyn.

#### Worth the wait.

**Alan** and **Cyndy Weitz** have reported on the identity of their new grandchild, who appeared nameless in the last *Nayes*. He is called **Benjamin Dov Costa**, after Alan's father, the newborn's great-grandfather.

**Daniel Kraft**, MD, son of **Michael** and **Lisa Kraft**, recently was selected for the Aspen Institute's brand new Health Innovators Fellowship program. The 20 fellows are medical innovators and entrepreneurs who meet regularly to help develop new approaches to improve health care. Daniel,

previously a stem cell researcher at Stanford, is the Chair of Medicine at Singularity University in Mountain View, California. In November he presided at his organization's week-long Exponential Medicine conference that attracted nearly 600 medical researchers, scientists and entrepreneurs from around the world.

Meanwhile, Mike and Lisa went to Ann Arbor, Michigan, for the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Michigan Daily, the university newspaper where Mike was a senior editor. They later visited cousins in Denver and went hiking and horseback riding in Colorado and then in New Hampshire before spending a week with their two grandkids in Cambridge, MA.

Their daughter **Dina**, a former Associated Press and Jewish Telegraph Agency correspondent in Jerusalem and Johannesburg, is associate director of a new digital journalism program at Northeastern University following her Nieman journalism fellowship at Harvard.

#### Sad News

**Selma Beyer**, mother of member **Dana Beyer**, and grandmother of **Jonathan** and **David**, died in November, after a long illness. She was 87. Funeral services were in Delray Beach, Florida.

**Muriel Berkowitz**, mother of TI member **George (Marjorie) Greenberg**, grandmother of **Joshua (Mindy) Greenberg** and **Deborah Greenberg (Ruben Seenivasa Pillai)**, and great-grandmother of **Noah, Jordan Rose** and **Aliza**, died on December 9, after a short illness. She was 93. Funeral services were held at TI, and she was buried in New York.

And member **David Cohen**, husband of the late **Carla Cohen**, died

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Gevarim

### Andrew Reamer

#### Sunday Brunch: Food for Thought

**January 10, 10:00 a.m.** "The Economics of Alternative Israeli-Palestinian Scenarios," **C. Ross Anthony**, director of the Israeli-Palestinian Initiative, RAND Corporation. Discussant: TI member **Howard Sumka**, former USAID officer for West Bank-Gaza and former CEO of OneVoice.

Dr. Anthony will discuss his study estimating the economic costs and benefits over the next ten years of five alternative trajectories of the Israeli-Palestinian relationship — a two-state solution, coordinated unilateral withdrawal, uncoordinated unilateral withdrawal, nonviolent resistance, and violent uprising — compared with the costs and benefits of a continuing impasse.

Cost is \$10 for Gevarim and Kol Nashim members, \$12 for others.

#### Movie Nite@TI

**January 17, 7:30 p.m.** *Gett: The Trial of Viviane Ansaem* (drama,

subtitles, Israel, 2014, 115 mins). An Israeli woman (Ronit Elkabetz) seeking to finalize a divorce (gett) from her estranged husband finds herself effectively put on trial by her country's religious marriage laws, in this powerhouse courtroom drama from sibling directors Shlomi and Ronit Elkabetz.

The movie is free, nosh is \$4.

#### Game Night

**January 30, 7:30 p.m.** Gevarim and Kol Nashim are pleased to once again sponsor TI's annual Game Night. See Kol Nashim column, page 12, for details.

#### Shabbat Talmud Study

Tractate *Brakhot* is the first tractate of the Talmud, and also one of the most accessible. In addition to the normal "talmudic" discussions of *halakhah*, there are also many enchanting stories and fables. Rabbi Seidel continues teaching large pieces of this tractate to those who are interested, approximately twice a

## גברים

month after lunch on Shabbat afternoons.

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

Shabbat afternoons, 1:00-1:45 p.m. January 9, 30; February 13, 27; March 12, 26; April 9; May 7, 21; June 4, 25.

## Nayes un Mekhayes (continued)

suddenly on November 29. He was 79. He is survived by his two children, **Aaron (Nina del Rio)** and **Eve Cohen (Richard Stanley)**, and grandchildren **Ry** and **Georgia**. Funeral services were held at Tifereth Israel, with burial at Mount Lebanon Cemetery.

May family and loved ones find strength in their memories.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *oneiric*: "of or relating to dreams: dreamy" (Merriam-Webster Online).

Thanks to all who sent me news, sent me to others who sent me news, or otherwise helped sniff it out. Please send items for next time to [baraimondo@gmail.com](mailto: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 this piece of a florilegium of Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers.



Hardy full-moon hikers on the cold night of November 22, 2015

## Kol Nashim

Louise Kelley and Debbie Pomerance

### Book Club

The KN Book Club met last month to talk about Robert Harris' *An Officer and A Spy*. The large turnout of bibliophiles enjoyed a lively discussion of this novel about the Dreyfus case. See article below for details on January and February sessions.

### Game Night

This lively annual event, co-sponsored with Gevarim, is scheduled for **January 30**. New this year, charades are on the agenda!

Also poker and the usual fine array of board games and a nice nosh.

Not a game player? We'll have expert knitters and crocheters on hand to help with your project in case you lose a stitch..

### For Chocolate Lovers

Coming up on **February 7**, "For the Love of Chocolate." Join us for a tour of SPAGnVola, a Boutique Chocolatier, at their Gaithersburg location. They create award-winning chocolates, managing the entire process from farm to store. Their



chocolate beans come from their own estate in the Dominican Republic.

The tour is limited to twenty people. Sign up online at <http://tinyurl.com/KNChocolate>. The cost is \$15 and includes the chance to dip some chocolates of your own. For more details on carpool, plus the rabbi's views on kashrut of chocolate, see <http://www.tifereth-israel.org/love-chocolate-dipping-strawberries>.

## KN Book Club

Jessica Weissman

We meet next on **January 19** in the home of **Louise Kelley** and **Jessica Weissman** to read *The Lady in Gold: The Extraordinary Tale of Gustav Klimt's Masterpiece, Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer*, by Anne-Marie O'Connor. This is a non-fiction account of the dramatic history of this painting, which became part of the spoils of WWII and was eventually...well..why spoil the story?

The book was the source for a movie called *The Woman in Gold*, starring Helen Mirren. The painting is in a small museum in New York, and well worth a visit according to those who have been there. Many copies of the book are available in local libraries, and it is easily available in paperback and electronic formats.

For **February** we will read *All of a Kind Family*. The entire series has been reprinted in paperback and is available in electronic format as well. Even though you probably read these when you were 10, I promise you they stand up well, and will pro-

vide plenty of material for discussion. If you never read them (I'm looking at you, guys) there is no nostalgia value but these are well-written books with more depth than you think.

Among the books considered for future readings are *The Golem and the Jinni* (a novel), *Countrymen*, a history of how Denmark's Jews escaped the Nazis with the help of their countrymen, and (for National Poetry month in April, if people are interested) the poems of Yehudah Amichai. He is a wide-ranging poet who considers many Jewish topics and is readily comprehensible on first reading, even though the depth doesn't come through on a single reading.

Suggestions for future readings are welcome, especially nonfiction that is neither memoir nor centered on the Holocaust. Ideally books should be under 350 pages unless they are major page-turners. If someone knows of a book on Leo Frank that is both readable and less than 500 pages long, please contact me.

## SHALEM Programs

**February 6, Rabbi Chuck Feinberg, "Judaism and Human Rights."** Topics Rabbi Feinberg will discuss include: slavery in ancient and modern times; how the African American community has been affected by the war on drugs; and the nature of punishment in our prison systems and whether we as a society believe that there can be reconciliation and healing with those who have committed serious crimes. He will use the words of the Torah reading (*Parashat Mishpatim*) and the haftarah (Jeremiah) as a springboard for discussion.

**March 5, Ann Kline, "No Baloney – Being a Caregiver in the Sandwich Generation."** Like the airline advice, caregivers are told to take care of themselves so that they can be there for others. Hah! How are you supposed to do that when you are caring for aging parents and raising children and being pulled by a myriad of other life demands and expectations?

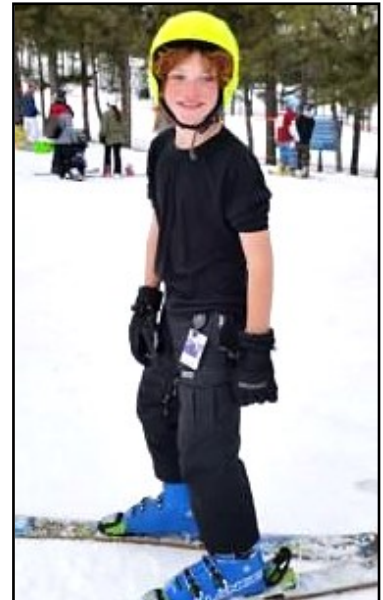
## B'nei Mitzvah

Hi, I'm **Ari Afflerbach**. I'm in seventh grade and go to Commonwealth Academy. I really like basketball and skiing and sailing. I also like my digital media class at school. We do a lot of cool things with Photoshop and Final Cut Pro. I like to make my own videos out of other videos. I'm on the Deep Creek Winter Sports Team and have raced for two seasons, doing slalom and giant slalom.

I'm doing two bar mitzvah projects — one was with Special Olympics last summer at St. Mary's College, where I went to sleep-away sailing camp. The other one is tutoring at Shepherd Elementary on Sundays.

I also like spending time with my cousins, who live in Chicago and in North Carolina. All of them are coming to my bar mitzvah. Last summer I went with two of them to Costa Rica, which was great. I got to surf, zipline and swing off a cliff into a lagoon on a Tarzan rope. It was a little scary at first, and once I nearly landed on some rocks.

I'm lucky that all four of my grandparents will be here too. Two of them, Bob and Helen Hovis, also go to TI. My *parashah* is *Sh'mot*. I'm studying with Cynthia Peterman. I'm learning the maftir together with my sister, Beryl, who is also doing one of the Torah readings.



Hi, my name is **Danielle Showstack**. I'm in the seventh grade in Alice Deal Middle School. My favorite subject in school is math. I used to go to JPDS, which really furthered my Jewish education. Every summer, for the last three years, I have gone to Camp Young Judaea Sprout Lake, a Jewish camp in upstate New York. Additionally, I have been doing gymnastics since I was four years old at Silver Stars Gymnastics, and I currently am competing at level C.

My Bat Mitzvah is on January 9, *Parashah Va'era*, which is about some of the first of the ten plagues. My tutor is Judy Cohen.

For my Bat Mitzvah project, I volunteered at three places. The first was Martha's Table, where I helped arrange clothing to sell at their thrift store. The second place was at the Rock Creek Conservancy, where I helped to cut down English Ivy, which is an invasive species in Rock Creek Park, which was very fun to do. The third place was the Sunflower Bakery, where I participated in their Bat Mitzvah program, learning about how the Sunflower Bakery helps disabled people.

I am really looking forward to my Bat Mitzvah. I'm happy to celebrate it with my family and friends.

## B'nei Mitzvah (continued)

I am **Adam Cohen**, son of David and Elana Cohen, and big brother to Jessica, and will become a Bar Mitzvah on January 30. I graduated from the Jewish Primary Day School (JPDS) in June 2015 and am currently a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Sidwell Friends School.

I enjoy playing tennis, running cross-country and indoor track, playing saxophone in the school band, reading, traveling and building things (especially with Legos!). I also love spending time with my 17 cousins and extended family.

For the past three years I have volunteered with Martha's Table once a month, helping to serve meals to individuals in need. Helping others in this way is even more meaningful because I do it with my grandparents, Esther and Gene Herman. I am also a regular helper with TI in distributing food during Rosh Hashanah, Passover, and Christmas.

I have strong ties to the state of Wisconsin, where my father was born and raised, and where my Grammy, Esther Cohen, lives. I'm a Green Bay Packer and Wisconsin Badger fan, and even own a cheesehead hat!



## January Highlights at Tifereth Israel

January 2	Ari Afflerbach Bar Mitzvah
January 4, 11, 18, 25	Monday Lunch & Learn <i>Parashat HaShavuah</i> , 11 a.m.; Lunch, 12 noon
January 9	Danielle Showstack Bat Mitzvah
January 10	Gevarim Brunch, "The Economics of Alternative Israeli-Palestinian Scenarios," 10:00 a.m.
January 15-16	Social Action Shabbaton: Friday Night Dinner/Panel Discussion; Shabbat Morning Talk and Post-Kiddush Panel
January 17	Movie Nite, <i>Gett: The Trial of Viviane Ansaem</i> , 7:30 p.m.
January 19	KN Book Club, <i>The Lady in Gold</i> , home of Louise Kelley and Jessica Weissman, 7:30 p.m.
January 30	Adam Cohen Bar Mitzvah Game Night, 7:30 p.m.

## Preparing/Serving Christmas Dinner for the Homeless



Carving Turkey (photo, Esther Herman)



Chase Partnership Shelter (photos, Jeff Peterman)



Dorothy Day Shelter (photos, Steven Stoller)



John Young Shelter (photos: Franca Brilliant, left and right; Stefan Gunther, center)



Loaves and Fishes Shelter (photos, Jeff Peterman)

## Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

### January 1

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 Robert Lande & Jeri Roth Lande

### January 8

Alexander Laufer & Jennifer Siegel Laufer  
 Michael & Iris Lav  
 Mitchell Lazarus & Judith Shapiro  
 Beverly Lehrer  
 Elihu & Sheila Leifer  
 Ken & Rachel Lemberg  
 Steve LeVine & Nuri Nurlybayeva  
 Wylie & Kim Levone  
 Mark Lewis & Janet Nesse  
 Dan Liebman & Lis Davis  
 Lisa Traiger  
 Fred Lipschultz & Rabbi Diana Lynn  
 John & Lynne List  
 John Lister

### January 22

Oscar & Amy Mann  
 Stephen Marcus & Renee Matalon  
 Joseph & Paula Martin  
 Robert Mathis & Tali Stopak-Mathis

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### January 29

Jonah & Stephanie Murdock  
 Myron Murdock & Judy Herzog-Murdock  
 Beth Naftalin  
 Ray & Adele Natter  
 Sheridan & Dana Neimark  
 Michael H. New & Linda Turnowski  
 Stephen Nelson & Leslie Goodman-Malamuth  
 Lee & Hedy Ohringer  
 Sarah Osborne  
 Jessica Goldings & Jonathan Panikoff  
 Larry Paul & Joye Newman  
 Perry & Fylis Peckham  
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 David Pelzer & Ellie Tiemann  
 Melissa Perera  
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### February 5

David & Laurel Rabin  
 Glenn Rapoport  
 Jacqueline Ratner  
 Marisol Ravicz & David Rapier

Andrew Reamer  
 Sanford & Shelley Reback  
 Naomi Reem  
 Jay Renbaum & Shannah Koss  
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 Elliot Rosen & Sharon Cohen  
 Andrew Roshwalb & Jackelyn Lopez Roshwalb  
 Aviel Roshwald & Alene Moyer  
 Ari Roth & Kate Schechter  
 Nancy Roth  
 Marc Rothenberg & Ivy Baer

### February 12

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  
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(Continued on page 18)

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