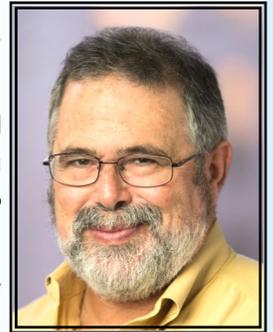




# The Menorah

## President's Column: Stan Dorn

### "Thank you" before "Please"?



It makes no sense to say "thank you" before "please." But that's exactly what our liturgy does at this time of year!

Starting at Shemini Atzeret – surely the single most obscure of all Jewish holidays – we add to the Amidah, the standard standing prayer, a note of appreciation for God who "causes the winds to blow and the rains to fall."

And then, starting in early December, we insert into each weekday Amidah a request for God to "grant dew and rain for blessing."

So – about a month after we start saying, "Thanks for the rain," we begin asking, "Please send rain." That makes no sense!

### Rain in an Agricultural Society

This puzzle involves something that was a really big deal when the liturgy was developed. In an agricultural society, rain yields not just attractive greenery and food– it powers the entire economy. Surely prayers about rain were thought through carefully.

How can we explain this non-trivial abandonment of liturgical logic?

One clue involves the specific blessing in which we voice our thanks for the wind and rain. In every season, this is the blessing that appreciates God for "supporting the falling, healing the sick, freeing prisoners," and "keeping faith with those who sleep in the dust." It concludes by blessing God for "making the dead live."

A second clue involves seasonal timing. As Shemini Atzeret dawns in the early autumn, we are headed into a season of scarcity and barrenness. We know the natural world will soon appear almost dead. At precisely this moment, we begin affirming that the darkening season we are about to enter will not last forever. Eventually the rains will fall, bringing the natural world back to vibrant life. And we keep affirming this faith in every Amidah, right through the Winter, until Pesach officially rings in the Spring.

### Cycles in Our Lives

Our lives are filled with similar cycles. Individuals and communities – sometimes entire countries – go through dark periods. It's easy to imagine, as they begin, that such times will last forever. Our liturgy pushes back against such despair. It helps us know that, while history brings periods of darkness, a profound and powerful force in the universe can bring even the apparently dead back to life.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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## President's Column (continued)

In Jewish time, each date on the calendar begins at night, followed by morning. Here's hoping for only the mildest and briefest of winter darkness, in all our lives, soon followed by supremely joyful, exuberant, and prolonged springs!

B'Shalom,

Stan

### **The Menorah Tifereth Israel Congregation**

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

info@tifereth-israel.org

Office hours: M, W, Th 9-6; Tu Staff Projects Day, F 9-3  
Sat & Sun Closed

Additional closings for December/early January  
December 25 (Federal holiday)  
January 1 (New Year's Day)

*Appointments are recommended*

**Rabbi:** Ethan Seidel, ext. 302

**Rabbi Emeritus:** A. Nathan Abramowitz, ext. 301

**President:** Stan Dorn

**Executive Director:** Jevera Temsky, ext. 301

**Synagogue Administrator:** Sheri Blonder, ext. 304

**Education Director:** Rina Rebibo, ext. 305

**Admin. & Engagement Assistant:** Shoshana Strom, ext. 301

**Memb. Accts. Coord.:** Grant Maxfield, ext. 310

**Kitchen Manager:** Roz Kram, ext. 312

**Facilities Manager:** Steve Ross, ext. 301

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

**Menorah Editor:** Jessica Weissman

**Copy Editor:** Robert Rovinsky

**Photography Editor:** Jeff Peterman

Menorah submissions:  
menorah@tifereth-israel.org

### **Sunday Afternoons at Theater J**

Revised Dates: Dec 24, Jan 28, Mar 18,  
Apr 29 and Jun 24 at 2:00 pm

Join other TI members on Sunday afternoons for the upcoming season of shows at Theater J. The performances listed above will feature a post-show discussion led by Lisa Traiger, (arts correspondent, Washington Jewish Week) and Rabbi Seidel.



For more information on Theater J's season call their box office at 202-777-3210 or visit <http://edcicc.org/center-for-arts/theater-j/on-stage/17-18-season/>

### **Visits by Rabbi Seidel**

Are you homebound, or hospital-bound, and would like a visit from Rabbi Seidel? Or do you know of someone in the congregation who could use such a visit? Please let Rabbi Seidel know, either by phone at 202-882-1605 x 302, or by email at [tirabbi@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:tirabbi@tifereth-israel.org).



# Tifereth Israel

*hanukkah extravaganza*

December 13 | 6:15 pm



## FEATURING...

Science of Light with JScience,  
Rabbi Seidel's homemade sufganiyot,  
art projects, Family Feud, and more!

\$15/person  
(tots 4 and under free!)

RSVP by December 4:

[www.tinyurl.com/DecDin](http://www.tinyurl.com/DecDin)

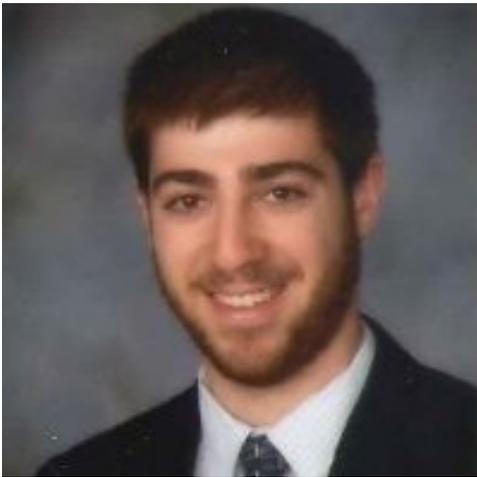
Questions? Email  
[receptionist@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:receptionist@tifereth-israel.org)

## New Members

### Jared Garelick

**Zach Weinstein** – Zach, a northern New Jersey native, moved to this area to attend college at the University of Maryland, where he studied economics and government. After graduating a year ago he relocated from College Park to downtown Silver Spring. He now works for an outside consulting firm with a long-term assignment at the National Weather Service in the NOAA building in Silver Spring, giving him an enviable short stroll of a commute.

Zach found TI the new-fashioned way, using Google Maps. Living the car-free life, he wanted to find a synagogue within walking or biking distance. Happily, he found TI to be to his liking. Among other things, he has discovered TI's millennials group. (If you didn't know that TI has a millennials group, you are probably not within its target age range, but you should tell younger Jewish people you know about it, whether they are members yet or not.)



**Zach Weinstein**

Zach enjoys skiing and movies, and is a dedicated biker. He volunteers and does advocacy work with the Washington Area Bicyclist Association. This fall, Zach realized he

might have become a real Washington-area denizen. It briefly appeared possible that the Nationals could reach the World Series and face his beloved Yankees, and he had to consider which he would favor. While the actual test never came (a true Washington resident knows the folly of such hopes), he discovered it might be the Nats.

**Lauren and Jeff Nosanov** – Lauren grew up in Long Island, and Jeff across the country in Los Angeles, and their paths toward each other and to Washington involved significant travel and detours. In 2000, while they lived in different cities, Lauren's sister and the sister of Jeff's friend decided that Lauren and Jeff should know each other, so they introduced them online. The pair hit it off, and after two years of regular phone conversations they finally met face to face. (This reporter has optioned the rom-com movie rights.)

They moved to Washington a few years ago from a sojourn in Los Angeles, where Lauren attended medical school at USC and Jeff worked at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Lauren is now a surgical resident at Washington Hospital Center, training as a general surgeon. Jeff has a specialty in space law, having an LL.M., masters in law degree, in that unusual area from the University of Nebraska.

He now consults on space projects and has started another company as well. Lauren and Jeff have a son, Nathan, who is five and a half, and a daughter, Penny, who is two and half. They found TI after meeting member Janet Blank at their local pool and becoming friendly. That makes the Blank/Pitlick family TI's Magnet Member Family of the Month. Jeff reports that he is starting to bike again, and that he and Lauren enjoy "brief moments of quiet and peace."

Welcome again to this month's featured new members!

## January Birthday/Anniversary Kiddush - January 13th

Share your January simcha and help sponsor the birthday/anniversary kiddush. Your name on a cake in squiggly icing! Your birthday or anniversary in the bulletin and mentioned in the announcements! Sign up to sponsor by January 10, 2018 at: [www.tinyurl.com/TIbday](http://www.tinyurl.com/TIbday)

## What Do We Do on Tuesdays? Jevera Temsky

The TI office is the bustling hub of congregational life. The phone rings, people walk in or come for appointments, truck drivers deliver food, children need band aids, renters need Ethernet cables – you name it, it all happens in the TI office. Our job is to serve the community and we do our best to be here ‘in real time’ when you need us.

### Time to Concentrate on Project and Planning

We also need blocks of time in which to concentrate on major projects and strategic planning. A few years ago, following a recommendation made by former TI President Jeff Davidson z”l, we experimented with occasional “Quiet Tuesdays”. Why Tuesdays? Tuesday is the only day of the week with no regularly scheduled congregational activities. There are fewer walk-ins and calls on Tuesdays and it is normally the Rabbi’s day off, so we felt this was the logical day to carve out work time without compromising customer service.

The staff found this weekly mini-retreat so productive that synagogue leadership gave the green light to institute “Quiet Tuesdays” every week. Staff members set a ka-

vanah or intention for each Tuesday, and we share progress on our various individual and joint projects during staff meetings. We also use Tuesday staff meetings to strategize team efforts such as High Holiday logistics, debrief recent activities such as Friday night dinners, dig into jeans and t-shirt projects such as turning the front stairwell into a stroller parking lot, review the congregational schedule to determined special staffing needs, etc.

### TI is Open for Business on Tuesday

We caused some confusion by listing the office as closed on Tuesdays wherever office hours are published. Just to be clear: *TI is open for business every Tuesday*. We answer email, work with renters, receive deliveries, answer the door, and, of course, deal with deaths or other critical issues. Generally, we do not answer the phone, but we do check messages hourly. If your business can wait until Wednesday, that will help us preserve Tuesdays for special projects. But if you have a time-sensitive matter, email or call and we’ll respond as quickly as possible.

## Called to the Mall Carolivia Herron

On October 20, 2017 I had the pleasure of giving a copy of a recent publication, ***Called to the Mall***, to Representative John Lewis. I was attending the Hurston - Wright Foundation Literary Awards and the book of essays about the National Mall included an *Ode to John Lewis* by our own Louise Parker Kelley, editor of the collection. The collection primarily includes insightful essays by students of Shining Stars Montessori Academy Public Charter School, where Louise teaches.

Each essay elaborates a person, place of event associated with the Mall. Essays by adults include *Folklife Festival at Fifty* by Jessica Weissman and my description of attending the 1963 March on Washington, *They Came*. ***Called to the Mall***, published by the National Mall Coalition, is the first of several books designed to inform National Mall visitors of stories, themes and perspectives of this front yard of the United States.

It was a high point of my life to share ***Called to the Mall: Stories about the National Mall*** with a Civil Rights hero, Representative John Lewis, and we hope we can soon share these stories with you too. The collection ends with an afterword by the President of the National Mall Coalition, Judy Feldman.

Please learn more about the Coalition and the book at [nationalmallcoalition.org](http://nationalmallcoalition.org).

- Carolivia Herron, Board Member, National Mall Coalition

## Himmelfarb & Chai Happenings

Rina Rebibo

### Chodesh Chadashot

Have you seen the new Chodesh Chadashot? In Hebrew, the word 'chodesh' means 'month' and the word 'chadashot' means 'news'. This year The Himmelfarb & Chai School has a monthly newsletter that shares some morsels about each Jewish month and a brief update of what each class is doing. If you are interested in receiving the Chodesh Chadashot, please email [rina@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:rina@tifereth-israel.org) to get on our email list.

### Important Upcoming Dates

**Sunday December 3rd** 6:15-8:15: 10th grade confirmation class

**Wednesday December 13th:** 6:15-8:00 PM TI's Family Hanukkah Extravaganza. Featuring activities for all ages, including: Tot Arts & Crafts, 'The Science of Light' by JScience for K-5, Family Fued with our Youth Advisor, Adam, for 6th grade and up, and of course dinner followed by the Rabbi's AH-mazing Sufganiyot! Sign up: <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/event/dec17>

**Sunday December 17th** 10:30 am -12:00 pm: Better Together Hanukkah Party at TI

**Sunday December 17th** 6:30 – 8:00 pm: 8th-12th Grade Hot Cocoa Hang Out with Rina & Adam at Rina's house. RSVP here: <http://tinyurl.com/TITeenHangout>

**Sunday December 24th – Sunday December 31st:** No School – Winter Break



Participants getting to know each other during the November 12th Better Together event

## An Interview with Andi Gunther

Rina Rebibo

Last January I met with the current B'nai mitzvah cohort and asked them if they were interested in working with me in writing a grant for the Better Together



program. Three students eagerly took on the challenge. For a few months, they met with me outside of school hours, researched on their own, and worked as a team in order to envision a comprehensive program and assist with writing the grant. One of these students is Andi Gunther. Andi's Kabbalat Mitzvah took place at Tifereth Israel on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017. As preparations for the big day were underway, Andi's parents contacted me to see if the family could give a gift to the Better Together program in honor of Andi's Kabbalat Mitzvah. Andi's generous gift to the Better Together program allowed for the Himmelfarb School to purchase additional tech-equipment that will facilitate producing our VLOG for years to come.

*Q: Why did you want to donate to BT program?*

A: I thought that if I wanted to be more influential in it – I would have to do something extra – I really enjoy working on it and want to make a positive contribution to it.

*Q: How did you decide what to donate?*

A: My family and I were thinking about what we

could do for a family gift and I suggested the Better Together program to my parents. Rina sent me a list of items that were needed and my parents asked me what would benefit the program best and we chose three items.

*Q: What do you like about the BT Program?*

A: I don't always feel like I can ask my grandparents some questions, since they are not my friends. I feel safer asking the BT participants because not only are they open to my questions but also they ask us questions, so it's mutual.

*Q: What impact do you see the BT program having?*

A: There are a few things I see: 1) I think its monumental how many people come to the program, 2) a lot of students don't realize how it may be affecting them and 3) I like having a place to go where its not Hebrew school – no pressure to go and it's a safe space where people are accepting of others.

*Q: Is the program having a personal impact on you?*

A: I'm going to interact more with adults as I grow, since they have had more life experiences and can give more advice than someone my own age.

*Q: What impact do you think this is having on the adult generation that attends?*

A: I think they are seeing that the youth of today may not be 100% the way they perceive them to be.

***Thank you Andi, Stefan & Lisa for your generous contribution to our Better Together program.***

So far, our Better Together program has had two successful inter-generational programs, with close to 40 people in attendance. Our next Better Together program will be on Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in attending or learning more about the program, please email [rina@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:rina@tifereth-israel.org)

## Sitting Shomer

Carolivia Herron

*There's been a death in the opposite house  
as lately as to-day*

So Emily Dickinson writes of the signs of a recent death in a country town in 19th century New England. This is one of the poems I read, as well as passages from Genesis and Jeremiah, when I sit in the "opposite house" — that is; is the room on the other side of the curtained window, sitting shomer at the funeral home to honor and to reflect upon the latest one who has left us.

I always choose night hours for going to sit there and think, leaving the sleeping house. Perhaps you will choose the day. But choose. When you come to that opposite house, there will be one of us in this house, the house of the living, looking toward you.

There are always books there, Psalms if you like and other books of Jewish reflections, but I always take a book with me as well. I wake in the night and drive through the night and park in the dark and punch the code in the metal door plate, to walk into the light and warmth of the room where I gather a few words from others and from myself, as if to send a letter, a belated letter, to the one who has gone.

And what is in the letter?

You. Your body lies here. I sit here warm and bright and comfortable and thinking of you. Us. Wake and think for a moment, stay for a moment, honoring the breath given, taken, returned.

Someone in our community has died. Known, unknown, the latest gone.

We have all slept on this bed. We all sleep on this bed. Will you sit and watch and wake and read and think for your sake, my sake, our sake? Here is a thought you can carry with you. We have all known

the tumult of birth and the avalanche of living. But I sit shomer with you now, awake and awakening, consecrate specifically, for you who has left - who is leaving us, the receiving, holding and giving back of the breath of life, the living soul.

Please volunteer to sit shomer, honoring the breath of life as it departs with blessing. It's easy to sign up when requests are sent out, or contact the synagogue office and they will sign you up.

To learn more about sitting shomer, contact a member of the Funeral Practices Committee, listed below.

### **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, before 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: 202-994-5906

**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

**Robert Rovinsky** h: 202 237 1036  
c: 202 815 8707

## Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

### Diana Zurer

#### Nakhes Fun Kinder and General Mispoche News Dept.

Editor's note: This clearly also belongs under *Dergraychungn* (Accomplishments). **Shelly Heller** reports: You can't be in two places at once, or as my mom would say "Meh ken nit tantsen oyf tsvay khasenes oyf eyn mol." All were to fly to San Francisco for **Natalie** (daughter of **Shelly** and **Steve's** son **Adam**) **Heller's** Bat Mitzvah. And, at the same time **Shelly** was named and inducted into the George Washington University Engineering School Hall of Fame. How did they manage? All went to California and **Shelly** left an acceptance video for GW. Modern technology. Your N u M editor again: *Mazel-Tov to all!*

On November 3, **Caleb Lior Kline** was born in Tel Aviv, Israel. **Caleb** was welcomed by his parents, **Mira** and **Marc Kline**, his brother, **Jonah**, and his grandparents, **Larry** and **Pearl Schainker**. The Kline family will be in Israel for two years while **Marc** is at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. *Mazel-Tov to all!*

From the Herman household:

**Esther** and **Gene** are proud to announce their second grandson, **Zachary Herman's**, Bar Mitzvah, was held at Temple B'nai Shalom in Fairfax County, Virginia, in late October. **Zachary** is the oldest son of their son, **David Herman**. *Mazel-Tov to all!*

#### *Dergraychungn* (Accomplishments)

**Simcha Kuritzky** placed three exhibits at the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists show in October. His polygonal coins took second place in World Coins, feline species took third place in paper money, and engraved coins of the Baal Shem Tov amulet took third place in medals. *Bravo!*

**Renana Brooks** made her comic debut in a stand up comedy show at the Improv Nightclub, as part of her graduation from the "Five Minutes to Funny" program there. She used the tried and true approach of poking fun at her husband, who enjoyed himself thoroughly. *Thanks, Robert Rovinsky, for being such a good sport and for reporting this and Brava to Renana!*

#### Meh Fort

**Jessica Weissman** saw both of her far-flung sisters recently. She went to California to see her middle sister **Marion** and attend a book-themed Halloween party. Her baby sister **Liz** came out to DC where the high point was a crafts fair at Nationals Park. It's always fun to go to a ballpark, even in the fall when the grass is rolled away and a cold wind blows through the stands. Why yes, they DID load up on Hanukkah presents, including some for other people.

#### Sad News

**Paul Kimelman**, father of TI member **Jason (Devora) Kimelman-Block**, and grandfather of **Esther, Nathan, Simone** and **Micah**, died Tuesday, October 24, 2017, in New York. He was 81, and died after a long illness.

The funeral took place on Thursday, October 26, 2017 in Newburgh, NY, followed by the burial at Mt. Hebron Cemetery in Flushing, NY.

TI member **Anne Kurtz** died on November 2, 2017, at 106, after many years in an assisted living facility. She was predeceased by her husband, Joseph Kurtz, her daughter Arlene Shapiro, and a grandson, Danny Shapiro. She is survived by her daughter Helen Carlin; grandsons Mark Shapiro, Tom Carlin and John Carlin; and six great-grandchildren. Funeral services were graveside at King David Memorial Gardens in Falls Church, VA on November 5, 2017.

**Lillian Shulman**, sister of TI member **Larry (Melanie) Greenfield**, and aunt of **Sam**, died November 14, 2017 in New York after a long illness. She was 94. The funeral was on November 15, 2017 on Long Island.

*May their memories be a blessing.*

*Der emes kumt aroys vi boyml afn vaser* means The truth comes out like oil on water. That was one from my childhood. This month I leave you with: *Redn is zilver, shvaygn iz gold.* Hope to hear from many of you for the January Menorah. My deadline is Jan 24<sup>th</sup>. [dzurer@gmail.com](mailto:dzurer@gmail.com)

## Havdallah Potlucks are Back

TI's first Havdallah Potluck of 5778 took place at the Kefers' house on November 18th. This lovely TI tradition is an excellent way to get to know your fellow congregants. As these photos show, a great time was had by all. Many thanks to the Kefers for hosting.



### Upcoming potlucks:

January 27th at the home of Richard Gryziak and Leigh Verbois (and Lorelei and Sam)

February 10th at the home of Judah Flum and Lisa Itkin (and Michael)

Sign up here: <https://goo.gl/forms/vyS5sYAJnErKaurj1>

## Kol Nashim's Events to Watch Out For

### Adele Natter



#### KN Book Club

The next meeting of the KN Book Club will be on Dec. 19. See all the details in Jessica Weissman's Book Club article on page 22.

#### Devorah Kimmelman-Block

asked "So you want to be an Activist?" Several people responded with an enthusiastic "Yes!" In an enjoyable and inspiring program, Devorah spoke about, and won adherents to, her organization, Unleash Your Activist, aims to increase voter turnout and focuses on specific issues from a Jewish point of view.

#### No Yeast—No Problem!

Just in time for the holiday season! Bake With Jessica Weissman on Dec. 3, at 10:15 in the social hall. She will demonstrate whole wheat biscotti and ginger-chocolate cookies, as well as - for those who have no sitzfleisch (patience) - quick butter rolls. Attendees will help make the items and perform the all-important quality-control function (tasting). This program is open to men and women alike.

#### Toiletries in the powder room

In a pilot program, KN is providing, on Shabbat and holidays, a basket of toiletries in each ladies'

restroom. Help yourself as needed, and let us know what you think.

#### Game Night January 20th

Back by popular demand, Game Night will enliven the dead of winter on Saturday evening, January 20. Gevarim will cosponsor the event, which will include Scrabble, Poker, bourbon, bridge and other games, as well as knitting. For an extra advantage, you can bring your games from home.

## Zemer Chai / Orchestra of the Potomac Hannukah Miracle Concert

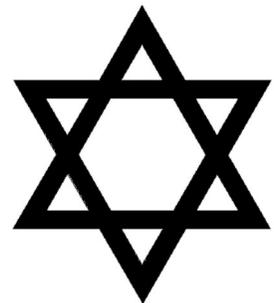
### December 17th

Zemer Chai, the Jewish Chorale of the Nation's Capital, is joining forces with the Orchestra of the Potomac for a Hannukah Miracle concert.

Featuring excerpts from Handel's oratorio *Judas Maccabeus* and a scintillating sampling of Hannukah music from around the world, the concert will be followed by sufganiyot, candle lighting, and a singalong.

Both organizations include TI members: **Alan Weitz**, **Liza Itkin** and **Carla Ellern** sing with Zemer Chai; **Judy Cohen** and **Mike Lav** play with the Orchestra of the Potomac.

The concert is at 4:30 on Sunday, December 17th at B'nai Israel Congregation in Rockville. More information at: [www.ZemerChai.org](http://www.ZemerChai.org)



## B'nai Mitzvot



I am **Patrick Moorehead**, I am 13 years old and I am a student in Alice Deal Middle School (8th Grade). I am a Cadet Staff Sergeant in the Civil Air Patrol US Air Force Auxiliary. I am also a piano player and a fencer.

My Bar Mitzvah is December 9th, and my parshah is Vayeishev. My tutor is Rabbi Mark Novak, and he has helped me so much the whole way and I'm very thankful. My Bar Mitzvah project was raising money for the Humane Rescue Alliance, for which I also did 10 community service hours. I'm very excited!

Hi! I'm **Naomi Garber** and my bat mitzvah is December 16. My parsha is Miketz, which is about Joseph and the dreams that he interprets for Pharaoh. My bat mitzvah is during Hanukah, which is cool because Hanukah has always been one of my favorite holidays. I am a 7th grader at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School. My parents are Lynne Snyder and Steve Garber.

My parents have been going to TI since before my brother and I were born, so I have grown up here and I am really excited to have my bat mitzvah with the TI community. I am sharing a b'nai mitzvah with my twin brother, Josh. In my free time, I enjoy ice skating and reading. For my bat mitzvah project, I tutored a first grader named Nathan in reading. It was fun to help him improve. I also volunteer at A Wider Circle. I hope to see you at my bat mitzvah!



Hi, my name is **Josh Garber** and I'm having my bar mitzvah at TI on December 16th. I go to Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, and I'm in the 7th grade. Outside of school, I like to play sports, play drums, and hang out with my friends. I have a twin sister named Naomi, who is sharing the b'nai mitzvah with me.

You might know my parents as they have been going here for close to twenty years. We are celebrating Hanukah, one of my favorite holidays, right now. In Miketz, Pharaoh takes Joseph from jail and makes him Pharaoh's top consultant. For my Bar Mitzvah Project, I volunteer at Martha's Table, serving food to anyone who needs a meal. I hope to see you all at my bar mitzvah!



## SHALEM

Jessica Weissman

The next SHALEM is on December 9th. The Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC) will present a panel of survivors of torture from Africa, who will share their personal stories and put a human face on the plight of political refugees and asylum seekers.

They will explain why they were persecuted in their country, how they are rebuilding their lives here, and what you and the U.S. government can do to combat torture and human rights abuses. The speakers will be Binyam Bekele and Feyera Sobokssa, both from Ethiopia. The event will be moderated by TASSC's executive director, Leonce Byimana, from Rwanda.

TI's own **Diana Zurer** will present An Introduction to American Yiddish poetry on December 30th. From Morris Rosenfeld, a sweat shop poet from the end of the 19th c. to Aaron Zeitlin who died in 1974, you'll be introduced to poems in Yiddish and English, read and sung, that will fascinate, challenge and charm you.

Diana Zurer is a product of Sholem Aleichem Folk Shul 45 in the Bronx and the Fareynikde Mitleshul. She was a member of TI's Yiddish Ahf Shabbos troupe which presented programs on Yiddish themes. She is a member of the DC Leyenkrayz which reads Yiddish texts together. Diana worked for DC Public Schools in Curriculum and Instruction and after leaving DCPS was the Deputy Director of the Early Childhood Leadership Institute. Since retirement, Diana has been able to devote more time to her passion for quilting and Italian travel.

On January 9th, Funeral Practices committee member **David Cohen** will give a *drash* on the history and functions of the committee. At the SHALEM program, a panel of committee members will discuss their respective roles and experiences, and the need for additional participation from the TI community.

There are still openings for spring and early summer. Send your suggestions to me: [jweissmn@his.com](mailto:jweissmn@his.com).

## December Highlights at Tifereth Israel

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| December 8  | Teen Kabbalat Shabbat; TI teens lead the service, 6pm  |
| December 9  | Patrick Moorehead Bar Mitzvah  |
| December 10 | Preschool Fair 10:30 am - 12 noon  |
| December 13 | Hannukah Extravaganza, with Science of Light, Family Feud, Rabbi Seidel's homemade sufganiyot, and more! 6:15pm    |
| December 16 | Josh and Naomi Garber B'nai Mitzvot.   |
| December 19 | KN Book Club, at the home of Cyndi and Alan Weitz, 7:30 pm<br>Reading is <i>Violins of Hope</i> , by James Grymes. |
| December 24 | Movie nite, showing <i>The Wedding Plan</i> , 6 pm followed by Chinese food  |
| December 30 | SHALEM post-kiddush program. Diana Zurer presents An Introduction to American Yiddish Poetry, 1:15 pm              |

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

## Gevarim

### Andrew Reamer

גברים

#### Movie Nite

On Sunday, December 24, at 6:00 PM, Movie Nite@TI will show "The Wedding Plan," an Israeli film written and directed by Rama Bershtein (2016, 110 mins). Plot: After Michal's fiance calls off their engagement a month before the wedding, she decides to keep the reservation and trusts HaShem will provide her with a husband in time. The movie is free. After the movie, those interested will migrate to a Chinese restaurant, a Jewish tradition on Xmas Eve.

#### Video Course: The World of Biblical Israel

Video lectures on "The World of Biblical Israel" continue on Sunday, December 10 from 10:30 AM-12:15 PM in the Berch Library. Oberlin College Professor Cynthia Chapman completes the section "Becoming the Nation of Israel, 1200-1000 BCE" with Lectures 7 and 8 -- "Three Weddings and a Funeral" (on the beliefs and practices around these ceremonies) and "Political Power Bases in Early Israel" (on judges and elders). Each lecture is 30 minutes, followed by 45 minutes of

discussion led by Allan Tulchin, Adult Ed Committee chair and Shippensburg University history professor.

#### Shabbat Talmud Study

Rabbi Seidel continues our study of Talmud Tractate Brakhot in English translation. The next sessions are on December 2 and 16 from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m. in the Reamer Chapel. Books are provided. Feel free to drop in on our ongoing exploration of this Talmud tractate.



### Hanukkah with Millennials Plus

Please join TI Millennials Plus on Saturday, December 16th at 5:30pm for a Hanukkah celebration in TI's library.

Bring your favorite board game or come to enjoy someone else's, while we enjoy appetizers for dinner, after havdallah and lighting Hanukkah candles. There will be some tot-appropriate games to play, as well.

TI Members, friends of TI Members, and kiddos are welcome! Let us know that you're coming by signing up at <https://goo.gl/forms/FKNZz5XYAACUFLGx2> . Looking forward to seeing you there!

*TI Millennials Plus are TI members, their friends, friends of friends, in their 20s and 30s, with and without kids, creating community and having fun. For more information, please contact [TIMillplus@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:TIMillplus@tifereth-israel.org).*

## Challah Baking with Rabbi Seidel

Himmelfarb/Chai school students and parents and others learned to bake challah with the Rabbi on November 19.



## Hexagram: Shield of David, Seal of Solomon, or Brewer's Star? Simcha Kuritzky

Most of us grew up drawing six-pointed stars or hexagrams to define something as Jewish, but this is a fairly recent phenomenon. While the hexagram is commonly called the *Magen David* (shield of David), it was never used by ancient Jews, but developed in central European Jewish communities during the Renaissance. It has also been used by other peoples. Many Judaica collectors include gentile items that show hexagrams.



Today we think of five-pointed stars as American, but back when our country began, Mint officials thought of them as British and six-pointed stars (or mullets) were French. Since we had just fought a war against the British with the aid of the French, our early coins used six-pointed stars. The most spectacular example of this was the tiny silver three-cent piece issued from 1851 to 1873, whose main design was a shield in a six-pointed star. The first U.S. coins to use five-pointed stars were quarters and halves issued from 1892–1916 which had six-pointed stars on the front and five-pointed on the back. After 1921, only five-pointed stars were used on U.S. coins.



However, a hexagram isn't just an outline; it's two triangles superimposed on each other, often intertwined. Hexagrams have been used as designs on coins for a long time. The silver denier at left was issued by Prince Raoul VII of Deols in France circa 1170. When the French Jews asked their army in World War One to use a hexagram instead of a cross to mark Jewish graves, the army researched this and decided to use the Ten Commandments instead since Jews of French Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria recognized the hexagram as the Moslem symbol Seal of Solomon. Coins from the Sherifate of Morocco displayed the Seal of Solomon starting with King Suleyman II in 1792. The copper coin shown here is a 4 falus of 1867. The silver is an 1897 5 dirhem. Neighboring British territories also used the Seal of Solomon. This 1936 half penny was issued under the name of Edward VIII for British West Africa. The largest state to emerge from the breakup of that territory in the 1950s was Nigeria, which retained the Seal of Solomon on this 1959 half penny. While the native Igbo tribe claim to be descended from the Israelites, they only started using a hexagram as their symbol later.

(Continued on page 17)

## Hexagram (continued)



India also uses the hexagram, mostly as a symbol for air, the union of male and female principles, or the heart chakra. The tiny copper coin is a cash minted under the British in the Kingdom of Travancore in 1860. The modern brass amulet shows a hexagram with other symbols and letters. A Nineteenth Century khanukiya from Cochin, India emblazoned with a hexagram is shown on Israel's last Khanuka commemorative sheqel issued in 1990.



Another use of the hexagram is by German brewers. They hang a sign with a hexagram to show that the latest batch of beer is ready for sale. Supposedly this sign is used as the combination of the alchemical symbols for fire and water. It was also adopted by wine sellers. Shown here are a brass beer token from late Nineteenth Century Baltimore, an aluminum medal of 1907 commemorating Restaurant Week in Eisenach, and a 1921 10 pfennig emergency scrip from the Hansa Wine Restaurant in Gorlitz.



While historians argue when, the Zionist Organization did adopt the *Magen David* as a Jewish, Zionist symbol, as shown on this French 5 centime receipt stamp printed in 1901 with JNF written out in German. This 1933 medal celebrating FDR's inaugural in 1933 was clearly issued as a Jewish good luck piece, while the 1932 amulet combines the all-seeing eye, four leaf clover, hexagram and swastika, demonstrating that the hexagram was not exclusively a Jewish symbol and the swastika was not exclusively a Nazi symbol at that time. The Masonic membership medal likely uses the hexagram as a symbol for Solomon as the son of David and builder of the Temple in Jerusalem.

Today the hexagram is almost universally acknowledged as the Jewish symbol, but that has not always been the case. Many people assume that any artifact with a hexagram is of Jewish origin. These items show the wide variety of uses for the hexagram over the centuries.

## Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

### December 1, 2017

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

### December 8, 2017

David & Laurel Rabin  
 Glenn Rapoport  
 Jacqueline Ratner  
 Andrew Reamer  
 Sanford & Shelley Reback  
 Naomi Reem  
 Arnold & Naomi Revzin  
 Ruth Reynolds  
 Howard Riker & Danielle Glosser

Morris & Judy Rodenstein  
 Joseph Rofrano & Lynn Golub-  
 Rofrano  
 Charles Rombro & Pamela Stone  
 Elliot Rosen & Sharon Cohen  
 Andrew & Jackelyn Lopez Roshwalb  
 Aviel Roshwald & Alene Moyer  
 Ari Roth & Kate Schecter  
 Nancy Roth  
 Marc Rothenberg & Ivy Baer

### December 22, 2017

Robert Rovinsky & Renana Brooks  
 David & Stephanie Rubin  
 Howard & Hannah Rubin  
 Stephen & Jill Saletta  
 Mark & Diann Saltman  
 Lawrence & Pearl Schainker  
 Eric & Shira Schechtman  
 Michael & Mical Schneider  
 Keith Secular & Susan Catler  
 Paul Seltman & Jeanne Ireland  
 Hershel & Judith Shanks  
 David & Lois Shapiro  
 Phillip & Ruth Shapiro  
 Yvonne Shashoua  
 Noam Shelef & Deborah Quint  
 Shelef  
 Jaclyn Shettler & Aaron Marx  
 Scott Shoreman & Elizabeth Carp  
 Randy Showstack & Michele Zador  
 Nathaniel Shyovitz  
 Richard & Marjorie Siegel  
 Yochanan Sullivan

### January 5, 2018

Morton Simon  
 David & Rona Siskind  
 Aaron & Reva Snow  
 Dan & Elizabeth Sokolov  
 Steven Solomon & Cara Lichten-  
 stein  
 Jamie Sorge & Malki Karkowsky  
 Sarah Sorscher & Marcus Hedrick  
 Louis & Madge Lee Specter  
 Barry & Sari Siegel Spieler  
 Gregory Stackel & Genevieve Dara  
 Sapir  
 Jeffrey & Julie Steinberg  
 Lois C. Steinberg  
 Michael Stempel & Sheryl Frank  
 Abby Stoler & Samantha Holtz  
 Steven Stoller  
 Jack Stone & Wilma Brier  
 Herman & Malka Stopak  
 Michael & Michelle Strollo  
 Edwin Stromberg & Rose Ellen  
 Halper  
 Shelley Sturman

### January 19, 2018

Marc Suddleson & Molly Surden  
 Howard & Michele Sumka  
 Michael & Adele Sumner  
 Gabe & Ruth Tabak  
 JT & Naomi Taransky  
 Bernard & Daniella Taveau  
 Kassahun Teffera & Melke Men-  
 giste  
 Jevera Temsky



## Upcoming Birthday/Anniversary Kiddushim

The January birthday/anniversary kiddush is on January 13th. Deadline to sign up is January 10th.

For both, sign up at [www.tinyurl.com/TIbday](http://www.tinyurl.com/TIbday)

## Friday Night Minyan Assignments (continued)

Glenn & Diane Thrush  
 Neil & Rachel Tickner  
 Michael Tilchin  
 Peter & Rhoda Trooboff  
 Paula Tucker  
 Jonathan & Cathy Tuerk  
 Allan & Judy Tulchin  
 Daniel & Allison Turner  
 Michael & Ruth Unterweger  
 Mark Verschell & Elizabeth Leff  
 Susan Vitale

**January 26, 2017**  
 David Wachtel & Jennifer Goldstein  
 Reenie Wagner  
 Harry Waldman & Susan Morse  
 Philip Wallach & Vera Krimnus  
 Marc Warshawsky & Vivian Seidner  
 Matthew Watson & Ellen Cabot  
 Stephanie Weber  
 Eric Weiner & Sharon Moshavi  
 Zach Weinstein  
 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  
 Christopher Zeilinger & Ann Baker  
 Yohannes Zeleke  
 Alan Zibel & Renee Gindi  
 Diana Zurer  
 Ellen Zwibak



Are you thinking about sending your child to a Jewish preschool? Not sure about the options?

Come get a taste of your choices at the Jewish Preschool Fair at Tifereth Israel. This is a great opportunity to speak to representatives of schools throughout DC and lower Montgomery County, serving children as young as 18 months.

The whole family is welcome. There will be activities for children and snacks for all ages. Children of diverse backgrounds are all welcome into Jewish preschool communities.

There is no charge to attend. RSVP requested at <http://tinyurl.com/TIpreschoolfair>

Contact Wilhelmina ([wfwgottschalk@gmail.com](mailto:wfwgottschalk@gmail.com)) with any questions. We hope to see you there!

## Updates from Your TI USY and Kadima Advisor Adam Rosen

This past month TI USY and Kadima took part in a meaningful volunteer experience as we cooked and served dinner for the Luther Place Women's Shelter. Five of our dedicated members helped us prepare a delicious baked ziti meal complete with sides and dessert for the residents. Not only was it rewarding giving back to the community, but inspiring to hear the stories of the residents as we formed new human connections.

### Seaboard Region Shabbat Gathering

TI USY and Kadima are also proud members of the Seaboard Region of USY, which brings together chapters throughout all of Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and northeastern North Carolina. This past month TI Kadimaniks participated in the Fall Kadima Kallah, in North East, Maryland. One hundred Kadi-



maniks and staff joined together for a meaningful Shabbat filled with new and old friends, ruach, and dynamic programming.

### USY Fall Convention

Additionally, the USY Fall Convention saw TI USYers join with close to 200 USYers and staff in Waynesboro, PA for a jam packed Shabbaton of Continental Conversations regarding Jewish identity, the annual "Chapter Showcase," late night s'mores by the campfire, grade bonding, endless memories, and new experiences. I highly encourage all our members to give regional programming a try and would be happy to answer any questions or concerns about upcoming Seaboard events.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me ([adam@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:adam@tifereth-israel.org)) for more information on upcoming events. It is an exciting time for TI Youth, as

we continue to work with our dedicated parents and community to build and grow an innovative and engaging youth program here at TI. I thank you all for your support thus far and look forward to our continued success.

To become a member of Kadima/USY and participate in chapter and regional programming, please sign up here: <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/youth17>

### Friday, December 8th – 6:00pm: TI USY and Kadima Shabbat Services

Come join TI USY and Kadima for an uplifting Friday night Shabbat service as our members help lead for the congregation! Services begin at 6:00PM. Email Kim Levone ([kim.levone@gmail.com](mailto:kim.levone@gmail.com)) if you want to lead part of the service.

### Saturday, December 9th – TI USY and Kadima Havdalah Hangout and USY Lock – In

From 7-10 pm all Kadimaniks and USYers are welcome to join the chapter for Havdalah and a Hanukkah themed Color War event. Kadimaniks must be picked up by 10PM while USYers are invited to spend the night at TI for a classic sleepover of movies, snacks, friends, and fun. Pickup for USYers will be Sunday Morning at 8AM.

Please email: [adam@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:adam@tifereth-israel.org) to RSVP by Friday, December 1st

### Sunday, December 17th - 12:30-2pm: TI Kadima Hanukkah Escape the Room

All TI Kadimaniks are invited to take part in our very own Escape the Room activity from 12:30 – 2PM. Lunch will be served before we work in teams to uncover this mystery game together.

Please email [adam@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:adam@tifereth-israel.org) to RSVP by Friday, December 8th.



# Picture This!

A few more photos from TI's November events



## Kol Nashim Book Club - Jessica Weissman

The KN Book Club held a lively discussion of the November reading, *Marriage of Opposites*, a novel by Alice Hoffman tracing the life of the Jewish woman who became the mother of Camille Pissarro. Members noted some of Pissarro's commonalities with Asher Lev, the eponymous painter in the Chaim Potok novel we read over the summer. Those novelists just can't stay away from using painters as a canvas for projecting their ideas of the creative life. See Margaret Atwood's *Cat's Eye* for another example, albeit not one featuring Jewish artists.

Several members noted that *Marriage of Opposites* was one of the best novels they've read in a while. The evocative writing and the sense of place Hoffman conveys both came in for praise. We did not, however, come to consensus about what the title refers to.

We next meet on December 19th at 7:30pm at the home of Cyndy and Alan Weitz to discuss *Violins of Hope* by James Grymes, about string instruments played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust, and how they were later restored. One of the very few Holocaust-related books that's not a downer. There is a documentary based on the book that may be available on demand.

The January meeting is January 16th and we will read Michelle Brafmann's *Washing the Dead*, a novel set in Milwaukee, mainly in the Orthodox community.

Please contact me if you are able to host the January meeting. And remember that meetings are open to everyone, including those who have not finished or even started the book.

## Donations

### ANNUAL APPEAL

#### Donor

Jessica Weissman &  
Louise Kelley  
Shemaya & Dori Klar

### FUNERAL FUND

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Miriam Davidson  
Miriam Davidson  
Miriam Davidson  
Miriam Davidson  
Miriam Davidson

#### In memory of

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Sadie Robert

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Susan Catler & Keith Secular

#### Thank you

Stephen Garber & Lynne Snyder    Ritual Committee

#### In honor of

David & Amy Kritz	Simone Kimelman-Block
Gail Phillips	Mark & Mona Berch's Grandson
Regina Schatz	David Cohen
Regina Schatz	Larry Paul

## Wednesday Minyan

The Wednesday evening minyan has resumed! Minyan starts promptly at 6:10 p.m. and ends by 6:30 p.m. for Hebrew School pick-up. Come help make the minyan for people saying kaddish.

## Donations (continued)

### In memory of

Danielle Glosser & Howard Riker Jeff Davidson

### MARVIN CAPLAN SOCIAL ACTION FUND

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Bernie Shleien  
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Susan Vitale  
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### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

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#### Thank you

Rabbi Ethan Seidel

### Yahrzeit Donations

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Stephen Gordon Rod  
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Yvonne Shashoua

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Sonya Rozansky  
Shashoua

