From the President: Sylvia Horwitz

Let me tell you about our magnificent Board of Directors and Executive Committee! As I come up to the last month of this year as president of the congregation, I feel so privileged to have been working with such a smart, thoughtful, caring, and dedicated group of people. You may not know everyone on the Board, so in case you’ve lost track of our officers and at-large members, I will list them at the end of this column.

Of course Board members are expected to attend meetings, make Annual Appeal calls to congregants, chair or serve on committees, pay attention to the financial well-being of the congregation, and take turns being the greeter in the sanctuary at Shabbat morning services. Some Board members have taken on special projects, such as synagogue security, examining and revising our rental policy and policy regarding unemployment insur-

COVID-19: Supporting Each Other through the Long Haul: Rabbi Ethan Seidel

It seems likely that the crisis in which we find ourselves will not be over soon. And if we include all the reverberations from this crisis, good and bad, we will likely never return to the old normal. However slowly or quickly our local governments try to ease the current restrictions, I think we would do best to plan for the long haul: this will not settle down in the next few months. And I don’t have to tell you, this crisis is not just medical and economic: it affects how we live our lives on a minute by minute basis: our families, our communities, our political structures, our shopping, the way we eat may all be reshaped to an extent we cannot yet know.

If you need to cry about it, by all means, go ahead – whether you have lost a loved one, or fear losing a loved one, or fear for your own life, or fear for the life of our democracy, or fear you will never be allowed to hug your grandchildren, or just fear you will never be able to find King Arthur Bread Flour on any store shelves again: this is sad and disruptive on many levels. Expressing our grief is an important step in coming to terms with what we have lost and what we fear losing in the future. And as for moving bravely forward into the new day – there will be time for that. But
for me at least, it feels like I'm still in shiva – way too early to spend much time thinking about what new directions I need to head in.

To help us cope with this sadness, I have three suggestions.

1. Help others. Even if you find yourself barely able to hold it together, look for those who need help.

Think of those in the congregation to whom you might have said a hello to in passing, whether on Shabbat morning, or picking up kids from Hebrew School. Who among them might appreciate someone reaching out? Pick up the phone, or send them an email, and ask how they are doing. And be sure to ask in a way that invites a long response. (And if you are not sure of the person’s name but can describe them in some way, call me, and I’ll help you identify the person.)

2. Talk to me. It’s taken me a month or so (I told you, I’m not moving fast in this crisis), but I’ve come to realize that my top priority needs to be connecting with TI’ers, especially those whom I think would really like a call. Some of those calls are long, as they should be. And I’m not going to get to everybody anytime soon. So if you’d like a call, don’t be shy: let me know. You can often reach me in the office, at 202 882 1605 ext. 302 – leave a message if I can’t pick up.

3. Drop in on my COVID-19 support group. Support groups are not for everyone, I know, but for some (myself included), they can be an important part of a coping strategy. This group will have no agenda besides being a space where folks can express their pain (along with any silver linings) in this crisis. I’m planning to hold this on most Sundays, at 7-8PM, starting May 10th. Anyone can join or drop in or drop out at any time. The Zoom link will be on the website.

I wish you strength in this difficult, unexpected, disappointing, frightening, maddening, agonizing, lonely time. Real strength comes, I find, from being honest with yourself about your feelings. Whether you work to allow others to express those feelings, or allow yourself the space to express them, you may find, in the course of time, a confidence, even a renewed sense of God’s presence that will help you weather this storm.

Hang in there!
Rabbi Seidel
From the President - continued

ance, and researching options for a new memorial board in the sanctuary. Not to mention co-chairing special committees such as the Rabbinic Search Committee and Nominating Committee for next year’s Board.

I have been impressed with the quality of the discussions that take place at our meetings. There is a wealth of experience and knowledge that each person brings to the table. The bottom line for everyone, regardless of which side of an issue someone may be supporting, is to land on what will be best for TI.

I am also impressed with the responsiveness of the Board to our “new normal” since we last met in person on March 8. That was a pivotal meeting, where the Rabbinic Search Committee presented its findings and recommendation, and the Board voted to extend our offer to Rabbi Werbow to become our next rabbi.

Usually we meet once a month. Since the emergence of COVID-19, we have needed to gather more frequently, and we needed to transition to virtual meetings. Our first gathering was a “brainstorming session” on Zoom soon after we closed the building to think about the operation of the synagogue and synagogue life while the building is closed. However, in order to hold official meetings to do shul business on a virtual platform, the Board had to vote by ballot to authorize virtual meetings, and that needed to happen quickly. The Board came through! As a result, we have been able to hold two “regular” meetings, as well as an “emergency” meeting to authorize us to take necessary action quickly, all in April and all on Zoom. My thanks to Daniel Turner, Governance Vice President, for figuring out how to properly authorize virtual meetings.

Between Board meetings, when actions need to be considered quickly, I can and do call on the Executive Committee, comprised of the Administrative VP, Finance VP, Recording Secretary, Immediate Past President, and myself. This group has been invaluable, especially since we started meeting regularly with our public health and infectious disease experts, Dina Borzekowski and Heike Bailin, and our wonderful professionals Rabbi Seidel, Jevera Temsky, Rina Rebibo, and Sheri Blonder.

The TI Constitution requires our annual meeting to take place in May to elect a new slate of Officers, Board Members and Trustees, among other business. Just as we needed authorization by the Board to hold virtual Board meetings, we need your authorization as a congregation to hold a virtual annual meeting. If you haven’t submitted your ballot yet, please do so by noon on May 4.

So here they are, your 2019-2020 Officers and At-Large Board Members:

AT-LARGE


OFFICERS

Susan Catler (Recording Secretary), Stan Dorn (Immediate Past President), Varda Fink (Social Action VP), Ira Forman (Development VP), Jason Kimelman-Block (Ritual VP), Anita Kramer (House VP), Kim Levone (Lifelong Learning VP), Sarah Osborne (Administrative VP), Larry Paul (Finance VP), Judy Tulchin (Communications VP), and Daniel Turner (Governance VP), and .

TRUSTEES

And I would be remiss in not touting the wonderful work of our George Greenberg Building Preservation Fund Trustees: John List, Elliot Rosen, and Allison Turner. They have been hard at work all year to move forward with enhancing the appearance of our building. While much of that is on hold right now, their work will, I’m sure, come to fruition as soon as possible. Last but not least, many thanks to our Cemetery Fund Trustees Rabbi Chuck Feinberg and Stephen Marcus.

What a great group!

Sylvia
Standing Together - Jared Garelick

Jewish services are not known for their dramatic group choreography. But there is a singular moment of drama in the Shabbat morning service that involves movement by the entire congregation. Unfortunately, changing practice at TI in recent years has diluted its impact.

I speak of the opening of the ark at the beginning of the Torah service. Years ago, the whole congregation rose together to stand at the time where the siddur indicates: as the ark is opened. At some point, some people began standing a paragraph earlier, at the very start of the Torah service. Others now join in one by one as group momentum builds. A few of us still stubbornly remain seated until the ark is opened. It’s a ragtag mix.

Without the benefit of any special knowledge or study, I would like to explain why I think the service is enhanced by following the instruction in the siddur.

Imagine the Israelites wandering in the desert, and the awe the ark they carried with them must have inspired. When it moved, we can picture them jumping up to stand in respect as someone called out, “hey, here comes the ark!” Just as we stand today at the arrival of someone of great honor, such as a judge in a courtroom.

While we can’t fully recreate the feeling of those forebears, I’ve always seen the opening of the ark as a modest reenactment of that time. As the ark is opened, the melody we have been singing stops and the leader calls out: “Va-yah, binsoah ha-aron, va-yomer Moshe!” (Whenever the ark would be moved, Moses would say …)

At this moment in the service, textual, aural, visual, and physical elements all come together. The text suddenly changes focus to describe the movement of the ark. The music similarly changes from a group melody to the leader calling our attention to the moment. There is a big visual reveal, as the ark is opened and we first see the sifrei Torah. And, following the cue in the siddur, the congregation rises as one in a show of respect to the sacred objects as they are revealed to our eyes.

There is a lot of standing and sitting throughout our services, and although each occasion has a reason, some of them seem a bit arbitrary. But to my mind, the group movement of rising together while the ark curtain is opening has a powerful effect that needs no further explanation. Our rising to stand is a reflex, elicited by the exposing of the sifrei Torah, which we have been taught to respect. If we are already standing when the Torah is revealed, the connection between the object and our show of respect is diminished. Moving our bodies as a group in immediate response to seeing the Torah reinforces the importance of that object to us as a community.

I do not insist that my preference is the only way. There are many minhagim, and TI is enriched by its accommodation of different styles. For those who prefer to stand earlier, feel free. If you are open to persuasion, however, I encourage you to give your feet a few moments of extra rest and to rise as the ark is opened, at such time as we are able to daven together again. For that one moment, whenever it returns, it would be a nice feeling to move together as a community.

TI Annual Meeting - coming soon

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held later this month. Look for details in the weeks to come.
SHAVUOT
Tifereth Israel Congregation

MAY 28 - EREV SHAVUOT
Pre-Shavuot Tikkun / Rabbi Seidel
(7:00 pm via Zoom)

MAY 29 - FIRST DAY
TI Office Closed

MAY 30 - SECOND DAY
Shabbat Morning Services followed by Yizkor (tentative)
(9:30 am via Zoom)

Zoom-dalah!
(9:15 pm via Zoom)
with a special reading of the Book of Ruth

Click here to learn more
Save JUNE 7th for TI DAY!
In Honor of Rabbi Seidel and In Celebration of Our Wonderful Community

While we cannot be together physically for our Gala, TI remains a connected community. Join us to celebrate TI with a series of virtual events throughout the day, culminating with a virtual Gala in the evening. It will be a unique way of being together even when we are apart – and thanking Rabbi Seidel for his 27 years of extraordinary service to TI.

TI DAY WILL HAVE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!
Events will start at 9am and conclude around 9pm. A schedule is forthcoming.

- Morning Minyan & Text Study
- Himmelfarb End-of-Year Celebration
- Virtual Baking with Rabbi Seidel
- Virtual Juggling Lesson with Rabbi Seidel
- Online Word Games
- Rabbi Seidel Appreciation Drive-by
- TI Tots Virtual Dance Party
- Pre-gala Cocktail Lesson

**Gala Celebration: A Toast and Tribute to Rabbi Seidel (7:30pm)**

These are just some of the things being planned for TI Day. You will also be able to contribute in more personal ways to show your appreciation for Rabbi Seidel and in financial ways to help support TI.
Rabbi A. Nathan Abramowitz Fund

The Rabbi A. Nathan Abramowitz Fund provides scholarships for TI youth who spend their summer or part of a school year in a program to enhance their Jewish education.

To apply for a scholarship, please print this form at http://tinyurl.com/2020ANA and return it by May 15th to Rabbi Abramowitz by email at anabramowitz@verizon.net.

To qualify for a scholarship, youngsters may attend a camp recognized for its Jewish educational component (such as Camp Ramah, Capital Camps, and Moshava), participate in an educational program in Israel (such as USY Pilgrimage or Ramah Seminar), or take part in a United Synagogue Youth Wheels Trip. The Fund awards scholarships based on financial need.

Please note that this year applications will not be reviewed until Rabbi Abramowitz receives confirmation that your child’s program will take place during 2020.

The ANA Fund depends on your support and welcomes donations of any amount. Please make a donation at http://tinyurl.com/ANAdonate.

For more information about scholarships, contact Rabbi Abramowitz at anabramowitz@verizon.net.

TI's Hebrew Fiction Group

The TI Hebrew Fiction Group meets regularly every Monday at 1pm as we have been doing now for over 5 years. We are currently close to the end of the Amos Oz book, "Panther b'Martef" (Panther in the Basement). Group participants are David Cohen, Mimi Feinsilver, Sylvia Horwitz, Martin Kessel, Naomi Morse, Stephanie Rubin and David Silber.

Prior to COVID-19 the group meet at TI with Martin on the speaker phone remotely from his home in Bethlehem, NH. With the advent of COVID-19 we are now all on Zoom and continue to enjoy our weekly readings with the opportunity to see each while we are still socially distancing.
Nayes un Mechayes - Melissa Perera

Virtual Life
Paula Flicker's cat (formerly her mother's cat), who rarely appears when she has visitors, finds Paula's participation in Zoom meetings an opportunity for attention. He walks by the screen and/or is in sight getting petted and is becoming a regular for Sunday morning service.

Alan Landay “went” to two Seders: Rabbi Seidel's Seder and his sister Becky’s in Oak Ridge, TN. Alan found Rabbi Seidel's Seder to be very warm and congenial. Besides being online, it was different in that more time was spent on questions and discussion and less on simply reading from the Haggadah. Alan thanks Ethan & Rachel for this wonderful experience.

Alan has also been attending his weekly Spanish class via Zoom and is really glad to be able to keep this going. Finally, Alan notes that Markid Mike Fox and his wife have continued Israeli Folk Dancing on Tuesday nights from their basement (rather than Ohr Kodesh). He notes that it’s great to be able to keep doing this!

Accomplishments
Ben Dreyfus won a 2020 Teaching Excellence Award from George Mason University. The award ceremony has been postponed due to COVID-19.

On April 24, 2020, Louise Wiener's granddaughter Alyssa, younger daughter of Ross Wiener and Melanie Oncu, celebrated her bat mitzvah online with Aliyot spreading from Switzerland to DC and readings from Florida, and observers...a new form of gathering the family.

Sad News
Tifereth Israel member Dr. Louis Blumen, died peacefully on Tuesday, March 31, 2020, 6 Nisan 5780, in the presence of his family after 94 good years! He is survived by two daughters, Lorna Blumen (Peter Fraser) and Lesley (Marcello) Macherelli, a son, Peter (Helena) Blumen, five grandchildren, and a brother, Joseph (Dale) Blumen. He was pre-deceased by his brother David Blumen.

Janet "Jennie" Kessin, mother of TI member Elizabeth Kessin Berman (Daniel M. Berman) and grandmother of Reena Lynne Berman (John E. McManus) died on April 15, 2020, 21 Nisan 5780, just short of her 100th birthday. She had the novel coronavirus. Her husband, Morris "Murray" Kessin predeceased her. She is also survived by a son, Robert A. Kessin, and a brother, William “Maxie” Barth.

Myrna Sullivan, mother of TI member Yochanan Sullivan, died on Thursday, April 23, 2020, 29 Nisan 5780, in Atlanta Georgia after a long illness. Other survivors include Yochanan’s wife, Yvonne Shashoua, and his children - Elnatan David Sullivan, Michal Sullivan, Noam Sullivan, Shlomo Sullivan, Bat Chen Sullivan, Amos Yosef Sullivan, Naomi Sullivan, Yaelle Sullivan, Renata Bat Zion Sullivan, Benyamin Yaakov Sullivan, Azaria Hileman-Shashoua, Elisha Sullivan, Tzurielle Shashoua.

Leslie Bokor, grandfather to TI member Joshua Nadas (Lillie Rosen), and great-grandfather to Shira, died on April 20, 2020, 26 Nisan 5780, at age 90 in Boston. He passed away peacefully after a long period of illness following a stroke in 2016. His death was precipitated by COVID-19.
TI’s COVID-19 Team – Jevera Temsky

As soon as the coronavirus threat was known to be serious, TI President Sylvia Horwitz quickly assembled a COVID-19 Advisory Committee. It is comprised of members of the Executive Committee of the Board (Susan Catler, Sylvia Horwitz, Sarah Osborne, and Larry Paul), Rabbi Seidel, Sheri Blonder, Jevera Temsky, along with TIers and public health experts Dina Borzekowski and Heike Bailin. The committee met weekly during the first few weeks of TI’s closure and now meets every other week.

The committee’s charge is to determine how to run the synagogue safely during the crisis, and eventually to guide TI through the process of re-opening in a way that safeguards the health of everyone connected with the community – members, renters, staff, vendors, visitors, etc. The group continually monitors and discusses the latest COVID-19 developments, and relies on Dina and Heike to provide credible advice.

During the next many weeks, the committee will continue to meet and Sylvia will provide regular status updates to the community. If you have any questions about how TI is handling the COVID-19 pandemic, or questions about the committee, please contact Sylvia Horwitz.

Meet the experts:

Dina Borzekowski is an internationally recognized expert in global health communication, specializing in messaging with children. At the University of Maryland, Dina is full Research Professor in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health. She also serves as the Interim Director for the School of Public Health’s Global Health Initiative. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dina has been advising Ministries of Health in Ghana, Tanzania, and Nigeria - as well as TI’s board members.

Heike Bailin works at the NIH Occupational Medical Service, Division of Occupational Health and Safety. One of her areas of expertise is risk management of workplace hazards. For the past decade she has brought her experience in family and emergency medicine to support a diverse workforce in biomedical research, e.g., with infection control and prevention measures such as contact tracing and monitoring programs for outbreak responders.

---

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**  
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

Purim photo by Julie Steinberg. If you have photos of TI events from this year or even before, please send them to menorah@tifereth-israel.org.
Iris Lav, a long-time TI volunteer, has found a new role as the Covid-19 pandemic has made communal worship impossible. She coordinates the modified Shabbat morning services being held on Zoom.

Iris and her husband, Mike, have been TI members since 1977. Their now adult children had their b’nai mitzvah at TI. She served on the board for many years, though she is not on it now, and she was TI president in the 1999-2001 period. Her real TI home base, however, has been the Ritual Committee, which she has been on for decades. This is the connection that brought her to the Zoom service.

The idea arose at a Ritual Committee meeting soon after in-person group gatherings became impossible. Rabbi Seidel does not use a computer during Shabbat but said he does not object to a congregant leading a modified service while we cannot gather in person. Iris volunteered to make it happen. She is normally at TI every Shabbat morning, and she misses it.

Iris first used Zoom as a participant while serving on the rabbinic search committee this past year, but she had never arranged meetings on it before. So she learned. She bought a Zoom account to accommodate the usage and took some tutorials. Although not part of the generation labeled “digital natives,” Iris and computers go way back. She became adept with computers in the era of mainframes and punch cards, using early computer languages like COBOL and Fortran. With that background, modern consumer software like Zoom is easy to pick up.

Iris stresses that lots of people are helping make the virtual Shabbat morning service succeed, especially the many people who have volunteered to lead parts of the service. She recruits those volunteers and ensures that all the spots are filled, and works with the synagogue office staff to announce the services and distribute the correct link. She does not find the role especially burdensome.

The positive feedback Iris has received about the service is gratifying. With so much of normal social interaction suddenly absent from our lives, finding familiar faces and hearing familiar tunes on Zoom provides at least some of the feeling of community we expect to find at the synagogue. As Iris notes, it feels like a service, even if it’s different.

Thank you Iris, and all the others helping TI’ers feel connected in this time of physical isolation.
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**

Lecture and discussion about the intersection of Jewish thought and mental health led by

**Sheryl Frank, PhD Clinical Psychologist**

Judaism teaches us to be resilient in the face of adversity. Together we will learn how to find hope and strength during difficult times.

Further info on how to connect to this discussion will be provided
May Yahrzeitn

We are publishing upcoming Yahrzeitn with the dates when the names would ordinarily be read.

April 24-25
5/1  Marion Yetta Gilman
     Rabbi Mel Glazer
     Jennie Leonard
     Jane Schwartz
     Elsa Temple
     Morton Temsky
     Louis Klaben
     Morris Kreps
     Dorothy Waller Stone
     Robert Stone
     Sadie Temsky
     5/10  Evelyn Raphael Flug
           Joe Grabia
           Ruthellen Holtz
           Richard Herbert Le Vine
           5/11  Sarah Friedman
                  Rev. Abraham Kalmus
                  Mary Mintz
           5/12  Selma Bokor
                  Selma Rosenthal Brown
                  Sidney A. Cohen
                  Paul Greenberg
                  Benjamin B. Siegel
                  5/13  Janet Spector
                         Eva Gumenick
                         Debra Harrison
                         Emma Meyer
                         Malvin Miller
                         Jacob Rodenstein
                         Evelyn Salz
                         5/14  Anna Bookin
                                Allan Jeweler
                                Sarah Mincosky
                                Madeline Nesse
                                Min Parson
                                5/15  Gussie Brenner
                                       Benjamin C. Glass
                                       Morris Needle
                                       5/16  Katherine Gandel
                                              Lewis Orloff
                                              Harry Bender
                                              Pearl Bloom
                                              5/17  Mae Dodek
                                                     Lionel Kestenbaum
                                                     5/18  Rose Esther White
                                                            Eli Contract
                                                            Anna Cowan
                                                            Lafayette F. Davis, II
                                                            Wolfe "Todd" Filderman
                                                            Marlene Kahal
                                                            Ruth Botkin Morse
                                                            Fannie J. Rovin
                                                            Philip D. Sussan
                                                            5/19  Evelyn Berger
                                                                  Judith Zark Kress
                                                                  Philip Paul
                                                                  Nathan Steffel
                                                                  Mitchell Stein
                                                                  5/20  Sam Eden
                                                                        Dora Forman
                                                                        Rebecca S. Klein
                                                                        5/21  Katie Balliet
                                                                              Joseph Feigelis
                                                                              Alan Lee Isicson
                                                                              5/22  Nizha Massri
                                                                                    Stacy Pass
                                                                                    Tillie Toby Siegel
                                                                                    Rabbi B. Reuben
                                                                                    Weilerstein
                                                                                    May 22-23
                                                                                    5/23  Abraham Bleicher
                                                                                         Helen Landau
                                                                                         Libe Poms
                                                                                         Jacob Shapiro
                                                                                         5/24  Stanley Fox
                                                                                               Rebecca Marrow
                                                                                               Anna Mondschein
                                                                                               Anna Rose
                                                                                               5/25  Samuel Dublin
                                                                                                      Paul Niederman
                                                                                                      Jean Rosenthal Rosen
                                                                                                      Edith G. Weiss
                                                                                                      5/26  William Garner
                                                                                                             Muriel Glaser
                                                                                                             Esta Hare
                                                                                                             Ethel Heller

May 1-2
5/2  Rosalie Finkelstein
     Ethel K. Roads
     Joseph Rod
     5/3  Pearl Pauline Berenter
          Sara Berlin
          Benjamin Bojankosky
          Sadie Kaplan
          5/4  D. Lilian Peterman
              Sam Simler
              Rubin Turner
              Annie Wagshal
     5/5  Susan Lea Brown
          Alan H. Mehler
          Irving Reamer
          Sidney Rothenberg
     5/6  Samuel Cohen
          Rosalind Starrels
          Greenwald
          Adeline Hoosin Milton
     5/7  Max Louis Friedman
          Celia Meltzer
          Mary Shankman
          Florence "Babe"
          Unterweger
     5/8  Erwin Alpern
          Hyman J. Baker
          Harold Cohen
          Abraham Katz
          Marcella Rothenberg
     5/9  Samuel Alterman
          Joseph Axelrod
          Seymour E. Kabaker
May Yahrzeit - continued

Pearl Kabaker
Kate Goldman Katz
Joseph Aaron Lewis
Vera Goldfischer
Schweber

Sam Aronowitz
Solomon Hofberg
Sam Hovis
Anna B. Mayer
Jonathan Mazal
Nathan Sinel
Stuart Voisin

May 30*

Mary Bernstein
Brandel Eichenbaum
Ruth Isicson
Evelyn Jellinek
Solomon Krivo
Bernard Rubin
Chaim Terner

Judith Wilkenfeld
Sidney Auerbach
Ruth Felman
Stanley Glabman
Mason Irving Himelhoch
Samuel Meir Jaffe
Albert Kline

* Friday, May 29 is the first day of Shavuot, so there is no Kabbalat Shabbat service.

Not All That Long Ago We Could Crowd the Chapel

Photo by Louise Kelley
VIRTUAL KABBALAT SHABBAT

SHMOOZE, 6:15
SERVICE, 6:30

MAY 1
(Iraqi Shabbat, no Shmooze)
MAY 8
MAY 15
MAY 22
(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.

MAY 2, 9:00 PM
MAY 9, 9:15 PM
MAY 16, 9:15 PM
MAY 23, 9:30PM
MAY 30, 9:30 PM
(Special reading of the Book of Ruth)

Click here to learn more
TIFERETH ISRAEL CONGREGATION PRESENTS

UPTOWN SHABBAT

FRIDAY, MAY 22 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 May 2020 - Rina Rebibo

We are all familiar now with the term ‘flattening the curve’. Though I want to know when we have achieved that momentous day with regards to Covid-19, I am personally having difficulty following the numbers every day. It is too emotionally taxing for me. So I decided to look at the term from a different perspective.

We are nearing the end of the Himmelfarb school year. In a few weeks online classes will end and ‘summer vacation’ will begin. When we went into ‘social distancing’ mode our staff rallied in order to get our classes online. While our hours of learning have decreased, our teachers are working tirelessly to provide fresh & high quality content to our children. All families are invited to join the classes – and we are seeing new faces every time.

If you look at the term ‘flattening the curve’ from our school’s perspective, I am not referring to the break our teachers will now have – I am referring to the fact that our staff chugged upwards from mid-March through Pesach. It was hard work – exhausting in fact – but we made it to the top and we provided (and continue to provide) engaging content to the families of TI. I am proud of what our staff has accomplished and I hope you all join me in commending them for the excellent job they have done. Also, I hope that one day soon we will be able to celebrate the Covid-19 virus curve being flattened as well.

Making Lemonade Out of Lemons - David Cohen

The coronavirus pandemic has radically changed our lives, and all of us are suffering from the social isolation and social-distancing that our new stay-at-home reality demands. For us at Tifereth Israel, the most obvious limitation is that we cannot be together on Shabbat, as usual, for morning services and Kiddush lunch.

Nevertheless, thanks to Iris Lav and other volunteers, many of us have been “gathering” on Shabbat mornings for a modified service via Zoom. While the participants have to keep muted to avoid a muddled cacophony of sounds, and thus cannot sing together, the services have created an ability to focus and a wonderfully different sense of community that is actually missing when we are physically together in the Sanctuary.

In a service at TI, congregants cannot see the people behind them, and see only the backs or sides of the heads of people in front of them. On Zoom, we see the faces of all the participants. We also see into each other’s homes, and thus capture a bit of everyone’s unique personality and living environment.

With our names on the screen below our faces, we can easily identify each other without the need for name tags. With no ambient sounds, we can concentrate on the davener. If necessary, we can quietly take breaks without disturbing the other participants. If we have a discussion following a drash, we don’t have to wait for a mic to be passed around to the speaker, and can easily hear what is being said.

We have thus discovered a new way to be “together.” Necessity has indeed been the mother of invention. I hope we do not entirely discard this invention. When the current health crisis is over, or at least abated, let’s try not to entirely abandon this ability to Zoom and to communicate with one another “face to face.”
As we return to routine after Passover, USY and Kadima will be continuing on with some of the events we started doing last month, as well as hosting some new ones this coming month. To start, we will continue doing Kadima hangouts every Thursday evening at 8pm. So far, those virtual hangouts have consisted of games of Pictionary and Uno, and of course just chatting and talking about what’s going on. This coming week, we will be talking and planning for May. Information on those soon to be decided events will be shared via email - so keep your eye out for that!

For USY, we continue to have Challah Bake Alongs at 4:30 - even if you’re not baking a challah, or finished most of the work already, join us for some fun conversation and catching up! Looking forward, On April 25th, USY held a Yom Ha’Atzmaut trivia night. And, in May, USY will be having a virtual movie night and game night! More details for the May events will be posted on our Instagram (@TIUSY) which will include the links for all the events.

As always, please feel free to reach out, and keep a look out for upcoming events and details for our TI Teens!

Best, Elena
Donations

**ANNUAL APPEAL**

**Donor**
Robyn Altman

**GENERAL DONATIONS**

**Donor**
Rachel Elwell
John & Lynne List
Lee & Hedy Ohringer
Lawrence & Pearl Schainker
Nessa Spitzer

**In memory of**
Edward & Ruth Cogen
Myrna Goldman

**HELPING HANDS FUND**

**Donor**
Morris & Judy Rodenstein

**In honor of**
Lisa Goldring for making masks

**MARVIN CAPLAN SOCIAL ACTION FUND**

**In memory of**
Jon Alterman & Katherine
Katherine LaRiviere
Stephen Garber & Lynne Snyder
Myrna Goldman
Adele & Michael Sumner

**RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Ernie Englander
Charles & Krayna Feinberg
Stephen & Shelly Heller
Alan Landay
David & Dana Mermelstein
Ray & Adele Natter
Howard & Michele Sumka

**TORAH REPAIR FUND**

**Donor**
Myrna Goldman

**In honor of**
Leah Miriam Bass

**YAHZEIT DONATIONS**

**Donor**
Jon Alterman & Katherine
Katherine LaRiviere
Lawrence Baizer & Elaine
Elaine Lewis
Sharon Doner Feldman &
Izzy Feldman
George & Sue Driesen
Ernie Englander
Eliot & Traci Goldberg
Richard Kruger & Naimah
Naimah Weinberg
Elaine Miller
Jeff & Cynthia Peterman
Marc Rothenberg & Ivy Baer
Susan Vitale
Diana Zurer
Diana Zurer
Shannon Hiltner

**In memory of**
Dan Zodikoff
Sylvia Baizer
Abraham Joshua
Donor
Irving Driesen
Hyman Shulman
Bette Fargotstein
Israel Kruger
David Lewis Miller
Eve Gaizband & Lilian
Peterman
Marcella Rothenberg
Julia Mohn Vitale
Drake
Alice Woll
Frieda Woll
Alex Hiltner

---

**IRAQI KABBALAT SHABBAT**

FRIDAY, MAY 1 AT 6:30 PM
VIA ZOOM

**LED BY LOOLWA KHAZZOOM**

Join Loolwa as she leads the community in Iraqi Jewish prayer services and rituals, bringing them to life and sharing the stories and meaning behind them.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE
Dead Sea Scrolls Course
Dr. Gary Rendsburg, professor of Jewish history at Rutgers University, provides an in-depth exploration of the Dead Sea Scrolls and the theology and practices of the Yahad, the utopian Essene group that produced them. His video lectures are introduced and the discussion led by Allan Tulchin. This is the final session of the course.

Sunday, May 3 — 10:30 am-12:15 pm • via Zoom (see TI calendar for link)

Lecture 23: Connections to Christianity -- What was the relationship between the Qumran community and the early Christian movement?

Lecture 24: Scroll Fragments and a New View of Judaism -- This session looks at three scroll fragments and then reviews the course’s major takeaways.

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 defining their religious and cultural affiliation in a world very different from the premodern age. His video lectures are introduced and the discussion led by Allan Tulchin.

Sunday, May 17 — 10:30 am-12:15 pm • via Zoom (see TI calendar for link)

Lecture 1: On Studying Jewish History -- This lecture discusses past and present approaches to the study of Jewish history. In this course, and throughout the course, the themes of Gd, Torah, and Israel will be used as markers in tracing the evolution of modern Jewish thought.

Lecture 2: Defining Modern Jewish History and Thought -- Modern Jewish thought can be traced to the Jews’ evaluations of their own identity and faith in light of dramatic changes in their social and political status.

Sunday, May 31 — 10:30 am-12:15 pm • via Zoom (see TI calendar for link)

Lecture 3: Cultural Transformation in the Italian Ghetto -- The erection of the ghetto system throughout the Italian peninsula in the late 16th and early 17th centuries ushers in a new era of Jewish-Christian relations and a new restructuring of Jewish cultural life.

Lecture 4: Seventeenth-Century Marranism and Messianism -- In the 17th century, large numbers of Iberian Christians whose ancestors had originally been baptized and left the Jewish community (conversos or marranos) returned to Jewish life and practice. These conversos were especially attracted to the bizarre and repercussive messianic movement of Shabbetai Zevi.

Talmud Study
Rabbi Seidel will lead Talmud study in English translation on Thursday, May 7 and Tuesday, May 18 from 8:00-9:00 pm via Zoom.
Why the Little Things Matter - Richard Schacter

Happiness-defined, in part, as a deep sense of connection and unity with ones surroundings-is a notion mom, a Shoah survivor, instilled in me since early childhood. Her approach in enjoying the small pleasures in life-thereby finding inner peace, is a value which from which I benefit each day.. particularly during this conflated Corona virus scare-where I am sequestered at home-making my immediate milieu-the epicenter of existence.

In order to maximize this new experience, I go to the back yard patio-to sip an earthy-flavored coffee in the morning-and floral-scented wine towards dusk. Each period of the day reveals another color scheme-so the Spring blooms in variegated shades take on an almost magical feel-one enhanced by the twitter of our avian friends-who seem to revel in their delightful microcosm. Ponder what message these birds convey. Do they tell us something-even indirectly-about intrinsically true values-or unbridled optimism-perhaps, we can learn from the soulful melodies-if only we listen attentively.

Mom taught me that we can learn so much from nature-be it bunnies hopping to and fro in a search of fresh buds to snack on-or a butterfly which alights upon a newly opened, fragrant flower-I, too, can visually participate in the aesthetic and inspiring beauty of mother nature-which provide a welcoming source for thoughtful reflection and impetus for creative, poetic expression.

While interned in a Ghetto mom and her mother fed the mice whom they befriended-or, actually, the other way around...so when I hear the "horror" exclaimed by folks who see a mouse and feel impelled to kill it as an unwanted, dirty intruder-I recall my mom's narrative, depicting the familial structure and tender-loving care which mice show to each other-their need not only for sustenance (shelter and food/water) but also-for affection...Close observation of our fellow creatures reveals a profound similarity in shared emotions and this commonality underscores the inherent value each and every living creature.

Above all-mom recounts the gratitude a mouse can show to another living creature-such as an unexpected delivery of grains or nuts-laid at the foot of her bed-the rodent's way of saying "Thank You" for having shared bread crumbs from the paltry loaves of rationed, desiccated bread allotted to each inmate.

When I see mom scraping out every last morsel of rice stuck to a pot-or how with surgical precision she carves out the hull from a ripe strawberry-to get the most of this fruit-I am reminded of just how precious food really is-and that it is a luxury to pick and chose whatever I wish from an organic farmer's market-which displays healthful foods in vibrant colors -an optically-seductive arrangement-I think back on the numerous stories of hardship, where to find a measure of solace in relatively small events-provided distraction from the unfolding terror.

It is the ethereal, spiritual facets of beauty which link us to Mother Nature-that inspire-for the price of a glance-The so-called "smaller" things in life-stuff one can easily take for granted-actually loom large-to those receptive to the incessant and immeasurable joys offered to us at little or no cost-but which provide holistic nourishment for body & soul!

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, Also we will soon run out of recent photos. If you have pictures of TI-ers doing interesting and relevant things, send them to menorah@tifereth-israel.org
The Kol Nashim Book Group met on April 21st to discuss Abraham Cahan’s Yekl, a Tale of the Ghetto. This novella was the source material for the movie Hester Street. Cahan was both a popular novelist whose theme was how Jews adjusted to American and the founder of the Forward newspaper.

Readers acknowledged that one of the strengths of the book is how Cahan represents the Yiddish accent in English, and were split on how individualistically drawn the characters were. For those who like Cahan’s general approach I can recommend his later novel The Rise of David Levinsky. It is a first-person account of how a young immigrant rose to prosperity in America. Like Yekl it is available as a free download from Project Gutenberg.

Our next meeting is at 7:30 on May 19th. We will be discussing Jennifer Teege’s My Grandfather Would Have Shot Me. Teege, a young Black woman, discovers that her grandfather was Amon Goeth - a prominent Nazi featured in Schindler’s List. The book traces the impact of this discovery on her life. Several electronic copies are available in the DC public library, and the book is easily available in paperback.

More Purim Photos - by Julie Steinberg
Operation Wilderness - Simcha Kuritzky

Egypt directs terrorist attacks against Israel, cuts off Israel’s access to the Red Sea, imports massive amounts of military equipment from the Soviets, and forms a joint command with Syria and Jordan in preparation to invade Israel. Israel retaliates by seizing the Sinai Peninsula in a few days. Sound familiar? Many historians have called Operation Wilderness (sometimes called the Suez Crisis or Sinai Campaign) of 1956 the foreshadowing of the 1967 Six Days’ War. There are some significant differences, though: Jordan and Syria’s military involvement was minimal, Egyptian President for Life Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal, thus provoking Britain and France, and Egypt’s relationship with the USSR had only just begun.

The Suez Canal had been built by a French company in 1859-69, in which Britain acquired a significant share in 1875. The Convention of Constantinople mandated universal access to the Canal in 1888; however, Egypt closed the Canal to Israeli ships in 1948. This blockade was condemned by the UN Security Council in 1951. I couldn't find a clear answer as to whether Israel ships had access to the Red Sea via Eilat in 1949-56. I suspect passage was possible for smaller ships but larger ships were often harassed or blocked by the Egyptians.

Britain had conquered Egypt from the Ottomans in 1882, but granted it independence in 1922, though the British military was not withdrawn until 1936, except for a contingent protecting the Suez Canal. King Farouk of Egypt was assassinated in 1952, and Nasser seized power in 1954. That same year, Egypt convinced the British to leave the Canal over the next two years. In 1955, the USSR began selling weapons to Egypt and funding the Aswan Dam project. Egypt nationalized the Canal Company in July, 1956, and tightened its blockade in the Straits of Tiran, cutting off Israel’s access to the Red Sea. Egypt issued two silver commemorative coins that year, the 50 qirsh (half pound) honors the British evacuation on June 18 showing a classic Egyptian figure breaking his chains, and the 25 qirsh honors the canal nationalization on July 26 showing the Port Said headquarters. Both coins are common.

Just as in 1967, Egypt was her own worst enemy. The nationalization of the Canal prevented Nasser from deploying all his troops in Sinai to invade Israel, since troops had to be held back to protect the Canal from British and French reprisals. The switch from British military equipment and advisors to Soviet meant a major overhaul of the Egyptian military structure, which was still going on as the war started. Israel invaded the Sinai on October 29, but the fiercest fighting was for the Mitla pass November 1. The British and French bombarded and then dropped paratroopers in the Canal zone November 1-5, while the IDF pushed on to
Operation Wilderness continued

Sharm esh-Sheikh to relieve the blockade of the Gulf of Eilat, and to Gaza to crush the military infrastructure there.

The United States unexpectedly led the condemnations of Britain, France, and Israel. The Europeans were forced to withdraw almost immediately, replaced by the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF). Israel held on to Gaza and Sharm esh-Sheikh until the UNEF was firmly entrenched in March, 1957. While the Sinai Campaign was a disaster for the British and French, Israel’s Operation Kadesh (Wilderness) succeeded in preventing an Egyptian invasion, opened a shipping channel to east Africa and Asia, and destroyed (albeit temporarily) the fedayeen military bases in Gaza.

Israel did not begin issuing commemorative coins or medals until 1958, so the only medals contemporary with the Operation Kadesh are 80mm presentation medals minted in 1957 and presented by PM Ben Gurion to French pilots deployed in the Gulf of Eilat. These are excessively rare, perhaps 30 exist, and even photos are hard to find. In contrast, stamp collectors can easily buy first-day covers made by Israelis in Gaza in 1957. A medal was given to the Seventh Armored Brigade members who fought at the Mitla Pass, but IsraeliDecorations.net implies these were a private issue and may have been made years after the war.

Official Israel government commemoratives were issued on the war’s tenth anniversary. A medal of 1966 shows a ship passing through the Straits on the obverse, and a stylized IDF logo on the reverse along with (Continued on page 24)
Operation Wilderness continued

the line from Kohelet “A time for war and a time for peace.” Israel’s independence commemorative five lirot silver coin for 1967 celebrates the tenth anniversary of the reopening of the Port of Eilat. Ironically, this coin was issued on May 14, 1967, just nine days before Nasser once again blockaded the Straits of Tiran, forcing the port to close.

Of course, that blockade ended more quickly in 1967 with the Six Days’ War, which led to a number of private medals, some of which also honored Operation Kadesh. The Dutch gold medal shows Dayan’s bust on the obverse and Jerusalem’s Old City on the reverse along with Psalm 137’s “If I forget you, Jerusalem” in Hebrew and Latin. Only close inspection shows the years of conflict 1948, 1956, and 1967 on the city wall. The Shekel Company of Tel Aviv issued several medals, including this triple commemorative of the recapture of the Old City through the Lions’ Gate in 1967 and Israel’s twentieth anniversary in 1968 on the obverse, and Operation Kadesh of 1956 on the reverse. The triple inscription in Hebrew, English, and French matches the flags of the three allies who fought in that war. These medals are common.

Israel’s silver anniversary in 1973 was the impetus for the Lincoln Mint’s set of 30 medals of Israel’s history, which includes a medal for the Sinai Campaign. The U.S. bicentennial in 1976 was the impetus of a series of 200 medals by the Danbury Mint, each describing a year of American history, and the 1956 medal honors the Suez Crisis and states in part “the United States backed Egypt instead of her traditional allies....” That would be Britain and France, as the U.S. still held an arms embargo against Israel that had been put into effect in 1947 and wouldn’t end until 1962. Both medals are inexpensive but it may take some effort to find them.

The most recent commemorative is an Israel state medal issued in 2006 for the golden anniversary of the Mitla Pass battle and paratroopers, who are shown on the obverse entering battle, and on the reverse preparing for it. This medal is scarce. The photo is from the Israel Mint website and they sold out of the medal quickly.

Operation Wilderness was a unique event, often glossed over because of its contradictions and inconsistency with previous and future events. It is the only war in which Israel was actively joined by European pow-
**Operation Wilderness** continued

ers, including the British who had led the invasion of Israel less than a decade earlier from both the Egyptian and Transjordanian sides, and was actively opposed by future ally the United States. Unsurprisingly, there are few commemoratives of this enigmatic war.

---

**Alternate Herstory with Kol Nashim - Louise Kelley**

*Editor’s note: we do not normally publish fiction in the Menorah. Alternate herstory, now that’s another story.*

This is the Kol Nashim meeting that didn’t happen:

The KN Board met at someone’s house, sat right next to each other and shared some nice nosh from the same container: M & M’s, salted nuts, unsalted nuts, fruit, some kind of baked good, and drank seltzer or iced tea or water. The host supplied agendas and Board members described their busy days, challenges taking care of children, driving to work or running TI-related errands or taking care of a medically fragile relative or going to theater shows and at least one member had been travelling abroad and shared about that. That was followed by the actual meeting.

**Adele Natter** got out her laptop and took notes. Whoever had been to the KN book group talked about that.

Then there was a discussion about the last Shalem or a great drash or a recent Shabbat service wherein people actually went to the shul and saw each other in person. Then President **Sharon Brown** or someone else led the meeting and the Board discussed the last program that KN sponsored, planned the next one and brainstormed about possible future programs. If Game Night had just happened, it was agreed it was a success. Someone suggested something and people either agreed or disagreed about it and it probably got put on the agenda for next month. Then there was an agenda item that everyone agreed could also be put off until next month.

No one volunteered to do the article for the Menorah until the guilt got so thick someone agreed to do it.

At the real Board meeting, which took place via Zoom with help from **Margie Odle**, we shared how we were doing since the quarantine order happened, discussed KN finances and what programs we could do online in the future, and wondered what would happen with the new rabbi. And our world. And we are going to make a difference as we always have, being the voice of women at TI, because at KN we don’t mute the microphone. Much.