From the President: Sylvia Horwitz

It’s hard to believe, but here we are. June 2020. On Sunday, June 7, we will have a day and evening of varied and creative opportunities to celebrate Rabbi Ethan Seidel’s remarkable tenure as our rabbi for the past 28 years. Even in the midst of a pandemic, we’ll have a chance to participate in a unique leave-taking and to express our love and appreciation for all he has given us during these years.

Many of us joined TI because of Rabbi Seidel. We have all shared in the benefits of his many contributions to our collective life at TI: his scholarship, intellectual heft, teaching, and drashes; his singing, davening and leyning; his consolation in times of hardship or loss, and celebration in times of joy; his juggling (on and off his unicycle) and baking; his advice and counsel. We have been inspired, moved, educated, entertained, and challenged to (Continued on page 2)

How to Take Leave When We Can’t Be Together

Rabbi Ethan Seidel

What a time for me to leave! It’s not just that TI, like every other religious institution, will continue to face challenges in the face of this pandemic. That would be bad enough, having to leave this community amidst a crisis. It’s also that we can’t really be together to say good-bye properly: no handshakes, or hugs, or in-person smiles. No chance to just physically be together as a community. And yet, there are bright spots on both fronts that I wanted to share with you.

Concerning the pandemic: One of my goals, serving TI all these years, was to leave TI in a strong position for the future - a future that is now challenged by COVID-19. And yet, a lovely Zoom meeting (there is such a thing!) this last week reminded me of TI’s strengths. It was a meeting of our COVID-19 committee, comprised of the Board’s Executive Committee, the staff, and TI members who happen to be leading public health and infectious disease experts. And at this particular meeting, we included Rabbi Werbow, as we wanted to start thinking about the High Holidays, which will be under his watch.

For the first 55 minutes of the meeting, I didn’t speak. Partly, it was that I didn’t
grow in ways we may not have anticipated. He has shown us how one can live a Jewish life with both faithfulness to the tradition and ongoing creativity, through his musical compositions, his one-man plays, inventive tropes and so much more. He has brought to us a love of learning, and though I have not availed myself of the opportunity, I know that his office door is always open to anyone who wanted to study. And whether it is to lessen his carbon footprint, to keep himself fit, to connect with his surroundings, all of the above or something else, his dedication to getting anywhere on his recumbent bicycle is impressive and inspiring. He demonstrates, on a daily basis, how to live a Jewish life in service to God and the community with integrity, embracing a practice of self-challenge and growth. We in the TI family, rabbi and congregants, have had a rich and rewarding relationship over the years, personally, spiritually, and communally.

None of us would have wanted the final few months of Rabbi Seidel’s tenure to have played out with a closed building, services on Zoom, and keeping physically distant from one another. But that is exactly what has happened. We may have anticipated being able to enjoy these months engaging with him after his drashes on Shabbat morning in the sanctuary, sharing classes with him around a table, schmoozing at Kiddush, learning a new melody, and taking other opportunities to be together. But unexpectedly, Rabbi Seidel needed to pivot to giving his drashes at Kabbalat Shabbat and Havdallah services on Zoom, and moving Sunday morning minyan, and the parashat hashavuah, Talmud, and Biblical Hebrew classes to Zoom. And in addition to taking care of the collective, he has been reaching out to congregants to check on our wellbeing, and he started a new support group. As the pandemic stretched on from one month to the next, he saw his way clear to allow Shabbat morning services on Zoom and then embraced and joined himself, recognizing the importance of our Shabbat mornings together to so many in our TI community.

In particular, I have appreciated the insights and food for thought in his drashes. I appreciate that he teaches and challenges us. This has been true throughout the 19 years we have been TI members. And now, in these unprecedented times, I have found his words at Kabbalat Shabbat services and after Havdallah, and now on Shabbat morning, to be comforting, thought-provoking and moving, as he has found ways of making Torah so relevant to our cur-
From the Rabbi - continued

think I should have too much input in this matter, as it properly belonged under the jurisdiction of Rabbi Werbow who is starting his tenure in July. But also, I felt that the meeting was going so well without me, I didn't need to insert myself! One might have expected, amidst the stress of planning for a crucial event 4 months from now with no way of knowing what the civil law about gathering then might be, much less the exact health-safety situation of that moment, and even less what sort of gathering the average TI'er will feel comfortable attending – one might have expected that this would be a meeting filled with tension, strongly defended opinions, maybe even some angry words and backbiting. In fact, there was nothing of the sort. There was laughter, camaraderie, opinions expressed respectfully. I actually felt that by not saying anything, I was showing off this congregation to Rabbi Werbow, as if to say: “These congregants you are inheriting – I've been lucky to serve them: they are going to work together in this crisis, and they'll pull TI through, you'll see.”

There is reason to feel confident about TI’s future, even in these hard times. We have expertise, energy, and as important as anything: cohesion. I do feel lucky to have been the rabbi here for these past (almost) 28 years.

On the other front, taking leave when we’re not together, there is also good news. TI leadership is putting together a wonderful mostly-virtual TI day to help with this transition – if you are feeling as bereft as I am, I hope you will attend. It will all take place on Sunday, June 7th, and will include the virtual morning minyan, virtual lessons from me on baking rugelach, and juggling, a scrabble match between me and Julius Cohen - a TI teen scrabble player ranked near the very top in the USA in his age group. (This match is the intellectual equivalent of a dunk tank – perfect for TI). There will also be stuff for families and kids, and a non-virtual (that is to say, face-to-socially distanced face) drive by our house to say good bye. Not to mention a virtual Gala (preceded by a cocktail lesson) in the evening. I can’t think of a nicer, zanier, more heimish way to take our leave.

I hope to see you at some point during the TI day, if not before. And if not, well, I’ll be around a little longer – my last day isn’t until July 31st – I hope to connect with as many of you as possible before I go. (As you may be aware, I will not be at TI over the next year, so as to give the congregation a chance to bond with Rabbi Werbow.) Saying good-bye, as hard as that is, is even harder right now. But it is no less important. I would like to part by both giving tribute to the good things that have happened in our journey together, and expressing optimism about the future.

Rabbi Seidel

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From the President - continued

rent circumstances. Thank you, Rabbi Seidel, for taking steps you might not have anticipated, and by doing so, you are helping us all and enriching our TI experience during this time of COVID-19. And thank you for enriching our lives and our community throughout your nearly 28 years as TI’s rabbi.

Change is hard, and we’re about to make a big one. But it is also exciting. I am certain that with Rabbi Werbow taking the helm in July, we will truly be going from strength to strength. Because TI has been blessed with the deep and long service of Rabbi Seidel, we are in a great position to welcome Rabbi Werbow as our rabbi and embark on TI's next chapter. But first, we will celebrate Rabbi Seidel on June 7!

Chazak, Chazak, v’nitchazek

Sylvia
TI DAY
HONORING OUR COMMUNITY AND RABBI ETHAN SEIDEL

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Register by 12:00pm, Sunday, May 31 to receive Zoom links to join events

9:00 AM  MORNING MINYAN AND TEXT STUDY WITH RABBI SEIDEL
10:30 AM  VIRTUAL BAKING WITH RABBI SEIDEL
12:00 PM  ONLINE TRIVIA AND SCRABBLE COMPETITION
1:00 PM  HIMMELFARB END-OF-YEAR FAMILY CELEBRATION
2:00 PM  VIRTUAL JUGGLING LESSON WITH RABBI SEIDEL
3:00 PM  RABBI SEIDEL APPRECIATION DRIVE-BY
5:00 PM  TI TOTS VIRTUAL DANCE PARTY
7:00 PM  PRE-GALA COCKTAIL AND MOCKTAIL LESSON
7:30 PM  TI VIRTUAL GALA “FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH: A TOAST TO RABBI SEIDEL”

CLICK HERE TO SEE EVENT DETAILS
TI DAY GIVING CHALLENGES

Support TI by participating in our TI DAY Giving Challenges! Click here to learn more about the challenges.
What Inspired the Joyous Movement and Dance Class?

Adina Galinsky

Three and a half years ago, one of my favorite brilliant and inspiring teachers said this: "The story of the midwives tells us that our job is to look for those moments, really, to create those moments, of synchronicity between what you can offer and what this world so desperately needs...[We are] spiritual descendants of Shifra and Puah with the power to birth the world we want to see...with the power to author...new chapters of the story we are writing together." -Rabbi Elizabeth Richman, excerpted from her 2017 Women’s March Shabbat Keynote Sermon (bolding not in the original)

A lot of people are understandably scared, sad, and stressed right now. A short, sweet, upbeat dance class with a sense of humor, that encourages everyone to move however they feel inspired, but provides ideas (drawn from an eclectic set of movement and dance traditions, including Bollywood, Israeli folk, and 5Rhythms dance, Kundalini yoga, Zapchen, and aerobic kickboxing) for those who want them, and weaves in Jewish music and themes, thereby giving folks a chance to come together to keep our physical and mental energy high, recognize and appreciate our blessings, and - if you choose to think of it this way - use our bodies to thank and/or praise the Source of our blessings is what I have to offer.

Also, full disclosure, I have always wanted to start my day with a dance party with friends. I’ve been loving dancing with TI members! If you’re intrigued, I hope you’ll join us! For questions contact me at dancewithadena@gmail.com.

Gratitude - Varda Fink: I am grateful that during this time of isolation there is technology that enables us to connect and be together. During Zoom services or Zoomdalah being able to see, pray and speak with people is both a comfort and a joy. I am grateful for my deck where I can sit and gaze out at nature coming alive.
When a couple gets married, the tradition in Judaism is to wish them, בַּיִת נֶאֶמָן בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל (Bayit Ne’eman b’Yisrael). This translates as a “Faithful house in Israel”. I see this as a two sided blessing. One side is that the couple should be blessed to have a home that sustains and nurtures them and their family. The other is that they should endeavor to build a home that can be counted upon in the community.

Melissa and I were married in Los Angeles, where we lived for two more years before living in Pittsburgh for eight years and then Sarasota for the last six. In each of these locations we have been blessed to have a home that fulfilled both of these aspects of the blessing. Our homes have provided a structure in which our family could grow and flourish. They have been the places where we could raise our children and instill in them our values and live by the traditions of Judaism. They have also been places where we connect with the community.

As we prepare for our move to DC, we are looking for a home that will also provide us these opportunities. We really hope that it will be a smooth transition into a new home (we’re not sure yet) but either way we know that a physical house is not what makes a place our home. We are looking forward to making TI our home. It will be the community that nurtures us and that we are able to help support and contribute towards. Through this mutual relationship, our house (wherever it is) will be blessed and together we will nurture and increase the TI community.

We will see you in July!

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**TALMUD STUDY**

*With Rabbi Seidel*

**THURSDAY, JUNE 4**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 16**

**AT 8:00 PM VIA ZOOM**

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

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**Gratitude & Joy**

**JOYOUS MOVEMENT & DANCE**

**Tues, Thur & Fri, 8:30 - 9:00 am**

Led by Adena Galinsky

Click here to learn more

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**2020-2021 Calendar Meeting**

*Wednesday, June 17th, 2020 at 7pm*

Please bring ideas for programs, classes, workshops, and cultural events that can be held virtually or IRL (“in real life”). We will need to be creative, flexible and prepared as we think about our fall schedule. The meeting focus will focus on August 2020 - January 2021.

Contact Sheri Blonder ([sheri@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:sheri@tifereth-israel.org)) for more information or to RSVP.
Milestones and Accomplishments

Arielle Liu, Gene and Esther Herman’s second oldest granddaughter graduated from Rice University in the field of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Of course, the graduation ceremony was virtual. She plans to attend University of Arizona for a PhD program. Other rites of passage in their family were accomplished by Elli and Noa Herman, daughters of son, David Herman, as they performed their joint B’not Mitzvah virtually at Temple Rodef Shalom in Fairfax, Virginia. Yet a fourth granddaughter, Jessica Cohen, will be graduating eighth grade from Milton Jewish Day School.

Congratulations to Rebecca Dorn on graduating from University of California, Santa Cruz with a degree in Computer Science.

Cynthia Peterman has been honored by the National Archives with the Weidman Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service for her work using primary sources to support educational programming. Cynthia has spent the past few years working with the Archives’ DocsTeach.org program. Recently she created two new DocsTeach classroom activities based on records in the Archives collection which were used in the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum exhibit Americans and the Holocaust. As part of this initiative she presented two webinars for Holocaust educators and museum leaders.

New Normal Work Life

Paul Bardack heads the Maryland Small Business Development Center, the state organization taking the lead working one on one with Maryland’s small business owners trying to survive these terrible times. "My staff and I have been putting in lots of 12 to 16 hour work days the past few months trying to reach as many business owners as we can statewide," he said. "Sleepless nights. Emotionally tense days. Working with federal, state, and local government and business leaders. And the despair out there is even worse than you could imagine, as so many Marylanders are losing their life’s dreams through no fault of their own." The TI online services, he says, are one of the few anchors he has to re-center and experience something close to a former normal life.

Sad News

Beth Susan Abramowitz, daughter of TI Rabbi Emeritus A. Nathan and Barbara Abramowitz, died on May 12, 2020, 18 Iyar 5780, in California after a short illness. She is also survived by her brothers David (Allegra) and Daniel (Wendi), and uncles, aunts, four nephews, one niece and many unusually dedicated and devoted friends.
Social Action Committee Update - Larry Baizer

The TI Social Action Committee (SAC) met Sunday evening, May 24th via Zoom to welcome Bob Feron as the new Social Action Vice President. Bob has been active on the committee for several years, so he knows the functions of the committee well. He and his family, as well as other TI congregants, have provided ongoing support to one of TI’s two ‘adopted’ Syrian families. Although in person events and meetings with them have been curtailed for the time being. Bob has communicated with them via telephone and reported that they are continuing to thrive in their adopted country. As we welcome Bob as the incoming VP for Social Action, we also thank Varda Fink for her 6+ years of service in that position.

SAC members discussed several past and future Social Action projects in light of the constraints imposed by the pandemic. Given that the current situation will likely continue for several more months there was consideration and discussion of how to proceed and what adjustments will have to be made. Some of the committee’s projects may be amenable to an online format, e.g. the Shepherd Park tutoring program. However, others like the long-standing Christmas Dinner program are clearly not, and some time and effort will be necessary to identify potential alternatives.

Accordingly, the TI Social Action Committee wishes to hear from new volunteers who are able to engage in volunteer work remotely, from home, by phone or via the Internet. We welcome you to join us in re-creating, re-imagining and reorganizing ongoing TI social action projects so that they can continue over the next few months. We also welcome your ideas for innovative new projects.

If you are able to volunteer your time, energy and computer skills, please contact one of these current SAC members:

Claudine Schweber - pariscs@gmail.com
Larry Baizer - lbaizer@yahoo.com
Gene and Esther Herman - Gene511@aol.com
Carolivia Herron - carolivia@carolivia.org
Bob Feron - 202-297-1134 - BobFeron@gmail.com

Finally, SAC members encourage everyone to support community programs like the Emory Beacon of Light, Shepherd’s Table and Martha’s Table as they are all serving significantly more clients now.

Funeral Practices Committee

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  
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  
c: 301.435.6272

Gratitude - Jessica Weissman: I am grateful that I reconnected with my Boston cousin Paula last month. We’ve been sharing family stories. I found out that my mother and Paula’s father, aged 10, took the subway on their own and secretly to ask their teacher why she wasn’t teaching them any more. As you might guess, the teacher was pregnant. Neither of them ever told their parents about the escapade, because they were not allowed to ride the subway on their own.

I’m always thrilled to learn something new about my mother, who died more than 50 years ago. My sisters and I have plans to Zoom-visit with Paula, probably by the time you read this.
New Member - Jared Garelick

Samuel Lair – Sam, who has lived in the Washington area since 2012, works as a software engineer at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. He does development work on the system used to adjudicate various immigration benefits and to schedule interviews and oath ceremonies. He had an unusually varied educational and professional background before that. Sam was an undergraduate double major in Physics and Mathematics at the University of Alabama, and earned a Masters degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Georgia Tech. Sam worked for a time as a patent examiner at the Patent and Trademark Office, which first brought him to the area, before switching to software engineering.

Sam joined TI as part of a deliberate return to organized Jewish life. Raised mostly, until he was ten, by his maternal grandparents in Mobile, Alabama, he attended services and Hebrew school at Ahavas Chesed, a conservative congregation there. At some point his mother had a falling out with the rabbi and drifted away from practice, ending Sam’s shul attendance. But he continued to maintain a Jewish identity, not that it was easy to forget in the conservative Christian culture of southern Alabama, and now has decided it is time to return to Jewish practice. He is in TI’s adult b’nai mitzvah class, and is studying Hebrew, the services, festivals, and Torah. He had started regularly attending TI Shabbat morning services before the Covid-19 shutdown, and continues as a regular presence in synagogue zoom services and classes. Sam is interested in getting to know other younger people at TI and in the local Jewish community.

Gratitude - Margie Odle:  I’m grateful for many things. To mention just 1 is hard but here goes….I’m grateful for the plentiful rain this spring. Because of the heavenly waters, the yards in my neighborhood (including ours) look especially wonderful this year; it’s uplifting to be surrounded by nature’s beauty while we’re stuck at home. I’m grateful that to lift my spirit I only need to walk outside, look around and breathe.

Photos of her yard by Margie Odle
Wednesday, June 3
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Please join us on Zoom for a workshop to explore:

What Judaism Teaches Us About Resilience

Presentation and discussion to learn how to find hope and strength during difficult times led by:

Sheryl Frank, PhD Clinical Psychologist

Click here to join the meeting

Meeting ID: 965 2591 7599
Password: 403974

It’s YOUR Menorah

What would you like to read in the Menorah? If you have ideas for features we could add, or a topic you would like to share with congregants that doesn’t fit the drash model, send it along. We’re always looking for ways to be more useful to TI-ers. If you’ve got something you’d like to see as Question of the Month, let me know.

Also we have pretty much run out of recent photos. If you have pictures of TI-ers doing interesting and relevant things, send them to menorah@tifereth-israel.org. Don’t forget to identify the photographer.
June Yahrzeitn

We are publishing upcoming Yahrzeitn with the dates when the names would ordinarily be printed in the Shabbat handout.

May 29-30
6/1 Lynn Weinstein Clarfeld
   Murray Jarett
   Mary T. Jeweler
   Max Landau
   Aaron Margolis
   Morris Mestetsky
   Sabina Josephine
   Raimondo
   David Rubin
   Ida Sarah Selsky
   Nathaniel Weil
6/2 Phyllis Finkelstein
   Mildred Lande
   Harold Morris Samuels
   Dolly F. Simmons
6/3 Esther Borochoff
   Helene Cohen-Saffan
   Eva Gurewitz
   Frank Albert Wine
6/4 Morris Baron
   Jacob Cohen
   Joseph Furman
   Matilda Gallun
   Arthur Galston
   Sarah Kahansky
   Esther Plotkin
   Misha Woll
6/5 Doris Cadish
   Nettie Saltz

June 5-6
6/6 Rose Blanco
   Eugene Freed
   Harriet Herr
   Fay Lehrer
   Jack M. Pollock
   Milton Rodberg
   William Sperling
6/7 Walter Bell
   Max Blaser
   Mary King Boin
   Harold Cadish
   Samuel Friedlander
   Abraham Tunick
6/8 Rae Miriam Caplan
   Brenda Gerwin
   Bernard Golub
   Julius Hess
   Jean Moore
   Lester Robert Morss
   Adrienne Siegel
   Rothenberg
   Nate Sagalkin
6/9 Paula Grace Cohen
   Louis Gilman
   Joel Levin
   Esther Miller
   Rose Jeweler Peres
   Gertrude Green
   Silverstone
6/10 Gertrude Baum
   Hyman Eller
   Jacob Sodden
   Sarah Miriam Solomon
6/11 Abraham Michael Brown
   William Frohlich
   Nathan Gandel
   Moses Snesil
   Rabbi Jacob Weitman
6/12 Gertrude Krick
   Albert Saks

June 12-13
6/14 Moses Michael Bailin
   Edna Gorewitz
   Gerald G. Gross
   Lewis Leeds
   Sylvia Stahl
   Joel David Vile
6/15 Hinde Wishnia
   Minnie Corman
   Rose Greenberg
   Sarah Schlossberg
   Louis Sugar
6/16 Harry Moore
   Stuart Arnold Peres
   Morris Schwartzman
   Louise Libby Sidman
   Libbey Lewis Sussan
6/17 Sylvan Cahn
   Thelma Hecht
   Rose Stadler
6/18 Ashur Baizer
   Murray Braverman
   Dick Davison
   Lawrence Feldman
   Anthony Pitch
   Kenneth Steinberg
6/19 Rose Levine
   Sophie Slatko

June 19-20
6/20 Jennie Alpert
   Rubin Finkelstein
   Augusta Herman
   Dorothy Keyser Heyman
   Sarah K. Mendelson
   Blanche Riker
   Morris Schweber
6/21 Seymour Berland
   Natalie Lewis
   Sarah Peters
   Saul J. Ritter
   Harry Seidman
June Yahrzeitn - continued

William Tenn
Leah Weissman
6/22 Jay Steven Brown
   James Feron
   Mordecai S. Halpern
   Eddythe Lee Herman
   Francesca Hess
   Henry Isadore Hoffman
   Abraham Loube
   Louis Mensh

6/23 Margaret Baxt
   Samuel Cohen Footer
   Kenneth M. Herman
   Evelyn "Kiki" Kaplan
   Samuel Marvin Smith

6/24 Louis Borochoff
   Anna Rubin Gale
   Samuel David Lopatin
   Abraham E. Schor

   Zev Siegel
   Dorothy G. Weingarten
   Joseph Wohl
   6/25 Shirley Berman
   Ezra Elencwajg
   Herbert Gleckman
   Irma Goldberg
   Leonard Goldman
   Anna Leah Greenberg
   Abraham Jewler
   Helen Carolyn Lyman
   Esther Rosenberg
   6/26 Dorothy Hodos
   Allen Marmon
   Freda Moore
   Jeannette Scherling
   Sadie Rose Weilerstein
   Russell Wine

June 26-27
6/26 Brenda Cywan
6/28 Paul Nathan Baer
   Belle Jeanette Gittleman
   Samuel Jeweler
   Bethel Johnson
   Sophie Kavruic
   Raymond Zurer
6/29 Adolf Ermann
   Eve Singer Gaizband
   Anna Travers Keimowitz
   James Krivo
   Abraham H Malnik
   Wolfe Sneiderman
6/30 Zalman Fishman
   Rae Jasinosky
   Jack Arthur Stone, Sr.
   Barney Oscar Weitz

Gratitude - Alan Landay: I am grateful that I can go for walks and runs in my neighborhood and neighborhoods nearby where I encounter friendly people (at a distance) and see pretty flowers and lawns. Here is a picture I took on a recent run; the house pictured is not far from Moti’s Market.
VIRTUAL KABBALAT SHABBAT

SHMOOZE, 6:15  
SERVICE, 6:30

JUNE 5
JUNE 12
JUNE 19
JUNE 26  
(Uptown Shabbat, no Shmooze)

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

ZOOM dalah

Join the 'virtual neighborhood' for a song-filled havdalah with teachings and special time to start the week together.

JUNE 6
JUNE 13
JUNE 20
JUNE 27

After Sundown

Click here to learn more
TIFERETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION PRESENTS

UPTOWN SHABBAT

FRIDAY, JUNE 26 AT 6:30 PM
VIA ZOOM

Musician Robyn Helzner, one of the leading interpreters of world Jewish music, and Cantor and TI Member Larry Paul will lead a night filled with soulful song*.

*Please note: Guitar will only be played before Ma'ariv.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO
Himmelfarb Happenings June 2020 - Rina Rebibo

On Sunday June 7th, from 1-2pm, for its end-of-year celebration, the Himmelfarb school will be participating in TI Day. Please join us as we celebrate our academic year and say farewell to Rabbi Seidel. To register for the event please go to: https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/ti-day-schedule-of-events.html#school

While that will be our final event for this academic year, our final week of classes was the week of May 17th. Throughout that week our classes culminated their learning with special events. For Kindergarten through second grade, they concluded their year with Shavuot stories, songs, crafts & cooking. The 5th grade gathered over Zoom one evening with their parents and presented their Modern Israel slideshows, (see photos). The 8th grade held a program for all TI families to showcase their Tikkun Olam project. On how to heal the environment. In this presentation they shared visual demonstrations, and invited students to draw what they think of when we say nature. These drawings are being featured on the website they created.

As we move into the summer, we are challenging our students to master some tefillot. While the premise is the same, each age range has their own challenge. Should a student master a certain number of prayers they will receive on amazing TI-branded swag prize and if they master another level they receive a second TI branded swag prize! For more information go to: https://tiferethdc.shulcloud.com/himmelfarb-school-tefilah-challenge1.html

Photo by Rina Rebibo
TI Teen Times - Elena Prieto

Given that the school year and Hebrew School is coming to a close, USY and Kadima will be changing up our routine a bit! First, welcome to the newest Kadimaniks, the rising 6th graders. And, welcome to our new USYers, the rising 9th graders! I look forward to exploring the new community we will build together!

To start, we will continue our rising Hangouts after a short break. When we return from this break, the week of June 15th, we will meet at new times. The (rising) 4th & 5th grade Hangout will be on Mondays at 5pm - first meeting back will be June 15th. Kadima (rising 6th - 8th graders) will be meeting on Tuesdays at 5pm - first meeting back will be June 16th. Finally, USY (rising 9th - 12th graders) will now meet every other Thursday at 8:30pm - first meeting back June 18th.

Similarly, USY will be meeting in June to discuss the events for the upcoming school year. Please keep an eye out for an email with the date, time, and Zoom link! As always, please reach out to me with any questions or comments, including event suggestions, you may have: eprieto816@gmail.com

Best, Elena

Gratitude

Bruce Heppen: I am grateful that my kids encouraged me to keep a gratitude journal to reflect on the goodness in my life.

Judy Tulchin: I’m grateful for solitude, and for having enough company to be grateful for solitude.

Jennifer Kefer: Grateful to have so much extra time to spend with my teenage children; I know these days - though it may seem interminable now - are fleeting. So appreciative of the extra family dinners, board games, hikes, bike rides, and long walks to the farmer’s market.

Esther Herman: As one of the oldest members of the congregation, I am grateful for every day that I don’t get the virus, although I have had some "here it comes" moments. I treasure the more than 50 year membership we have had with TI, its rabbis and congregants, making new friends along the way and maintaining the old relationships the whole time. Precious are our relationships with our rabbis Abramowitz and Seidel through celebrations and difficult times, as well. Amazing is Zoom which allows so many of those relationships to continue through quarantine and lock down, through learning, chatting and prayer. I didn't realize how special it was until I had to give it up for a day when it kicked me out of its service. It took my grand daughter, Jessica, a few minutes on FaceTime to connect me again. And, yes, I am grateful for all of the young people that can help us with computer illiteracy.
Donations

RABBI A. NATHAN ABRAMOWITZ FUND

Donor
Robyn Altman
Joel Cohen
Louise Kelly & Jessica Weissman
Josh & Francie Kranzberg
Jeffrey & Arlyn Schlosberg

Donor
In memory of
David & Helene Emsellem
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Jewish Intellectual History: 16th to 20th Century

David Ruderman, Professor of Modern Jewish History at the University of Pennsylvania, explores the problem of Jewish identity in the modern era, when Jews confronted many challenges in a world very different from the pre-modern age. His video lectures are introduced and the discussion led by Allan Tulchin.

Sunday, June 7 -- 10:30 am-12:15 pm • via Zoom (see TI calendar for link)

Lecture 5: The Challenge of Baruch Spinoza --
Spinoza (1632–1677), born to an Amsterdam converso family, repudiated the assumptions on which Maimonides built his rational edifice of Judaism, offered a new understanding of the separation of church and state, and questioned the continued observance of ceremonial law as determined by the rabbis. For Spinoza, true faith meant the unhampered activity of the human mind; reason and faith had to be disentangled to preserve the integrity of each.

Lecture 6: Moses Mendelssohn and His Generation --
Jewish philosopher Moses Mendelssohn (1729–1786) significantly absorbed the values of the German religious Enlightenment. To Mendelssohn, Judaism consisted of three elements: eternal truths based on reason, historical truths, and ceremonial laws. He thought Judaism was superior to Christianity because Judaism possessed revealed law, not revealed doctrines. In Mendelssohn’s formulation, Jewish law became an individual obligation, detached from its communal or national setting. To him, Judaism was the interplay of intellectual freedom and observance of revealed law.

Sunday, June 21 -- 10:30 am-12:15 pm • via Zoom (see TI calendar for link)

Lecture 7: The Science of Judaism --
In 1819, a small group of German Jewish intellectuals founded the Society for the Culture and Science of the Jews. They proposed that a critical and objective scholarly view of the Jewish past might yield a fair estimate of the nature of contemporary Jews and Judaism. By studying Judaism “scientifically,” they hoped to discover the essence of Judaism and, eventually, to reveal the greater significance of Jewish civilization within the general intellectual and spiritual context of humanity.

Lecture 8: Heinrich Graetz—Jewish Historian --
Heinrich Graetz (1817–1891), the most important German Jewish historian of the 19th century, authored the monumental History of the Jews in 11 volumes. A scholar trained in the methods of the “science of Judaism,” Graetz used history as a battleground to defend the integrity of Judaism against its Christian detractors—especially German historian Heinrich von Treitschke (1834–1896), who justified German anti-Semitism in a series of well-publicized articles.

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Some Books of Interest - Paula Flicker

So many good books, so little time. When the KN book club discusses possible books to read and discuss, a number of books are mentioned but don't work for book club. In general, the Kol Nashim book club avoids memoirs or biographies and/or books that are too long for a one-month read. I would like to share a few titles that have been suggested as “good reads” but not for book club. These suggestions are worth saving.

**People and the Books: 18 Classics of Jewish Literature. Author: Kirsch, Adam**

Each chapter of the book discusses a different classic including the biblical books of Deuteronomy and Esther, the philosophy of Maimonides, the autobiography of the medieval businesswoman Glückel of Hameln, and the Zionist manifestos of Theodor Herzl. I have read this book. I enjoyed it but found it a slow read. Each chapter’s topic is so different, I had to absorb each chapter before reading the next one. The book is too long for a book club book. In addition, some people might not like the lack of depth for each book. Others would not be interested in quite a few of the chapters due to their knowledge of the books from other studies. Of course, one could just read the chapters of interest.

**A Tale of Love and Darkness. Author: Oz, Amos.**

Several members of the KN book club endorse this book. This memoir is quite long. Myrna Goldman reports that she found it moving and sad because it centers on his mother’s mental illness and the relationship between his parents. Nonetheless, Myrna also said that it is beautifully written and gives a sense of what it is like to experience the days leading up to independence. I have a copy of the book that I purchased at a Montgomery County Friends of the Library Bookstore for $2; it is 538 pages in relatively small print.

**The Notorious RBG: the life and times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg** (authors: Carmon, Iran and Knizhnik)

What can you discuss about a biography? (Editor’s note: PLENTY! Not just the person’s life but the choices the biographer made in describing it.) Nonetheless, this biography is highly recommended and Judge Ginsburg is Jewish.

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**Gratitude - Jevera Temsky:** I’m grateful for the beauty and resilience of nature. This is one of the redbud trees at TI, taken earlier this spring.

**Gratitude - Margie Odle.** One more photo of Margie’s yard.
The Kol Nashim Book Group met on May 19th to discuss Jennifer Teege’s *My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me -* more people than I expected after fielding assorted complaints about the book during the month. The discussion was lively, too.

The group agreed that it was time for something lighter. Our choice was *Friday the Rabbi Slept Late*, first in a series of Rabbi Small mysteries by Harry Kemelman. These were a very big deal in the late 60s and 70s. Lots of up front and in your face detail about Jewish congregational life, along with the usual mystery elements.

The paperback is still in print. The electronic version goes on sale often, either by itself or in a bundle of several volumes of the series. The MoCo library has audio copies for download. They also have copies in Hoopla, their new digital library add-on. Go to [hoopladigital.com](http://hoopladigital.com) and sign up with your library card. If you don’t have a library card (why not?) you can get one on the library website.

If you prefer a physical copy, visit [betterworldbooks.com](http://betterworldbooks.com). This is a terrific site for used books, with a huge stock and low prices. All their used stock comes from libraries and similar institutions, and the profit goes back to those institutions. The site lists books from other sellers as well, but marks them clearly so you can stick to BWB copies if you prefer.

We meet at 7:30 pm over Zoom, and run until about 9 pm. If you are not on the evite list, please contact Janice Mehler to be added. There’s no requirement to sign up, but being on the list gets you timely reminders and an email with the (correct new) Zoom link.
Yom Ha'atzmaut

Photo below: Estie Alemu. Photos above: Liraz Zohar

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES

JUNE 6
Installation Shabbat

JUNE 13

JUNE 20

JUNE 27

SATURDAYS, 9:30 AM
VIA ZOOM
CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE
Hello there! My name is Boaz “Bo” Levone and I'm a 7th grader at Silver Spring International Middle School. My bar mitzvah was on May 23 and the parsha was Bamidbar. My Bar Mitzvah project was that I helped tutor younger kids at Shepherd Park Elementary School. I really enjoy playing sports, like gymnastics and rugby. I play video games, board games and my favorite subject is science. I also do theater - I was in Oliver! at Einstein High School last spring. It has been a real wild ride preparing for my bar mitzvah this year because of coronavirus. Lots of moving parts that had to be put in place but in the end it will all come together. And if it doesn’t … well, then it will be a train wreck. But so be it. I would like to thank my parents and sisters, my dog Samson, my tutor Tamar (#BestTutorEver), Rabbi Seidel and my Hebrew School class.

**Gratitude - Melissa Perera:** I am grateful for the time to garden. When Adam was little, I started a tiny garden on the side of our rented house. We had amazing harvests of tomatoes, peppers and eggplant.

When we moved 6 summers ago, the first thing I did was put in a garden, but my longer commute made it difficult to have the time to tend to it properly. Now that I work at home I can nip out to the garden and dig up soil, plant seedlings and pull weeds in between meetings, and there’s still plenty of daylight left after work.

I hope this stays part of the new normal.

**Naomi Revzin:** Right now I’m grateful that our family is virus free. Hopefully we will continue to adhere to the guidelines, be cautious and remain as we are now.

**Louise Kelley:** I’m grateful that even despite the pandemic there are ways to stay connected with friends.