



# The Menorah

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## From the President: Sara Goldberg

It's the end of December as I write this, and I'll admit it's a tough one. I'm a tired person, a tired mom, a tired employee, and a tired TI President. Just the past week alone has been exhausting as we have watched Omicron take hold and Covid numbers skyrocket. It's easy to feel pretty discouraged. Yet, if we've learned anything from the past two years it is that we are resilient. Humans are resilient, Americans are resilient, TI is resilient, and our children are certainly resilient. We will be okay.



*(Continued on page 2)*

## From the Rabbi: Rabbi Michael Werbow

Here comes Tu B'Shvat!!!

We will celebrate it on January 17th. In addition, this year, we will have some special Tu B'Shvat programming. You may note that Tu B'Shvat falls in close proximity to MLK weekend. With that in mind, the Social Action Committee and the Green Committee got together to plan events that bring the two together.

Our yearly Social Action MLK Shabbat will focus on the theme of social justice as it relates to the environment. Both our speaker on Shabbat morning and our panel in the afternoon will cover this topic. Our observance of the Jewish tradition can always be enriched when we find ways to bring together longstanding values and observances with contemporary issues and concerns.

I am sure that many of you, as I do, have fond memories of Tu B'Shvat observances in our youth. What do you remember? Was it bokser (dried carob)? Was it filling a card of coins to buy a tree to be planted in Israel? Was it bringing in the little Blue Box to contribute to JNF? Maybe it was



*(Continued on page 3)*



## From the President - continued

As I think back on the past month, there is so much for our community to celebrate. We had a wonderful Chanukah Extravaganza with almost 150 people gathering outside and inside to learn, play, create, and socialize. Hearing our voices rise together in the candlelight was magical, especially with so many young kids gathered around their menorahs. It was TI at its best.

I also want to kvell for a moment about our Town Hall on December 9th and the special board meeting on the 20th. It was really wonderful that so many of you took the time to attend, ask questions, and share your points of view with the TI Board. Thank you. I hope inviting our members to engage with the work of the staff and lay leadership strengthens our community. We'll have another town hall in March, and I hope you'll continue to attend our board meetings in the months ahead.

There's a lot of uncertainty about the next few weeks (maybe months), but I know we'll navigate it together. The magic ball I ordered back in May still hasn't arrived, but if the past is an indication of the future I know we will be okay.

B'shalom,

Sara Goldberg

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

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Voice: 202-882-1605 FAX: 202-829-0635  
info@tifereth-israel.org

#### **Office Hours:**

Mon - Thu: 9am to 5pm  
Fri: 9am—3pm  
*Closed weekends.*

#### **Additional office closures:**

MLK Day January 17

#### **School Closures:**

January 2

**Rabbi:** [Michael Werbow](#), ext. 302

**Rabbi Emeritus:** [A. Nathan Abramowitz](#), ext. 301

**Rabbi Emeritus:** [Ethan Seidel](#), ext. 301

**President:** [Sara Goldberg](#), ext. 301

**Executive Director:** [Jevera Temsky](#), ext. 301

**Synagogue Administrator:** [Sheri Blonder](#), ext. 304

**Education Director:** [Rabbi Kelley Gludt](#), ext. 305

**Communications & Development Specialist:**

[Delanie Ostrow](#), ext. 310

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

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## From the Rabbi - continued

a Tu B'Shvat Seder, patterned after the Passover Seder, having four cups of wine and an array of symbolic foods?

When you come to this year's Tu B'Shvat observances, which also include an Ice Cream Seder and Home Energy Workshop on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup>, you will get many of these experiences and many new ones as well. We'll get a taste of the fruits and nuts representing various levels of creative action and our connection with the physical world.

Sounds good, right? It does to me and here is the best part: it will help us keep alive a tradition of the Talmud. When a man planting a carob tree was asked why he would plant one when he wouldn't be around to eat of the fruit it would eventually produce, he responded that others planted for him so there would be trees, so it is his job to plant so there will be trees for others.

This goes for Jewish life as well. We lay the foundation and plant the seeds so others can harvest and enjoy in the future. Spread the word to friends so people of all ages will know about these fabulous events and come out to enjoy a joyful and spiritual Tu B'Shvat.

Chag la'Ilanot Samayach (Happy Holiday of the Trees)

Rabbi Werbow

*Editor's note: Plans have changed in response to COVID-19 and the Omicron variant since this column was written.. Some activities mentioned may not be held in person. Consult the TI calendar and Tidbits for updates.*

## December Full Moon Hike - photo by Jennifer Kefer

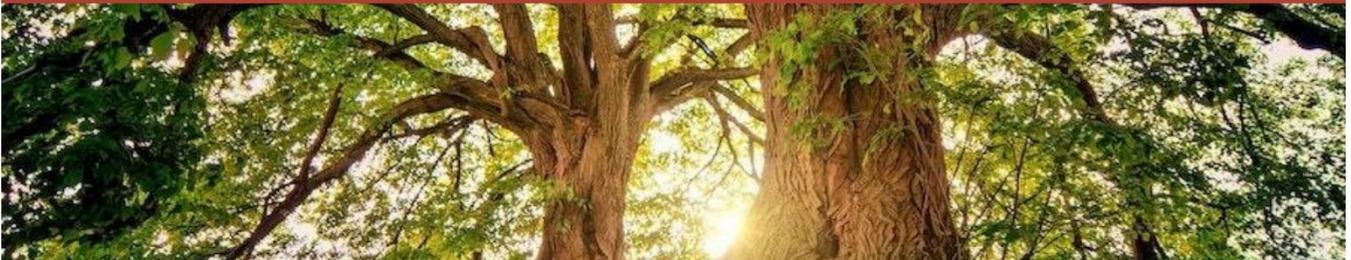


# MLK Weekend & Tu B'Shvat

Sponsored by the Social Action & Green Committees

**Saturday, January 15 - Monday, January 17**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Tu B'Shvat come together for a weekend of racial justice and climate advocacy.



**Saturday, Jan 15**  
*D'Var torah*

Advancing Global Climate Change Policies  
that Reflect Ethical and Jewish Values

**Saturday, Jan 15**

Shalem: The Challenge of Climate Change,  
Sustainability & Food Insecurity in Black Communities

**Sunday, Jan 16**  
**11:30 am**

Jews in Cuba in the Shadow of the Pandemic  
and Embargo

**Monday, Jan 17**  
**2:00 pm**

Tu B'Shvat Energy Walk  
(*weather dependent*)

Learn more at: [bit.ly/TIMLK22](https://bit.ly/TIMLK22)

## New Member Spotlight- Jared Garelick

**Ruth Lieberman** and **Joel Rogers** moved to the area a few years ago after 20 years in the Boulder, Colorado area. Ruth came first, for what was supposed to be only two years, to take a temporary position at the National Science Foundation. She lived in Arlington, convenient to her job. But the Washington area exerted its gravitational pull and Joel found a position as Chief Financial Officer of a biotech startup in Columbia. Ruth moved on to a position at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, where she works as an atmospheric scientist. They now live in Silver Spring.

Ruth grew up in various places in the US before moving with her family to Israel at age 13. After completing her Israeli army service, she attended college in Wisconsin, California, and Washington state. Joel was raised in Seattle, where the two met.

Ruth and Joel learned of TI from **David Siskind**, who Ruth long knew professionally through their shared work in atmospheric science. Ruth and Joel were looking for a shul generally resembling the one they left in Boulder, which was Conservative, egalitarian, and participatory, and Dave said that would be TI. That makes Dave TI's Magnet Member of the Month. In another TI connection, the rabbi at the synagogue Ruth and her family attended in Madison, Wisconsin a few short decades ago was **Rabbi Chuck Feinberg**.

Ruth and Joel have two sons. Ari (27) lives in Denver and works for Goldman Sachs. Eli (25) is a medical student at the University of Rochester. Ruth and Joel are moderate level recreational cyclists and have enjoyed exploring the trails that intersect the Northwest Branch trail near their home. Ruth also plays the harp.

Welcome to TI, Ruth and Joel!



## Serving at Shepherd's Table

For the past several months members of TI have gathered on the first Sunday of the month to help serve dinner to homeless individuals from our community. The time frame for the dinner shift is from 5-7:30 P.M. In December, over 100 meals were served. There is a continuing need for this service.

TI is committed to volunteering the first Sunday of each month. If you are interested, please register and then sign up. The next opportunity is on Sunday, February 6th. Register with Shepherd's Table here: <http://tiferethisrael.shepherdstable.volunteerhub.com/>

## Social Action Programs for January - Bob Feron

*If I am not for myself, then who will be for me?  
And if I am only for myself, what am I?  
And if not now, when?  
- Rabbi Hillel*

### **Martin Luther King Day and Tu B'Shvat Weekend**

**Saturday, January 15, D'var Torah**

**Advancing Climate Action and Social Equity  
Lessons from the Torah and Jewish Values**

David Waskow, Director of the [International Climate Initiative, World Resources Institute](#). Don't miss this informative drash! David is one of the key international NGO leaders of the [Climate Justice Dialogue](#), which addresses climate change impacts and social equity issues. He has worked for decades on national and international policies at the intersection of environmental and developmental issues, with a long-term emphasis on targeting funding and programs to support vulnerable and marginalized communities. He previously directed climate change policy for [Oxfam America](#), where he worked on redirecting financial resources to increase the participation of – and support for – vulnerable and marginalized communities. While at Oxfam, he also directed policy work on climate adaptation and resilience strategies, including food security, agricultural issues, and the role of the private sector in climate resilience. Learn more about David [here](#). [View David's most recent published report on how climate action can help vulnerable populations](#).

Contact [Bob Feron](#) if you have any questions.

**Saturday, January 15, SHALEM Panel**  
**The Challenge of Climate Change, Sustainability  
and Food Insecurity in Black Communities.**  
**How Are Community Activists Building Resilience?**

Invited speakers include:

**Rev. Kendra Smith**, Kingdom Fellowship AME Church, Go Ministry

**Robin Lewis**, Beloved Community Church, Director of Outreach and Social Justice Ministry

**Xavier Brown**, D.C. Government, Small Parks Specialist.

This SHALEM panel will be virtual (via Zoom) and we invite you to bring your questions for these dynamic speakers! Contact [Franca Brilliant](#) if you have any questions.

**Tifereth Israel Congregation Racial Justice and Social Equity Vigil Against Racism**

**Weekly on Fridays: 4:00 pm: January 7, January 14, January 21, January 28.**

Contact [Susan Vitale](#) if you have any questions.

**TI Volunteers serving food at Shepherd's Table** – first Sunday of every month

Sign up now for **Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>** – Click [here](#) to sign up for [Shepherd's Table](#)

## Club BBK - Sara Goldberg

Club BBK (Bat/Bar/Kabbalat Mitzvah Club) is new to TI this year, thanks to **Rabbi Werbow**. It is an opportunity for pre-b'nai mitzvah students and families to get to know one another, form a cohort of friends to go through middle and high school with, and to broaden our connections with Judaism. The framework of each Sunday session includes participating in the Sunday morning minyan, having some time for a light snack and socializing, and then a learning session. The topics we address are focused both on preparing the students and families for the bat/bar/kabbalat mitzvah experience and on topics that they should have in their tool box as adult members of the Jewish community. Sometimes the sessions are with the students and parents together and sometimes we split up for different but related conversations. Club BBK began in September and continues monthly throughout the year.

Photo by Sara Goldberg.



## The TI Christmas Day Charity Gift Bags Project

- Gene Herman, Julie Steinberg and Bob Feron

Over quite a few years, TI maintained a tradition of preparing and serving holiday meals, in person, at several shelters for homeless individuals. For the last two years, due to COVID-19, the TI Social Action team has instead prepared gift bags for these shelters and a few other nonprofits that support at-risk members of the local community.

We worked jointly with Adat Shalom in this undertaking. Items purchased included socks, winter gloves and hats, toiletries, children's art supplies and fruit for 385 recipients.

The shelters included this year were Adam's Place (150 residents; a shelter for men in urgent need of housing, food and case management) and La Casa (responsible for the health and well-being of 50 homeless men who are being prepared to move into subsidized housing).

In addition, we identified three charitable nonprofits run by Catholic Charities that would welcome bags of Christmas gifts from Tifereth Israel. These nonprofits included Angel's Watch, which cares for women and children who have recently suffered from domestic violence (43 adults and 46 children), the Navigators Program, which connects recent immigrant families in Silver Spring with social services (80 participants), and the Strong Families Initiative, which provides social services to at-risk Latino youth and their immediate families (60 participants).

Deliveries of the 485 gift bags were made by Elise Caplan and Lisa Hack (Adat Shalom) and TI's Ann Cohen, Gene Herman, Bob Feron and

**Dione Pereira.** All deliveries were made by December 24.

The funds to pay for these purchases are now being collected through tax-deductible donations from TI members to the Marvin Caplan Fund. Click [here](#) to donate to this project. **Marvin Caplan** was a noteworthy Tifereth Israel member who played a pivotal role in the U.S. civil rights movement, both nationally and locally, defying bigotry and advocating forcefully for genuine racial justice and social empathy from the 1950s through the 1990s.

Volunteer participants: **Gene Herman** researched and identified additional gift bag recipients, exchanged emails with managers of the charitable nonprofits and ordered the socks, gloves, hats, and toiletries that went into the gift bags. **Julie Steinberg** received the many deliveries and boxes, purchased special gifts for the children at Angel's Watch and organized the distribution of gifts into 485 individual gift bags. Julie's team of bag-stuffers included **Melanie Greenfield, Claudine Schweber, Tali Stopak-Mathis,** and Julie's mother Arlene. (Photos on page 25). **Bob Feron** and **Dione Pereira** purchased the boxes of fruits and drove to Eastern Maryland to deliver to Angel's Watch. It was a team effort.

[Donations](#) to the Marvin Caplan Fund to help pay for these 485 bags of gifts would be greatly appreciated. Thank you to all TI members who once again have helped to bring holiday joy to so many people.

Please contribute generously to support this annual TI charitable program to aid residents of homeless shelters and others in dire need. Click [here](#) to make your donation.

# Helping Provide Dinner at Shepherd's Table

- Photos by Dione Pereira

Social Action Committee volunteers help provide dinner at Shepherd's Table the first Sunday of every month. Here is the December contingent. Your next chance is February 6, 2022.



## Hebrew Fiction Reading Group Finishes Another Book – And Starts a New One - Sylvia Horwitz

TI's Hebrew Fiction Reading Group has been going strong on Zoom. We took a different tack after finishing a book of short stories by Amos Oz and picked up a murder mystery by Batya Gur, *Literary Murder* (רצח בחוג לספרות). What a pleasure! We all enjoyed getting to know police detective Michael Ohayon and his colorful associates in the Jerusalem police department. And we got to glimpse a very (fictional of course) dysfunctional Literature Department at Hebrew University, where not one, but two members of the department met their untimely ends. Along the way, our Hebrew reading skills have continued to improve.

We enjoyed the book so much that we decided to read another Batya Gur mystery. This time we're tackling *A Saturday Morning Murder* (רצח בשבת בבוקר)

We said farewell (להתראות) to a couple of our members, **Iris Lav** and **David Silber**, who are taking a break. We hope to see them back again in the future, along with **Naomi Morse**, who is also taking a break and waiting for a return to meeting in-person. **Krayna Feinberg** has joined us, and we have welcomed back **Barbara White**. Continuing members are **David Cohen**, **Mimi Feinsilver**, **Sylvia Horwitz**, **Martin Kessel**, **Stephanie Rubin**, and **Arnie Sheetz**. Photo by Martin Kessel.



## Gevarim: Jewish History Online - Andrew Reamer

Jewish History Online will continue every other week, more or less, from January 9 through late June, with breaks for holidays. The organizers -- **Andrew Reamer** and **Allan Tulchin** -- are in the process of choosing among an array of options and getting dates on the TI calendar. For the what of Jewish History Online in January and the when

from February forward, look for announcements in Tidbits, the Shabbat handout, and the listserv.

Sunday, January 9 -- 10:30 am-12:15 pm • via Zoom (see TI calendar for link)

Sunday, January 23 -- 10:30 am-12:15 pm • via Zoom (see TI calendar for link)

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### Happy Birthday!

|      |                         |      |                      |      |                         |
|------|-------------------------|------|----------------------|------|-------------------------|
| 1/1  | Brendan Doherty         |      | Seth Schlesinger     |      | Dana Reback             |
|      | Jeri Roth Lande         | 1/11 | Rebecca Bullen       |      | Thomas Wolfson          |
|      | Nathan Winch            |      | Delanie Ostrow       | 1/23 | Leonard Baxt            |
| 1/2  | Anita Finkelstein       |      | Yona Smiley Kravitz  |      | Max Merlin              |
|      | Abraham Secular         | 1/13 | Andrew Gelfand       |      | Caryn Pass              |
|      | Rhoda Trooboff          |      | Ruth Lieberman       |      | Arnold Revzin           |
| 1/3  | Azaria Hileman-Shashoua |      | Micah Solomon        | 1/24 | Jennifer Grabel         |
|      | Sonya Rubin             | 1/14 | David Baker          |      | Daniel Schneider        |
|      | Allison Turner          |      | Hannah Bergman       |      | Matthew Watson          |
| 1/4  | Janice Mehler           |      | Adam Cohen           | 1/25 | Adrienne Goldstein      |
|      | Danielle Showstack      |      | Amy Mann             |      | Shira Nadas             |
| 1/5  | Leslie Goodman-Malamuth |      | Hedy Ohringer        |      | Abigail Perlmutter      |
|      | Marcus Hedrick          |      | Rebecca Simon        |      | Molly Surden            |
|      | Stephen Heller          |      | Adele Sumner         | 1/26 | Marco Ehrman            |
|      | Alan Landay             | 1/15 | Daniel Kraft         |      | Amira Handwerker        |
| 1/6  | Rabbi Jane Berman       |      | Andrea List          |      | Jonathan Waldman        |
|      | Yana Chernyak           | 1/16 | Helen Moorehead      | 1/27 | Raphi Diamond-Berman    |
|      | Desiree Douglas         | 1/17 | William Galston      |      | Samuel Goldberg         |
|      | Jennifer Goldstein      |      | Rebecca List         |      | Ruth Shapiro            |
|      | Rachel Goldstein        | 1/18 | Patricia Greenstein  |      | Benyamin Sullivan       |
|      | Emily Heppen            |      | Rabbi Ruti Regan     | 1/28 | Jonas Laufer            |
|      | Susan Vitale            | 1/19 | Janet Blank          |      | Rabbi Elizabeth Richman |
| 1/7  | Mariah Finkelstein      | 1/20 | Marilyn Siskind      | 1/29 | Edward Koren            |
|      | Ophir Lifshitz          | 1/21 | Ann Baker            |      | Raymond Natter          |
| 1/8  | Miriam Feinsilver       |      | Lolita Baker         |      | Alexander Seidel        |
|      | Miriam Galston          |      | Nathaniel Bass       | 1/30 | David Ogilvie           |
|      | Dori Gillman            |      | Sheri Blonder        | 1/31 | Leah Burd               |
|      | Karen Levin Acosta      |      | Ari Halper-Stromberg |      |                         |
| 1/10 | Ari Roth                | 1/22 | Julius Cohen         |      |                         |

### Happy Anniversary!

|      |                                     |      |                                |
|------|-------------------------------------|------|--------------------------------|
| 1/1  | Renee Gindi & Alan Zibel            | 1/14 | Allan & Judy Tulchin           |
| 1/2  | Kenneth & Nina Kellner              | 1/18 | Melissa & Rabbi Michael Werbow |
| 1/2  | Dori & Shemaya Klar                 | 1/19 | John & Marcia Goggin           |
| 1/12 | Steven LeVine & Nurilda Nurlybayeva | 1/28 | David & Lois Shapiro           |

## UPCOMING & ONGOING EVENTS



### [Tot Shabbat](#)

*Saturdays: 11:00 am*

Join Auntie A (Rhythm & Ruach) - and Brenda Footer or Rabbi Kelley - for a ruach-filled Shabbat service via Zoom, or on the TI playground (weather allowing) for tots and the people who go with them. There will be prayer, song, activities, stories, and snack. Learn more at: [bit.ly/titotshabbat](https://bit.ly/titotshabbat).



### [Serve Dinner at Shepherd's Table](#)

**Sponsored by the Social Action Committee**

*Sundays: January 2 & February 6 at 5:00 pm*

Help serve dinner to homeless individuals on the 1st Sunday of each month. Registration required. Learn more at [bit.ly/TIShepherdsTable](https://bit.ly/TIShepherdsTable).



### [TI Rising in Song](#)

*Thursdays at 8:00 pm beginning on Jan 6*

Tlers are invited to learn and practice joyful, prayful singing together. Instruction will come from Joey Weisenberg' *Master Classes in Jewish Song*. This class will take place via Zoom until it is safe to sing together in person.

Learn more at: [bit.ly/TIrising](https://bit.ly/TIrising).



### [Rain Garden Care](#)

**Sponsored by the Green Committee**

*Sundays: February 13, March 6, April 3 at 10:00 am*

Come dig into the TI rain garden! Each month, volunteers weed and plant, depending on the season. BYO shovel and gloves.

Learn more at [bit.ly/TIgardencare](https://bit.ly/TIgardencare).

Big questions  
bring us together.

### [The Home We Build Together](#)

*Wednesdays at 8:00 pm, beginning on Dec 8*

This learning circle for parents with young children will explore some of the big questions parents face. Make new friends and dive into the wisdom of the Jewish tradition! Sessions will be led by Melissa Werbow on Zoom.. Learn more at:

[bit.ly/IYUNatTI](https://bit.ly/IYUNatTI).

## WEEKLY SERVICE SCHEDULE



### Early Kabbalat Shabbat\*\*

*Fridays before sundown, check calendar for times*

Gather for a songful service with Rabbi Werbow before sundown .



### Kabbalat Shabbat\*\*

*Fridays at 6:00 pm*

At TI, we love to sing, especially on Friday night! Join in TI's full evening service to bring in Shabbat with the community.



### Shabbat Morning Services\*\*

*Saturdays at 9:00 am*

Services are traditional, egalitarian, participatory, and led by TI members in partnership with our Rabbi.



### ZOOMdalah!

*Saturdays after sundown, check calendar for times*

TI's virtual neighborhood gathers via Zoom for a warm and welcoming service to bring in the new week.



### Sunday Morning Minyan\*\*

*Sundays at 9:15 am*

Start the week by giving your spiritual life a lift! Services are lay-led, with Rabbi Werbow sharing insights into prayers and approaching holidays.

**\*\*Attend in the Sanctuary or via Zoom**

**Registration required for in-person attendance. Learn more about in-person services at TI [here](#).**

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS



### MLK WEEKEND & TU B'SHVAT

*Sponsored by the Social Action and Green Committees*

*Saturday, January 15 – Monday, January 17*

Celebrate the rich variety of Jewish cultures around the world and their relationship to trees and fruit, and reflect on the racial justice impact of climate change. Learn more at: [bit.ly/TIMLK22](https://bit.ly/TIMLK22).



### HAVDALAH POTLUCKS

*Sponsored by the Membership Committee*

*Saturdays: January 8, February 12, March 12 at 6:30 pm*

Join your TI friends for a home-hosted Havdalah Potluck. All gatherings will be outdoors. Please plan to bring a dairy or pareve item to share with 8-12 people. Learn more at: [bit.ly/TIPotluck](https://bit.ly/TIPotluck).



### UPTOWN SHABBAT

*Friday, January 28 at 6:00 pm*

Join in soulful song with Robyn Helzner, a leading interpreter of world Jewish music, and TI member and Chazzan Larry Paul. Guitar will be played during Kabbalat Shabbat. Learn more at [bit.ly/TIUptownShabbat](https://bit.ly/TIUptownShabbat).

A TI Havdalah potluck from December 2018. Join TI-ers for similar fellowship and festivity at the upcoming potlucks.

Photo by Julie Steinberg



## Donations

### Annual Appeal

Katherine Benton-Cohen & Hal Cohen  
 Raymond & Rebecca Coleman  
 Paula Flicker  
 Sheryl Frank & Michael Stempel  
 Allison & Colin McMillan  
 Ken Morris & Terri Zall  
 Cara Lichtenstein & Steve Solomon  
 Adele & Michael Sumner

### Building Preservation Fund

Iris & Michael Lav

Marjorie Greenberg

### General Donation

Raymond & Rebecca Coleman  
 Anonymous  
 Jessica Bell & David Greisen  
 Anita Bolt & Steven Kalish  
 Avi & Devra Weiss

Ellen Cleary

Morton Simon

Hedy & Lee Ohringer

### Helping Hands Fund

Julian M. Leidman  
 Mike & Ruth Unterweger

### Marvin Caplan Social Action Fund

Miriam Galston and Barbara Steinberg  
 Miriam Galston and Barbara Steinberg  
 Varda Fink & Stan Grabia  
 Esther & Gene Herman

### In Memory Of

William Greenberg

### In Honor Of

Stephanie Rubin's  
 Biblical Hebrew  
 class

Mort & Christine  
 Simon's anniversary

### In Memory of

Les LeVine

### In Memory Of

Daniel Greene  
 Elnatan Sullivan

### In Memory Of

Gertrude Steinberg  
 Jack Steinberg  
 Michael Herman  
 Leon Cywan

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Danielle Glosser & Howard Riker  
 Joshua Nadas & Lillian Rosen  
 David & Rona Siskind

### Yahrzeit Donations

Natalie Arosemena

Florence Berlin  
 Erwin Bondareff

David & Judy Cohen

Ernie Englander  
 Tamar Hendel Fishman  
 Brenda & Lee Footer

Lois Frankel & David Hart  
 Linda Greer & Mike Tilchin  
 Phyllis & Robert Greenberger  
 Julie Greenspoon  
 Lisa & Michael Kraft  
 John & Lynne List

Stephen Meltzer  
 Elaine Miller  
 Susan Morse & Harry Waldman  
 Harry Penn  
 Cynthia & Jeff Peterman  
 Patricia Peron-Polster & Robert Polster

Lawrence & Pearl Schainker  
 Diane & Martin Sterenbuch

Kenneth Trupp  
 Catherine & Jonathan Tuerk

### In Memory Of

Rebecca Gorewitz,  
 Samuel Gorewitz

Abraham Berlin  
 Harriet Lee Bondareff,  
 Harry Bondareff

Naomi Decter, Pinya  
 Cohen

Eugene Englander

Fannie Fishman  
 Lou Meckler, Naomi  
 Meckler, Toby  
 Meckler Footer

Robert Frankel  
 Minda Tilchin

Tillie Mogul  
 Irma Greenspoon

Stella Kraft

Robert List & Ernestine  
 List

Florence Meltzer  
 Lawrence Miller

Mollie Botkin

Miriam Penn

Malcolm Peterman

Ruth Polster

Arnold Schainker

Leo Turkel, Michelle  
 Sterenbuch

Bertha Minnie Trupp

Gladys Miller

## Nayes un Mechayes- Melissa Perera

**Larry and Melanie Greenfield** are presently exhibiting their art and photography at the Rockville Art League's Juried Members' Winter Show being held until January 14th at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery at 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville, MD 20851. Click [here](#) for more information and to see some of the artwork. Gallery hours are 9:00am-4:30pm Monday through Friday.

**Myrna Goldman** and her sister, Harriet Ainsbinder, took a Mississippi River trip in late October with a nice group from Road Scholar, and a helpful and efficient tour leader. They started with a few days in New Orleans, where they toured various neighborhoods, visited the World War II Museum, went to a cooking school, attended a Halloween parade, saw a demonstration at a cooking school, made masks at the Mardi Gras Museum, and enjoyed music. After getting on the river boat, they stopped at various towns, including

White Castle, Louisiana, where they toured Nottoway, an antebellum mansion. In Point Coupee Parrish, they visited the largest town, New Roads, and saw the LeJeune House, with a 300-year-old live oak, the visitors' center, an old church, and a historical building. In Natchez, Mississippi they saw the Longwood Plantation, Choctaw Hall, and the Natchez Cemetery, where their guide raced through the important graves in the rain. Vicksburg National Military Park and Cemetery was quite impressive, where they saw the remains of the USS Cairo, which was raised after more than 100 years. In Greenville, Mississippi, they went to the B.B. King Museum, and enjoyed a musical performance. Their final stop was Memphis, where Harriet and Myrna spent an extra day to see the Civil Rights Museum, built at the hotel where MLK was assassinated, and also experienced Graceland, in all its glory and glitz.

## Light from Kol Nashim - Louise Kelley

30 people attended **Rebbitzin Melissa Werbow's** presentation: *Meet, Greet and Learn*. Participants heard and discussed a provocative Midrash tale of the changing relationship between a mother and her son, and what traditions demand of them both. Melissa guided the lively discussion about Jewish traditions and the lessons to be learned from stories. This event took place on December 12, and among the attendees was Melissa's mother!

Game Night with KN and Gevarim has been pushed forward to spring, the date and time TBA. (The Omicron wave has not yet crested.) Future programming will be announced next month.

Contact KN if you have ideas for programming in 2022. That certainly includes presentations or activities that you wish to lead or guide. You need not be a KN member to do so but you are always welcome to join us.



## Kol Nashim Book Group - Jessica Weissman

At our December meeting we discussed Thomas Cahill's *The Gifts of the Jews: How a Tribe of Desert Nomads Changed the Way Everyone Thinks and Feels*. Cahill explains how the movement away from the pagan world view toward a view that makes room for individual destiny and achievement was directly due to Judaism. This is more or less what Mr. Ludolph told us in 8th grade Western Civ class in 1964.

Opinions on the book ranged from irritation to profound antipathy despite some agreement with Cahill's thesis. A large chunk of the book was taken up with (sometimes inaccurate; God does not tell Moses to strike a rock to get water) recounting of Biblical episodes. We concluded that Jews were not the intended audience for the book, because we wouldn't need those lengthy retellings. We also noted that Cahill ignored Islam entirely, and seemed not to understand the implications of reincarnation as set forth by some Eastern religions.

Our reading for January 21st is *Norwegian by Night*, by Derek Miller. This is a Scandinavian not-so-noir mystery with lots of Jewish content. The Jewish community of Norway may be tiny, but it's interesting. If you can't stomach any violence at all, this is not the book for you. However, Miller does not focus on the violence per se, or indulge in graphic descriptions.

There are some library copies in print and electronic form, and the book is widely available in both formats.

We meet at 7:30, for now over Zoom. Meetings last until 9pm, or until we run out of things to say. That happens only rarely. We are TI!

Our meetings are open to everyone interested in talking about books, not just TI members. Also including those who have not finished (or even started) the book. We make no commitment to avoid spoilers, however.

February's reading is Burton Visotzky's *Aphrodite and the Rabbis: How the Jews Adapted Roman Culture to Create Judaism as We Know It*.

If you are not on the evite list, please contact **Janice Mehler** (contact information in the TI directory) to be added. RSVPs are not absolutely necessary until we start meeting at members' homes, but being on the list gets you timely reminders and an email with the Zoom link.

### **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).**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Shelly Heller</b> | h: 301-942-1836<br>w: 202-994-5906<br>c: 301-996-2704 |
| <b>Marcia Goggin</b> | w: 301-754-1963<br>c: 301.792.1063                    |
| <b>Bruce Heppen</b>  | h: 301-299-3255<br>c: 202-997-1890<br>w: 703-417-8983 |
| <b>Naomi Revzin</b>  | h: 301-765 6272<br>c: 301-435.6272                    |

## January Yahrzeitn

*Editor's note: We list upcoming yahrzeitn based on ShulCloud records, under the Shabbat dates when the name is recited and by the yahrzeit date.*

|                       |                       |                    |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Dec 31 – Jan 1</b> |                       |                    |                       |
| 1/1                   | Rose Gandel           | 1/6                | Sara Berman           |
|                       | Mildred Sarah Goodman |                    | Anne Cherner          |
|                       | Blanche Salod         |                    | Efraim Herbert Gale   |
| 1/2                   | Harriet Lee Bondareff |                    | Rose Gotfried         |
|                       | Marie Brier           |                    | Eva T. Mendelson      |
|                       | Rebecca Gorewitz      | 1/7                | Tillie Weinstein      |
|                       | Nathan Landay         |                    | Marvin Caplan         |
|                       | Lawrence Mason Miller |                    | Rosalind Corman       |
|                       | Ira Pearlman          |                    | Adolph Greenfeld      |
|                       | William W. Prager     |                    | Gerald Leland         |
|                       | Helen G. Quint        |                    | Freda Levy            |
|                       | Louis Rose            |                    | Deborah Serling       |
| 1/3                   | Lawrence P. Blonder   |                    | Mermelstein           |
|                       | Gertrude Cohen        |                    | Vivian Sherman        |
|                       | Abraham Feit          |                    | John P. Stromberg     |
|                       | Morton Gerber         |                    |                       |
|                       | Flora Hoffman         | <b>Jan 8 - 9</b>   |                       |
|                       | Marjorie Hecht Watson | 1/8                | Helen Graber Fabian   |
|                       | Ida Yoelson           |                    | Harry Faigen          |
| 1/4                   | Abraham Berlin        |                    | Samuel H. Gorewitz    |
|                       | Philip Filderman      |                    | Myrtle Leidman        |
|                       | Isaac Friedman        |                    | Pauline Natter        |
|                       | Bernice Lillian Herr  |                    | Sara Skidell          |
|                       | Annie Kessel          |                    | Gertrude G. Steinberg |
|                       | Leo Kramer            | 1/9                | Barbara Jeanne Weitz  |
|                       | Jack Padve            |                    | Gussie Blankstein     |
|                       | Morton Alfred Seltman |                    | Terri Kahan           |
|                       | Fred I. Simon         |                    | Lena Sodden           |
|                       | David Wall            | 1/10               | Phillip I. Trupp      |
|                       | Benjamin Warsaw       |                    | Harry Bondareff       |
|                       | Fannie H. Wolf        |                    | Solomon Flum          |
| 1/5                   | Naomi Decter          |                    | Meyer Frank           |
|                       | Tirza Freeman         |                    | Libby Hertz           |
|                       | Eliot Goldings        |                    | Morris Katzman        |
|                       | Joseph Malnik         |                    | Moses Lewis           |
|                       | Philip Mincosky       |                    | Susan Riker           |
|                       | Harold Newman         |                    | David Roffe           |
|                       | Harry Plotkin         |                    | Barry Seidel          |
|                       | David A. Saltz        | 1/11               | Max Tischler          |
|                       | Alfred Salim Shashoua |                    | Pinya Cohen           |
|                       | Bernard Slatko        |                    | Dorothy Borenstein    |
|                       | Henry Stern           |                    | Greenberg             |
|                       | Chaye Zissel Wolf     |                    | Abraham Jack London   |
|                       |                       |                    | Mollie Schainker      |
|                       |                       |                    | Ruth Polacheck Usher  |
|                       |                       | 1/12               | Harry Friedenberg     |
|                       |                       |                    | Victor Leidman        |
|                       |                       | 1/13               | Esther Gershowitz     |
|                       |                       |                    | Rita Golub            |
|                       |                       |                    | Robert Halper         |
|                       |                       |                    | Lillian Kronstadt     |
|                       |                       |                    | Ruth Polster          |
|                       |                       |                    | Rose Rodenstein       |
|                       |                       | 1/14               | Jennie Lippman        |
|                       |                       |                    | Margine Moshenberg    |
|                       |                       | <b>Jan 14 - 15</b> |                       |
|                       |                       | 1/15               | Marguerite Cohen      |
|                       |                       |                    | Sarah Lerner          |
|                       |                       |                    | Rose Ann Murdock      |
|                       |                       |                    | Rose Parks            |
|                       |                       |                    | Elizabeth Robinson    |
|                       |                       |                    | Walter Roth           |
|                       |                       |                    | Norman Snow           |
|                       |                       |                    | Max Tulchin           |
|                       |                       | 1/16               | Stuart David Corman   |
|                       |                       |                    | Max Friedman          |
|                       |                       |                    | Bernard Miller        |
|                       |                       |                    | George Revzin         |
|                       |                       |                    | Philip Samuels        |
|                       |                       |                    | Belle Shapiro         |
|                       |                       |                    | Marion Sneiderman     |
|                       |                       | 1/17               | Marcia Goldberg       |
|                       |                       |                    | Jennie Hoffman        |
|                       |                       |                    | David London          |
|                       |                       |                    | Sheldon Roodman       |
|                       |                       |                    | Isadore Schwarz       |
|                       |                       | 1/18               | Jennie Schutz         |
|                       |                       | 1/19               | Albert Heyman         |
|                       |                       |                    | Joseph Bergman        |
|                       |                       |                    | Rosenthal             |
|                       |                       |                    | Tilia S. Waltman      |
|                       |                       |                    | Reuben I. Wolfson     |
|                       |                       | 1/20               | Esta Benson           |
|                       |                       |                    | Norma E. Cherner      |
|                       |                       |                    | Bernard Danzansky     |

*(Continued on page 19)*

## January Yahrzeitn continued

|                    |   |      |   |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|------|---|--------------------|---|
| 1/20               | Grace Feldman<br>Bertha Greenfield<br>Stanley Herman Siegel<br>Cecelia Taransky   |      | Bertha Leah Charnow<br>Eugene S. Cohen<br>Audrey Lynn<br>Betty Danzig Roth  | <b>Jan 28 - 29</b> |   |
| 1/21               | Joseph Braverman<br>Allan Robert Pearlman<br>Rose Perlzweig<br>Samuel Rod   | 1/25 | Sophie Barron<br>Annie Chertok<br>David Dubin<br>Rose Lerner Einsiedler<br>Irving Koren<br>Mary Moffitt<br>Anna Dora Rosenthal<br>Esther Kite Schwartzman<br>Hershel Shanks<br>Sadie Temple | 1/29               | Jerry David Anker<br>Rafael Brenner<br>Nathan Friedman<br>Ethel Weiss<br>Abraham Bernstein  |
| <b>Jan 21 - 22</b> |   |      |   | 1/30               | Christine Louise Bonsby<br>Abraham Friedlander<br>Nira Hodos<br>Albert Lopatin<br>Eva Millman<br>Simon A. Simmons<br>Edith Wulfsohn   |
| 1/22               | Rhea Berenbaum<br>Leon Nathan Hirschman<br>Bessie Friedman Lewis<br>William Silverman<br>Judith Pearlman Wolfson  | 1/26 | Lew S. Birns<br>Susanne Faigen<br>Nettie Goldman<br>Faye L. E. Isikoff<br>Annie Naiman<br>Delores Reback  | 1/31               | Lorraine L. Berman<br>Leo Eizenstat<br>Fred Glaser<br>Abe Kessel<br>Hava Netzer<br>Abraham Perera<br>Harry Riker<br>Henry Shapiro<br>Stanley Sidman<br>Hyman Traiger<br>Anna Wayne<br>Pauline Graboff Wolberg |
| 1/23               | Mollie Aronowitz<br>Julian Berch<br>Nathan Fanaroff<br>Ethel Feig<br>Nathan Golden<br>Abrom Kayson<br>James Kraft<br>Agatha I. Leifer<br>Abraham N. Parson<br>Harris Samuels<br>Beth Shulman<br>Esther L. Yaverbaum | 1/27 | Hana Sarah Handy<br>Nathan Kramarow<br>Florence Mintz<br>Nandor Rosenthal   |                    |   |
| 1/24               | Bella Birnman   | 1/28 | Yetta Blaser<br>Max Robert<br>Murray Schmutter  |                    |   |



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## COMMUNITY HAVDALAH POTLUCKS

**JANUARY 8 | HOSTED BY THE WERBOW FAMILY**  
**FEBRUARY 12 | HOSTED BY THE VERBOIS-GRYZIAK FAMILY**  
**MARCH 12 | HOSTED BY THE KEFER FAMILY**

**DINNERS START AT 6:30 PM. OUTDOORS AND FREE TO ATTEND**

Please bring a kosher dairy or vegetarian dish (enough to share with 8 people)

Register at: [bit.ly/TIPotluck](https://bit.ly/TIPotluck). Questions? Contact [TIMembership@tifereth-israel.org](mailto:TIMembership@tifereth-israel.org)

## B'nai Mitzvah Medals - Simcha Kuritzky

There is no Biblical record of a general coming of age ceremony. *Pirkei Avot*, probably written late in the Roman period, specifies that a male becomes responsible for following the *mitzvot* (the original meaning of *bar mitzvah*) at age 13, but does not describe any ceremony. It may not have been until the late Medieval period that the custom of bringing the boy to synagogue for an honor and celebrating with a festive meal began. After the *Haskalah*, with exposure to the Christian confirmation ceremonies and sweet sixteen coming out parties, bar mitzvah celebrations became more elaborate. The idea of commemorating the coming of age with a coin or medal seems to date from Israel's 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence in 1961. While *bat mitzvah* at age 12 is also mentioned in the same verse of *Pirkei Avot*, ceremonies tended to be held outside of synagogue until the last century.



Israel started issuing 5 *lira* (pound) silver coins for each independence day (*Yom Ha-Atzma'ut*) with Israel's tenth anniversary in 1958. So the fourth of the series, issued in 1961, had the theme of *bar mitzvah* (despite the fact that *Medinat Yisrael*, State of Israel, is grammatically female and so should have become a *bat mitzvah*) and shows a synagogue ark containing scrolls based on Third Century CE artwork. That same year, Israel issued a bar mitzvah medal intended for gift giving. It shows the *bar mitzvah* wearing tefillin and reading from a Torah scroll, with the *Pirkei Avot* quote around. The reverse shows Israel's coat of arms surrounded by the 12 signs of the ancient tribes, although Reuben is symbolized by the sun and not by mandrakes as is ordinarily done. The medals were issued in large 59mm bronze, large and small size in silver, and small gold. In later years, new sizes were introduced. The original medals include the English inscription Bar Mitzvah of the State of Israel, while the Hebrew has the more correct 13 Years of the State of Israel.



Israel didn't introduce the *bat mitzvah* medal until 1978, also in large bronze, dollar-sized silver, and small gold. The reverse has a similar design of 12 tribe symbols surrounding the coat of arms, but without the inscription tying it to 1961. The obverse has a girl facing two candlesticks with the first part of Isaiah 60:1

(Continued on page 21)

## B'nai Mitzvah Medals - continued

Arise Shine for Thy Light has Come. This passage may have been chosen because it is in female imperative form, or it may be an oblique reference to the *Nerot Shabbat*. Interestingly, this verse is the first one of the *Haftarah* for *Ki Tavo*, which was my *bar mitzvah* portion. My sister had a *bat mitzvah* ceremony at the *Kotel* when she was 12, and Israel's Tourism Ministry gave her a small olive wood Sabbath lamp.



In 2005, Israel revised their medals. Rather than specifying *bar* or *bat mitzvah*, it instead refers to the *simkhat ne'arim* joy of youth, a term popularized by a song sung by Ofra Haza. Both medals include this phrase, along with Give us Light and Mazal Tov in Hebrew, and Give us Peace and Joy in English. The girl's medal shows her bust looking away from two candlesticks, while the boy's medal shows his bust wearing tefillin over a Torah scroll. The reverses are totally different. The *bat mitzvah* has winding road leading through flowery fields into a sunrise with the English The Future is Bright (the Hebrew says May Your Path be Surrounded by Roses), while the *bar mitzvah* medal has Your Star will Shine in English with a comet-like Magen David (the Hebrew has Rise and Succeed).



The original set of Israel's medals seems to have opened the door to a number of private issues. A common 35mm brass medal has Year of the Bar Mitzvah Israel in both English and Hebrew, but on opposite sides. The Hebrew side has a Magen David and the dates 5708 5721, while the English has 13<sup>th</sup> Year 1948 1961. Surrounding on both sides is an olive wreath clearly based on Israel's coins minted 1948-60, which in turn were based on Hasmonean small bronze *prutot*. At right is a thin uniface silver pendant that may have originally graced a bottle of liquor, with a modified coat of arms surrounded by two Israel flags over stylized Jerusalem buildings. I suspect this piece was originally issued in 1961.

(Continued on page 22)

## B'nai Mitzvah Medals - continued



The Franklin Mint was founded in 1964 as a private mint in Philadelphia which eventually became one of the largest issuers of coin-quality (i.e., low relief) medals. One of their early issues is this cupronickel dollar-sized medal commemorating the *bar mitzvah* ceremony of Paul A. Silver. I was unable to find out who this man is or was, but the sigil over the *bet* of *bar mitzvah* is the symbol used by Gilroy Roberts, who had just retired as Chief Engraver of the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia. The reverse shows the crowned Ten Commandments flanked by lions and olive branches. A similar, although cruder, medal was produced recently in Britain. The lions, Ten Commandments and crown of Torah are reasonably rendered on the reverse, but the side with a man reading from a scroll shows someone who looks much older, and the *nekudot* for *bar mitzvah* are wrong. There's no *patakh* under the *beyt*, and *mitzvah* is spelled *mitzeyvah*.



In the early Seventies, the one ounce silver art bar became popular, and private mints honored almost everyone and thing. The Madison Mint originally issued a bar for a *bar mitzvah* in 5734 showing a *tallit*, *yad*, and Torah scroll. A much scarcer version was issued for 5735. I recently bought the latter medal even though I already owned the 5734 because I became *bar mitzvah* in 5735. Also joining the bandwagon was the United States Silver Corporation, which issued a *bar mitzvah* bar in 1974 showing the proud parents called up for an *aliyah* with the boy, but their inscription is only in English. I don't think this medal was aimed at the Orthodox Jewish community. The Judaic Heritage Society commissioned a series of silver 1000 grains (just over 2 Troy ounces) bars honoring the stages in the Jewish life cycle, including this *bar mitzvah* ingot, which also shows parents looking on as their son reads from the Torah scroll, but here the inscription is in Hebrew. The reverse is common to all bars in the series, with a man blowing a shofar, a crouching deer, a large *Khay*, and the

(Continued on page 23)

## B'nai Mitzvah Medals - continued

individual ingot English name in the center.



I believe these medals are also from the Seventies. I have a note that the one on the left was minted in Milan, Italy. It is half dollar sized in silver and I have a smaller one in gold. One side shows the *bar mitzvah* reading from a scroll with one of the lines from the Torah blessing (who chose us from all peoples and gave us His Teaching), while the other shows the *bar mitzvah* wearing tefillin and reading from a book with the line from the *Shema* (they shall be signs on your hands and frontlets between your eyes). This medal may reflect the now-common custom of honoring a *bar mitzvah* on *Shabbat* when tefillin is not worn, while obviously the *bar mitzvah* on Israel's medal is honored on a Monday, Thursday, or *Rosh Hodesh*. The small cupronickel medal with forward facing *bar mitzvah* in high relief was intended to be engraved on the back, between the English inscription In Honor of my Bar Mitzvah and Hebrew Life.



These medals may be more recent. A large private mint medal from Israel shows a *bar mitzvah* in *tallit* and tefillin davening next to the Knesset menorah, with a Jerusalem panorama on the reverse. An American silver medal shows the *bar mitzvah* donning tefillin with the line from *Pirkei Avot* at top, and an English translation in large letters on the reverse.



Elongated coins have been produced for collectors since 1893. Although popular in the United States, it has spread only slowly to other countries. Israel didn't start rolling coins until the 1990s. One shows tefillin over arches and a brick wall with the Hebrew inscription *Bar Mitzvah Between the Arches*. Between the Arches is a kosher restaurant in Jerusalem's Old City. Another elongated honors Heather's *Bat Mitzvah* on May 2-3, 2003. Both designs are impressed on U.S. post-1982 Lincoln cents.

(Continued on page 24)

## B'nai Mitzvah Medals - continued



Another elongated coin, this time a half dollar, honors Griffin Clark becoming *bar mitzvah* on September 13, 2014. The last generic *bar mitzvah* medal I show is dollar-sized brass with a *ner tamid*, Magen David, and Torah scroll with the inscription For Your Bar Mitzvah. This seems to be paired with a generic reverse (a common practice for many mints) with Good Luck and a leprechaun holding a pot of gold. Two ethnicities for the price of one?



An inexpensive way to commemorate any event is to print up wooden nickels. These are dollar-sized wooden rounds printed with ink. I have found five so far, for Joel in 1968, Kenny Greene in 1976, Brent Marshall Karren in 1979, David M. Love in 1982, and Drew in 1987. The other side has either a fun design like a rocket ship or balloons, or the name of the synagogue.



Around the time of the U.S. Bicentennial, the Patrick Mint started producing inexpensive cent-sized bronze medals with a stock design on one side and personalized inscription on the other. These were cheap enough to be given away as store cards, and were often used by businesses. I found one commemorating Richard M. Halberstein becoming *bar mitzvah* on June 17, 1978 at Congregation Beth El in Levittown, Pennsylvania. Interestingly, the Halberstein's did not choose the year three First Revolt shekel design (also popular with many churches and Bible groups), but instead used a copy of the Massachusetts pine tree shilling of the late 1600s.

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## B'nai Mitzvah Medals - continued

There's a wide variety of *b'nai mitzvah* collectible medals. Some honor the institution while others, usually of cheaper fabric, honor individuals. The artist may have focused on the *mitzvah* with *tefillin* or candlesticks, on the ceremony with a *Torah* scroll, or just have Jewish icons like the *menorah* or *Magen David*. Most of these are inexpensive. Silver medals can sell for as much as twice the value of the metal. Gold versions are relatively expensive, but often sell for a small premium over the metal value.

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## Social Action: Stuffing Gift Bags for Shelter Residents



Photo above by Julie Steinberg. Photos below by Melanie Greenfield,

