



The Menorah

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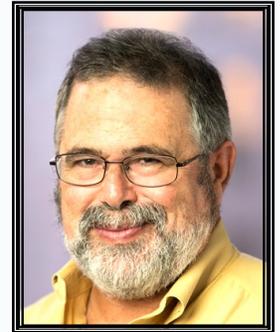
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From the President: Stan Dorn

I hope you're enjoying the start of Spring, the excitement of Purim, and the imminent approach of Pesach.

I'm writing about the rabbinic search process. We are incredibly fortunate to have the help and support of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ), which helps congregations with 80-100 rabbinic searches per year. We've spoken with Conservative congregations from across the country and received glowing reviews of USCJ's support through this challenging process.



Two bits of advice from USCJ have surprised me. The first is the need for a speedy start. A solid rabbinic search begins with several months of congregational self-assessment, through focus groups, town hall meetings, and other means of information gathering. That process needs to finish by the end of June, so that we can spend several months putting together a solid application to the Rabbinic Assembly that positions us to attract the strongest possible candidates, with interviews beginning soon after the High Holidays.

The second surprise was the strong recommendation that synagogue boards should not be involved in selecting the rabbinic search committee. According to USCJ, a board's separation from committee selection reduces the odds of factional disputes engulfing a rabbinic search process that should bring the congregation together. Under TI's constitution, a committee not established by the board is established by the President.

Based on those recommendations, I've been moving ahead as quickly as possible to recruit a strong and diverse search committee. We put that process on hold when several board members raised questions about the USCJ recommendation against board involvement in committee selection. In my judgment, we need to resolve those questions in a direct and transparent way for this important process to proceed with full community confidence. We'll be holding a special board meeting on April 3rd, open to all TI members, where board members will be able to express their concerns and make a decision about the USCJ process.

Stay tuned for further news! This process is a little scary, but it's also kind of exciting. We will learn a lot about ourselves as a community, we will be pushed to think about where we need to go in the future, and we are well positioned to recruit a wonderful new rabbi, following in Rabbi Seidel's remarkable footsteps.

Stay well, and have a joyous and kosher Pesach!

B'Shalom - Stan



Library News-Michele Sumka

Are you ready for Passover? Do you want to look at a good selection of haggadot? And, even check them out to use at your seder? The Mollie Berch Library has an excellent selection of haggadot, from modern to old versions, plus a great selection of children's books on Passover. Come to the Emsellem Room to check them out!

I have just ordered Robert Alter's 3 volume set of *The Hebrew Bible: A Translation with Commentary*. It will be available in the library for reference.

The Menorah Tifereth Israel Congregation

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

Sat & Sun Closed

Closing noon on Friday, April 19 for Erev Pesach
Closing noon on Friday, April 26 for the 7th day-
Closed Monday, May 27 for Memorial 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

Administration: Sheri Blonder, ext. 304

Education Director: Rina Rebibo, ext. 305

Catering: Roz Kram, ext. 312

Facilities: 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

We have recently received a good selection of cook-books:

Confessions of a Kitchen Rebbetzin by G. H. Halpern
Monday Morning Cooking Club by the Monday Morning Cooking Club

Jewish Cookery from Boston to Baghdad by Malvina W. Liebman

The Complete American-Jewish Cookbook: In Accordance With the Jewish Dietary Laws by Anne London

Lexicon of Jewish Cooking by Patti Shosteck

The Gefiltefest Cookbook: Recipes from the World's Best-loved Jewish Cooks by Gefiltefest

Fast and Festive Meals for the Jewish Holidays: Complete Menus, Rituals, and Party-Planning Ideas for Every Holiday of the Year by Marlene Sorosky

Shaya: An Odyssey of Food, My Journey Back to Israel by Alon Shaya

The Diverse Israeli Table by Daniel Rogov

The Children's Jewish Holiday Kitchen by Joan Nathan
A Portfolio of Cookery from Traditional to Modern by Women's American ORT

Simple Jewish Cookery (Peter Pauper Press Vintage Editions) by Edna Beilenson

Visits from 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.

New Members

Jared Garelick

Lillie Rosen and **Josh Nadas** – Lillie and Josh did not have much trouble finding TI. Lillie grew up here. She is the daughter of long-time members **Sharon Cohen** and **Elliot Rosen**. Josh is a North Carolina transplant. Married for five years, the two met while working here in Washington for the AJC, the Jewish advocacy organization and incubator of romance. While Lillie represents a second generation of TI membership, there is already a third. Lillie and Josh are the proud parents of daughter **Shira**, two months old at press time. They had a baby naming at Shabbat services at the end of March, attracting friends and family to TI for the event.



Josh works for the National Park Service as a community planner for the George Washington Memorial Parkway. You might know the Parkway from the traffic reports or your own driving as a backed-up commuter thoroughfare, but it also includes a variety of parkland and recreation facilities stretching for miles along the Potomac from the Beltway to Mt. Vernon. Josh works with the local jurisdictions along its route planning activities and improvements. Lillie is currently home caring for Shira, but is also Deputy Director of DC Greens, a non-profit organization working for food justice in the District. Its work spans the spectrum from working with the school system on educating children about nutrition to helping improve access to healthy food throughout the city. Although Lillie has a lifelong connection to TI, she and Josh also found it easy to join because their friends **Juliet** and **Daniel Kuhn** are already members, making the **Kuhns** TI's Magnet Member Family of the Month. Lillie and Josh live in the Rosedale neighborhood of Northeast DC, near RFK Stadium, and enjoy hiking and skiing.

Welcome to TI Lillie, Josh, and Shira!

Around TI - Purim Carnival



Photos by Jeff Peterman

Kol Nashim

Louise Parker Kelley

A wonderful Kol Nashim sponsored SHALEM took place on March 14, with Cynthia Peterman and Rabbi Avis Miller speaking on various aspects of the topic Honoring Our Mothers Eternally. Over 40 people gathered in the chapel to hear Rabbi Miller describe how the role of women in Jewish ritual has changed and Cynthia Peterman review how women participated in Tifereth Israel in the past and helped transform it into an egalitarian congregation. It really was a superb presentation by two excellent scholars and leaders. KN members also participated in the service, which included a fine drash by Judi Berland.



The KN Book Group read and discussed *The Undoing Project* by Michael Lewis in March. The next book is *Alexandrian Summer* by Yitzchak Gormeano Gorman. We meet on April 16th at the home of Jessica Weissman and Louise Kelley. RSVP to knbook@tifereth-israel.org.

Save the date for brunch:

KN will present a luncheon with speaker Sheryl Frank discussing "Exploring the Power of Gratitude" on May 19th. To reserve your place, respond to

KNrsvp@Tifereth-Israel.org.

The next KN board meeting is on April 8th at the home of Esther and Gene Herman at 7:30.

Wear a Hat to Shul Day

Susan Catler



On April 6, 2019, in addition to the Birthday/Anniversary Kiddush, it will be the Ninth Somewhat Annual Wear a Hat to Shul Day.

Why? Wearing a hat is fun and this is a good opportunity for more TI-ers, men and women, to try it. April 6th is the Shabbat closest to Bella Abzug's yahrzeit. Whatever you think of Bella, you have to admire her hats.

So try it. You may like it.

Editor's note: I take this as my somewhat annual opportunity to wear one of my Nationals baseball caps with Hebrew lettering, making me a Hebrew National. We have several spares, so let me know if you want to borrow one for the occasion.



Project Hope Passover Food Delivery

Gene Herman

Social Action has always been an important attribute of TI. Now we turn our attention to the Jewish community. For many years TI has participated in Project Hope. For this project B'nai B'rith and JSSA raise money and buy enough holiday food to make approximately 500 baskets. These baskets are shopping bags full of non-perishable Passover foods such as matzah, matzah meal, soup mix, horseradish, wine, etc.

The packages are then delivered, before Passover, to those in need who reside in our local Jewish community. The delivery of the food packages depends on volunteers from area congregations. TI has always stepped forward, and in fact has made the most deliveries (over 50 last year).

Project Hope 2019 will take place on Sunday morning, April 14. Food pickup is at TI and deliveries

are usually in the vicinity of the synagogue. This is a great family project not only for the good deed but also because the recipients always enjoy visits by children.

Project Hope is an opportunity to perform an important mitzvah by enhancing the Passover holiday for less fortunate members of our community and showing them that they have not been forgotten. Members of TI have always stepped forward in sufficient numbers to ensure our part of this project is successful. We need volunteers to carry on the tradition.

Can you help make the Passover holiday more enjoyable for others in our community? Please volunteer for this Passover mitzvah. You can email me (gene511@aol.com) or sign up on Shulcloud. Thanks.

TI All Ages Havdallah



The havdallah at the home of Morris Klein and Naomi Freeman was clearly a success.
Photo by Julie Steinberg

Himmelfarb Happenings April 2019

Rina Rebibo

On March 3rd, Kitot Daled & Hey went to Congregation Etz Hayim in Virginia for the second part of our joint Israel education program. This session focused on the idea of Eretz Yisrael, (the land of Israel). In groups, the students explored the following questions based on the Jewish text they read: what is the importance of the land of Israel, what is the relationship between Jews & the land of Israel and what do we learn about our responsibilities toward the land of Israel. Afterwards they took a gallery walk of photographs and chose the photograph that best represented their text. The morning culminated with an interactive song on Eretz Yisrael.

On Saturday night March 9th, there were two Havdallot at TI. One was led by Lisa & Gideon Blumenthal for families in 3rd – 5th grade and the other was our Better Together program. The communal Havdallah was beautiful with over 40 people singing in a circle. (See photos)

As we head into Spring, Pesach is not far behind. Here are dates to know about in April:

- April 7 (9:30 AM): Parent Shmooze – Talking to your children about the Holocaust
- April 7 (6:00 PM): High School Seminar
- April 17, April 21, April 24 and April 28: No Hebrew School for Pesach



Photos by Rina Rebibo



USY and Kadima

Adam Rosen

Dear TI USYers, Kadimaniks, Parents, Families, and Friends,

March was a busy month. TI USY and Kadima visited the Board and Brew for an afternoon exploring over 500 board games, we set a record for attendance at the Annual Purim Carnival, and we raised hundreds of dollars donated to charity through the community wide participation in the Shake and Donate pasta grogger extravaganza. The momentum will keep rolling into April as a full slate of chapter activities and Seaboard Regional events will continue to bring our members closer together and give us more meaningful moments. As always, please reach out to adam@tifereth-israel.org with any questions, comments, or feedback. I am always excited to chat with our members and families.

B'Shalom,

Adam Rosen (adam@tifereth-israel.org)

Upcoming Kadima and USY Events

Friday, April 5th – TI Teen Kabbalat Shabbat – Services Begin at 6:30pm – 7:30pm Dinner

All TI teens, Kadimaniks and USYers alike, are invited to join us for the latest installment of our TI Teen Kabbalat Shabbat. Volunteer to lead services and help your friends bring even more energy and ruach to davening. Hang out with your Kadima and USY friends and families for a delicious catered meal after services. This month's Shabbat classic menu will feature roasted chicken, potato kugel, roasted vegetables, and more.

RSVP by April 2 at: <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/form/teen-dinner-mems-apr-2019>

Sunday, April 7th – Seaboard Region Kings Dominion Day

Get ready for Seaboard Region USY and Kadima Kings Dominion Day! Join over 250 USYers and Kadimaniks from Conservative Synagogues across Maryland, Virginia, Washington DC and North Carolina for a day of fun at Kings Dominion! Your registration fee includes round-trip charter bus transportation, admission to Kings Dominion, a pavilion where we will all eat lunch together, and snacks and drinks for the bus ride home. Lunch should be packed and will be stored during your time in the Park. 6th and 7th graders will be escorted around the Park with staff. 8th-12th graders must travel in groups of 3 or more and will have mandatory check in times, but will not be escorted around the Park with staff unless specially requested by a parent.

Register at for Kings Dominion Day at: www.regpacks.com/Seaboard1819

Sunday, April 14th – TI Kadima Chocolate Seder – TI Teen Lounge – 12:30-2pm

If you're in 6-8th grade we hope to see you for our inaugural Chocolate Seder! Ice cream drumsticks, chocolate sauce, M&M's, chocolate dipped strawberries and much more await us during this sweet journey through our Jewish history. Lactose free options will be provided. RSVP by April 9th to adam@tifereth-israel.org



Photos by Adam Rosen

TI Volunteer Spotlight - Eric Schechtman

Jared Garelick

For those who recall the debut of this column in the now-collectible March 2019 Menorah, you know that its purpose is to call attention to TI members who voluntarily take on the tasks it takes to make the synagogue run. Some of these volunteer roles are nearly unnoticed. You could be an active TI member for years and not even realize something is a job that anyone even needs to do. That's because someone quietly makes it their business to make sure the task is done, week in and week out. That's the case of this month's profile.

For the last few years, **Eric Schechtman** has been TI's Torah roller. Of course, we read the full Torah sequentially each year, requiring a complete end to end rolling every Simchat Torah. But there are also a large number of additional readings spread throughout the calendar. The maftir, the last part of the Torah reading each Shabbat, is often in a different place in the Torah than the main weekly reading, the parashah. At these times more than one Torah scroll is taken from the ark. This happens at every major holiday, every time Shabbat falls on a new moon, and for a significant number of other special readings. This makes rolling necessary.

TI has a small number of working Torah scrolls, and one of them has to be ready for each of these special readings. Eric has taken on this responsibility. It requires careful attention to the calendar, planning, commitment, a partner, visual familiarity with the Torah, and a little elbow grease. If you are ever slow leaving the sanctuary after Shabbat services you might see Eric and his wife, **Shira**, taking out a Torah. As soon as a special

reading is finished, Eric takes the opportunity to set a Torah for the next one, even if it won't occur for a few weeks. He approaches the task like the computer software engineer that he is, calculating the most efficient use of the available scrolls to require the least amount of rolling necessary. After all, it is a chore.

The rolling itself is a physical activity that takes an acquired knack, so that the scroll is kept properly tight and in alignment. It also requires a partner, to hold one end while the roller pulls parchment toward himself or herself. That's how Eric fell into the job. **Myrna Goldman** was TI's roller for many years. Curious, Eric offered to help her one time, then another, quickly becoming her regular partner. A few years ago, he took over the responsibility, assisted by Shira. Over time, his efficiency has increased as he has learned visual landmarks in the text that let him know how close he is to the spot he is aiming for.

Now the next time you are at services and there is a special reading from a second Torah, or even a third, you will know that Eric made it all work smoothly by advance preparation. His is just one of the many volunteer duties that make a synagogue work. Truly, volunteer effort is what makes TI roll! Eric, thank you for your volunteer service.

If you know a TI member who deserves a turn in the spotlight for his or her volunteer service, send me an email. Your nominee might not be in the next issue, as there many TI members whose volunteer activities are worth acknowledgement, but they will go into the queue for future spotlighting.

Volunteer Opportunity: Nayas un Mekhayes Columnist

If you are looking for a high-impact low-effort volunteer opportunity, we need someone to become the Nayas un Mekhayes columnist for the Menorah. Diana Zurer, our incumbent columnist, assures me that it takes only 2 to 3 hours a month to collect and write up the news, and as a bonus you get to know before anybody else! She'll be glad to show you the ropes. So to see your name in lights (well, in bold blue letters) every month in the Menorah, contact Diana at dzurer@gmail.com or me at jweissmn@hers.com

Kol Nashim Book Group

Jessica Weissman

On March 19th we met to discuss *The Undoing Project*, by Michael Lewis. A large group, shown in the photo below, enjoyed discussing both the lives of Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky and the fascinating aspects of psychology that was their work. Our April reading is a short novel by Yitzhak Gormeano Goren called *Alexandrian Summer*. Goren's family fled Egypt in the Second Exodus, and the novel memorializes the end of what had long been a good life for Jews in Alexandria. The book is not available at local libraries, but can be had

easily in paperback or electronic form.

We meet on April 16th at 7:30 at the home of Louise Kelley and Jessica Weissman. I promise plenty of chametz will be included in the snacks. So plan a quick break from your Pesach preparations and RSVP to knbook@tifereth-israel.org

For those looking ahead to the May meeting our reading will be Julius Lester's *Lovesong*, an account of his conversion to Judaism and his Jewish life.



KN Book Group with books and snacks. Photo by Alan Weitz, who also attended the discussion.



Looking for a seder? Want to welcome someone into your home?
Contact the Rabbi at eseidel@tifereth-israel.org.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Sunday 14 | 9:00 am - Passover food deliveries
9:15 am - Morning minyan & sale of chametz |
| Friday 19 | 7:00 am - Service and siyyum for first born & final sale of chametz
Evening - First seder
NOTE: No Shabbat services at TI |
| Saturday 20 | 9:00 am - 1st day of Pesach and Shabbat services
Noon - Simple kiddush lunch
Evening - Second seder |
| Sunday 21 | 9:00 am - 2nd day of Pesach services,
Noon - Kiddush lunch sponsored by Mark & Mona Berch |
| Monday 22 | 10: am - Deadline for Shabbat dinner registration |
| Friday 26 | 9:00 am - 7th day of Pesach services, simple kiddush lunch
6:30 pm - Holiday Shabbat service, Shabbat dinner |
| Saturday 27 | 9:00 am - 8th day of Pesach services
~11:00 am - Yizkor service
~noon - Kiddush lunch |
| Sunday 28 | 11:30 am - Post Pesach Pizza with TI Tots
4:30 pm - Tour of Denizens Brewing Company with Gevarim |

Go to <https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/Pesach2019> for all your Passover needs.



Explore the Power of Gratitude
Complimentary Brunch and Discussion

Sunday, May 19
10:15-12:15
TI Emsellem Room

Please join us for a workshop to explore the many ways that Judaism teaches us to be grateful for the blessings in our lives. Together we will explore the benefits of gratitude and how to invite it into our daily lives.

Lecture and discussion led by:

Sheryl Frank, PhD Clinical Psychologist, who is interested in the intersection of Jewish thought and mental health.

Registration is required: knrsvp@tifereth-israel.org

SHALEM - Jessica Weissman

On March 16 as part of the Kol Nashim Shabbat, we heard a program regarding the evolving role of women in ritual Jewish life, in the Conservative movement and specifically at TI. Speakers included Cynthia Peterman and Rabbi Avis Miller.

Two intriguing SHALEM programs are coming up in May. Social Action presents a Native American Shabbaton on May 4th (no Star Wars jokes, please), and Claudine Schweber discusses Hidden Children in WWII - Moving through Occupied France to Safety on May 18th.

As always I am looking for SHALEM speakers. The only requirement for a SHALEM topic is that it be of Jewish interest, loosely interpreted. There's something you know that TI'ers would love to hear about, and SHALEM attendees are the best audience you can ever have. We are attentive, full of questions, and forgiving - what more could a speaker ask for? Please contact me with your ideas.

Nayes un Mekhayes for TI'ers

Diana Zurer

Do you want to know all the news before anyone else? If so, have I got a deal for you! I am ready to retire from doing this column, due to upcoming other commitments. The May issue of the Menorah will be my last. I've certainly enjoyed these two years and will be glad to fill you in on what it entails. Familiarity with Yiddish is not a requirement - give this column your own stamp. Please contact me - dzurer@gmail.com - 202-907-3643 or the editor, Jessica Weissman - jweissmn@hers.com - if you're interested.

Editor's note: Diana says that it takes only 2-3 hours a month to handle the column.

Nakhes Fun Kinder and General Mishpokhe News Dept

Gene and Esther Herman are still kvelling over granddaughter, **Jessica Cohen's** Bat Mitzvah. In her own words, **Jessica**, when asked about her favorite thing about her Bat Mitzvah answered, "Being on the Bima, chanting and participating in the service". Her two magnificent teachers, Ms. Sharon Freundel and Rabbi Mark Novak expressed pride as well.

Gene and Esther also attended the ribbon cutting at Emory Methodist Church after its extensive renovation, under the able direction of their pastor, Dr. Joseph Daniels, who was thrilled to see TI representatives. Not only was their historic building on Georgia Avenue preserved, but, as a community service, they added 99 apartments for lower income individuals and families. There will be assistance needed by our TI social action committee.

Some other family news: **Jennifer Firschein** auditioned and was accepted for a training program this summer in the New York City Ballet, a program of the School of American Ballet. Her father, **Joseph**, was presented with a teaching award from George Washington University, not his day job. Their family will be traveling to China, where **Joseph** will be teaching, and to Israel this summer. Little sister, **Ava**, will be studying art and music at the Selma Levine School of Music

Dergraykhungn (Accomplishments)

Each year, the Maryland State Numismatic Association sponsors competitive exhibits at the Whitman Coin Expo in Baltimore in the spring. **Simcha Kuritzky's** exhibit on Hindu worship medals won first place this year.

Meh Fort

Larry and Pearl Schainker are in Tel Aviv visiting daughter Mira, son in law Marc, and grandchildren, Jonah and Caleb. They got to witness four-year-old Caleb learn how to ride his bicycle down Adam Ha'Cohen Street- without training wheels. Later in the visit they flew to Eilat to take part in the international birding festival which draws a large international community to watch the migration that funnels birds through Eilat on their way to Europe. Turns out Eilat is more than a locus of hotels and restaurants. It has earned the reputation of being the best place in the Middle East to see rare birds and raptors migrate.

Myrna Goldman and her sister Harriet took a trip to Panama in mid-February. It was hot and humid, and they missed at least one storm. The trip ended with a 3-day cruise on a 24-person catamaran, which took them through the Pedro Miguel, Miraflores, and Gatun locks. The newer locks, just opened a few years ago, did not allow ships as small as theirs. The land portion of the trip started and ended in Panama City. They also went to the town of Chorrera, where they shopped at a fruit and vegetable market to find ingredients for a home-hosted lunch. Among the crafts persons they visited, mostly in the Azuero region, were a pollera (hand-embroidered garments) designer/seamstress, a mask-maker, whose masks are used for various holidays, a person who makes figures for the Carnival parade floats, and a potter. They also went to Iguana Island, several national parks, and a zoo, where they saw the only Harpy Eagle, Panama's national bird, in captivity. They also visited an Embera village; had to take a 45-minute

(Continued on page 13)

Nayes un Mekhayes - continued

ride in a dugout canoe (luckily motorized) to get there. The Embera is one of Panama's seven indigenous tribes. They had a friendly group of 22 people. No new camera yet, but she's working on it!

Executive Director **Jevera Temsky** recently attended the annual conference of the North American Association of Synagogue Executives (NAASE). As a first-time attendee she benefitted greatly from the sessions presented by experts and from the contacts with her peers. Feel free to ask her about her conference experience and about NAASE.

Happy News

Mazel Tov to TI members **Amelia Karraker** and **Samuel Isaacson** on the birth of their son **Joseph Amittai Isaacson**. He was born Wednesday, February 13, 2019. Baby, mom, and dad are all doing well.

Mazel Tov to **Rina Rebibo** on the engagement of her daughter Orlee Rebibo to Steven Zaslowsky. He is

the son of Lisa & David Zaslowsky from Cedarhurst, NY. Wedding date is July 11th, 2019.

Sad News

Millie Heppen, mother of **Bruce Heppen (Bonnie Suchman)** and grandmother of **Emily** and **Jonathan**, died Monday, February 25, 2019 after seven weeks in hospice. She was 94. The funeral was graveside at Cedar Park Cemetery in Paramus, New Jersey, on February 27, 2019.

May her memory be a blessing.

Last month's Yiddish idiom was *A guteh tokhter iz a guteh shnur*. It means: A good daughter makes a good daughter-in-law.

Do you know this one? *A gezunt dir in kepele*. Check out the May Menorah for the meaning. And please send me your news. Inquiring minds want to know – and *kvel*. dzurer@gmail.com

Around TI - Purim Carnival Fun



Photos by Jeff Peterman

TI TEENS KABBALAT SHABBAT

FRIDAY, APRIL 5
SERVICE 6:30 | DINNER 7:30

RSVP by April 2: <https://tinyurl.com/TeenDinner0419>

- ◆ Open to all 6th - 12th graders and their families ◆
- ◆ Teen-led services ◆
- ◆ Roast Chicken, Potato Kugel & More for dinner ◆
- ◆ Celebrate Shabbat with family and friends ◆



TI Joins the Interfaith Preparedness & Advisory Group



Rev. Thomas Bowen, Director
DC Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs

The DC Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs and the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) recently started a new initiative called the Interfaith Preparedness & Advisory Group (IPAG). The IPAG is envisioned as a platform for faith-based organizations to exchange information with security and preparedness professionals on threats, vulnerabilities, best security practices, and protective measures related to the safety and security of congregations and facilities.

IPAG objectives include:

- **Identify grant funding**, including FEMA's Non-profit Security Grant Program and other federal funding.
- **Monitor current and emerging cyber threats** impacting faith-based organizations; and produce timely, actionable intelligence to help mitigate risk; provide training.
- **Provide preparedness briefings** for senior leadership from the District and convene ad hoc meetings to address specific threats.

- **Provide analytic support** by generating products on threat trends; advise local agencies on needs of faith-based communities; to promote and encourage two-way communication.

The first IPAG meeting was February 28th and was attended by TI's representative, Executive Director Jevera Temsky. The meeting was not only informative on a wide range of security-related issues but also provided an opportunity for relationship-building among leaders from faith-based institutions. Organizers anticipated convening again in May, but unfortunately, the IPAG was activated for a city-wide conference call hours after the New Zealand mosque shooting. While security experts on the call reported no credible evidence of an increase in local threat to Muslim or other religious communities, the call was an important touch point for the IPAG as participants offered wishes of comfort and solidarity to members of the Muslim community.

In the months to come, Tifereth Israel will likely benefit both from security briefings and advice from HSEMA as well as closer connections with faith-based communities in Shepherd Park and across the city.

Class on "Getting More Out of Services" Meetings

The next meeting of this class, taught by Barbara White, will be held in the Chapel on February April 7. Although this is an ongoing class, new members and prospective new members are welcome.

Remaining meetings are: Apr. 7 and May 12. For further information, email Barbara at BMWhite@Erols.com.

Montgomery County Interfaith Coalition Session on Judaism

On March 17th the Montgomery County Interfaith coalition presented a session at TI, to help folks learn about Judaism. A panel of rabbis, including Rabbi Seidel, Rabbi Feinberg, and Rabbi Ilan Glazer, each gave a short presentation followed by discussion at the tables among participants. The discussions were followed by questions from the audience to the panel. Participants found the discussions enlightening and interesting, and enjoyed meeting and sharing food with members of other religions. Photos by Jevera Temsky.



TI TOTS KABBALAT SHABBAT & DINNER

Join Rabbi Seidel for a family service with plenty of singing, activities and stay for a classic Shabbat dinner!

FRIDAY, APRIL 5
SERVICE 5:30 | DINNER 6:15

Wednesday Night Minyan

The Wednesday night minyan has resumed. The service begins promptly at 6:10 and wraps up at 6:30, in time for Hebrew School pick-up. It's a great way to meet other congregants, learn the evening service, and help those in our community who are saying kaddish. We sometimes struggle to make a minyan - so your participation is incredibly helpful.

Please take a moment to indicate whether you will be able to join us each week. The sign-up sheet is available [online here](#).

The Mitzvah of Attending a Shivah Minyan or a Shloshim memorial

Janet Nesse

Attending a Shivah minyan, even for a person whom you do not know well, is a wonderful mitzvah, through which you probably receive as much as you give. As a person who lost her parents when I was in my 20's and my sister and brother-in-law untimely, as well, I can tell you that the support received from a group of people who come to be with you in a difficult time is literally like having people hold you up when you are having trouble walking. And yes, it is nicer when there are twenty people, not ten. You know that your closest friends will come, but when more people come, the whole community seems to enfold you. You feel loved and raised up by everyone around you. You get to share some pictures, and some stories about the person you have lost. Even if you had a difficult relationship with the person, you get to talk about that a little, as well.

The Sh'loshim memorial is something that is less common, but it can mark the end of the thirty day mourning period, and provide a similar moment of warmth and recall especially if there were no Shiva minyanim here. Perhaps the relative was not Jewish or the burial and Shiva were out of town. Again, the feeling of the community hugging you is wonderful.

None of my comments about the mourner is really a

revelation. The surprising thing is that as an attendee, you gain a lot as well. You feel part of a warm community and you get to know a person that you might not have known well before. You get a window into a life that had struggles, and quirks, and joys, like reading a biography of a person who you had never heard of before. Personally, I have made friends and deepened relationships with people who I did not know well before, as a result of this attendance.

It may sound odd but bringing your children is a great idea too. One of my daughters went to Shiva minyanim with me for her Bat Mitzvah project. It takes an hour, you have to be nice to people, you get to go out on a school night, you learn about a new person, and you get fed. It doesn't get much better than that.

So, when you see one of those "Sad News" announcements, and think, who the heck is that, and how sad is it really when the decedent was 97 years old, stop. Think instead, I could go to that, it would take an hour, I would learn about a new person, get a snack, and do a great mitzvah all at the same time.

Shepherd Park: History and Community

Come together on Sunday, April 14 from 2-5pm at the Shepherd Park Library for Shepherd Park: History and Community. Using materials from neighborhood archives like the collections at Tifereth Israel, the event will highlight the ways Shepherd Park residents have preserved and shared parts of their history. Neighbors are encouraged to bring documents, photographs, and other historical materials for digitization and preservation, as well as personal and family stories for oral histories and a community

mapping activity. Stop by for a day of history, stories, and community, and view TI's exhibit.



Gevarim

Andrew Reamer



Beginnings of Judaism -- The World of the Second Temple, Lectures 13-18

Dr. Isaiah M. Gafni, Sol Rosenbloom Professor of Jewish History at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, brings to life the fascinating world of the Second Temple under the Greeks, Maccabees, and Romans. His video lectures are introduced and the discussion led by **Cynthia Peterman**.

Sunday, April 10:30 AM - 12:15 PM:

- **Lecture 19: Rome Arrives in Jerusalem.** Jewish independence under the Hasmoneans ended with the Roman conquest of 63 B.C.E. The Romans experimented with different approaches towards establishing control over the Province of Judaea. The second of these stages saw the appointment of Herod the Great as King of Judaea (37–4 B.C.E.), who played a critical role in redefining much of the kingdom's social and cultural character. With the Roman dismantling of the Herodian monarchy, Judaea came under direct Roman rule (6 C.E.). This phase resulted in deteriorating relations between Jews and Romans, ultimately exploding into outright anarchy, a violent uprising, and the destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple.
- **Lecture 20: Parting with the Temple.** Some elements of the violent opposition to Rome in the 1st century C.E. can be attributed to ideologies formulated during the late Second Temple period. Some groups, for instance, motivated by messianic and eschatological fervor, claimed that subservience to foreign rulers was tantamount to idolatry, thereby raising the call for political independence to a religious level. A willingness to prefer death to subjugation, famously exemplified by the celebrated Masada episode, can be understood in the context of those religious ideologies.

Sunday, April 28 10:30 AM - 12:15 PM:

- **Lecture 21: From Jerusalem to Yavne**—Rabbinic Judaism. Rabbinic legend describes how Rabban Yohanan ben Zakkai escaped Jerusalem prior to the destruction of that city and its Temple in 70 C.E. Yohanan convinced the Roman military commander to allow establishment of a rabbinic conclave at Yavne, a small town off the southern coast of Palestine. This myth ex-

plains how a religious community bereft of its historic cultic center succeeded in establishing totally new systems and contexts for the maintenance of Judaism as a vital religion. As Judaism evolved into a “book religion,” teachers or interpreters of the sacred texts became prominent alongside the traditional priesthood. Removal of the Temple gave those teachers (rabbis) an unchallenged position of spiritual authority.

- **Lecture 22: The Shaping of Rabbinic Judaism.** A post-Temple format required innovation, at times radical—but any group wishing to lead the way in this revolutionary process of national redefinition also needed to demonstrate a sense of continuity and adherence to age-old articles of faith in the midst of change. Synagogues brought about democratization along with geographical decentralization. All were equal in prayer, and leadership evolved from an inherited priestly class to a group who achieved their positions through learning and personal behavior. The values of rabbinic Judaism, no less than the revised forms of religious expression, served as the new standards of Judaism to the present day.

Talmud Study

Saturday, April 13, 1:00 PM. Rabbi Seidel leads the study of Talmud in English translation.

Movie Nite@TI w/the Environmental Committee

On Sunday, April 14 at 7:30 PM in the Berch Library, in collaboration with the TI Environment Committee, Movie Nite@TI will show Yochi, a short film by Ilana Lapid, a filmmaker and educator (and relative of **Gilah Langner**) interested in telling visual stories that put a human face on global conflicts. Yochi, a 9-year-old selectively mute Mayan boy, guards a nest of endangered Yellow-Headed Parrots in Belize's pine savannah. When his beloved older brother, Itza, returns from the city, Yochi learns that he's in debt and has turned to poaching – setting the brothers on a collision course.

After the film, Ilana will discuss it with the TI audience. Ilana was born in NYC, grew up in Jerusalem, Ottawa and Las Cruces, NM, and is an assistant professor at New Mexico State University.

Around TI - Purim



Photos by Jeff Peterman



**PASSOVER
SHABBAT DINNER**

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2019

Register by
Monday, April 22, 10 am
www.tinyurl.com/TIapr19

Funeral Practices Committee Always On-Call

Chaverim 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 chaverim or the TI office (202-882-1605).

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Shelly Heller | h: 301-942-1836
w: 202-994-5906
c: 301-996-2704 |
| Marcia Goggin | h: 301-593-8480
w: 301-754-1963
c: 301.792.1063 |
| Bruce Heppen | h: 301-299-3255
c: 202-997-1890
w: 703-417-8983 |
| Naomi Revzin | h: 301 765 6272 |
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c: 202 815 8707 |

Can Israel be both a Jewish State and a State of all its Citizens? - Mark Berch

Prime Minister Netanyahu made headlines recently by stating, "Israel is not a state of all its citizens. According to the nation-state law we passed, Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people — and not anyone else." He has not backed away from the assertion, and was reported in the Israeli press to have repeated it at a later cabinet meeting. This wasn't an idiosyncratic remark or in any way startling. The idea that Israel is not a state of all its citizens ("SOAIC") is not unique to him.

Other countries have addressed this issue. Serbia's constitution states, "the Republic of Serbia is a state of Serbian people and all citizens who live in it." Similar constitutional language appears for Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia and Kosovo. I mention these countries (formed from the disintegration of Yugoslavia) because these are in a region torn not all that long ago by murderous ethnic strife, and they understand that minorities must be made to feel that it is their country too.

On Israel, the situation has been quite different. A High Court ruling in 1996 held that Israel as a Jewish state and as a SOAIC were not contradictory. And some Zionist writers, such as Martin J. Raffel and Gil Troy have argued that Israel can be both the nation state of the Jewish people and a SOAIC.

But for Jewish politicians, and in the general zeitgeist of Israeli Jews, the idea is generally considered traife. Dahlia Scheindlin, an Israeli-American public opinion analyst, points to two related meanings that it has in Israeli discourse: "The phrase a 'state of all its citizens' has always been interpreted here as implying that Israel should have no Jewish ID at all, or else that Arabs should also have collective rights."

Prime Minister Sharon in 2002 stated that he believes "in a Jewish state, and not a state of all its citizens." Cabinet Minister Limor Livnat (Likud) said:

"Israel is a Jewish state. It's certainly not created to be a state of all its citizens." Others have made such flat statements.

Indeed, some considered the very idea to be completely out of bounds. Member of Knesset Dov Lipman was horrified at the idea even being "expressed in ... a public forum". Zionist writers such as Shmuel Trigano and Dr. Shuki Friedman have portrayed it as a direct attack on the Jewish character of the state, and Judea Pearl has argued that SOAIC is just one of those "fancy names" for the "goal of putting an end to Israel". In 2018, when three Knesset members tried to introduce a bill titled "Basic Law: the State of all its Citizens," the Knesset Presidium (the speaker and deputy speakers) barred the introduction, a very rare act. The ban was upheld by the Knesset legal adviser, because the bill would provide "equal status from the point of view of nationality for Jews and Arabs."

Indeed, SOAIC has even been used a cudgel or accusation. Entities such as Haaretz and the EU and "the anti-Zionist Left" have been slammed for supposedly pressing for SOAIC. Israel's Chief Ashkenazic Rabbi Dovid Lau says the Rabbinate is under relentless attack from (unnamed) entities that are determined to "turn Israel into a state of all its citizens... against its Jewish identity"

In summary, as long time commentator Susan Hattis Rolef has noted, "Among the Jewish citizens of Israel, very few support this concept", and Prof. Charles H. Manekin notes that the idea is considered to be "extreme".

Note that Netanyahu grounded his assertion in "the nation-state law we passed". The text of the law makes no specific reference to SOAIC. But advocates for the bill, such as Dr. Shraga Bar-On have argued that the bill was needed to ward off SOAIC, and analyst Israel Harel slammed the opposition to

Israel as a Jewish State or a State of All Citizens - continued

the Nation State bill as “striving for Israel to become a state for all its citizens.” It was a clear subtext to the long battle to get the bill passed.

Netanyahu two days later followed up with a related assertion: “The Arab citizens [of Israel] have 22 nation-states around us, they do not need another one.” He was responding to Ajed Kamal Abu-Assi, a member of the Druze minority who had served in the Israeli military. The suggestion appears to be that Arab citizens of Israel could just as well be citizens of any other Arab country, such as Mauritania, Somalia, Comoros or Sudan. This was taken by Arabs as an attack on their authenticity as citizens, e.g. “This is our homeland and we have no other homeland. We, Arab citizens, did not come here on a plane or a boat; we came from our mothers’ wombs”. Abdulbast Salameh, mayor of the Arab town of Qalansuwa responded, “My grandfather was born here in 1860, my father was born in 1902 and I was also born

here.”

There’s no reason to think that such arguments will gain any traction with the Jewish majority. When the current government was formed in May 2015, Education Minister and Jewish Home party head Naftali Bennett grandly proclaimed that the new government “is not a government for Rightists, Leftists or Centrists – it is a Government for the whole of Am Yisrael.” Not for the whole of the citizenry, but instead for all the Jews. The mainstream view of the Jews is that Arabs have the individual rights of citizens, but that doesn’t make it their state too.

In an ordinary democracy, the country being a SOA-IC isn’t at all controversial. In Israel, being a Jewish State and being a SOAIC is seen by Zionists as incompatible; it has to be one or the other. Indeed, so far as I am aware, no Zionist party in recent years has ever endorsed Israel as a SOAIC. Not even the most left wing, Meretz.

The big picture of Purim, by Jeff Peterman



April and May Birthday/Anniversary Kiddushim

Share your April or May 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 at: www.tinyurl.com/Tlbdlay. Sign up to help cook at: www.tinyurl.com/Tlcooking

April 6 - donate by noon on April 3. Cooking on April 4 at 7pm.

May 18th - donate by noon on May 15th. Cooking on May 16th at 7pm.

Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

April 12, 2019

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
 Dan Liebman & Lis Davis
 Lisa Traiger
 Michael Linden & Rebecca Melsky
 Fred Lipschultz & Rabbi Devorah Lynn
 John & Lynne List
 John Lister
 Sara Luterman

May 10, 2019

Oscar & Amy Mann
 Sarna Marcus
 Stephen Marcus & Renee Matalon
 Ilana Marmon & Paul McLeary
 Joseph & Paula Martin
 Robert Mathis & Tali Stopak-Mathis
 David & Carla Matusow
 Rachel & Jackson McClam
 Allison & Colin McMillan
 Tobi McFarland
 David & Janice Mehler
 Stephen Meltzer
 Ethan Merlin & Joelle Novey
 David & Dana Mermelstein
 Sarah & Rachel Meytin
 Josephine Mickelson
 Michael & Barbara Milton
 Emily & Adil Moiduddin
 Jessica Morris
 Ken Morris & Terri Zall
 Jerry & Sharon Muller

May 17, 2019

Jonah & Stephanie Murdock
 Myron Murdock & Judy Herzog-Murdock
 Josh Nadas & Lillie Rosen
 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
 David Ogilvie & Miriam Lederer
 Lee & Hedy Ohringer
 Sarah Osborne
 Larry Paul & Joye Newman
 Perry & Fylis Peckham
 Daniel Pederson & Dafna Spear
 David Pelzer & Ellie Tiemann
 Melissa Perera
 Adam & Jessica Perlmutter
 Jeff & Cynthia Peterman
 Michael Pitch & Elaine Weiss
 Joshua Pitlick & Janet Blank

May 24, 2019

David & Laurel Rabin
 Glenn Rapoport
 Jacqueline Ratner
 Andrew Reamer
 Sanford & Shelley Reback
 Arnold & Naomi Revzin
 Ruth Reynolds
 Kelly & Stephen Rickard
 Howard Riker & Danielle Glosser
 Morris & Judy Rodenstein
 Joseph Rofrano & Lynn Golub-Rofrano
 Charles Rombro & Pamela Stone
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 Andrew Roshwalb & Jackelyn Lopez Roshwalb
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 Ari Roth & Kate Schechter
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 Marc Rothenberg & Ivy Baer

Making Hamentaschen with Rabbi Seidel

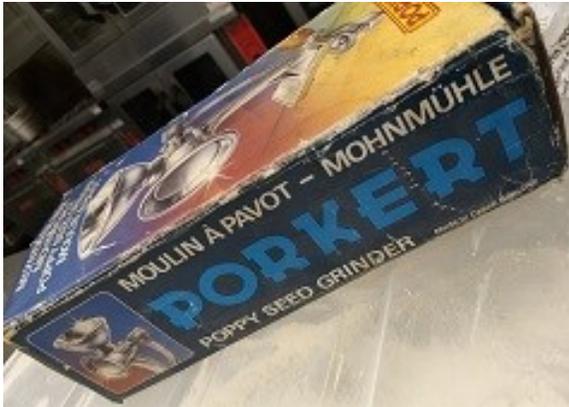


Photo by Lisa Traiger



Photo by Paula Tucker



Photos above and below by Paula Tucker



Photo by Lisa Traiger



Editor's note: Please take photos at TI events and send them to menorah@tifereth-israel.org. I can always use more photos, and you get credit.

April Highlights at Tifereth Israel

- April 1** Congregational Budget Briefing to review the preliminary FY2020 budget. 7:30 - 9:00 pm
- April 3** Board meeting open to all members to discuss the rabbinical selection process and committee. 8:00 - 9:30 pm
- April 7** Class led by Barbara White on How to Get More Out of Synagogue Services. 11:00 am in the Reamer Chapel
- April 10 & 28** Video Classes on Second Temple Judaism with discussion led by Cynthia Peterman, 10:30 am
- April 13** Talmud Study, 1:00 pm in the Reamer chapel. Study text provided.
- April 14** Project Hope Passover food deliveries. 9:00 am
- April 14** Movie nite @TI showing Yochi. 7:30 pm in the Berch Library
- April 16** Kol Nashim Book Group meets at 7:30pm at the home of Jessica Weissman and Louise Kelley to discuss *Alexandrian Summer* by Yitzchak Gormeano Goren. RSVP to knbook@tifereth-israel.org
- April 26** Passover Shabbat Dinner. Register by 10:00 am April 22

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

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