



# The Menorah

## Notes from the Rabbi: Ethan Seidel

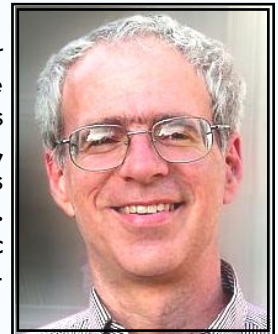
### No Evidence for God?

This sentiment was voiced at shul during the Holidays: “I don’t believe in God, because I find no evidence for God”. At the time, the situation was such that it did not seem appropriate for me to counter the naysayer. But now I will have at it.

First, let me acknowledge that there is no *scientific* evidence for God. However, there are other kinds of knowledge, outside the realm of the scientific. The answers to questions like “What does it mean to be a good friend?”, or “Are we obliged to help others, and if so, to what extent?” fall outside the scientific purview, as does, ultimately, most questions with “should” in their formulation. Which is not in any way to diminish the importance of scientific knowledge. Just to say that there is other knowledge, just as central to life as the scientific.

What impels me to a belief in God are deeply held parts of my being that seem indicative of something larger than myself. My sense of wonder at the world (and I thank science for amplifying this sense of wonder). It might be my observing the refraction of light in a raindrop I see out my window while davening in the morning,

*(Continued on page 2)*



## President’s Column: Stan Dorn

### Inter-generational Friendships

I hope you and yours had wonderful Yamim Noraim and Chagim and that your new year is beginning beautifully.

As you know, every Wednesday evening I make myself available at the Synagogue for congregants to raise whatever issue is on their minds. A few weeks ago, a long-term member expressed a desire to strengthen inter-generational friendships at TI. I’ve always loved spending time with people at TI whose lives and mine are at a similar stage. I’ve taken real comfort and sometimes insight from talking about common concerns, challenges, and joys.

Often, friends and I grew closer through shared experiences, with children attending school or day care together. But there’s a lot to be said for developing friendships that transcend demographic categories. Through TI, we have a rare and precious opportunity to grow close with people whose experiences and perspectives differ from ours. We can do that at Kiddush every week, and through inviting each other over for Shabbat and holiday meals.

An exciting opportunity along these lines comes from the Tot Committee. Once a month,

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## Notes from the Rabbi (continued)

which feels like a wink from the Creator. Or it could be my watching a child take a step towards maturity. Or it could be just the leaves falling, during a pleasantly cool bike ride - the sense of wonder and thankfulness often feels overwhelming to me, and brings me to tears. God is the address to which I send thanks and appreciation for the world as it has been created.

In addition, there is my sense of obligation and more personally, my sense of calling. Though, as I mentioned last Shabbat at shul, I'm in no way against having fun, it's the deep sense in me that I, like all human beings, have a role to play in a production much larger than any of us. And that when I fulfill that role, when I do what I was created to do, the world comes into focus, as does the meaning of my life. It could be a quick word with a neighbor, or doing dishes for an exhausted spouse, or just sitting, attentive, listening to a lonely person. When I do things like this, I have a sense of the meaning of life, a sense of meaning inexplicable through science, which, as an old academic friend of mine once put it, "tends to bracket questions of meaning".

I worry that, just as some in our country are distrustful of scientific knowledge, a distrust which could lead to horrendous consequences, there are others distrustful of religious knowledge. And I believe that this distrust will have no less dangerous consequences to our country.

Obviously, there is much more to say about this than can be put in a bulletin article. If you are interested in discussing this issue with me, I would be happy to oblige!

Rabbi Seidel

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

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Sat & Sun Closed

Additional closings for November:  
November 6 (Post-High Holidays Day Off)  
November 10 (Veterans Day)  
November 23 and November 24 (Thanksgiving)

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

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menorah@tifereth-israel.org

## President's Column (continued)

Dvar Dorot brings together preschool children, their parents, and other adults who crave time with tots. During Musaf, we all come together to read stories, lead songs, bring something for show-and-tell and lead skits. For more information, and to sign up, visit

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSewF5zFfOLm3G-3l8ZREgpRKMgnAH0levpmbU8GM9a\\_vEGiJA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSewF5zFfOLm3G-3l8ZREgpRKMgnAH0levpmbU8GM9a_vEGiJA/viewform)

Many thanks to Ruth Tabak and the rest of the Tot Committee for creating this wonderful program! And let's all look for more opportunities to develop new and deeper friendships with a broad range of people here at TI.

B'shalom,

Stan

## Millennials Plus in the Sukkah

Ruth Tabak

TI Millennials Plus hosted representatives from Jews United for Justice to discuss their advocacy work for a living wage and access to low-income housing in DC and Montgomery County. The group met in TI's Sukkah and enjoyed homemade desserts as part of a bake-off competition. The winning entry was Jon Panikoff's Nutella Brownies!

In the photo, members of TI's Millennials Plus group listen to TI member Larry Baizer discuss his advocacy work with Jews United for Justice for a living wage in Montgomery County (pictured are Vera Krimnus, Jessica Bell and Hannah Greisen, Jon Panikoff, Leah Grosghal, Zach Weinstein and girlfriend, Jen, and Mikah Berg). Also pictured, next to Larry, are JUFJ representatives Sarah Novick and Lauren Spokane who spoke about JUFJ advocacy for rent control and affordable housing in DC.



## Volunteer to Help Organize the TI Archives



Volunteers helping to sort and organize historical documents for the TI archive, including Miriam Davidson, Carl Bergman, and Margie Odle, working with Cynthia Peterman. Judi Berland, not pictured, also helped.

Materials date from the 1940s to the 2000s. Anyone is welcome to get involved. Set your own schedule and learn more about Tifereth Israel. Contact Cynthia Peterman for training, [cynp25@gmail.com](mailto:cynp25@gmail.com) or 240-426-4083.



## New Members

### Jared Garelick

If you are among the many TI'ers who reflexively extrapolate from data, seeing patterns in all information they receive, beware of the small sample size here. Although it might appear so from this month's column, not every new TI member family has a three-year-old and a baby. A number of new members joined around the time of this year's High Holidays, and they include members of varied ages, background, and family status, reflective of TI's varied and multigenerational membership as a whole. They will be profiled in the months to come. In the meantime, welcome to this month's similar yet different featured new member families!

Deborah Horowitz and Michael Bullen – Deb and Mike have lived in Washington for about four years, after living in New York City, where they met. They moved here for Deb to work for the State Department Office of Global AIDS Coordinator. She now works at the Agency for International Development in its Latin American and Caribbean Bureau, where she is an HIV maternal and newborn health advisor. Deb grew up in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, outside of Philadelphia, and has an undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Public Health degree from Columbia. Mike, originally from Connecticut, works in software development. He works on electronic discovery products for litigation at Stroz Friedberg, a job he had in New York and was able to keep when they relocated. He has a degree from Bates College.

As hinted above, Deb and Mike have two children, Noah, who will be three in December, and Rebecca Fran ("Franny") who is nine months old. The family lives in the Brightwood neighborhood, south of the former Walter Reed campus, which they have determined is about a 40 minute walk from TI. They began coming to TI for High Holidays a few years ago and have decided it is the right place for them. On nice days, you might see the family out walking in Rock Creek Park.

Philip Wallach and Vera Krimnus – Phil and Vera have lived in Washington for four or five years. Phil, who grew up in Shaker Heights, outside Cleveland, is a Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. His work focuses on domestic

policy, especially Congress and regulation. Vera, raised in the Bensonhurst area of Brooklyn, works in operations for a charter school network, taking care of the business side of the organization. Phil and Vera met as undergraduates at Wesleyan University, after which Phil earned a PhD at Princeton and Vera received an MBA from the Wharton School at Penn.

Yes, since you are asking, Phil and Vera have two children, Bina, who is three, and Ettie, who is nine months. They found TI by asking someone at a 6th & I event about good places for Jewish learning. When they came to services as visitors they discovered that Phil's colleague, Bill Galston, is a member. Bill made a strong and persuasive sales pitch for TI when he saw them, making Bill TI's Mag-



**Phil, Vera, Bina, and Ettie**

net Member Sale Closer of the Month. When not watching over Congress or his own children, Phil enjoys birdwatching. Vera heads up the DC arm of Community Security Service, an organization that raises awareness of security needs and trains volunteers to protect Jewish organizations and events. She might even have a few suggestions for TI.

Welcome again to this month's featured new members!

## Reprise: Why Do You Come to Synagogue on Yom Kippur? Michele (Meira Bracha) Sumka

Is it because the prayers are familiar? Because you like the feeling of being in community? Because you feel a need to confess your sins and ask for absolution? Because you are able to reach a heightened feeling of spirituality? Because you would feel guilty otherwise? It's not for me to judge. In my opinion, any of these is a valid reason for attending services on Yom Kippur.

Some of you were at a discussion session I led during the break on the afternoon of Yom Kippur, during which we began to talk about these and related topics. Due to the

size of the group and the structure of the discussion, we only began to touch on these questions.

Would you like to discuss these and other questions further? I think for most people it would be easier to talk about these topics in a small group. We could discuss our ideas about whether there is something beyond our knowing and whether this plays a role in your life.

If you would like to be in such a group, please contact me at [meirabracha@gmail.com](mailto:meirabracha@gmail.com) or 301-589-4274.

# Tifereth Israel

*hanukkah party*

December 13, 2017 | 6:00 pm

Save the date now for this exciting celebration!

Registration info and more details coming soon



## Even More Jeremy Goldberg Cleanup Day Volunteers



Last month's article missed a few volunteers who helped with this year's cleanup.

Many thanks to Sheridan Neimark, Esther Herman, Dana Neimark, Rhoda Trooboff and Diana Zurer for their assistance organizing the library, repairing Chumashim, and distributing Machzorim in the Wolman.

Shown in the photos are Sam and Eliot Goldberg, the grandson and son of Jeremy (and Marcia) Goldberg.





## Himmelfarb & Chai Happenings

### Rina Rebibo

#### Chagim

Phew! The whirlwind of the chagim are behind us as is the Sukkah Build and Pizza in the Hut. This year for the Sukkah Build we partnered with TI members to help build their sukkot. Our students and parents not only built (as much as possible) the sukkot, but they decorated them with homemade paper mosaic sun-catchers, (see photos next page and page 15). On Sunday October 8<sup>th</sup>, we enjoyed pizza lunch in the TI Sukkah after school.

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class

Our 10<sup>th</sup> grade class had their first class on October 8<sup>th</sup>. After a light dinner in the TI Sukkah, we started our curriculum on Contemporary Anti-Semitism, by defining the term Anti-Semitism and starting to look at what could be classified as Anti-Semitic acts today. The events this summer in Charlottesville and the greater issue of the removal of statues was a jumping point for discussion. If you know a 10<sup>th</sup> grader who would like to join us for our next session on November 5<sup>th</sup>, please email [rina@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:rina@tifereth-israel.org).

#### Better Together Program

On October 8<sup>th</sup>, we had over 20 people at our first intergenerational meeting. The two generations had a wonderful time getting to know each other, reminiscing about the holiday of Sukkot and discussing the temporary nature of the Sukkah. this led to sharing the comfort foods we remember from childhood. (see photos next page)

Our next inter-generational meeting will be held at TI Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, from 10:15-12:00. If you are eligible to join us and would like more information, please email Rina at [rina@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:rina@tifereth-israel.org).

#### Save the Dates

November 22 & 26<sup>th</sup> – No School – Thanksgiving Weekend

December 13<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 PM - Hanukkah Extravaganza



Sukkah  
building  
with Rabbi  
Seidel

## Himmelfarb & Chai Happenings (continued)



Better Together program participants Judi Berland and Ilana Levine capture memories to share

Better Together participants get to know each other



Many hands make light work



Photos by Rina Rebibo



## Tales from the TI Trope Troupe

Yvonne Violet Shashoua

If you have ever been in shul at the appointed time for the Haftarah and instead found a cast of characters acting out a play, then you have probably seen the TI Trope Troupe. The Trope Troupe is a group of amateur actors who bring the Haftarah to life via a dramatic performance. In the past few years, some of our portrayals have included the revival of the Shunamite woman's boy, young King David dancing when the ark arrived, the end of King David's life, the story of the birth of Samson, the killing of King Agag, and most recently the book of Jonah. Of course, some Haftarot lend themselves to plays more than others. If anyone has suggestions for how to portray Ezekiel's vision of God, I'm all ears.

For me, the Trope Troupe has been a great escape from reality. How can I turn down the chance to play a queen, or king, or even God? Even playing the unnamed barren women in the Haftarot can still be fun.

### Neglected No More

The Haftarah always seemed to me to be the neglected part of the service, and it has been fulfilling to get people excited about the Haftarah. It has also been fun getting my kids in the act, and it gave them motivation to learn some Haftarah trope. This led to some funny moments in rehearsal, like the prophet Elisha's (i.e. **Rabbi Seidel's**) resuscitation of the "Sneezing Boy" (i.e. **Azaria**). We all started laughing so hard at his antics that we could not continue. **Tzurielle** has started taking on some roles as well, though in her first cameo performance as the baby Samson, her understudy was an inanimate doll.

The most emotional moment for me in the Trope Troupe was during our performance of the prophet Nathan and the queen Batsheva convincing elderly King David that he needed to proclaim Solomon his successor. When I told King David that the eyes of

all of Israel were on him, and I looked out across the crowd in the sanctuary, out of the corner of my eye I saw **Marcia Goldberg** smiling and laughing, and I thought to myself that maybe I had been able to give her a little bit of joy.

### Kudos to the Narrator and Director

This story would not be complete without a huge thanks and lots of kudos to **Jevera Temsky**, both for dreaming up the Trope Troupe idea and for putting up with all of us opinionated, moody actors during rehearsals. Her role may be the strait-laced narrator, but she is the mastermind behind the staging and the acting in our performances.

### 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).

<b>Shelly Heller</b>	h: 301-942-1836 w: 202-994-5906
<b>David Cohen</b>	h: 301-652-2872
<b>Marcia Goggin</b>	h: 301-593-8480 w: 301-754-1963
<b>Bruce Heppen</b>	h: 301-299-3255 c: 202-997-1890 w: 703-417-8983
<b>Robert Rovinsky</b>	h: 202 237 1036 c: 202 815 8707



## Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Diana Zurer

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

Mazel Tov to TI members **Marsha Gentner** and **Joe Berman** and their daughter **Jillian Berman** who was named the Society of American Business Editors and Writers Young Business Journalist of the Year. Here are links to the announcement of the award and an article about it by the publication she works for.

<https://sabew.org/2017/09/marketwatches-jillian-berman-wins-birger-award-for-young-business-journalists/>

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/marketwatches-jillian-berman-honored-as-years-top-young-business-journalist-2017-09-28>

**Harvey Kabaker** had a letter published in the Oct 23 New Yorker dispelling a myth about immigrants' names being changed at Ellis Island. **Harvey's niece, Gayle Kabaker**, painted two New Yorker covers this year- January 30 and September 25.

### Meh Fort

Former member **Frank Solomon** will be climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania next October to raise money for Jerusalem's Shalva Children's Center, which helps children with disabilities. Shalva empowers these children and their families to live in a socially inclusive environment. Frank thinks his climb has a purpose--climb mountains, but your sponsorship will add meaning to his effort, a perfect way to combine Tikkun olam with *tzedekah*. When he reaches the summit, he'll also celebrate his birthday. If you want to read his story that led to his decision to take this challenge, please go to: <http://climb4shalva.org/profile.php?id=122>. All the best **Frank!**

**Melanie Greenfield** and **Keith Secular** attended their 50th high school reunion in New Rochelle, New York. Ten years ago at their 40th Melanie couldn't understand why Keith was there - that's how she learned they'd gone to school together! What a wonderful surprise that was! Not so strange considering they had over 900 in their graduating class!

**Alan Landay** reports that he went on nearly back-to-

back trips to his hometown in Oak Ridge, TN, where he visited his sister and brother-in-law. He went for Rosh Hashanah, which included a mini-family reunion. Also there were his other sister and her husband, his recently-married nephew's father-in-law and another nephew who is attending the University of Tennessee. In addition to attending RH services, they spent some time in cabins out at Norris Lake (a TVA lake). Time was spent out on the lake in canoes & kayaks and the weather was warm enough to do some swimming.

About 10 days after returning home, **Alan** returned to Oak Ridge for the Museum of Appalachia Homecoming Festival in Norris, TN. He's attended this music, arts, and crafts festival several years in a row. There were wonderful musical performances. He even got to jam a bit with the Knoxville Area Dulcimer Club. In the past they have invited **Alan** to join, but getting to the meetings might present a problem. Kudos **Alan!**

### Sad News

**Albert Colman**, father of TI member **Jeffrey Colman (Ellen Nissenbaum)**, and grandfather of **Nora** and **Gabriel**, died Monday October 9, 2017, in Michigan. He was 94 and died after a long illness. The funeral was in Southfield, MI.

TI member **Ruth Katz Shapiro** died October 20, 2017 at age 102. She is survived by her three daughters - **Toby (Richard) Grayson**, **Barbara (Ronald) Shansby**, and **Judith (Kenneth Auerbach) Shapiro-Auerbach**, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The funeral was held in Silver Spring, MD and burial was at Mt Lebanon cemetery.

*May their memories be a blessing.*

In case you didn't know, *A kluger vaist vos er zogt: a nar zogt vos er vaist* means: A wise man knows what he says, a fool says what he knows. This month I leave you with: *Der emes kumt aroys vi boyml afn vaser*. Hope to hear from many of you for the December Menorah. My deadline is Nov 28<sup>th</sup>. [dzurer@gmail.com](mailto:dzurer@gmail.com)

## **Comfort, Mitzvot, and Practical Services: How the Funeral Practices Committee Helped Our Family**

Elihu Leifer

My beloved wife of 51 years, Sheila Leifer (Z'L), died of heart failure on March 4, 2016. One of my first telephone calls was to a member of the TI Funeral Practices Committee. It was comforting to share my family's grief and sense of loss so soon after her death. It made me feel that the Jewish community cared about Sheila and would be treating her with dignity, compassion, and in accordance with Jewish law.

### **Tahara and Shomrim**

In the days that followed the Funeral Practices Committee performed many mitzvot, and provided many practical services. Pursuant to a long-standing relationship with the Hines-Rinaldi funeral home in north Silver Spring, the Committee provided shomrim to guard the body at the funeral home, thereby fulfilling the religious edict that the deceased should not be left unattended. Prior to the funeral, female members of the Funeral Practices Committee performed the tahara (ritual cleansing and dressing). The body was then placed in a simple unadorned pine coffin and transported to TI for the funeral service.

Following the funeral and the burial services, led by Rabbi Seidel, the shivah observance began at the home of my son Josh Leifer. Again, the Funeral Practices Committee greatly assisted the family. The Committee brought siddurim and kippot for the evening religious services, and, by creating a volunteer sign-up sheet, ensured that a variety of kosher dairy food would be available to the mourners.

### **Beautiful Traditionally Jewish Care**

The work of the Funeral Practices Committee made a tremendous difference to me, Josh, and my two other children, Eric Leifer and Andrea Travis, by

providing early comfort, as well as subsequent naches: knowing that our cherished spouse and mother had received beautiful, traditionally Jewish care which allowed the community to appreciate what a worthwhile life Sheila had led.

In Judaism, providing dignified care upon death is a very important obligation. The TI Funeral Practices Committee has met that obligation in an exemplary manner for many years. Indeed, it was a national leader in the U.S. Jewish Conservative movement in demonstrating how this could and should be done.

### **Help the Committee Continue Its Work**

It is essential that the Committee's work continue. But over these many years its membership has dwindled. The Committee's membership must be replenished with younger and more vigorous participants, so that every TI-er can receive the type of respectful and dignified care that Sheila received.

As the previous description of my experience shows, there are several different roles from which a volunteer can choose. No prior religious knowledge or training is necessary. A committee member can teach you all you need to know for the role you select.

Please contact one of the members to find out more:

Shelly Heller (301-942-1836) [sheller@gwu.edu](mailto:sheller@gwu.edu)

Bruce Heppen (301-299-3255)  
[bruce.heppen@mwa.com](mailto:bruce.heppen@mwa.com)

David Cohen (301 652-2872) [davidmcohen37@verizon.net](mailto:davidmcohen37@verizon.net)

Robert Rovinsky (202 237-1036) [robertrovinsky@rcn.com](mailto:robertrovinsky@rcn.com)

Marcia Goggin (301 593-8480) [mrqjig@msn.com](mailto:mrqjig@msn.com)

## Kol Nashim's Events to Watch Out For Louise Parker Kelley



An appreciative crowd came to hear **Improbable Success: Producing Comedy Shows**, with TI member **Kim Levone** on Sunday, October 22. Kim, fully engaged with being a mother and social worker, jumped into a very different arena some years ago.



She revealed the joys and challenges of producing stand-up comedy acts here and in Brazil. Her next event is coming up on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm at the

Highwood Theatre in Silver Spring, MD. Relax, and come hear the comedic talent she's found (again)!

The KN Book Club read *The Seven Good Years*, a memoir by of Etgar Keret in September. The next book is a novel, *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman. Meeting is at the home of Paula Flicker at 7:30 on Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. RSVP to [knbook@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:knbook@tifereth-israel.org)

### Save the date for two fine events

**So You Wanna be an Activist?** Kim Levone will be a hard act to follow, but we're sure you'll want to come hear Devorah Kimelman-Block speak on Sunday, November 19 at 10:15

am in the Emsellem Room/Mollie Berch Library.

**Baking with Jessica:** come learn how to bake a variety of no-yeast tasty treats at TI, including biscotti and butter dip rolls and chocolate-ginger cookies, guided by Jessica Weissman, on December 3 at 10:00 am in the social hall and the kitchen at TI.

**The next KN meeting** is November 29<sup>th</sup>) at the home of Debbie Pomerance. All are welcome.

## First Havdalah Potluck of the Season

The first Havdalah Potluck of 5778 will be at 6pm on November 18, 2017 at the home of Jennifer & Josh Kefer, and Ari and Doron. Bring the family and a dairy or pareve dish (enough to feed 8-12 people), and share Havdalah and food with other TI'ers. This is a lovely TI tradition and a relaxed way to get to know and visit with others in the congregation.

There will be a babysitter available for little ones - but we need a headcount so that we can plan appropriately. Please take a moment to RSVP.

RSVP here: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd01xgEuSjflbEOEVcCfIOS6ZHpo0LUqx\\_avlkXpwB9vLehag/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd01xgEuSjflbEOEVcCfIOS6ZHpo0LUqx_avlkXpwB9vLehag/viewform)

These events are a wonderful way to get to know members of our community better.

We are looking for hosts for later potlucks – on December 2 and January 27 – if you would like to host at a later date. If you can open your home for a future potluck, please contact Susan Catler at [TIMembership@Tifereth-Israel.org](mailto:TIMembership@Tifereth-Israel.org).

### Kadima and USY Basketball Starts Soon

Basketball registration is open! Join one of the coed TI teams:

Kadima (6-8 grade)

USY (9-12 grade)

Games will be held at Frost Middle School in Rockville on Sunday nights, starting January 7, 2018

Register at <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/youth17> by Friday, December 15.



## Bat Mitzvah



My name is **Ilana LeVine**. I go to Redland Middle School, and I'm in the 7th grade. For fun I enjoy playing the piano and playing soccer with my friends.

My parashah is Chaye Sarah, which is interesting because I have heard the story of Rebecca being chosen to marry Joseph several times while in Hebrew school, and it was always one of my favorites.

## STORIES OF SIGNIFICANCE: Women & Activism in the Military

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

6:00 pm: Kabbalat Shabbat Service  
7:00 pm: Shabbat Dinner & Program

Stay after dinner to hear Anna Selman  
(Programs Coordinator, Jewish War Veterans)  
speak about Jewish women & activism  
in the military

RSVP by November 7, noon:  
[www.tinyurl.com/vetdin](http://www.tinyurl.com/vetdin)



**Jewish War Veterans**  
*of the United States of America*

1811 E STREET NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20009 • 202-265-6280



## SHALEM

Jessica Weissman

The fall SHALEM season is rolling! Our next SHALEM talk is on November 11th. Donald Davidson and Rosie Dempsey, longtime friends of TI'er **Nancy Roth**, were at their home in Vieques, off the coast of Puerto Rico, last September when hurricanes Irma and Maria whacked and hacked down the islands' infrastructure, leaving most of the Vieques inhabitants without electricity, clean water, or communications. Come hear what happened from people who were there. Believe it or not, there's a Jewish angle to this story.

Looking ahead, **Diana Zurer** will present Yiddish poetry on December 30th.

### Are you talking to us? If not, you could be

The new season of SHALEM talks is still taking shape. I can promise talks on Jewish history and on social issues. We'll also hear from the authors of recent Jewish books. Dates are available from January through June.

If you want to give a talk or have a topic or speaker to suggest, please contact me [jweissmn@his.com](mailto:jweissmn@his.com). Talks must be of some Jewish interest, defined loosely. The SHALEM audience is the best you may ever have. We are attentive, knowledgeable, supportive, and full of good questions.

## November Highlights at Tifereth Israel

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| November 4, 18 | Talmud study with Rabbi Seidel, 1 pm  |
| November 10    | Shabbat dinner & program with Anna Selman on Women & Activism in the Military (service 6 pm; dinner & program 7 pm)                     |
| November 11    | Ilana Levine Bat Mitzvah  |
| November 12    | Gevarim Movie Nite documentaries: <i>Resistance: Untold Stories of Jewish Partisans</i> and <i>The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising</i> , 7:30 pm |
| November 16    | Rabbi Reuven Hammer discusses The God of Mercy or the God of Vengeance, Jewish and Christian concepts of God, 7:30 pm                   |
| November 18    | Havdalah potluck at the home of Jennifer & Josh Kefer, 6 pm. Bring a dairy or pareve dish to serve 8-12.                                |
| November 28    | KN Book Club, at home of Paula Flicker, 7:30 pm. Reading <i>Marriage of Opposites</i> , by Alice Hoffman                                |

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

## Gevarim

### Andrew Reamer

גברים

#### Movie Nite

Movie Nite@TI continues its "Rescue and Resistance in World War II" series. On Sunday, November 12, at 7:30 PM in Cherner, two documentaries will be shown on active Jewish resistance to the Nazis. The first is "Resistance: Untold Stories of Jewish Partisans," from PBS (2009, 60 minutes). The second is "The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising," from the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews (2016, 29 mins). The movies are free.

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

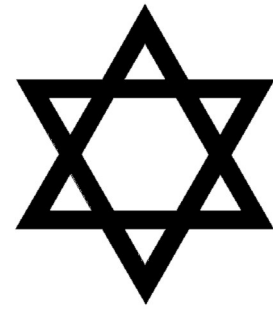
Gevarim and the Adult Education Committee present "The World of Biblical Israel," a video lecture course

by Oberlin College Professor Cynthia Chapman and provided through the Great Courses. The third session will be on Sunday, November 5, from 10:30 AM-12:15 PM in the Berch Library. We begin the section "Becoming the Nation of Israel, 1200-1000 BCE" with Lectures 5 and 6 -- "Becoming the Nation of Israel" and "Kinship and Economics in Highland Villages." 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 begins our third year of studying Talmud Tractate Brakhot in

English translation. The next sessions are on November 4 and 18 from 1:00 to 1:45 p.m. in the Reamer Chapel. Books are provided. Please feel free to drop in on our ongoing exploration of this tractate of the Talmud.



## Emory Beacon of Light Annual Walk for the Homeless

Many thanks to all the TI members who participated in our annual Walk for the Homeless with Emory United Methodist Church on October 15th. Thanks to Jeff Peterman for the photograph.

Anyone who would still like to make a contribution may do so online at [www.emorybeaconflight.org](http://www.emorybeaconflight.org).





## Chai School Sukkah Build

Chai School students and others build the Sukkah at the home of Larry and Pearl Schainker.



## Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

### November 3, 2017

Rabbi Jason & Devora Kimelman-Block  
 Alexandra Kincannon & Paul Moorehead  
 Shemaya & Dori Klar  
 Morris Klein & Naomi Freeman  
 Aaron Kofner & Anat Shahar  
 Roger Kohn  
 Allan Kolker  
 Edward Koren & Claudine Schwebler  
 Michael & Lisa Kraft  
 Anita Kramer  
 Joshua & Francesca Kranzberg  
 David & Amy Kritz  
 Richard Kruger & Naimah Weinberg  
 Daniel & Juliet Kuhn  
 Matthew Kunkin & Hilary Sachs  
 Simcha Kuritzky  
 Susan Laden  
 Alan Landay  
 Robert Lande & Jeri Roth Lande

### November 17, 2017

Scott Lasensky & Elise Pressma  
 Alexander Laufer & Jennifer Siegel Laufer  
 Jen Lav & Susan Gilvin  
 Michael & Iris Lav  
 Mitchell Lazarus & Judith Shapiro  
 Beverly Lehrer  
 Elihu Leifer  
 Ken & Rachel Lemberg

Mark & Ilene Levine  
 Steve LeVine & Nuri Nurlybayeva  
 Wylie & Kim Levone  
 Mark Lewis & Janet Nesse  
 Martin Libicki & Denise Mazorow  
 Dan Liebman & Lis Davis  
 Lisa Traiger  
 Michael Linden & Rebecca Melsky  
 Fred Lipschultz & Rabbi Devorah Lynn  
 John & Lynne List  
 John Lister  
 Daniel & Elizabeth Handwerker  
 Eliot Harrison & Wendy Blake-Coleman  
 David Hart & Lois Frankel  
 Michael Heimowitz & Dori Gillman  
 Matt & Linda Heller  
 Steve & Shelly Heller  
 Bruce Heppen & Bonnie Suchman

### November 24, 2017

Sarna Marcus  
 Stephen Marcus & Renee Matalon  
 Ilana Marmon & Paul McLeary  
 Joseph & Paula Martin  
 Robert Mathis & Tali Stopak-Mathis  
 David & Carla Matusow  
 Stephanie & Yony Mazal  
 Allison & Colin McMillan  
 Tobi McFarland  
 David & Janice Mehler  
 Stephen Meltzer  
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 Sarah & Rachel Meytin  
 Josephine Mickelson  
 Michael & Barbara Milton  
 Emily & Adil Moiduddin  
 Jessica Morris  
 Ken Morris & Terri Zall  
 Jerry & Sharon Muller

### December 3, 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  
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 Jeff & Cynthia Peterman  
 Michael Pitch & Elaine Weiss  
 Joshua Pitlick & Janet Blank  
 Lisa Plotkin

## Upcoming Birthday/Anniversary Kiddushim



The December birthday/anniversary kiddush is on December 2nd. Deadline to sign up to have your name included on the cake and in the handout is November 29th.

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)

### 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 Schechter  
 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

## New Children Shabbat

On November 18th we will honor all the new babies born to or adopted by members of Tifereth Israel in the last year - and their parents and guardians. We will also honor the children, and their parents and guardians, who have joined Tifereth Israel in the last year. Honorees will be invited up to the Bimah at the end of services and their names will be on a cake at the Kiddush lunch.

Families who fit the criteria above should fill out a sign-up form to make sure we have accurate information about each child (and their adults). We also want to make a poster of all the new arrivals, so please send a picture of the child or children (with or without the rest of the family - your choice) to [Receptionist@Tifereth-Israel.org](mailto:Receptionist@Tifereth-Israel.org) or drop one off at the TI office by Friday, November 10.

The sign-up form is at <https://goo.gl/forms/hYbyjxfC3sUps2m82> Please fill it out even if you cannot attend. Thank you and welcome to TI, we are so glad to have you.

## Bake Challah with Rabbi Seidel

On Sunday, November 19, at 12:15pm all are invited to join Rabbi Seidel in the Tifereth Israel kitchen and bake challah. Rabbi Seidel is a lifelong baker, who loves to share his skills with congregants. Come for a relaxed afternoon of baking, learning, and schmoozing with the Rabbi. And take home some challah!

Space is limited to 20 bakers. Children 3 and older are welcome to join in the baking, accompanied by their parents. A light lunch will be served. There is no cost for this program.

Sign up now to reserve your place at <https://goo.gl/forms/fqiMc5pA6DO5HK2E2> [Questions?](#) [Contact timembership@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:timembership@tifereth-israel.org)



## Introducing TI's New Youth Advisor Adam Rosen

Hello TI USYers, Kadimanicks, Parents, Family, and Friends!

My name is Adam Rosen and I am honored to be writing to you for the first time as the Youth Advisor for Tifereth Israel. I am so excited to be joining this community to help build new, exciting, fun and inspiring youth programming. Just as I am hoping to get to know you all in the coming weeks and months, here's a little bit you might like to know about me.

I grew up in Toms River New Jersey, home of the 1998 Little League World Champions! I graduated from the University of Delaware, spent a year working at a mental health clinic for children and teens in New Jersey, and just began a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology program at George Washington University in D.C. I love travel having been to 49 states, sports (basketball and baseball as particular favorites), food (chocolate peanut butter ice cream is the best), and spending time with friends and family. Lastly, I truly love USY, Kadima, and Jewish community.

I first joined Kadima in sixth grade after my parents talked me into going to a regional convention being hosted at my synagogue. I only knew one other member when I walked into a room of 150 other kids. While slightly overwhelmed, I immediately felt the warmth of the community, was surprised how much I enjoyed learning about my Judaism, and was so happy to have a new, safe, and energizing space to have fun for the rest of my middle and high school careers. I went on to continue USY in high school as chapter president, summer programs participant, and Co-Chair of International Convention. I then spent five summers as a staff member and group leader for the USY on Wheels Summer Experiences and regional staff member for Hagalil in NJ. If you couldn't tell, I have a passion and love for the life changing experiences USY and Kadima can provide on the chapter, regional, and international levels and hope to bring that to TI.

So, as I write to you for the first time as a youth advisor, I ask you to join me in our Youth programming here at TI. It has been a pleasure to work with our

teen leadership and youth committee thus far to build dynamic programming shaped by the needs, wants, and goals of the youth in our community and I can't wait for us to experience it all together. We want to continue to have your voices heard and provide the Jewish spaces you are looking for. I encourage you all, teens and adults alike, to reach out, introduce yourself, and join me in this process. I know not everyone will be interested in every event and certainly don't expect everyone to become as involved as I was. I do hope that you will give TI USY and Kadima a try, as you never know how impactful even one event, one volunteer opportunity, or one Shabbat experience might become.

Thank you to the 14 incredible TI USYers and Kadimaniks who came to our Sushi in the Sukkah event last month and I look forward to meeting you all and having many fun, special, and memorable moments together in the future.

B'Shalom,

Adam Rosen



## Marvin Caplan Honored with Plaque in Caplan Park

Carl Bergman



Marvin Caplan was a distinguished TI member who was notable for both his national and local contributions. For example, he was a major strategist for the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and founded Neighbors, Inc. to fight white flight and blockbusting in our area. In 2003, the City Council named Shepard Park's only park in his honor. Caplan Park is at Alaska Avenue, 13th and Holly Streets, NW.

Now the park has a memorial plaque listing his many accomplishments, as shown in the photo. There will be a formal dedication ceremony this spring. Thanks to Carolivia Herron, Gene Herman and Diana Zurer and members of the Caplan family who were on the committee that developed the plaque. Wording is shown below.

### Marvin Caplan 1919 - 2000

This park is dedicated to the memory of Marvin Caplan, whose singular spirit defied bigotry and promoted neighborhoods open to all, regardless of race, religion, or culture.

In both his personal and professional life, he used his organizational skills, writing talent, and sense of humor to further the cause of social justice and democracy. His numerous achievements include:

- World War II veteran and Temple University graduate.
- Co-editor, *Southern Jewish Outlook*.
- Executive Director, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights during the 1960s and '70s.
- Strategist for the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Fair Housing Act of 1968, and Title IX's prohibition of gender discrimination in education.
- Co-founder and first President of Neighbors, Inc.
- Under his leadership, Neighbors fought white flight and block busting. It worked to increase housing choices for African Americans and others facing discrimination. Neighbors exposed housing discrimination and successfully lobbied for DC's open housing law.
- Author, *Farther Along: A Civil Rights Memoir* (1999).
- Active participant in the Yiddish Revival Movement.
- Our good friend, Shepherd Park neighbor, mentor, respected writer, and storyteller.

For these accomplishments, service, and leadership, the City Council, upon petition by his friends, named this park in his honor:

*Marvin Caplan Memorial Designation Act of 2003, DC Act 15-0030, May 19, 2003.*

## Kol Nashim Book Club - Jessica Weissman

The KN book club held a lively discussion this month of Etgar Keret's *The Seven Good Years*, enjoying his signature combination of humor and poignant insight. Several members had read his surreal short stories; others left the meeting vowing to do so. They've got nearly a year until *Kol Nidre* releases them from that vow. We also picked the readings for our next several meetings from our list.

Our meeting for November will be November 28th, to avoid colliding with Thanksgiving preparation. All are welcome, including those who didn't finish the reading.

The reading is *Marriage of Opposites*, a novel by Alice Hoffman tracing the life of the Jewish woman who became the mother of Camille Pissarro. The book is easily available at libraries and all those other places where you can

get books in atomic or electronic form.

Location is Paula Flicker's home. RSVP to [knbook@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:knbook@tifereth-israel.org) so Paula can scale the snacks to fit the crowd.

Our December meeting stays on December 19th as planned. Our reading is *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.

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

I hope to see many of you at these meetings.



The Foundation for Jewish Studies &  
Tifereth Israel Congregation present



# THE GOD OF VENGEANCE OR THE GOD OF MERCY?

RABBI REUVEN HAMMER

PAST PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY  
AND FORMER HEAD OF THE MASORTI BETH DIN IN ISRAEL

Rabbi Hammer will discuss  
Jewish and Christian concepts of God  
in religious and secular texts,  
and show the error in  
describing them as opposites

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017  
7:30 PM - 9:00 PM  
AT TIFERETH ISRAEL

Free & open to the public  
Advance registration encouraged  
[www.tinyurl.com/rhammer](http://www.tinyurl.com/rhammer)

### 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.



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