



The Menorah

Notes from the Rabbi: Ethan Seidel Nurturing Private Mitzvot

Our tradition tells us that our souls are pure. Among the first prayers said in the morning is: "O God, the soul you gave me is pure, *Elohai, n'shamah shenatata bi t'horah hi.*"

Which is not to say, of course, that all of our *actions* are pure. The point is that there is a holy part of each of us, a piece to which we have access, that is good. We might even take this further, and assert that every human being, influenced by this spark of holiness, does some good things. Even the worst of us has a good side.

The question is: How can we be better servants of the Holy One? How can we do what it is that we were put here to do?

The Sfas Emes, a Hasidic master writing in Poland in the late 19th century, suggests

that we think of our innate spark or purity as being like Aharon, the High Priest.

Just as Aharon (and his descendants) lived at a higher level of purity than the rest of

the community, so too there is a piece of ourselves that exists at a higher level of purity than the rest. And just as Aharon's existence raised the level of purity of the entire Israelite camp, so too we can use our spark of goodness as a way to raise the level of our holiness.

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President's Column: John List Building Community: A Food Journey

Cooking together is something that Lynne and I enjoy and we bring different skills to the activity. Some of our adventures are the basis of this column. What they have in common is that our shared interest is one way we contribute to community and are able to experiment, grow and learn.

A Neighborhood Dinner

As you may recall, Tu B'Shevat this year was the weekend of *Snowzilla*. Before the snow, we had invited about a dozen people, including some from TI, to join us for a potluck Tu B'Shevat meal. We found a new recipe on *Tablet Magazine* for "Sacred Species Salad," and bought the ingredients for that and our favorite veggie chili recipe.

As the snow buried us all, it became clear that none of the people we had invited would be able to safely travel to our house. So, with the ingredients already purchased, we made the meal and

invited about a dozen neighbors -- some Jewish, some not -- to join us. The most distant came from one block away.

Everyone was in the mood to escape being snowed in and we enjoyed a wonderful

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Notes from the Rabbi (continued)

What is it you do well? And how could what you do well influence your less skillful actions? For example: you may do well at, say, your job, because you pay careful attention both to what needs doing, and how the work environment affects how it should be done. Perhaps, if you fully appreciated how good you are at paying attention to some things, you might be influenced to pay better attention to other aspects of your life, with similar positive outcomes.

The fact is, many of the things we do best are done privately -- the kind words we say to others when they are in need of comfort, the Shabbat meals we provide for others. I'd say that these sorts of good works are evidence of the pure soul of this congregation. These actions may not get press in the *Jewish Week*, but they are the foundation of our community.

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Now, one of the private good things we are proud of at TI is our activity in support of mourners. We provide a free funeral; we have the Funeral Practices Committee that works with each family, helping them navigate the funeral, burial, and *shivah*. We also do *taharah* for our members – the ritual washing of the body that is one of the last kindnesses we can do for the deceased.

But there is more to be done. Here's a list; pick the *mitzvot* that seem right for you:

- We could use more volunteers for *taharah* –for both the male and especially the female *taharah* teams.
- Once the body has been washed, it is placed in the simple wood coffin. *Shomrim* sit in an adjacent room so that the body is not alone. They sit in 2-hour shifts throughout the day and night until the funeral. It can be a powerfully introspective experience, reminding you of the limited time you have in your life to do *mitzvot*. We need more people to do this.
- You could help with *shivah* minyans:

Attending – and registering at the online googledoc so I can be sure we'll have a minyan

Providing food for those attending the minyan to nosh on, but more importantly, for the family during the week of *shivah*. And you don't have to provide a whole meal; just cook or bake something, and bring it over. Nothing comforts like home-cooked food.

I hope you will consider some of these *mitzvot*. If I can be of help – connecting you to those who do *taharah*, or just giving you advice about what to bring to *shivah* – let me know.

Rabbi Seidel

New Member Shabbat

During Shabbat morning services on **March 12**, we will honor and welcome people who joined Tifereth Israel in 2015 and everyone in their households.

New members are asked to RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/TINewMembers15> and to send a family photo to TIAdmin@Tifereth-Israel.org so we can make a photo board for the lobby.

Everyone else – please welcome our new members whenever you see them, not just on the 12th!

President's Column (continued)

evening. In a small way, we were re-enforcing our commitment to our neighborhood community.

Helping the Broader Community

Lynne and I participate in food-related TI social action initiatives, such as making meals once a month for So Others Might Eat (SOME), food deliveries for the less fortunate during Rosh Hashanah and Pesah, and helping at Martha's Table. By participating we help the TI community demonstrate its commitment to others.

Building the TI Community

In a similar fashion, we enjoy building the TI community, as do many of you, around food. TI has a vibrant outreach program, **Helping Hands**, to provide food for those sitting *shivah*, recovering from illness or mishap, or at home with new babies.

Lynne and I, along with our daughter, Deborah, delivered a meal to the Tabaks, who are home with baby Liora. This also gave us the opportunity to visit a TI family in their home. We also provided food and other help while George and Marji Greenberg were observing *shivah* for George's mother.

TI selects one Kiddush each month to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries within our community. In February, I joined other volunteers for cooking under the guidance of Francie Kranzberg (more often, of Roz Kram). I think this activity, like many others, sends a lovely message: we support our community by doing it ourselves.

Also, using a generous donation from Mollie Berch (z"l) some years ago, TI provides breakfast after the Sunday



Only **David & Stephanie Rubin** and **John List** joined the Full Moon Hike on February 21, but the rain had stopped, it was comfortably cold, and a captivating mist floated over Rock Creek. Due to cloud cover they did not see the full moon, but they knew it was there.

morning minyan. The breakfast creates a welcoming atmosphere for us to linger and get to know each other better. Supporting our Sunday minyan by attending or helping sponsor the breakfast is one way you can help build our community.

When our daughters were each becoming a bat mitzvah, we, along with other parents who had children their age, agreed to help each other by preparing the Shabbat Kiddush in the TI kitchen. In about a month, Lynne and I will do the same thing in the kitchen of Beth Am Israel (BAI) in Penn Valley, PA, for our eldest grandchild. Preparing the Kiddush at BAI with others will connect us more closely with that community.

Something to Consider

Just as I have used my interest in cooking at TI to experiment, learn and grow, while at the same time helping to build our community, you, too, could apply your special interests and talents. Why not use Adar to think about your interest area, find its expression within TI, and help build our community?

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



Look for my next column on how Chevrah Tifereth Israel got its start.

How does one go about researching an organization’s history over one hundred years?

An organization such as our synagogue can have many creation myths that are handed down over the years about its founders, locations, and members. For example, how do we know our congregation formed in 1916?

Initial queries to members and even the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington produced a variety of dates, from 1914 through 1918. Without good documentary evidence (photos, paper records, video or film) it can be very difficult to identify facts and put together a true history.

In upcoming issues of *The Menorah* I will begin to outline some of the basic facts of TI history, about the place and people that made us who we are today. My thanks go to **Marcia Goldberg**, who spent countless hours in the TI attic sorting and filing papers, and **Laura Schiavo**, who helped me to identify items for our Centennial Exhibition.

Archiving our History

In the normal course of a workday, most people are not thinking about

what to save for historical value in fifty years’ time. Important documents may be casually maintained, stashed in drawers or closets, or not kept at all. As we began to research TI’s history, we found documentary history in closets, files, the attic, and in members’ homes.

Some items, such as our 1917 Articles of Incorporation, are very delicate and required careful handling. We have membership lists, photos, sisterhood minutes, and many other types of records. All items are stored in specially designed archival boxes that are acid-free in order to protect the documents for years to come.

Photo Identification

The photo below is of an adult education class that Rabbi Abramowitz taught c. 1965. We know some of the people in the photo. Can you help us to identify any more? Please send your responses to tcentennial@tifereth-israel.org.



Adult Education class taught by Rabbi Abramowitz, c. 1965. Includes Frances & Simon Broder, Julian Berch, Esther Miller, Abe Epstein, Frieda Alpher, Louise & Charlie Sidman.

Seeking Old Cookbooks

Naomi Revzin

Relishing good food with family and friends has always been important to us. Honoring this tradition, TI’s 2016 Centennial year celebration will look to past cookbooks that Jews used to help us explore the food our forbears ate during TI’s formative period, during its first fifty years, and the important role of these foodways.

If you have a cookbook from the 1900s (or earlier) through TI’s first 50

years (1916 – 1966), regardless of where it was published or in what language, please contact me, at 301-837-2097 (work) or 301-765-6272 (home), or at naomi.revzin@nara.gov.

Our historical cookbooks are a vital resource that will help create a delicious TI retrospective of how we lived and how our tastes evolved.

Tot Shabbat Schedule

11:10 a.m.

March 19

April 16

May 21

June 18

Mark your calendar today!

March Highlights at Tifereth Israel

March 5	Gabe Kritz Bar Mitzvah SHALEM, Ann Kline, "No Baloney -- Being a Caregiver in the Sandwich Generation"
March 6	Himmelfarb School Open House, 9:15 a.m. Kol Nashim Morning Program, Maxine Grossman, 10:15 a.m. Movie Nite@TI, <i>To Be Or Not To Be</i> (1942), 7:30 p.m.
March 7, 14, 21, 28	Monday Lunch & Learn <i>Parashat HaShavuah</i> , 11 a.m.; Lunch, 12 noon
March 12, 26	Talmud Study with Rabbi Seidel, 1 p.m.
March 13	Meeting for Prospective Funeral Practices Volunteers, 11 a.m.
March 15	KN Book Club, home of Myrna Goldman, 7:30 p.m.
March 19	Jewish Meditation, Izabella Tabarovsky, 1 p.m.
March 20	Purim Carnival, 12:30-3 p.m.
March 23-24	Purim: Megillah Reading, March 23, 7:45 p.m.; March 24, 7 a.m.
March 26	Beri Gershwind Bar Mitzvah

Kolot HaLev Italian Jewish Music Concert, April 3

Larry Baizer

On April 3, at 4 p.m. at Ohr Kodesh Congregation, Kolot HaLev (Voices of the Heart), the Jewish community choir of suburban Maryland, will present a concert commemorating the creation of Europe's first Jewish ghetto in Venice 500 years ago.

Entitled *Cantata Ebraica: The Music of the Italian Jews Through the Centuries*, the concert will include Jewish melodies with an operatic and popular flavor from Florence, Livorno, Rome and Venice. Jewish liturgical music and compositions by Puccini, Rossini, Verdi, Consolo, Bolaffi, Marcello, and other Italian musicians from the past 500 years will also be performed.

Hazzan Ramón Tasat, artistic director of Kolot HaLev, says: "The ghettos in Venice and other Italian cities were meant to restrict Jewish life, but they became vibrant centers of Jewish learning, life and culture. *Cantata Ebraica* celebrates the complexity and resilience of Jewish life in Italy by revealing the enduring impression of Italian art and music on the Jews."

For more information and tickets contact Larry Baizer at lbaizer@yahoo.com or visit the Kolot HaLev web site at www.Kolothalev.org.



Lifelong Learning

Eitan Gutin

Himmelfarb School Open House

Join us on **March 6** for this year's Himmelfarb School Open House for rising K-5th graders not already enrolled. The event begins at 9:15 a.m. with our school-wide *Shaharit* service. Participants will have a chance to see our classes in action, to meet with school leadership, and join the community for stories and songs at the end of the morning.

Registration for this fall will open at the end of the program. Check the TI website for more information and to RSVP. The Open House is for anyone, members and non-members alike, with a child who will be entering K through the 5th grade this fall.

Monthly Lego Shabbat

Our first ever Lego Shabbat on February 20 was a real hit. TI'ers in K through 5th grades all built their own interpretation of the *Mishkan*, the "Temple on Wheels" that the

Israelites used during their journey from Egypt to the Land of Israel.

The next Lego Shabbat will be on Shabbat morning, **March 19**. Please note that **all** of our Shabbat groups meet when schools are in session. This is just one of the special programs we will be offering through these groups.

TI Shabbaton '16

Save The Date. Shabbaton '16 will be on **April 8 & 9**. Watch your email for details and registration information. The program will begin Friday night with the **USY Tzedakah Dinner** and an introduction to the theme of the weekend. It will continue throughout Shabbat afternoon and end with *Havdallah* on Saturday night.

A Fun Month for USY and Kadima

- **Wednesday, March 9.** Make *Mishloach Manot* for your friends

and family. Open to grades 6-12.

- **Sunday, March 13.** Join Kadima as we cook and serve dinner for the Luther Place Women's shelter.
- **Sunday, March 20.** Volunteer to set up and run our annual Purim Carnival!
- **Wednesday, March 23.** USY'ers are invited to help us "rent" boxes of Mac & Cheese. All proceeds go to Tzedakah, and the Mac & Cheese boxes will be donated to the Capitol Area Food Bank.

Purim Carnival

The annual Purim carnival will be held on **March 20, 12:30-3:00 p.m.** Food, fun, games, and prizes for tots through middle school.

There is nothing quite like TI's carnival. You can pre-order tickets and lunch on the TI website.

MoEd Summer Camp Program

Elizabeth Handwerker

MoEd: A Jewish Afterschool Community is offering six weeks of summer camp for children entering grades K-5. MoEd camps are unique, with a small size (about 30 kids per week), special excursions, daily swimming, lots of time outdoors, and a Hebrew speaking staff who weave Hebrew songs and Hebrew language learning games seamlessly throughout the camp day.

For my daughter, the highlights of camp last summer included hiking downhill through Rock Creek Park (a bus brought the campers back uphill) and a kayaking excursion. For me, highlights include the way my kids have started speaking Hebrew

phrases at the dinner table, and the way MoEd staff who grew up in the Israeli scouts coach the older MoEd kids in how to lead younger kids.

My family is one of five with children who attend *both* the Himmelfarb religious school at TI and MoEd's afterschool program during the school year. Several other families combine MoEd programs with JPDS.

We find that the Hebrew language learning and broader skills and knowledge our children gain in MoEd complement participation in other Jewish communities. We also love how much fun our children have in MoEd's programs, and how these

programs fit the needs of working parents! This summer, the MoEd camp session themes are:

June 20-24: *Tsva'im* (Colors). What are the colors of the rainbow in Hebrew? And what is *t'helet*?

June 27-July 1: *Teva* (Nature). Learn how to call things in nature, interact with them, identify different plants, animals, and how to hide better in the grass.

July 5-8: *T'fusot* (Diaspora). Experience the special flavors of being from different places and being one people.

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Volunteers Needed for Funeral Practices, Helping Hands

Susan Catler

In his *drash* on February 20, Rabbi Seidel talked about our community's extensive support for those who have had a death in the family. When a member dies, Tifereth Israel provides a free funeral, and a volunteer *haver* from the Funeral Practice Committee works with the family to organize the funeral.

The *haver* also arranges for *shomrim* to sit with the *met* (the body) at the funeral home. Other volunteers perform *taharah*, the ritual washing and dressing of the body. Other volunteers arrange for a meal of condolence, the meal the community traditionally provides for the family when they return from the cemetery. Whether a member or a relative of a

member dies, TI volunteers offer to organize meals for the family while they are sitting *shivah*. TI members sign up on line to indicate that they will help make a *shivah* minyan and to bring *hekhshered* snacks to the home.

Some of the ways we support our members and their families have been going on for decades. Others were begun more recently. All depend on volunteers. We recently added four new *haverim* to help families plan funerals and to walk them through the rituals surrounding funerals.

We still need volunteers for other activities, including organizing meals

and performing *taharah* – for which participants receive training. In fact, training in using the lift equipment is being planned within the next month as a refresher for some and introduction for others. In addition, we have to determine how best to organize our volunteers and to get the word out when volunteers are needed so that we continue to meet the needs of our fellow congregants.

If you are interested in getting involved, or just want to find out more about TI's funeral practices and Helping Hands, please come to a meeting at TI on **Sunday, March 13** at 11 a.m. For more information, contact Susan Catler and Judith Turner at TIHelp@Tifereth-Israel.org.

SHALEM

Jessica Weissman

In February, TI's own **Rabbi Charles Feinberg** gave a wide-ranging SHALEM talk on "Judaism and Human Rights."

Starting with the week's *parashah* (*Mishpatim*) and the questions it raises about how we must treat our Jewish and non-Jewish neighbors, Rabbi Feinberg moved on to an issue that he deals with in his capacity as Executive Director of Interfaith Action for Human Rights – solitary confinement and its effects. The combination of text interpretation and a vital social issue kept the audience fascinated.

On **March 5**, **Ann Kline** will present "No Baloney -- Being a Caregiver in the Sandwich Generation," laying out ways to manage simultaneously caring for aging relatives and your own children. She will talk about strategies to cultivate strength and resilience for being at the heart of the caregiving sandwich.

On **April 16**, **Alan Ronkin**, Director of AJC's Washington regional office, will deliver a talk on "Challenges to World Jewry." This is the SHALEM that was postponed in January due to the blizzard.

He will discuss anti-Semitism in Europe and challenges to Israel in the international arena. This will include some survey data and thoughts about how European governments can have a positive impact.

SHALEM talks go on year 'round. If you have a topic of Jewish interest you'd like to present to your fellow TI'ers, or a speaker or topic to suggest, please contact me.

Arts, Jewish history, social issues, scholarship, and almost anything else you can think of that have some Jewish aspect. If you're interested in it, other TI'ers probably will be, too.

MoEd (continued)

July 11-15: Ishim (Figures in Judaism). Ever hear the saying, "From Moses to Moses, there was no one like Moses"? Many other people also influenced our tradition, beliefs, and the way we are today. Ever hear of Einstein?

July 11-15: Sport Week. Be like Jewish Olympic Gold Medalists Samuel Mosberg, Jon Jacke Field, Samuel Balter, Frank Spellman, Wally Worf, Lillian Copeland, and Kerri Strug. Play lots of sports with us!

July 25-29: *Misparim* (Numbers). Lots of fun with numbers in the Jewish tradition.

MoEd camp runs from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day, with shorter day options available most days. Camp starts and ends each day at Ohr Kodesh.

For more information see www.MoEdCommunity.org, or contact Orna at orna@moedcommunity.org.

Adult Education

Allan Tulchin

TI's Adult Education Committee directly sponsors a range of programs and also coordinates programs produced by other groups, including Gevarim and Kol Nashim.

One of our initiatives is led by committee member **Paula Martin**, who produces each year two catalogs of adult education programs. One usually appears around Rosh Hashanah, covering fall activities; the other in January, covering the winter and spring.

Paper copies of the catalogs may be found in the kiosk in the Juniper St. lobby. Please pick up a copy – it lists and describes just about every program on the calendar. The catalogs are also online in PDF format at the TI website (<http://tifereth-israel.org/adult-education-and-programs>).

Increasing Weekend Programs

One of my major goals as chairman of the Adult Education Committee, has been to increase the number of events on the weekends, which I hope will make them accessible to

everyone. As part of that effort, I have begun teaching Hebrew on Sunday mornings. We're now beginning a course in prayerbook Hebrew, for adults who can read the alphabet but who want to learn basic grammar and vocabulary. As of this writing, we've covered masculine and feminine nouns, singular and plural. There's still time to join us! My wife, **Judy**, is teaching a slightly more advanced class, using *The First Hebrew Primer*, also on Sunday mornings.

My hope is that students will learn some Hebrew and maybe even make new friends in the congregation. Several TI'ers in the class have also said that their kids in the Himmelfarb School have been impressed to see their parents learning too. More advanced students should consider **Stephanie Rubin's** class on Thursday mornings or **Rabbi Seidel's** class on Friday mornings.

Upcoming Events

On **Sunday, March 13**, TI is one of the sponsors of a day of learning,

"Great Debates in Judaism," brought to the DC area by the Jewish Theological Seminary. The program will be held, 5-9 p.m., at B'nai Israel congregation in Rockville. The next big event will be a **Shabbaton** to be held at TI on **April 8-9**. Since by then it will be nearly Passover, the Shabbaton will have the theme of "Freedom."

Future Committee Plans

The Adult Education Committee is eager to grow and improve. We're planning to survey the congregation about what members would like to see in future programs, and to institute a system where we survey members who attend programs to get their feedback.

We also want to hear from congregants who have expertise in any area of Jewish learning who might like to teach. Finally, we need more members of the committee, so if you have ideas and want to help, please contact me by phone at 240-328-1020, or at allan.tulchin@gmail.com.

Upcoming Dinners

Purim Dinner, Wednesday, March 23, 6:30 p.m. Join us for a light dairy meal after Hebrew school, before the Megillah Reading. Please sign up by **Sunday, March 14**, at <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/purim2016>.

USY Tikkun Olam Tzedakah Dinner, Friday, April 8, services at 6:30 p.m., dinner at about 7:30 p.m. Let TI's teens serve you dinner! All profits from the dinner, including tip pledges made that night, will go to USY's Tikkun Olam Tzedakah Fund. Please sign up by **April 4** at <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/usy2016>.

Shabbat Pesah Dinner, Friday, April 29, services at 6:30 p.m., dinner at about 7:30 p.m. Delicious Kosher for Passover dinner. Please sign up by **April 25** at <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/april2016dinner>.

Zemer Chai Turns 40!

Zemer Chai, the Jewish Chorale of the Nation's Capital, is turning 40 this year. How lucky we are to have such a fine musical group in our region!

Jewish choral music of this caliber is rare to find, and to know they are our neighbors is very special. Even more special is that TI's own **Carla Ellern** and **Alan Weitz** sing with the group.

Zemer Chai's very exciting 40th anniversary concert is scheduled for **Sunday, June 5**, at 5:00 p.m. at Adas Israel. Save the date! For tickets or more information, please check the website, www.zemerchai.org.

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Barbara Raimondo

From the Warm

Myrna Goldman and her intrepid travel companion, her sister **Harriet**, managed to entirely miss the snowstorm while in Guatemala and Costa Rica. In Guatemala, they toured Guatemala City, the colonial city of Antigua, Mayan villages near Lake Atitlan, and the Mayan ruins of Tikal. They also saw, from a distance (whew!), an active volcano called Fuego.

They spent more time in Costa Rica, including San Jose, Poas Volcano National Park, the Tirimbina biological reserve, an organic pineapple farm, and a coffee plantation. They went white water rafting, zip lining, and outrigger canoeing, and tossed back a drink with Indiana Jones. The Arenal volcano was visible from one of their hotels. Sa-mokin! They saw birds, butterflies, crocodiles, several kinds of monkeys, and sloths. They also took a nature walk in Manuel Antonio National Park. Good timing and a fun trip!

Dick and **Margie Siegel** are about to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Super *mazel tov!* First they are taking a trip to Hawaii and California. When they get back, they will celebrate their anniversary at TI at Shabbat services on Saturday morning, April 2. They will sponsor the kiddush for the congregation and have family and friends joining.

They are looking forward to having their children, **Andy**, **Jonathan** and **Michele**, along with their spouses, and their four grandsons all come from out of town. They have been TI members for 38 of their 50 years together and say "we are grateful that the shul has been a big part of our life."

To the Cold

Alan Landay went to Keystone, Colorado, January 25-30, on a ski

trip with Columbia Ski Club (CSC). The trip was postponed because of our own snow here in DC. While shortened, it was a lot of fun with beautiful weather for skiing. This was the second trip in a row for Alan that was delayed due to a big snow storm. Alan is worried he will be banned from future CSC trips for being a jinx. You would think that a skier who attracts snow would be a good thing. Isn't life crazy?

Melanie Greenfield just returned from her annual road trip with Philadelphia friends to the Dance Flurry in Saratoga Springs, New York. She joined more than 5,000 dancers and musicians for a weekend of Contra, Zydeco, Balkan, Yiddish, Charleston and so much more! So great that the dancing kept them warm as it was -31° outside!

From the flurry to the furry, the **Meytins** are thrilled to welcome to their family the gentle giant, i.e., d-o-g, **Bentley**.

Speaking of darling family members, **Asher Kirschbaum**, son of **Dennis Kirschbaum** and **Barbara Raimondo**, was mentioned in a Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) article about his mentor at RIT, Jason Nordhaus, and their study of stars and black holes. (<http://www.ntid.rit.edu/news/ritntids-nordhaus-brings-deaf-and-hard-hearing-students-astrophysical-research>).

Dennis and Barbara continue to analyze the article in the hopes that it might shed some light on what on earth their son is doing at school. No luck yet. Whatever it is, he will be presenting it at a January 2017 American Astronomical Society national meeting.

To the Warming

A *l'hayim* shout-out to **Alex Laufer** on the one-year anniversary of his

One Eight Distillery in Ivy City. According to *DCist*, "One Eight Distilling's primary spirits are its 'District Made Vodka,' 'Rock Creek White Whiskey,' and 'Ivy City Gin.' Eleven months after opening its doors, One Eight took home two awards from the New York International Spirits Competition: a silver medal for its Ivy City Gin and an award for Washington D.C. Distillery of the Year."

Also in a celebratory mood, **David** and **Judy Cohen** are eagerly looking forward to their granddaughter, **Eliana Gilman's**, bat mitzvah on March 5 at Congregation Agudas Achim in Alexandria, Virginia. This will be the fifth grandchild's bar/bat mitzvah they have had the pleasure and privilege to celebrate – with one more to come in two years.

Eliana is the daughter of the Cohen's daughter **Deb** and **Michael Gilman**. Friends and relatives from all branches of the family will attend the weekend's festivities, and Judy, David and other family members will share the Torah reading on Shabbat morning. Another super *mazel tov!*

Sad News

Sheldon Roodman, father of TI member **Stephanie Roodman Murdock** (**Jonah Murdock**), and grandfather of **Solomon** and **Eve**, died in January at the age of 74. The funeral was in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Sheldon Roodman was Executive Director of the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago for more than 30 years.

Nathan Kramarow, father of TI member **Ellen Kramarow** (**Jared Garelick**), and grandfather of **Hersh** and **Hannah**, died in February, at the age of 89, after a long illness. The funeral was in Sandy Springs, Georgia.

(Continued on page 10)

Gevarim

Andrew Reamer

גברים

Movie Nite@TI

March 6. *To Be Or Not To Be* (1942). A comedy directed by Jewish émigré, Ernst Lubitsch, about a troupe of actors (led by Jack Benny) in Nazi-occupied Warsaw who use their abilities at disguise and acting to fool the occupying troops.

April 10. *Casablanca* (1942). Directed by Jewish émigré, Michael Curtiz, and written by Jewish-Americans, Julius and Philip Epstein and Howard Koch. An American expatriate, Humphrey Bogart, must choose between his love for Ingrid Bergman and helping her Czech resistance leader husband, Paul Henreid, escape Vichy-controlled Morocco to continue his fight against the Nazis.

May 8. *Hangmen Also Die!* (1943). Directed by Fritz Lang based on a story by Bertolt Brecht about the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, "The Hangman of Prague," number-two man in the SS, and the chair of the Wannsee Conference that formally organized the Final Solution.

The idea for this movie series came from my reading about an exhibit organized by the Skirball Center in Los Angeles called "Light & Noir: Exiles and Migrants in Hollywood, 1933-1950." The exhibit looks at the experience and influence of German-speaking, Nazi-fleeing emigres on Hollywood. It traces Hollywood's

difficult evolution from being silent to finding a voice on the rise of Hitler and his attacks on the Jews, and the impact of recently-arrived European-Jewish directors, actors, writers, and production personnel.

Hollywood's silence in the 1930s on Hitler and Nazi anti-Semitism had several causes. The industry's Production Code Administration wouldn't approve movies that showed "in an unfavorable light another country's religion, history, institutions, prominent people, and citizenry." Other reasons were the fear of losing customers because of profound anti-Semitism in the U.S. and the country's strong isolationist base, and the studios' fears of losing the German market.

As Author Mark Harris describes the tension in Hollywood: "On rare occasions, a veiled or allusive argument against Fascism or tyranny would make its way into a motion picture, but it was then unthinkable that studios could use their own movies to sway public opinion about Hitler without sparking instant accusations that they were acting as propagandists for foreign -- meaning Jewish -- interests."

Charlie Chaplin broke the silence by making *The Great Dictator*, shown at Movie Nite on February 21. Chaplin had more room for maneuver because he led United Artists.

It's interesting that both Chaplin's film and *To Be Or Not To Be* are comedies in part and both involve look-alikes taking Hitler's place. German and Austrian Jews often played the Nazi parts in these films because they could do the accent.

Casablanca had a Jewish-owned studio, a Hungarian-Jewish director, American-Jewish writers, and a supporting cast of largely European emigres (only two gentile American-born actors). All three upcoming films

were written and produced while the war's outcome was uncertain.

As always, the movies, in the Cherner at 7:30 p.m., are free and nosh is \$4.

Talmud Study

March 12 and 26. Rabbi Seidel will continue his sessions on Tractate *Brakhot* after Shabbat Kiddush at 1:00 p.m.

Jewish Meditation

March 19. Izabella Tabarovsky will lead an experiential session at 1:00 p.m., exploring these questions:

- What is the meaning of meditation in the Jewish context?
- Is there an authentically Jewish meditative tradition?
- If so, how can we bring it to today's Jewish worshiper in a meaningful way?

Nayes un Mekhayes (continued)

May family and loved ones find strength in their memories.

And now for the meaning of last month's word, *hue and cry*: "hubbub" (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 from your posse 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.

JTS Program

Chancellor Arnold Eisen, "The Internal Contradictions of the Jewish Soul," **Sunday, March 13, 5-9 p.m.**, at B'nai Israel Congregation.

Tifereth Israel is a co-sponsor.

Kol Nashim

Margie Odle

Kol Nashim's February program "For the Love of Chocolate" was a great success. A group of 13 enjoyed being educated about and tasting some gourmet chocolate treats at SPAGnVOLA in Rockville (see photo below). The group continued the bonding experience by enjoying lunch together.

What is a Religious Experience?

We are very pleased to have **Maxine Grossman** for our morning program on **Sunday, March 6**. Max, an associate professor in the University of Maryland's Jewish Studies Program, will explore the idea of a "religious experience" – what does this concept really mean?



Max is one of our speakers who always draws a large audience, so be sure to RSVP so we have enough chairs and refreshments! It will be in the library from 10:15 to noon.

Class About Pesah

Our spring programming continues with a 2-session class about Pesah, presented by **Rabbi Avis Miller**. Learn about the origins of the seder and the text of the *Haggadah*. How did previous generations celebrate Pesah and what are the parallels with Easter?

Avis will give tips about creating a lively seder at your table! This program will be on Sunday mornings, **April 3** and **April 10** at 10:15 a.m. in the library. The cost is \$15 for each class for TI members and \$18 for non-members.

Book Club

The KN Book Club continues on **March 15** with *Countrymen* by Bo Lidegaard. See article below for details.

Surprise!

And last but not least, read about our surprise May program in next month's *Menorah*.

Hamentashen Baking

New members of Tifereth Israel are invited to join Rabbi Seidel on **Monday, March 21 at 5 p.m.** to bake *hamentashen*.

You also get to have your *hamentash* and eat it!



Kol Nashim members at SPAGnVOLA, the chocolatier, in Gaithersburg on February 7

KN Book Club

Jessica Weissman

Our next meeting is **March 15** at the home of **Myrna Goldman**. We will be discussing *Countrymen*, by Bo Lidegaard. This is an account of the Nazi occupation of Denmark and how the Danes saved nearly all of their Jewish countrymen by hiding them and by smuggling them across the water to Sweden.

Both the account of how the Danish government stood up to the Nazis during the first few years of the occupation and the account of how the Jews were helped by many of their neighbors are interesting. The book provides possibly too much detail on how unpleasant it is to travel in a fishing boat in a storm, but you can skim those parts.

There are many copies of *Countrymen* in the Montgomery County library and one in the DC library. The book is available electronically and as a hardback.

There are also several fictional accounts of the operation, mostly kidlit or young adult books. Lois Lowry's *Number the Stars* is the best known. Another is *Hitler's Canary* by Sandi Toksvig, which concentrates on the resistance and is excellent. An easily available history of the Danish Resistance for adults is *Hitler's Savage Canary*, by David Lampe.

I have a copy of *Hitler's Canary* to lend if anyone is interested.

B'nei Mitzvah

My name is **Gabe Kritz** and my bar mitzvah is on March 5. The *parashah* is *Va-Yakhel* and it is about the building of the *Mishkan*.

I am in 7th grade at the Charles E Smith Jewish Day School. My favorite subject in school is Social Studies.

This year I have been making casseroles for SOME as my bar mitzvah project. I enjoy playing and watching tennis, and my favorite professional sports team is the soon-to-be Stanley Cup champion Washington Capitals. I like hanging out with my friends, and spending time with my brothers and dogs.

My family and I look forward to sharing my *simhah* with the TI community, friends and family.



Hello. My name is **Beri Gershwind**, and my bar mitzvah will be on March 26.

I was born in Rochester, New York and lived in San Diego, California for five years before moving to Maryland. I graduated from JPDS-NC in 2015 and currently attend North Bethesda Middle School. I have an older brother, Nirel, and parents, Annick and Reed, with whom I enjoy spending time.

I also enjoy sports and the outdoors, especially skiing, as well as listening to music. I love technology and, for this reason, for my bar mitzvah project I will assist seniors at the Hebrew Home in Rockville who are experiencing computer and Internet technicalities.

I hope I see you at my bar mitzvah!



Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

Note: Dates for March assignments are different from those that appeared in the February Menorah due to the postponement of the March 11 Tzedakah dinner to April 8.

March 11

Marc Suddleson & Molly Surden
Howard & Michele Sumka
Michael & Adele Sumner
Gabe & Ruth Tabak
JT & Naomi Taransky
Kassahun Teffera & Melke Mengiste
Jevera Temsky
Neil & Rachel Tickner
Michael Tilchin & Linda Greer
Peter & Rhoda Trooboff
Paula Tucker
Jonathan & Cathy Tuerk
Allan & Judy Tulchin
Michael & Ruth Unterweger
Mark Verschell & Elizabeth Leff
Susan Vitale

March 18

David Wachtel & Jennifer Goldstein
Reenie Wagner
Harry Waldman & Susan Morse
Marc Warshawsky & Vivian Seidner
Matthew Watson & Ellen Cabot
Marc & Deborah Weinberger
Eric Weiner & Sharon Moshavi
Jon Weintraub & Judith Heimlich
Michael Weiss & Phyllis Stanger
Jessica Weissman & Louise Kelley

Dov Weitman & Sylvia Horwitz
Alan & Cynthia Weitz
Howard & Barbara White
Louise Wiener
Peter Winch & Denice Zeck
Adam & Dorothea Wolfson
Ariel David Wolsztijn & Karen Lisa Silberstein
Christopher Zeilinger & Ann Baker
Benjamin & Monica Zeitlin
Yohannes Zeleke
Alan Zibel & Renee Gindi
Diana Zurer
Ellen Zwibak

March 25

Luis & Karen Acosta
Andrew Afflerbach & Joanne Hovis
Seth & Elaine Akst
Miriam Alpern
Jon Alterman & Katherine LaRiviere
Robyn M. Altman & Brendan J. Doherty
Paula Amann
Timothy Anderegg & Lisa Fogel-Anderegg
Leonard Bachman
Sidney & Heike Bailin
Lawrence Baizer & Elaine Lewis
Paul & Esther Bardack

Burt Barnow
Mae Cooper & Gideon Bass
Charles Baum
Leonard & Joy Baxt
Mark & Mona Berch
Alex Berg & Mikah Goldman
Bruce & Laurie Berger
Carl Bergman & Margie Odle
Louis J. Blumen

April 15

Judi Berland
Joe Berman & Marsha Gentner
Ross & Shira Bettinger
Dana Beyer
Matthew Bigman & Kathleen Maile Baker
Sheri Blonder
Gideon & Lisa Blumenthal
Ron & Dina Borzekowski
Larry & Lise Bram
Steven & Rachel Bressler
Sharon Brown
Stephen Burd & Laura Schiavo
Harold Burgess & Shoshana Eisenberg
Joel & Alice Burton
Susan Chapin
Daniel Chazen & Ronit Eisenbach
Steven Cheskin & Malia Hale
Joel Cohen

Tot Shabbat Services

11:10 a.m.

March 19: Rebecca Damari, service leader; Sarah Sorscher, story-teller

April 16: Elizabeth Handwerker, service leader; Ellie Tiemann, story-teller

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Debra Shleien
Sheldon Roodman

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