



The Menorah

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Notes from the Rabbi: Ethan Seidel Congregational Trip to Israel

We have lots of interest in the Israel trip!

We had a great meeting on Wednesday, May 18, with many who are seriously interested. Also present was Wylie Levone's cousin, who planned our last tour for us so well nine years ago, and will help us again this time around.

Judging from those who have so far expressed interest, it seems like this is going to be an adult trip, by which I mean teens and above. Among the many interests frequently mentioned about what we would do, I heard:

- some physical activity, in particular hiking
- being out in nature, in particular birding

- eating interesting Israeli food
- Visiting historical sites

Other interests expressed by some:

- avoid "first-timey" sites, but others, who have never been to Israel, would be interested
- art, film and theatre



(Continued on page 2)

President's Column: John List Fiscal Year 2016 in Review

When I became President a year ago, I was grateful to be part of a community with vibrant religious services, active social action, interesting and well-attended educational and cultural events, a vital Hebrew school, and a dedicated professional staff. And I knew there would always be new things going on. For example, at this time last year we had a plan for attractive and ADA-compliant bathroom renovations. Now we are fully using them and appreciating the change.

I also expected challenges to arise. Early on I focused on the fact that TI had not had a financial audit in over five years, nor a review of Lifelong Learning (LLL) in 10 years; that we needed to take a new look at our nearly 60-year-old building; and that we needed to prepare for our Centennial.

I have been gratified during this year by the involvement of so many of you in all of these activities — both individuals who have given their time and energy to serve on the Board and, very importantly, those

not on the Board who developed recommendations, did research, participated in planning, and continue to devote their time.

During this year, the Finance Committee recommended auditors for the Board to

(Continued on page 3)



Notes from the Rabbi (continued)

- make contact with people and places important to the non-Orthodox (like Kibbutz Hanaton and Women of the Wall)

To some extent we can provide options on a particular day, but that can increase the cost.

This would probably be a 10-14 day trip. For best prices, we need to plan a year out. It looks like, price-wise, November – early December of 2017 might be our best bet, avoiding both the summer heat and the expensive times of year. February of 2018 is also possible, but that feels far off.

We need at least 20 to make the trip financially viable. We're not going to be able to please everyone – whether with the date, or the itinerary.

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Next Step: We need to hear from everyone who is willing to make a (non-binding) commitment to come November – early December of 2017, so we can proceed with the planning.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Rabbi Seidel

Juniper Street Collection Jeri Roth Lande

We are still collecting books and CD's for Books for America. They donate new and used books of all types to disadvantaged schools, adult and youth literacy programs, youth centers, transitional homeless shelters, hospitals, assisted living communities for seniors, women's shelters, hospices, and more!

This is your chance to go through that pile of books in the basement and give some away.

Books must be in very good to excellent condition. Please contribute the following:

- Children's books are especially welcomed
- Nonfiction adult books -- hardcover or paperback
- Adult fiction -- paperback only
- Audiobooks on CD
- Music CD's

The following are **not** acceptable:

- Magazines
- Romance novels
- Travel guides, computer books, reference books or textbooks published before 2013
- Audiobooks or music on cassette tapes

As usual, place donations in the wicker basket at the Juniper Street entrance to TI.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Collection ends **Sunday, June 5.**

President's Column (continued)

consider; worked to prepare for an audit; and made recommendations for the budget and dues. This has been a very comprehensive task, balancing the sources of realistic income with known and anticipated expenses to meet the needs and wishes of the community.

An Ad Hoc Committee looked at LLL staffing, administrative support, coordination with other interest areas, and the role of lay leadership, and made recommendations for Board committees and for a regular review of LLL. The Board discussed the committee report at several sessions. Its recommendations form the basis for Board decisions and future actions. The decision to create two new part-time positions, Director of Education and Director of Community Engagement, was that of the Board, not the Ad Hoc Committee.

The House and Building Preservation Fund Committees looked at infrastructure priorities and recommended funding a reserve for anticipated significant future expenditures. With more large construction activity ahead of us, the Executive Director has developed a relationship with a project manager to advise us, who has also worked with the Committees.

The Centennial Committee has many people engaged in planning and funding for a year-long series of events to mark our anniversary.

The Board, in regular and special meetings over the past year, has been responsible as a group for decisions made. I saw my role as setting up or helping the various committees and groups, synthesizing their recommendations, setting time lines, and presenting options for the Board to consider.

We as a Board and I as President could have done a better job in some areas. I should have established better, more regular, and interactive communications to the broader TI community. I have heard your concerns about this failing and I take responsibility for it. While I think there have been improvements recently in this area, I know that there is more to do. I am also well aware that some of the decisions the Board and I have made have not gained the approval of some of you. I am sorry for the divisions in the community some of these decisions have caused. The decision-making process did not run smoothly, and I take responsibility for that. For one thing, I wish I had been able to solicit more input. I will be working on improvement in process during this next year.

Looking ahead to 2017, I see an opportunity for relationship building. To me that means an emphasis on communication, coordination and collaboration. I welcome your suggestions, your volunteering to help, and the opportunity to talk with any of you about your perspectives and opinions.

I plan to arrange meetings with different interest areas within TI, such as the Himmelfarb School. Important initiatives in relationship building will be the Listening Campaign the Rabbi has launched and the retreat planned for March 2017. The Rabbi, along with congregants, has started a process to get your ideas for designing a Congregational trip to Israel next year.

This past year, there have been many successes and new approaches which help TI financially and widen our visibility. These include: grants awarded to TI; increasing the number of rentals and rental fees; and creatively designing rental agreements to give TI a contribution of labor and/or visibility in the broader community. We also began to participate in a vehicle donation program, thus realizing income without additional administrative burden.

As I have said before, as President I get an opportunity to witness more closely and more often the effort and time that so many devote to the many activities that make up TI and define who we are. I am grateful for that.

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

TI Centennial, 1916–2016

Cynthia Peterman

We have a **full year** of programs planned to celebrate the TI Centennial. Your donation will help subsidize program costs and make most programs free.

Be a Centennial Supporter!

Volunteer. Assist with programs, graphic design and advertising and other activities.

Donate. There are many events during our centennial year which you can support:

- **Historical Exhibition.** Sponsor a panel or the entire show. Sponsorships are available between \$100 and \$5,000.

- **Kiddushim.** We will be holding monthly Centennial Shabbat programs. Contribute toward a *kiddush* or be the sponsor. Sponsorships between \$100 and \$1,600.
- **Performances.** We have two fantastic performers coming. Sponsorships between \$100 and \$5,000.
- **“Passport to 1916” Opening Program.** Sponsorships between \$50 and \$500.
- **Building Banner.** Sponsorships between \$50 and \$1,000.



To make a donation, contact Grant Maxfield in the TI Office at bookkeeper@tifereth-israel.org or 202-882-1605.

To learn more about Centennial events or to volunteer, contact Cynthia Peterman, Chair, Centennial Planning Committee at tidc100@tifereth-israel.org.

TI Israel Committee Brunch, July 10

Frank Solomon

On Sunday July 10, at 10 a.m., **Aviva Vogelstein**, an attorney with the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, Washington, DC, will speak on "Campus Anti-Semitism and the BDS Movement." Sponsored by TI's Israel Committee, the program will include brunch.



Aviva Vogelstein

Anti-Semitism is a growing problem in the United States today, specifically on college and university campuses. According to a joint Louis D. Brandeis Center & Trinity College report, 54% of Jewish students on 55 campuses nationwide reported experiencing or witnessing anti-Semitism during one-half of the 2013–2014 academic year alone.

A Brandeis University study (July 2015) of more than 1,000 Jewish college students revealed that nearly three-quarters had been exposed during the past year to anti-Semitic statements.

The spreading Boycotts, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel often contributes to hostile environments for Jewish students on college campuses. What is the Jewish community doing about it?

Attorney Aviva J. Vogelstein works with students nationwide in

responding to and combatting these issues on a daily basis. Vogelstein will address when anti-Israelism crosses the line into anti-Semitism, and discuss legal responses to dealing with these problems.

Please sign up at <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/campus2016> for this Sunday brunch presentation. The deadline for sign-up is **July 5**.

Tot Shabbat

The last Tot Shabbat this spring will be on **June 18**.

Set Up: **JT Taransky**

Service Leader: **Sara Goldberg**

Story Teller: **Daniel Handwerker**

Yom HaShoah Commemoration, May 1

photos by Jeff Peterman



Author Edith Mayer Cord speaks about being hidden as a child in France during the Holocaust



Deborah Stern and Esther Herman read names of Holocaust victims



Cynthia Peterman and Judith Berland read names of Holocaust victims

June Highlights at Tifereth Israel

- June 4** Jonathan Morris Bar Mitzvah
Installation of Officers & Board
Talmud Study, Rabbi Seidel, 1 p.m.
- Pirkei Avot Class at Rabbi Seidel's home, 4 p.m.
- June 5** Gevarim Brunch, "Revising Federal Categories for Race, Ethnicity and Gender," 10 a.m.
- Pirkei Avot Class, Rabbi Seidel, 11:15 a.m.
- Movie Nite, *Crossfire*, 7:30 p.m.
- June 6, 20, 27** Monday Lunch & Learn
Parashat HaShavuah, 11 a.m.; Lunch, 12 noon
- June 8, 15, 22, 29** Jewish Meditation, Izabella Tabarovsky, 7:15 p.m.
- June 11** Shabbat Morning Service celebrating JDS 50th anniversary and honoring TI high school graduates
- Erev Shavuot:
S'udat Sh'lishit (Dinner), 7 p.m.
Pre-Shavuot Study Session, 8 p.m.
Ma'ariv Service, 9:10 p.m.
Tikkun Leil Shavuot, 9:50 p.m.
- June 12** First Day Shavuot: Festival Services, 9 a.m.
Oliver Held Bar Mitzvah
- June 13** Second Day Shavuot: Festival Services, 9 a.m.; Book of Ruth, 10:15 a.m.; Yizkor, 11 a.m.
- June 18** Tot Shabbat, 11:10 a.m.
Kiddush Honoring Eitan Gutin
SHALEM, "The Role of Jewish Museums," 1:15 p.m.
- June 21** KN Book Club, home of Janice & David Mehler, 7:30 p.m.

Congregation Elects Officers and Directors; Approves Dues Increase

At the Annual Meeting on May 24, congregation members elected the following slate of officers, directors and trustees (*Incumbents marked with an asterisk*):

Officers

John List, President*
Ray Natter, Administrative VP*
Debbie Pomerance, Communications VP*
Judy Herzog Murdock, Development VP
Sharon Brown, Financial VP*
Daniel Turner, Governance VP*
Mark Verschell, House VP*
Chris Zeilinger, Lifelong Learning VP
Susan Catler, Membership VP*
Sheryl Gross-Glaser, Recording Secretary*
Wilhelmina Gottschalk, Ritual VP*
Varda Fink, Social Action VP

Jeffrey Davidson continues to serve as Immediate Past President

Cemetery Trustees

Charles Feinberg
Stephen Marcus*
Audrey Smith*

Building Preservation Fund Trustees

George Greenberg*
Hilary Sachs*
Anita Kramer*

At-Large Board Members Term Expiring 2017

Janet Blank
Vivian Seidner

Term Expiring 2019

Josh Goldberg
Shemaya Klar

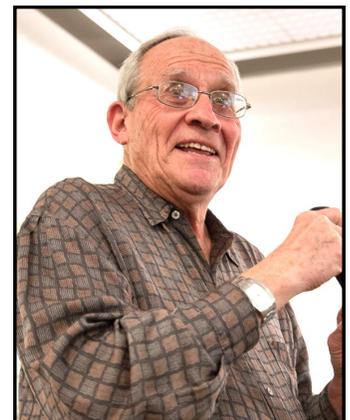
Steven Bressler
Sarah Meytin

Terri Zall and Judy Tulchin, whose terms expire in 2017, and Cynthia Peterman, Ruth Tabak, Laura Schiavo and Arthur Friedman, whose terms expire in 2018, continue to serve on the board.

Congregation members also approved the following dues increases for the 2016-2017 fiscal year:

Single Adult: \$120 (from \$1,350 to \$1,470)
Senior Adult: \$90 (from \$1,013 to \$1,103)
Under 30 Adult: \$60 (from \$675 to \$735)

Increases and dues for two-adult households are double the figures shown above for each category.



(photos by Jeff Peterman)

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Mark Berch

Have you been studying some Jewish topic and want to give a presentation on it? Or would you like to hear some of those items? One of the most distinctive Jewish study forms is the **Tikkun Leil Shavuot**, a study session on the eve of Shavuot. We do this every year at Tifereth Israel.

Except for the presenters, there's no preparation to do in advance. Just tell yourself that for one night, or part of a night, or even just one hour, you will give yourself over to learning. We'll be doing it with Minyan

Segulah, Ohev Sholom and several other organizations, on the evening/early morning of **June 11/12**.

The evening will go in three phases. We start with our own program at TI. We'll have Minchah at 6:30, a dinner at 7, followed by a first study session. Next will be the Holiday Ma'ariv service around 9:15, and a second study session starting around 9:50.

Second, will be the Joint *Tikkun*. This will start at Ohev Sholom across the street with a short kickoff, and then two study sessions. At this point, we move back to TI and have three more sessions. We finish at 4:25 a.m.

Finally, there will be a joint Minyan Segulah-TI service, starting about 4:50 a.m. These have always had a

lot of *ruah*! And if you'd like to hear *Akdmut*, this is your one chance, since we don't do it at the regular TI service which is at 9 a.m. Most people don't stay for the entire set of teaching sessions, so please consider coming even if you know you can only stay for a part.

We'll include classes on the 6th commandment, on Jewish history, Talmud, Music of the Italian Jews, Ruth & Boaz, becoming a wise elder, Hasidism on Torah's purpose, *Keva* and *Kavannah*, Should We Try to Convert People? --- and more.

The sessions are generally about 45 minutes long. Refreshments are served throughout the night. More details, and exact times, will be available in the next week.

TI Receives Community Award

Tifereth Israel was honored at the annual Shepherd Elementary School Gala on May 21 with the Community Partner award. The award expresses the school's appreciation of the Shepherd/TI Tutoring program.

The tutoring program just completed its 18th year serving Shepherd Elementary students. It provides free weekly tutoring to Shepherd students on Sunday nights at Tifereth Israel. The tutors are mostly members of TI and their teenage children.

A tutor and student are matched for the entire year, forming a relationship that helps the learning. Every week the tutors work with their students on math, reading, vocabulary, current homework, or anything that the child's parent or teacher thinks would be helpful. The goal is to reinforce the lessons learned in school, and to try to add a little fun to doing schoolwork on the weekend.

Susan Catler and **Carolivia Herron** accepted the award on behalf of the congregation.

Zemer Chai 40th Anniversary Concert, "Impressions," June 5

*The values we live by... the stories
we tell...
make lasting impressions, on the
wings of song!*

Zemer Chai, the Jewish Chorale of the Nation's Capital, celebrates its 40th Anniversary with a gala concert – *Impressions* – on **Sunday, June 5** at 5:00 p.m. at Adas Israel Congregation in Washington.

Zemer Chai's artistic director **Eleanor Epstein** founded the group in 1976 as Washington's first Jewish community choir. "When we began, we were simply an enthusiastic group of singers gathering to enjoy our rich musical heritage.

"I could not have imagined that 40 years later we would be performing in the White House, the Library of Congress, the Kennedy Center, in

halls throughout the East Coast and even in Israel!"

Impressions will feature music that leaves lasting impressions of the values we live by, the stories we tell. The concert includes the world premier of *Higid L'cha* by **Steve Cohen**, commissioned in honor of the choir's 40th Anniversary.

Guest artists include **Cantor Arianne Brown**, **Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller**, **The Robyn Helzner Trio** and **Ari Helzner**.

Tickets are available at www.ZemerChai.org for \$40, Preferred Seating; and \$20, General Admission (\$25 at the door).

Adas Israel is located at 2850 Quebec Street NW, one block from the Cleveland Park Metro.

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Barbara Raimondo

Story Glory

Once upon a time, **Bob Rovinsky** will be storytelling as part of the Washington Folk Festival on June 5 in Glen Echo Park. His topic will be "Happily Ever After?," with stories about -- you got it -- marriage. Guess we all have a few of those! Stories, that is! Take a look at his web site at <http://voicesintheglen.org/storytellers/bob-rovinsky/>.

Storyteller of a different kind, **Cynthia Peterman**, published her first professional article. Titled "Murder! Orphans! Escape!," the article documents five American orphans who made their way back to the US from China, where their parents were murdered by bandits in the 1930s. The article appears in the Spring 2016 edition of the National Archives magazine *Prologue*.

Telling stories of the past (Do ya like the way Your Faithful Columnist is keeping up with the theme?), **Simcha Kuritzky** placed two exhibits at the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists coins show in Pittsburgh. His new exhibit on Israel's gold coins placed second in World Coins, and his exhibit on Chaim Gross' Ten Commandments sculpture medals (which includes a lithograph by Gross that Simcha had bought at the last Spring Fling) won first place in Medals and Tokens.

Liking Biking

Alan Landay rode in the inaugural DC Bike Ride, which wound around the city for 17 miles. It was cold and drizzly, but no real rain. Around 7500 bicyclists turned out. A number of roads were closed for the event, a fund-raiser for the Washington Area Bicyclists Association.

The funniest part was where some very narrow segments had signs recommending people ride "single file." Really? With 7500 riders?

Hey, this was the biking version of 495! Demonstrating that he is not a one-trick pony, no way, Alan also ran the Frederick Half-Marathon. Different day. Beautiful weather.

Fellow mover and shaker, **Paula Flicker**, took a nice trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico for her nephew's wedding. Her brother, a rabbi and father of the groom, officiated.

In other life changes, **Jeremy Steinberg**, son of **Jeffrey** and **Julie Steinberg**, graduated *magna cum laude* from Haverford College with a major in religion and a minor in classical culture and society, earning high honors in religion and induction into Phi Beta Kappa. This summer he plans to attend the Nishma program in the JTS Beit Midrash, and next year he will participate in the Masa Israel Teaching Fellowship in Beit She'an.

And **Johanna Galat** will be graduating from the University of Maryland Social Work program with a master's degree on June 20.

The babies have been a-comin'! **Daria Novak**, granddaughter of TI'ers **Mark Novak** and **Renée Brachfeld**, was born in April in Israel to **Rotem** and **Aaron Novak**.

Miriam Lederer and **David Ogilvie** announce that **Naomi Hannah Lederer-Ogilvie** was born on May 14. She weighed 7 lbs 4 oz. and measured 19.5 inches long. Naomi Hannah will be named on June 25 during Shabbat Morning Services at TI.

And of course, three's the charm. TI members **Michael** and **Lisa Kraft** flew to sunny California in April for the *brit* of their third grandson and fifth grandchild, **Noah Benjamin Kraft**, born on April 20, 6 pounds, 11 ounces. Seems that this Noah brought the rains to DC. His parents, **Daniel Kraft**, MD and **Tracy Mizraki Kraft**

live in Menlo Park, California. Their two-year-old son, **Leo**, is delighted with his little brother and has been offering to share his large collection of toy airplanes that he accumulated with the help of Daniel, a flight surgeon with the California National Guard.

Winning Kinning

Even though it is not yet officially summer, spring brought a bumper crop of awards for the Herman family. **Gene Herman** won an Azalea Award in the Takoma Spirit category at the Celebrate Takoma Festival.

What did Gene do to deserve such an honor? He saved Takoma Park's Independence Day parade and fireworks, that's what. There was not enough people power, so he engaged a new face, **Tara Egan**, to work with him, and the festivities went on in front of the biggest crowd ever. For his efforts, Gene received public acknowledgement and a beautiful handmade tile.

Two Herman sons-in-law also won awards. **David (Elana) Cohen** will receive The Nonresident Lawyers Division Founders' Award of the State Bar of Wisconsin at an event this month, sponsored by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, the Wisconsin State Bar, and the Wisconsin Law Foundation. David is also famously known as **Jessica** and **Adam Cohen's** father.

In keeping with the trend, **Joseph Firschein (Rachel)**, father of **Ava** and **Jennifer Fir-schein**, won an Outstanding Faculty Award from Georgetown University, as nominated by his students.

Sad News

Isadore "Izzy" Birnbaum, father of TI member **Fylis (Perry) Peckham**,

(Continued on page 10)

TI to March in Takoma Park 4th of July Parade

Tifereth Israel is excited to be participating in the Takoma Park 4th of July Parade this summer. We did it two years ago and it was great fun. After a year off – the 4th was on Shabbat in 2015 – we're ready to go again. (See photo on the right of TI'ers in the 2014 parade).

We will march (with a banner) as a group on **Monday July 4** (there is no rain date for the parade). If you are interested in marching, please fill out the form at <http://tinyurl.com/TI-TPJuly4Parade> so we can get you all the assembly information.

And if you aren't able to march, but plan to attending the parade, make sure to cheer us as we go by!



(photo by Earl Dotter)

Nayes un Mekhayes (continued)

grandfather of **Paul** and **Rachel**, died peacefully in Florida. He was 88. The funeral was held in New Jersey. He is also survived by two sons, former TI member **David (Julia) Birnbaum** and **Robert Birnbaum**,

and their five children and two grandchildren.

Alfred L. Schwartz, father of TI member **Judy (Morris) Rodenstein**, grandfather of **Sarah** and **Asaf**, died

peacefully in May. He was 87. The funeral was held in New Jersey.

Alfred Verschell, father of TI member **Mark Verschell (Elizabeth Leff)**, and grandfather of **Benjamin** and **Hannah**, died in April in Florida.

TI Celebrates JDS 50th Anniversary and High School Graduates

At services and the Kiddush on **June 11** we will have two celebrations, one marking the 50th anniversary of the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, and one honoring TI members who are graduating from high school.

CESJDS 50th Anniversary

As part of the Shabbat morning service, former JDS teacher **Cynthia Peterman** will lead Psukei D'Zimrah, **Solomon Murdock**, current JDS student, will lead Shoharim, JDS graduate **Jonah Murdock** will give the *drash* and recent JDS graduate **Rebecca Morris** will lead Musaf.

In commemoration of the anniversary, most congregants (and their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren) who attended JDS, were JDS staff members or were involved in the school, have been

identified. TI members with JDS connections who have not yet responded are requested to go to <http://tinyurl.com/TI-CESJDSat50>.

High School Graduates

We will also be honoring TI's 2016 high school graduates:

Rebecca Dorn
Hannah Garelick
Adrienne Goldstein
Iliana Jaime
Rebecca Morris
Yoni Pedersen
Adina Stone Rombro
Neilah Rovinsky
Ruth Secular
Jacob Winch

Contributions to the Kiddush that day are invited. Go to <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/jds2016> to contribute.

Robert ("Bob") Yelin, father of TI member **Jennifer (Joshua) Kefer**, and grandfather of **Ari** and **Dori**, passed away in April at the age of 74. Though he was long affected by Parkinson's disease, he died suddenly and unexpectedly of congestive heart failure in his home in Los Angeles. The funeral was held in California.

May family and loved ones find strength in their memories.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *divers*: "various" (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 exciting enterprises 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 this edition of Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers.

Role of the Prophet: Reflections on Father Dan Berrigan

Robert Rovinsky

Prophets are important to us – we read their writings on Shabbat, we invite them to our *sedarim*, we talk about them to our children. But what makes a prophet a prophet and what role should they play in our lives today?

I am thinking about this because David Cohen invited me to expand on my short note on the listserv about the death of Dan Berrigan. I knew him while he and I were at Cornell in the late 60s and early 70s, before he went into hiding and later to jail for his role in destroying draft files as part of his opposition to the Vietnam War.

Several years ago I spoke about Dan as part of a *drash* on *Pinchas*, where I talked about his many uncomfortable challenges to us, and how Dan's uncompromising personality played such an important role in undoing my prejudice against Catholics, and in forcing me and others to face what was important to us.

Role of the Prophet

By coincidence, in her sophomore essay at St Johns College on the book of Samuel, my daughter, Neshama, touched on the role of the prophet. She claimed that while both men and prophets hear the word of God in the Bible, man cannot fully embrace God's promises because man is limited in his ability to comprehend God's longer time horizon. Man therefore cannot fully carry out the commandments or understand the vision, while Prophets and Patriarchs can see clearly and hence can both serve the people and judge them.

Father Berrigan was a Jesuit priest who lived a long and active life for 94 years. At Cornell he was instrumental in gathering together Catholic students and many others and focusing them on justice and peace.

He is perhaps best known for the act of civil disobedience he, his brother, Father Phillip Berrigan, and seven others did in Catonsville, Maryland, where they poured blood on the files of a local draft board as a protest against the war in Vietnam.

Dan's picture was featured on a famous poster still sold in Ithaca with the words "Dan Berrigan says, 'don't just do something, stand there'." The Catonsville action led to a trial and an arrest warrant being issued for him, but instead of surrendering on the government's terms he went underground and only later surfaced and served time.

Writer and Poet

Dan was much, much more than a protester. He was a serious Jesuit writer and poet, producing over fifty books in his lifetime. Dan and Reverend Jack Lewis, also of the Cornell Christian Association, sponsored the draft counseling center which I co-directed. Dan bravely also sponsored the first gay organization on campus, the Student Homophile League, for whom I wrote a pamphlet, "Homosexuality and the Draft" as part of my work as a draft counselor.

Dan and his brother, as part of their ministry, fought against militarism and for civil rights for more than 50 years. They were influenced by the great Dorothy Day and in turn influenced many of my Catholic and non-Catholic friends, many of whom went on to long careers in social justice here and abroad. Dan was unafraid to fail, to have his voice ignored. As he entered his eighties and nineties, he took on the hardest task of the last decades, protesting against our prison at Guantanamo and our instances of torture, to an audience largely unwilling to care or even listen.

I cannot adequately describe what it

is like to be in the presence of a prophet like Dan. As I spoke in my *drash*, each person who comes into contact with a genuine prophet is like the unfortunate couple in *Pinchas*, pierced by them and forever changed with a wound that does not heal. It was inspiring to be around Dan, but also impossible to follow him. Each time he called to us, we found ourselves called back by our limits, our need to finish our theses, or take a job, or not be arrested, or not tilt at windmills. What Dan saw that God clearly needed done, we saw through a glass darkly, or not at all, or we had to turn away.

Berrigan's 1973 Speech

Rabbi Seidel asked that I include in this essay the controversial speech Dan Berrigan gave about Israel in October 1973 and the responses it provoked. I responded that I would, but also remarked that it was a very small chapter in Dan's life, compared to his poetry, his priesthood, his antiwar and other protests against the Church and the State.

But then I remembered Isaac Bashevis Singer's comment that "Jews have many faults, but amnesia is not one of them". So I went googling and, after much difficulty, discovered a reprint of his speech in a broadside published by the "Committee for Alternatives in the Middle East" under the title "The Great Berrigan Debate." It appears along with Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg's critique/response and other responses and an interview Dan gave later about it. I am donating the book to the TI Library and I urge you all to read it.

Dan gave the speech a few weeks after the Yom Kippur War to the Arab American Alumni Association. Reading the speech, I found that most of what Dan said could be said today by any thoughtful critic of

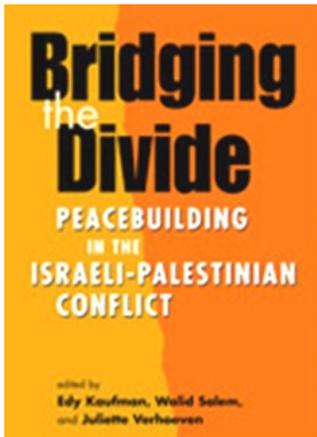
(Continued on page 12)

Dinner and Discussion, June 19 On Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

On **Sunday, June 19**, at 7:00 p.m., the Israel Committee will present a dinner and discussion on “Understanding the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and Searching for its Resolution.” Featured speakers are Professor Edward Kaufman and PLO Ambassador to the United Kingdom Manual Hassassian.

These two experts are currently co-teaching a course at the University of Maryland that allows students to hear their different perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict without personal acrimony or anger. The program will be moderated by Rabbi Seidel and is co-sponsored by Kol Nashim and Gevarim.

Dr. Edward Kaufman studied at Hebrew University, received his doctorate in International Relations at the Sorbonne, and did postgraduate work at the University of Michigan. He has been on the faculty at Hebrew University since 1970 and, currently, at the University of Maryland.



Dr. Manual Hassassian has held leadership roles at Bethlehem University, including Chair of the Humanities Department, and Executive Vice President. He is currently on the faculty at the University of Maryland.

The cost for the dinner is \$18 for TI members and \$21 for non-members.

Please sign up by noon on Tuesday, June 14th at <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/peace2016>.

Reflections on Father Dan Berrigan (continued)

Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and its effects on Israel and the Palestinians in the occupied territories. What seemed to have made it difficult to read or hear was partly Dan's timing – a few weeks after a very traumatic and scary event – and his clear reproach to the rulers and armies of Israel and the American Jewish Community supporting them, for what they did to his idea of Judaism and its message to the world. He speaks sharply of the military occupation, the arms peddling and military advising to South Africa, Iran, and other oppressive regimes, and praises the Egyptian peace plan just being advanced.

At no time does Father Berrigan praise Arab violence or Arab injustice and Arab falsehoods — quite the reverse — nor does he advocate any course of action for Palestinians

except nonviolent protest. He begins by stating that he identifies as a Jew in struggle against Israel's occupation as he is a Priest in struggle against his church.

But the fact that this was an outsider (with his considerable moral force), appearing to attack Israel after all that had happened and all the dangers facing Israel, was hard to hear, and the respondents went after him, especially his assertion that American Jews were supporting Israel's actions monolithically.

I hope you all will find the time to read the 7-8 page speech and hear and experience a little of what Dan Berrigan was like as a speaker and prophet. Then read more of him.

I close with some comments about the relevance of folks like Dan for us

today. I think back to the many comments I read on the listserv, or hear in our kiddushes after a particularly emotional *drash* or reading, how we use our big analytical brains to brush away the disturbing emotions of the text or the talk or the issues we face today.

I remember what struck me during Neshama's Bat Mitzvah at TI, when the Haftarah with its imprecations and warnings and curses against Israel was chanted by Neshama to a beautiful melody that totally played against the meaning. And I commend Rabbi Seidel and others who attempt periodically to “run us through” in spite of our ability to fend them off and resume our lives seemingly unaffected.

And I am so grateful that I had the privilege of knowing Father Berrigan.

Gevarim

Andrew Reamer

גברים

Movie Nite @ TI

"Hollywood and Anti-Semitism: The Late 1940s." This new series builds on our just completed series, "Nazis, Jews, and Hollywood: The Early 1940s." Sundays at 7:30 p.m. Movies are free, nosh \$4.

June 5. *Crossfire*, a 1947 film noir, one of Hollywood's first portraying anti-Semitism, starring three Roberts -- Young, Mitchum, and Ryan. A stark, claustrophobic thriller about an anti-Semitic soldier who kills a Jewish war veteran, evading detection because of his loyal friends' protection. However, a detective determined that the crime not go unsolved sets a trap for the murderer.

Variety magazine wrote: "*Crossfire* is a frank spotlight on anti-Semitism. Producer Dore Schary, in association with Adrian Scott, has pulled no punches....Here is a hard-hitting film...whose whodunit aspects are fundamentally incidental to the overall thesis of bigotry and race prejudice....Director Edward Dmytryk has drawn gripping portraitures."

July 17. *Gentleman's Agreement*, the 1947 Academy Award Best Picture winner on endemic anti-Semitism in the U.S., with Gregory Peck. A reporter pretends to be Jewish in order to cover a story on anti-Semitism, and discovers the true depths of bigotry and hatred.

New York Times critic Bosley Crowther said: "...every point about prejudice which Miss Hobson had to make in her book has been made with superior illustration and more graphic demonstration in the film, so that the sweep of her moral indignation is not only widened but intensified thereby."

The political nature of the film, however, upset the House Un-American Activities Committee.

which called director Elia Kazan, producer Darryl Zanuck, and actors John Garfield, and Anne Revere to testify.

Revere refused to testify. Garfield appeared but refused to "name names." Both were placed in the Red Channels of the Hollywood Blacklist. Garfield remained on the blacklist for a year, was called again to testify against his wife, and died of a heart attack at the age of 39 before his second hearing date.

The Hollywood chapter of B'nai B'rith International honored producer Darryl Zanuck as its "Man of the Year" for 1948.

Jewish Meditation

"Creating Your Own Jewish Meditation Practice," with **Izabella Tabarovsky**. Four Wednesdays in June, 7:15-8:30 p.m. People can come to any number of sessions. Gevarim/Kol Nashim members -- \$30 for all four sessions or \$10 per session. All others -- \$45 for the set or \$15 per session. Sign up at <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/med2016>.

Back by popular request, Izabella, founder of the Center for Embodied Judaism, will guide discussion and meditations that deepen Jewish spiritual practice. Sources include the Torah, Talmud, Kabbalah and Hasidut. No prior experience necessary.

Each session will include study and discussion and guided meditation to try out and experience new ideas and techniques. The first session will build on Izabella's March 19 introductory session at TI.

June 8. Is there really such a thing as Jewish meditation? An overview. Meditation vs. prayer. Meditation in the Bible: forefathers' meditations, prophetic experiences, revelation.

June 15. Meditation in Kabbalah and Hasidut. "Bringing down the flow." Living in the awareness of God's presence.

June 22. "Pour your heart out to God": Reb Nahman's meditations. Weather permitting, we will try to meet at a spot outdoors for this session. Please be in touch with the organizers for more details.

June 29. Meditations of the traditional siddur prayers and observances: movement, sound, herbal fragrance, imagery.

BBQ with TI Millennials Plus

Come enjoy some hot dogs and sunshine, make new friends, and catch up with familiar faces at the home of **Mikah** and **Alex Berg** on **Sunday, June 19**, 1-4 p.m. This event was rescheduled from May 22.

We'll provide the hot dogs and rolls. Pareve sides, desserts, and drinks are welcome! Hope to see you there!

To sign up go to <http://tinyurl.com/June19BBQ>.

TI Millennials Plus are TI members, their friends, or friends of friends, in their 20s and 30s, with and without kids, creating community and having fun.

For more information, please contact [TMillplus@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:TIMillplus@tifereth-israel.org).

Future Millennials Plus events will be on July 24, October 16 & December 18.

Kol Nashim

Ruth Shapiro



KN Shabbat Service

May 21 was the Kol Nashim Shabbat Service. It was a beautiful service and was run almost entirely by women. Go us!! Kol Nashim sponsored the kiddush as well.

Book Club

At the next meeting of the KN Book Club we will discuss the book *Murder on a Kibbutz* by Batya Gur. See the article below for details.

Dinner Discussion

On **June 19**, at 7:00 p.m., Kol Nashim will be co-sponsoring a dinner and discussion that will be presented by the Israel Committee. The subject of the discussion will be the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

It will be led by Professor **Edward Kaufman** and PLO Ambassador **Manual Hassassian**, who are currently co-teaching a course that allows students to hear their different

perspectives on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict without personal acrimony or anger.

The program will be moderated by Rabbi Ethan Seidel. (See article on page 12 for details). Please join us.

KN Book Club

Jessica Weissman

The Kol Nashim Book Club meets on **June 21** at 7:30 at the home of **Janice** and **David Mehler** to discuss *Murder on a Kibbutz* by Batya Gur, who was perhaps the best-known Israeli author of mysteries. As with all her work, the mystery is imbued with social commentary.

We'll be picking more readings to take us through summer and into fall. So bring your suggestions -- books that support discussion and are well-written, preferably not centered on the Holocaust, simply because we could fill our entire calendar with such.

Two possible future fiction reads are Anita Diamond's *The Boston Girl* and Philip Roth's *The Plot Against America*. The latter is surprisingly relevant these days and we should probably read it before the election if at all.

Nonfiction suggestions are especially welcome. Even if you don't have a specific book to suggest, please let me know what types of nonfiction books interest you. History? Books on Jewish practice? What else?

Finally, we are probably going to loosen our requirement that the

books be easily available in the library. It's hard to catch books of interest during that brief period when there are many copies in the library that are not all on hold. This opens up many possibilities for older books and books available new in paperback.

See you on June 21.

Erev Shavuot Dinner

TI is holding a Pre-Shavuot Dairy Dinner at 7:00 p.m. on **Saturday, June 11**.

To sign up for the dinner go to <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/shavuot2016>.

The sign-up deadline is 12 noon, **Tuesday, June 7**.

SHALEM

Jessica Weissman

On **June 18** SHALEM features a panel discussion on the role of Jewish museums. Who is the audience? Jews or everyone? Should Jewish museums focus on education or on collections?

Thanks to **Laura Schiavo**, TI'er and Assistant Professor of Museum Studies at George Washington University, we have the chance to hear various points of view on The Jewish Museum: What? Why? For Whom?

Panelists include **Laura Schiavo**, **Christiane Bauer**, Curator, Jewish

Historical Society of Greater Washington, and **Karen Falk**, Jewish Museum of Maryland.

Many SHALEM programs over the next year will be part of the TI Centennial, but if you have a topic you would like to present to your fellow congregants, please let me know.

Anything of Jewish interest is welcome. Jewish interest can be interpreted broadly. You'll never find a more involved and lively audience than our SHALEM group.

Open Your Hand

Simcha Kuritzky

Psalm 145 is the only psalm that appears in every service. It is often referred to as *Ashrei* because, in the service, it is introduced by Psalm 84, verse 5: *Ashrei yoshvei beitekha, od y'hallelukha selah*; Happy is the one who dwells in Your house, may they always praise You (selah).

Psalm 145 is an alphabetic acrostic. However, there are only 21 verses to Psalm 145, not 22, the number of letters in the Hebrew alphabet. The letter *nun* has no verse, some say because it represents *nefalim*, the fallen ones.

The Rabbis in the Talmud (B'rakhot 4b) said that because Psalm 145 is both an acrostic and contains verse 16 -- *Potei-ah et yodekha u'masbi-a l'khol hai ratzon*; Open Your hand and satisfy the needs of all the living -- if one recites it three times a day one will inherit the world to come. Verse 16 is also included near the end of *Birkat Ha-Mazon*, the blessing after meals.

When wearing *tefillin*, it is customary to touch the arm *tefillin* at the beginning of the verse and the head *tefillin* near the end of it. In the afternoon or evening service, or during *Shabbat* or *Yom Tov*, when *tefillin* are not worn, some have the custom of holding their right hand (or both hands) palm up as an aid to concentration.

So it is not surprising that this verse appears on amulets. The paper amulet below was printed by Kahn & Frier in Munkacs (pronounced Munkatch), Hungary before World War II. The town was home to a Hassidic dynasty that survives today mostly in Brooklyn. At the very top in Yiddish it says "Amulet in the house to hold," then in the fancy rectangle in Hebrew it says "For sustenance and for prosperity". The third line below starts with Psalm 145:16 written out in full.



However, rarely does the verse appear in full on amulets. Usually just the *notarikon* or first letter of the first three words are given -- *pei, alef, yud* -- followed by the last letters of the same words -- *het, taf, (final) kaf*. That is the inscription found at the far right on the modern base metal amulet below, sold by the Torah and Kindness Foundation of Rabbi Ishmael.



In the green coated key-shaped amulet (to unlock luck) below, the *notarikon* for Psalm 145:16 appears as the second and third lines inside the round part at top.



A similar inscription appears at top on another key-shaped amulet that I bought on a trip to Israel in 2008. It has the *hoshen*, the High Priest's breastplate, represented in the center which rotates; the other side has the Prayer for Travellers.



The *notarikon* also appears on the thumb of a hand from the center of a popular laminated paper amulet I bought in *Meah Shearim* back in 1984 (a box replaces the *yuds* in this copy so as not to reproduce God's name).



Lastly, I have a recent black Persian stone amulet with only the 6 letters from this verse.



Maybe the next time you hear *Ashrei* you'll remember how the rabbis exalted this psalm because it acknowledges God as the ultimate source of satisfaction, opening a path to the world to come.

B'nei Mitzvah

My name is **Jonathan Morris** and I am 13 years old. My Bar Mitzvah will be on June 4. I have attended Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School since kindergarten, and am currently in the 7th grade.

I enjoy theater, cooking, digital art, and can often be found after school, helping out in my school's IT department. Over the summer, I go to Capital Camps and this will be my fifth year. I have been a member of TI since birth. For my mitzvah project, I have been participating in the Shepherd Elementary Tutoring program. I have been tutoring a 2nd grader named Yonah in reading and math.

My Bar Mitzvah *Parashah* is *B'hukotai*, in which God promises B'nei Israel good things if they keep his commandments; otherwise, God will deliver harsh punishments.

I would like to thank Myrna Goldman for preparing me for this special day. I would also like to thank my sister who helped me in my studies and will be reading two *aliyot*, along with my parents and their "gentle" encouraging to study.



My name is **Oliver Held**. I attended elementary school at Jewish schools in Tbilisi, Georgia and Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. I'm now in 7th grade at Silver Spring International Middle School. My favorite subject is science.

I love the electric guitar, sports, and traveling. Each summer, I attend Camp Nebagamon in northern Wisconsin. I spend most of my time there on hiking and canoeing trips, and also enjoy archery.

For my Bar Mitzvah project, I have volunteered with the K-2 Bonim group on Saturday mornings, with Morah Sylvia. I have also cooked with TI Kadima for women at Luther's Place, and cooked and served for the Kadima/USY fundraising Shabbat dinner.

My Bar Mitzvah is on June 12, the first day of Shavuot. I'm looking forward to my grandparents and a small group of other relatives and friends joining me for the service.

Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

June 10

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

June 17

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

June 24

Abraham & Dena Greenstein
 David Greisen & Jessica Bell
 Franca Brilliant
 Leah Weinryb Grohsgal & Corey
 Goettsch
 Stefan Gunter & Lisa Goldberg
 Eitan & Aviva Gutin
 Jonathan Halpern
 David & Sara Handwerker
 Eliot Harrison & Wendy Blake-
 Coleman
 David Hart & Lois Frankel

Michael Heimowitz & Dori
 Gillman
 Larry Held & Sara Feinstein
 Matt & Linda Heller
 Steve & Shelly Heller
 Bruce Heppen & Bonnie
 Suchman

July 1

Eugene & Esther Herman
 Carolivia Herron
 James & Annie Hershberg
 William Hodos
 Gayle & Erik Hope
 Robert & Helen Hovis
 Hedy Howard
 Neil Hyman & Rachel Decter
 Hyman
 Anita Isicson
 David & Shana Jacobs
 Leonard Jewler & Andrea Rosen
 Harvey Kabaker & Andrea Kline
 Steven Kalish & Anita Bolt
 Joshua & Jennifer Kefer
 Kenneth Kellner & Nina Bronk
 Kellner

July 8

Rabbi Jason & Devora
 Kimelman-Block
 Alexandra Kincannon & Paul
 Moorehead
 Shemaya & Dori Klar
 Morris Klein & Naomi Freeman
 Aaron Kofner & Anat Shaha
 Roger Kohn
 Allan Kolker
 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

July 15

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

July 22

Oscar & Amy Mann - cleaned
 Stephen Marcus & Renee
 Matalon
 Joseph & Paula Martin
 Robert Mathis & Tali Stopak-
 Mathis
 David & Carla Matusow
 Allison & Colin McMillan
 Tobi McFarland
 David & Janice Mehler
 Robert & Laura Meisnere
 Stephen Meltzer
 Ethan Merlin & Joelle Novey
 David & Dana Mermelstein
 Adam Messinger & Kira Plagge
 Sarah & Rachel Meytin
 Josephine Mickelson
 Michael & Barbara Milton
 Emily & Adil Moiduddin
 Jacob & Elaine Mondschein
 Ken Morris & Terri Zall
 Jerry & Sharon Mülle

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SUNDAY MORNING MINYAN

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In Honor of

Richard & Marjorie Siegel

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Sara Berlin
Sadie Kaplan
Eli Contract
Tess Cogen
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Morris Pincus
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Ida Gordon Rod
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