



**Tifereth Israel
Congregation**

The Menorah

From the Rabbi: Rabbi Michael Werbow

The Jewish calendar keeps us moving from one theme and focus to another. We just finished Purim with its theme of living in a topsy turvey world and, for this year at least, reflection on how we celebrate in a time when our attention is diverted and it is not conducive to a full blown celebration.

No sooner are we done than we shift our focus to Passover. We have already had the special week of Parashat Shekalim, where we recount the giving of the half shekel that, in the times of the Temple, was used to get the Temple ready for all the pilgrims making their way to celebrate in Jerusalem. But now, we kick into high gear with the week of Parashat Parah. The ritual of the Parah Adumah (the red heifer) was a way for individuals who were ritually unfit for bringing the Pesach offering to become ritually fit.



There is a big shift from Shekalim to Parah. In Shekalim, there is a communal focus and in Parah it is individual. First, it is important to spend time focusing on each of these. Both the community and the individual are important and need attention to be paid to them. What these parshiyot are also pushing us to think about is, how do we, as individuals, support the community and, how does the community support us?

TI is blessed to have a committed group of individuals who work together to support the community. Those individuals, though, also need the support of the community. As we get to know each person in our congregation, we can better see both how each person can contribute to the community and how the congregation can support each individual.

Another way this plays out in the run up to Passover is with Maot Hitin and selling chametz. Contributing to Maot Hitin is a way for us to come together as a community and to support those needing extra help for the holiday. And selling chametz is how we prepare ourselves for our own observance of the holiday.

Again, both of these are needed, and TI is a stronger community when we see both as our obligations in preparing for Passover.

Chag Kasher v'Sameyach (have a kosher and happy Passover)

Rabbi Werbow

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Tifereth Israel Congregation

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Tifereth Israel has anchored the Jewish presence in the District of Columbia for over 100 years. As a Conservative congregation, we are committed to Jewish law and to engagement with the wider world. We cherish Torah, service and deeds of kindness.

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TI's Purim Cabaret

Performers at TI's first after-Megillah adult cabaret. Photos by Julie Steinberg.



Daniel Bass



Stan Dorn and Carla Ellern



Lisa Itkin

HOW NOT TO HAVE A BORING SEDER

With Melissa Werbow

Sunday, April 7, 2024 at 3:30 pm

Refreshments Provided

Sponsored by Kol Nashim

Learn More at [bit.ly/TIGreatSeder24!](https://bit.ly/TIGreatSeder24)



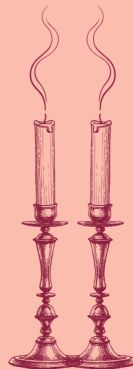
Share a Shabbat



Open your home to other TI members for a Shabbat dinner or be a guest at another TI family's Shabbat table. This is a great chance to meet Tlers you may not already know while sharing good food, conversation, and fun.

May 3 & May 17

Sign up by April 16 at bit.ly/TIShareShabbat24





CELEBRATE PESACH 2024

Deadline to Donate for Maot Hitin | Sunday, April 21 at 6:00 pm**

Siyyum Bechorim | Monday, April 22 at 7:00 am*

Deadline to Sell Chametz | Monday, April 22 at 8:30 am**

Pesach Day 1, 2 | Tuesday, April 23 and Wednesday April 24 at 9:00 am*
Holiday Services

Chol Hamoed Pesach Shabbat | Saturday, April 27 at 9:00 am*
~ 10:15 am • Reading of Shir Ha'Shirim
Light Kiddush to follow

Pesach Day 7 | Monday, April 29 at 9:00 am*
Holiday Services

Pesach Day 8 | Tuesday, April 30 at 9:00 am*
Holiday Services
~11:00 am • Yizkor

Learn more about Pesach at TI at <https://bit.ly/TIPesach24>

*In person and virtual | **Virtual only

Parshah Passages Exhibit at Artomatic - Julie Steinberg

My Sukkah is up at Artomatic! My art is hanging around and inside my sukkah, which is located on the 3rd floor, site #312. I encourage you to come and see it. I am not always there, so let me know if you want to meet me ([contact information in ShulCloud](#)). I call my creative process natrasand because I usually depict nature.

The pictures are made from fabric, foam core, paint, and sand. I installed 18 numbered pictures, each representing a story from a different Torah Parshah. On the table inside the Sukkah are quiz sheets (to guess what stories are represented in the paintings) in a blue folder. The answers are in a yellow folder. Also on the table are catalogs and an about-the-artist sheet.

Six additional pictures that are not Torah themed are inside on the right side and in the front of the sukkah. Many working clocks hang from above. Look for the glittery stars too. (Longtime Tlers may recall that a few years back I exhibited these paintings briefly in the Cherner.) There are 7 floors full of art and artists throughout the building. Artomatic is located at 21st and M Street NW (Dupont Circle Metro). It runs through April 28, open Wednesday through Sunday.



Photo by Julie Steinberg

Making Sushi and Hamentaschen with Rabbi Werbow



Photos by Jennifer Kefer



A Meaningful Joyous Purim - Rabbi Kelley Gludt

I realize that everyone's focus may fall on the rapidly approaching Festival of Passover, but I would like to take a moment to reflect on this year's Purim festivities.

Let's face it. Joy and frivolity have been hard to come by as of late. This year, there were pointed and painful conversations on how we could, as a people, dress up, craft spiels, poke fun in services, be silly during the megillah reading, and create a jubilant atmosphere. With the start of the month of Adar, our tradition entreats us to feel joy, but other emotions are allowed too, and those feelings proved far from freylech.

This harsh complexity, however, made the success of TI's Purim celebrations all the more meaningful. Our community brought the excitement and cheer, meaning and tradition, and showed up in so, so many ways, to mark a holiday that highlights our ability to not only survive, but to thrive. From the megillah readings (all four of them!) to the cabaret to the carnival, TI overflowed with joyous celebrants.

The success of this year's carnival is especially noteworthy to me. This is the third round for the Purim Carnival Task Force, and their dedica-

tion and commitment remain unparalleled. There was some concern when the holiday lined up with local schools' spring break, but it turned out there was no need for concern. Nearly 150 people (including more than 15 visiting non-member families) donned costumes and joined in the fun, eating cotton candy, earning prize tickets, partaking of pizza bagels and hamen-tashen.

My sincere appreciation to the many, many people who helped make the event, everyone from the teens to congregant volunteers to the staff. We absolutely couldn't have done it without you. A special shout out goes to the task force, spearheaded by the unflagging **Rachel Lande**, along with **Michelle Strollo**, **Miriam Torrey-Coffidis**, and **Deborah Horowitz**.

With the current state of the world, Pesach too might prove to be more mentally and spiritually challenging this year. But after seeing TI's take on Purim, I have no doubt this congregation will step up and will find all the ways to meaningfully engage in Passover.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy holiday.

Purim Carnival photo by Rachel Lande



Social Action Committee Update

On March 3, TI members served dinner at Shepherd's Table. Thanks to **Aviel Roshwald, Paula Martin, Joe Martin, Howard Sumka, Phil Shapiro, Ruth Shapiro, Rebecca Coleman, Ray Coleman, Esther Herman and Gene Herman** for their time and service. A total of 160 meals were served.

Our next dates are Sunday April 7, May 5 and June 2. Volunteers are always welcome and needed. Ages 13 and above can help serve. The link for registering and signing up for a date is <https://shepherdstable.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/tiferethisrael>.

Also special thanks to **Mona Berch** for preparing peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Shepherd's Table. These type of sandwiches and desserts are helpful to Shepherd's Table.

Please consider volunteering to help deliver Passover food packages to the needy in our local Jewish community. The date is April 14. TI is usually responsible for making over 50 deliveries. This is an activity the whole family can participate in. Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/3D9vxFvoUvNumLtW6>

Upcoming Social Action/Social Justice/Environment Activities

Contact **Melissa Perera**, Social Action VP (TISocialAction@Tifereth-Israel.org) about getting involved in any of these ongoing activities.

- Sunday April 7 – Volunteer at Shepherd's Table – 5 pm
- Sunday April 7 – Himmelfarb students make PB&J sandwiches, cookies and cards for Shepherd's Table
- April 7-14 is Good Deeds Week
- Sunday April 14 - Pesach Delivery – 9-10 am
- Sunday April 14 - Stream Cleanup at Carter Barron Picnic Grove – 1:30-3:30 pm (Green Committee)
- Sundays April 14, 21 and 28 – Shepherd Elementary Tutoring Program – 5-6 pm
- Wednesday April 17 - Social Action Committee monthly meeting – 8 pm

DONATE TO TI



bit.ly/TICarDon



bit.ly/TIGive



bit.ly/TIKiddush



bit.ly/TIAppeal23

Watkins Mill High School Trip to the Holocaust Museum - Sonya Shpilyuk

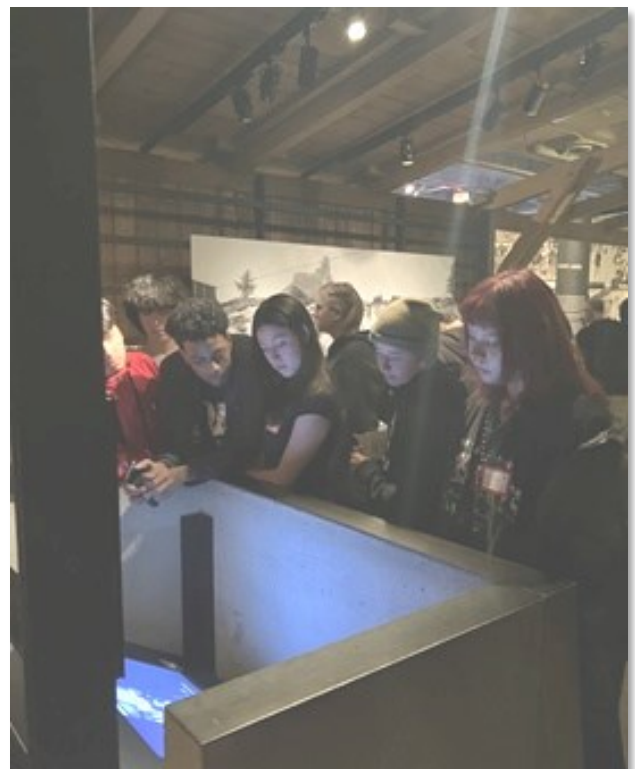
Back in January, just before Holocaust Memorial Day, I sent an impassioned plea to our shul listserv. At the time, my 10th grade English students at Watkins Mill were reading Elie Wiesel's *Night*, and though they engaged thoughtfully with the text, they revealed a profound lack of background knowledge about the Shoah. I resolved to take our 10th graders – all 300 of them – to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum for a field trip. But our students and their families, 50% of whom do not speak English at home and 75% of whom receive free or reduced meals, were not in a position to fund the trip themselves. And I knew that those who would most benefit from the trip were the ones least likely to be able to afford it. So: I turned to our TI family with a GoFundMe, and you came through. And how. Within a couple of days, we had the funds needed to bring every student on the trip.

The field trip was a real success, thanks to the generosity of this beautiful community. The students were solemn and thoughtful, and many were in tears. Over the following week, they wrote essays about the trip, and it was clear from their writing that they'd been deeply affected by the experience. Many students wrote that seeing the museum exhibits with their own eyes helped them understand *Night* with a new depth.

Two journalism students contributed articles to the student newspaper. You can read them here: <https://wmccurrent.com/39375/features/photo-feature-class-of-2026-visit-at-the-holocaust-museum/> and here: <https://wmccurrent.com/39352/opinion/teach-elie-wiesels-night-teach-hard-history>

Thanks to the generosity of our TI community, and the power of the USHMM, these students will go onto college and careers with a meaningful understanding of the Shoah, and of antisemitism. I couldn't be more grateful that so many of you donated, and sent messages of support, and in the case of **Josh Kranzberg** even helped chaperone the trip! Keeping the flame of Holocaust memory alive requires all of us, and I'm so proud of our TI community for helping make this important trip happen.

Photos by Sonya Shpilyuk



Rabbi Feinberg to be Honored

TI's own **Rabbi Chuck Feinberg** is being honored by T'ruah the Rabbinic Call for Human Rights with the Founders Award for his prophetic leadership as part of T'ruah's founding generation of rabbis and cantors.

He has been a leader in various social justice arenas, such as the Sanctuary Movement in the 1980s. His congregation in Madison gave refuge for 18 months to a Guatemalan family of six who eventually immigrated to Canada. In Poughkeepsie, Chuck became chair of an important social service agency called Dutchess Outreach. In Vancouver, he was chair of the Multifaith Society. Chuck was the chairperson of the Social Action Committee of the Rabbinical Assembly for six years.

Chuck was the founding executive director of Interfaith Action for Human Rights (IAHR), and now serves as interim executive director. IAHR represents people of faith who educate and advocate in Maryland, DC and Virginia for corrections systems that avoid unnecessarily punitive practices such as solitary confinement.

He will receive the award at T'ruah's 2024 Annual Gala on June 4th, 2024 in New York. The gala can be attended in person or Zoom. For more information, see [T'ruah the Rabbinic Call for Human Rights](#).



PRE-PESACH ACTIVITIES 2024

[How NOT To Have a Boring Seder | Sunday, April 7 at 3:30 pm](#)

[Passover Food Deliveries | Sunday, April 14 at 9:00 am](#)

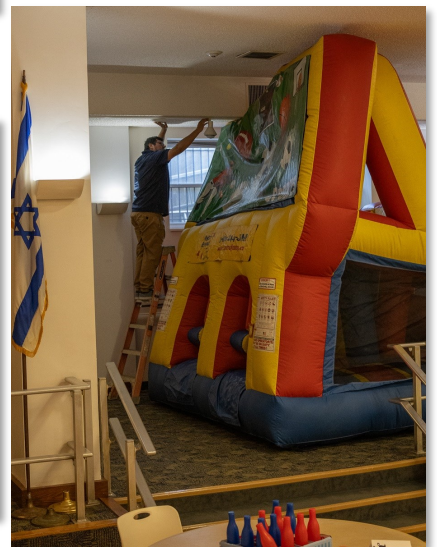
[Pre-Passover Tot Program | Sunday, April 14 at 11:00 am](#)

[Spring Stream Cleanup | Sunday, April 14 at 1:30 pm](#)

Learn more about Pesach at TI at <https://bit.ly/TIPesach24>

*In person and virtual | **Virtual only

Purim Carnival - photos by Jeff Peterman

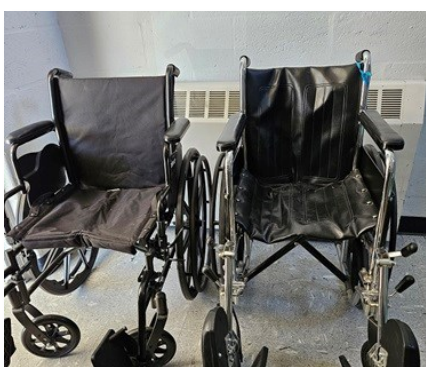


Short Term Equipment Loans Available - Susan Catler

Do you need a walker for a few weeks? A wheelchair for a visiting relative? A car booster seat when your grandchild visits? TI may be able to help. We have two wheelchairs, three walkers, a cane, and a car booster seat available for short term loans. Call the office to see if what you need is available when you need it.

If TI does not have what you need, consider contacting Bikur Cholim of Greater Washington before buying something new. BCGW provides free short-term loans of medical equipment for the local Jewish community or for those visiting from out of town, including canes, crutches, toilet seats, commodes, knee scooters, shower seats, side tables, walkers, and wheelchairs. You can request to borrow equipment using the online form on their website (bikurcholimgw.org).

No matter which source you choose, borrowing rather than buying is the ecologically sound choice for short term use.



Some items available to borrow from TI. Left and center photos by Ellen Zwibak. Photo at right by Susan Catler.

Tifereth Israel
Congregation

The Bridge Campaign
We're on our way!

Each of us has a vital role to play helping secure TI's financial future as we continue redefining our community in this rapidly changing world. Working together, we will build a powerful bridge between the challenges of today and our hopes and plans for the years to come.

Donate to the Bridge Campaign at <https://bit.ly/TIBRIDGE>.

April Membership Committee Update - Jennifer Kefer

Mishloach Manot

The Membership Committee was delighted to organize Mishloach Manot on behalf of the congregation. Your collective generosity generated nearly \$20,000 in sponsorships (\$1000 more than last year) – supporting \$13,750 for the congregation. \$1.80 from each bag was donated to [Robin Food](#), an organization that rescues wasted food to provide meals for refugees and others in need in Israel. This organization is the perfect fit as we fill the dual mitzvot of both giving gifts to those in our community while supporting feeding those in need.

Mishloach Manot bags were also delivered to nearly three dozen TI college students along with our out-of-town members as a reminder of their family back home! This year's theme was "Seeds of Change" – small steps we can all take to improve the world and our community. In addition to a contribution to Robin Food, each bag included a reusable cutlery kit, a reusable paper towel (wash after use), a crystal to decorate your plants or window, a nature-themed bookmark, a plantable gragger, parsley grow kits, and sustainable treats (sunflower seeds and fair trade chocolate). I look forward to continuing to enjoy our bag around the Passover table when our Purim parsley is



Mishloach Manot bag contents

ready for picking! Please send photos of your own sprouts to menorah@tifereth-israel.org

A big thank you to the many people who devoted their time and energy to make this happen, particularly **Rona Siskind** for her beautiful artwork and packaging; **Genevieve Sapir** and **Greg Stackel** for coordinating pick-up; **Jennifer Siegel** and **Alison Turner** who organized deliveries (and the many congregants who have offered to assist); **Anna Leah Berstein Simpson** who battled ShulCoud challenges to collect and recognize everyone's donations; **Sheri Blonder** and **Ellen Zwi-bak** for helping with logistics; and **Lis Davis**, **Carla Ellern**, **Ellen Kramarow**, **Sarah Osborne**, and **Melissa Werbow** for helping with assembly)!

Graduation Shabbat

The Membership Committee will be hosting a Shabbat service and dinner on May 10 to honor and celebrate TI's 2024 high school graduates. This year, we celebrate 10 students who will be starting the next chapter of their lives in the fall. Students have been invited to help lead the service and share reflections as part of our regular Rising Song Shabbat. The Rabbi will give a special blessing to our graduates and the Membership Committee will present a small gift on behalf of the congregation. Whether you're a member of one of the graduating families (graduates attend for free) or part of the broader community that wants to help celebrate this milestone, please plan to join us on May 10. [Register online \(https://www.tifereth-israel.org/event/graduation---rising-song-kabbalat-shabbat-and-dinner-.html#\)](https://www.tifereth-israel.org/event/graduation---rising-song-kabbalat-shabbat-and-dinner-.html#)

Share-A-Shabbat

Share Shabbat dinner! Open your home to other TI members for a Shabbat dinner or be a guest at another TI family's Shabbat table. This is a great chance to meet members you may not already know while sharing good food, conversation, and fun. Matches will be made for May 3 and 17. Host or guest, one week or both...host one week, guest the next...the possibilities are many!

TI member volunteers will make the match and send you your dinner information. We will match hosts and guests with similar dietary and kashrut needs.

(Continued on page 13)

April Membership Committee Update - continued

If you'd like, we'll also make an effort to find guests with children of similar ages.

[Sign up here \(https://tinyurl.com/TIShareShabbat\)](https://tinyurl.com/TIShareShabbat) by Tuesday, April 16.

Yarning Club

TI has launched a new Yarning Club, thanks to the enthusiasm and leadership of **Elaine Weiss** and the skill of many of our congregants (young and old). Join their next gathering on April 2 (and the first Tuesday of every month thereafter) and learn more about it on page 27. Contact the Membership Committee (timembership@tifereth-israel.org) if you'd like to be on the list to learn about future gatherings.

Photo by Lynne Golub-Rofrano



Wear a Hat to Shul Day: April 13, 2024 - Susan Catler

April 13, 2024 is TI's Thirteenth Somewhat Annual Wear a Hat to Shul Day.

Why? Wearing a hat is fun and this is a good opportunity for more Tlers, men and women, to try it. Even you are on Zoom, you can continue this tradition. We usually have it around the time of Bella Abzug's yahrzeit. Whatever you think of Bella, you have to admire her hats.

So try it. You might like it.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

4/1 Dafna Spear & Daniel Pedersen
 4/3 Michael & Arlene Shapiro
 4/4 Robert Lande & Jeri Roth Lande
 4/7 Dr. Eduardo Canedo & Dr. Yael Schacher
 4/8 David & Dana Mermelstein
 4/13 Noam & Deborah Shelef
 4/21 Allison & Colin McMillan Howard & Hannah Rubin
 4/25 Michael & Lisa Kraft

Emil Kunkin
 Sheridan Neimark
 Janet Nesse
 Yonatan Richman-Dreyfus
 4/8 Evan Fisher
 Jamie Fisher
 Johan Gottschalk
 Sonya Shpilyuk
 4/9 Chalom Blonder
 Jessica Cohen
 Harvey Kabaker
 David Rubin
 4/10 Martin Berger
 Varda Fink
 Rabbi Devorah Lynn
 Anat Shahar
 Ross Tilchin

Howard White
 4/18 Hedy Gottschalk
 Matthew Neimark
 Robin Reiss
 4/18 Charles Rombro
 4/19 Joel Coffdis
 Ellie Dugan
 4/20 Marjorie Siegel
 Rachel Vile
 4/21 Dr. Alexis Light
 Eliyah Lister
 Jennifer Tuerk
 Rabbi Michael Werbow
 4/22 Judith Heimlich
 Ken Lemberg
 Rebecca Melsky
 Marc Schlesinger
 4/23 Lisa Weintraub
 Schifferle
 4/24 Avi Felman
 Lisa Kraft
 Eitan Shelef
 4/25 Larry Paul
 Jasmine Peterman
 Tzurielle Shashoua
 4/27 Jennifer Mathis
 Vivian Seidner
 Michelle Strollo
 Joshua Weitz
 4/28 Andrea Kline
 Solomon Kritz
 Dana Mermelstein
 Jonah Murdock
 4/29 Wally Beller-Szwergold
 Gideon Blumenthal
 Lynn Golub-Rofrano
 Stefan Gunther

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

4/1 Leah Bass
 Franca Brilliant
 Liam Rickard
 Leigh Verbois
 Naimah Weinberg
 4/2 Tavi Batler-Landau
 Deborah Secular
 Lev Werbow
 4/3 Stephanie Baxt
 Allison Goldman
 Jared Greenstein
 Michael Stempel
 4/4 Henry Einhorn
 Dinknesh Friedman
 Devin McMillan
 Joshua Pitlick
 4/6 John Mehler
 Jennifer Taransky
 Glenn Thrush
 4/7 Roger Feldman
 Dr. Tom Goldring

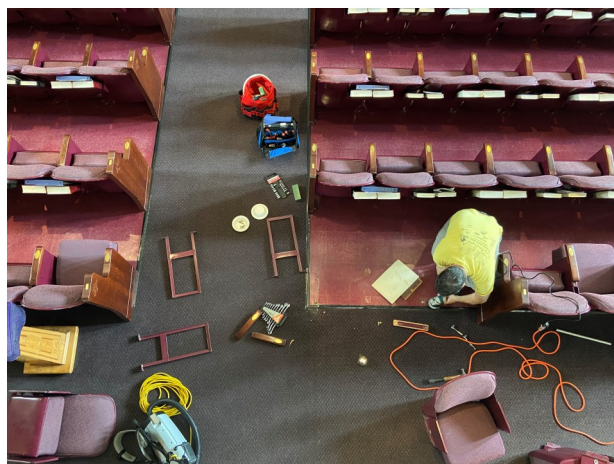
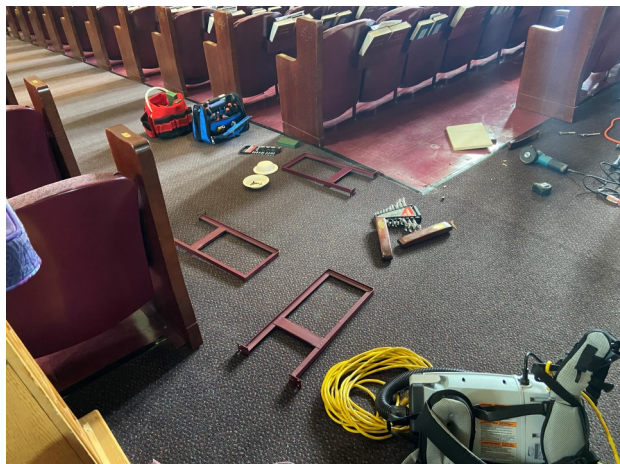
4/11 Mrs. Marilyn Blakely
 Annette Graubart
 4/12 Yahli Gan
 Daniel Pedersen
 David Pelzer
 Stephen Rickard
 4/13 Adam Kritz
 David Siskind
 Kassahun Teffera
 4/14 Joshua Kefer
 Nechama Malkiel
 Yoni Pedersen
 Daniel Turner
 Marc Warshawsky
 4/15 Ruby Borzekowski
 Edra Light-Hall
 Naomi Morse
 4/16 Gabriella Pereira-Feron
 4/17 Ivy Baer
 Eli Goldman

Celebrate on April 13

Honor a family member, a friend or even yourself!

Go to bit.ly/BdayAnniv to help sponsor the Kiddush.

Accessibility Improvements in the Sanctuary



TI is in the process of improving accessibility, including accessibility in the sanctuary, as **Rabbi Jason Kimelman-Block** described in his *March From the President* article. To improve wheelchair access and to give wheelchair users more choices of location, some seats were removed. A bench will be installed in the back to accommodate those for whom the current fixed seats do not work well.

Eliot Goldberg is shown above removing seats. Photos by Anna Leah Berstein Simpson.

Editor's note: do not try this at home unless you are Eliot Goldberg.

Nayes un Mechayes - Dori Gillman

Good News

TI members **Jon Halpern** and **Gretchen Young** are delighted to announce that **Ezra Betzalel Medina Halpern** (below left) arrived January 22 2024, 10 Shevat 5784. Everyone is well, including parents Jeremy Halpern and Andrea Hernandez-Medina; and **Astrid Miki Peterson** (below right) arrived November 9, 2023, 8 Heshvan 5784. Everyone is well, including parents Daniel Peterson and Sakura Noda.



The Perera family welcomed a whole new generation with the birth of Isaac ("Zeke") Gabriel Perera on July 15, 2023, weighing 4 lbs 11 oz. Parents Adin and Michal Perera (pictured below with Zeke), grandparents Michael and Robin Perera and Peter and Yael Swerdlow, and TI members and great aunt **Melissa Perera** and cousin **Adam Perera** are all overjoyed with



Zeke's arrival.

Simcha Kuritzky, President of the American Israel Numismatic Association, gave a Zoom talk on Renaissance/Baroque Christian Hebrew medals and amulets. A video is posted on the American Israel Numismatic Association's Facebook page.

At the National Money Show in Colorado Springs, Simcha's exhibits won three awards. His Henrietta Szold exhibit took third place in History, A Stellar Type Set took second place in Science, and Feline Species Paper Money Type Set took first place in Geography.

At the Whitman Coin Expo's competitive exhibit put on by the Maryland State Numismatic Association, Simcha's exhibit on Paleo-Hebrew took first place.

Myriam Rofrano, daughter of **Lynn Golub-Rofrano** and **Joe Rofrano**, was accepted into the Executive Masters in Jewish Education Program at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Myriam is currently serving as the Assistant Director of Education for Congregation B'nai Israel in Boca Raton, Florida, Prior to moving to Florida, Myriam was the Assistant Director of K-12 Education at Temple Beth Avodah in Newton Massachusetts.

Jevera Temsky became a 'Fellow in Synagogue Administration' when she was in Israel in February. See the announcement and photo on the next page

Sad News

Dave Wachter, brother of TI member **Louise Kelley (Jessica Weissman)**, died at Washington Hospital Center Friday, February 23, 2024, 14 Adar I, after a heart attack. He was 77. He is also survived by his wife, Jackie Kuchta, and four adult children: John Joseph, Thomas, Griffith and Kate Wachter.

Dave Wachter was born in August, 1946. He graduated from Montgomery Blair High School, was drafted into the Army in 1964, sent to Vietnam, and served as a cryptographer during the Tet Offensive. When he was discharged and returned stateside, he became active in the peace movement and was arrested during the protests at the University of Maryland in 1970. Dave worked at the Centers for the Handicapped, for the United States Postal Service, for the Veterans Administration helping veterans cope with disabilities and find employment, and then at the U.S. Department of Education for many years.

(Continued on page 17)

Nayes un Mechayes - continued

He was a community activist all his life, working with the American Indian Movement for Native American rights, and was accepted as an honorary



Left: Dave in Vietnam at 19.

Below: Dave in Vietnam in 2023.

member of the Piscataway tribe of Maryland. Dave was also a supporter of LGBT+ equality and walked



his sister Louise down the aisle at the Wolman Sanctuary when she married Jessica Weissman.

Tifereth Israel member **Edward Ira Koren**, husband of **Claudine Schweber** and father of Raphael and

Marisa Schweber-Koren, died on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 19 Adar I, after a long illness. He was 80. He was predeceased by his parents Sadie Pincus & Irving Koren and his brother Daniel Koren.



Ed was an attorney for over 30 years, committed to civil rights. He enjoyed listening to music, reading, history, and commenting/responding out loud to what he read or heard. He was friendly and outgoing with people he met at shul, in the community, and in cafes. Ed was always willing to rhapsodize about the joys of Brooklyn then and now.



Celebrating Leadership and Vision in NAASE

Amidst the backdrop of these experiences, we also looked to our roles. We recognized outstanding individuals by awarding them the title of **Fellow in Synagogue Administration (FSA)**, a distinction reserved for those demonstrating exceptional leadership, professionalism, and an in-depth understanding of synagogue administration.

Yasher Koach to this year's FSA honorees:
Shari Lipp-Levine; Debbie Zeger; Andy Burger; Robert Rich; Jevera Temsky.

Yahrzeitn Observed in April

*Yahrzeitn appear under the Shabbat date when the name is recited.
Send information updates and corrections to sheri@tifereth-israel.org.*

March 29-30

4/1 Mary Harris
4/2 Harry Bookin
Rae L. Krivo
Matilda Levine
Sylvia Silverman
Henny Stern
Amanda Johnson Thompson
4/3 Rona Marcia Fields
4/5 Samuel Forman
Rose B. Maisel
Isaac H. Moffitt

April 5-6

4/6 Sarah Newman
4/9 Mae B. Dennison
Jeanne Clare Feron
Melchior Goldring
Ann Kent Laredo
Gussie London
Pearl Siegel
Sidney Siegel
Morris Weissman
4/10 Harry Bernstein
Warren Grabel
Edward Joseph White
4/11 Susan Joan Alper
Jack Barco
Mendel Bennett
Herman Dodek
Gary Harmatz
Benjamin Perlzweig
Louis Aron Pittle
Samuel Reich
Joseph Silverman
4/12 Aaron Charles Gaizband
Benjamin Gittleman
Bernard Kellner
Jules Levin
Hilda Pastor
Fanya Woll

April 12-13

4/13 Irving Driesen
Alexander Eidenbaum
Bernard H. Fernbach
Ernest Rabinowicz
Phoebe Sharaf
Freda Pollack Siegel
Lawrence Urbach
4/14 James Anderson
Louis Blumen

David Einsiedler
Rabbi Bernard Klein
Allen Charles Lande
Abe Ripkin
Betty Shuman
Harold A. Simmons
4/15 Alison Dray-Novey
Jacob Ruben Fain
Bette Fargotstein
A. Harold Green
Alma Jacobson
Iris Kadin
Solomon Peters

4/16 Sylvia Baizer
Pnina Borzekowski
Bessie Cohen
Benjamin Jeweler
Anthony Koiro
Sara Matalon
4/17 Joseph Berman
Daniel Graubart
Asher Melzer
William Moyer
Aaron Michael Silber
Bryna Wilensky

4/18 Samuel Lachman
Henry L. Lyman
Sarah Rod
4/19 Esther Baker
Marion Cohen
Gertrude Geiger
Mary Kimelman
Vivian Weiss

April 19-20

4/20 Charlotte Gottlieb
Lou B. Levin
Bernard A. Mizel
Usher Rubinstein
Daniel Zodikoff
4/21 Abraham Joshua Doner
David Lewis Miller
Joseph Jacob Morss
Louis A. Nathan
Milton Nurenberg
Stanley Ring
Robert Yelin

4/22 H. Thomas Austern
Leonard Borzekowski
Chester Catler
Esther Jewler

Isaac Milzman
Gail Phillips
Rose Schwartz Ross
Annette Shapiro

4/23 Morris Benson
Harry Borow
Adolph Filderman
Abraham Friedman
Samuel Goodman
Frances Nahon
Joseph Portner
William Stulman

4/24 Harry I. Dobkin
Tobias Naftalin
Max Starr
Alfred Verschell

4/25 Elizabeth McDonald
Floyd Robinson

4/26 Harriet Ostroff Dicker
Leslie LeVine
Baruch Lifshitz
Ray Netzer
George Wall
Frieda Woll

April 26-27

4/27 Joseph Barron
Isaac Harris
Bernard Rosen

4/28 Else Nielsen Carbaugh
Annie Dubin
Benjamin Greenspoon
Jacqueline Molovinsky
Celia Rothberg
Betty Ruth Saks
Juliette Silvera

4/29 Daniel Anker
Dorothy Bessie Berstein
Harry Miles Cohen
Sally Dugan
Abraham Flicker
Susan Flicker
Frank Frankel
Janet "Jennie" Kessin
Bert Stoller
Alice Woll

4/30 Ida Benson
Joy Greisen
Joseph James Rofrano
Benjamin Roth



Rising Song Shabbat Services & Dinner

Friday, April 12 at 6:30 pm
Snacks for kids at 6:00 pm

Circle up in song for a soul-filling start to Shabbat. Stay for dinner and keep on singing!

Register for dinner at bit.ly/TIRising

By Monday, April 8 at 9:00 am



Photo by Julie Steinberg

USY visits the Climzone.

Photo by Rachel Lande.



Kol Nashim Book Group - Jessica Weissman

The KN book group met March 19th to discuss Anne Berest's *The Postcard*, a novel. A family receives a mysterious postcard containing only the names of their family members who died in the Holocaust. The story then returns and recounts the family's experience of fleeing Eastern Europe's pogroms and persecutions and settling in France. And the return of the survivors of the Holocaust to France. Consensus held the novel to be powerful but the premise regarding the postcard not quite convincing. Some were annoyed by the unclear relationship between the author's life and family history and what is presented as fiction in the book.

Our next reading is Menachem Kaiser's *Plunder*, a nonfiction work centered around the author's attempt to discover what happened to his family's house and possessions after they fled. Some copies are available in libraries, including the TI library.

We are returning to in-person meetings starting this month, with a Zoom option available. The meeting is 7:30 pm Tuesday April 16th at the home of **Louise Kelley** and **Jessica Weissman**.

The Zoom link is the same each month. **Janice Mehler** includes it in the Evite invitation. If you are not on the Evite list, contact Janice to be added. You'll get an electronic invitation and a timely reminder, with the link.

Meetings are open to everyone, whether you have finished the book or not, or even started it. I look forward to seeing many of you at the meeting.

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 c: 301-792-1063

Bruce Heppen h: 301-299-3255
 c: 202-997-1890
 w: 703-417-8983

Kol Nashim Monthly Musings - Margie Odle

The recent visit to the Capital Jewish Museum sponsored by KN was a great experience for all who were able to go. The docent conveyed her knowledge of the history and ongoing presence of Washington's Jewish community in an enlightening and digestible way. A future trip is likely because of wide interest within our community.

March book group, well attended as usual, discussed Anne Berest's *The Postcard*. Next month's selection is Menachem Kaiser's *Plunder*.

April brings Pesach, and a KN Pesach program. At 3:30 on Sunday April 7th **Melissa Werbow** presents "How NOT to Have a Boring Seder" at TI. KN will provide refreshments.

Early May brings the reprise of a very popular KN event from about 10 years ago. **Cynthia Peterman** will "entertain" us on the morning of May 5th with the length and breadth of the history of Jews in the film industry, a rich and multi-faceted topic.

The KN board will be planning next year's activities in early summer and are soliciting ideas and interests from the broader congregation. If you have an idea for a program (or more than one) that KN can plan and sponsor, please speak with one of our KN board members.

Gevarim - Andrew Reamer

Talmud Study with Rabbi Seidel -- Shabbat, April 6, 1:00-2:00 pm. Tractate Sanhedrin in English translation. (Reamer Chapel)

Jewish History Online -- Sunday, April 14, 10:30 am-12:15 pm [on TI zoom] Session 2 of a five-part symposium held in NYC by the Center for Jewish History on January 28, 2024. TI discussant: **Ira Forman**

Addressing Antisemitism: Contemporary Challenges seeks to explain the recent upsurge of Jew hatred in the contemporary world. The symposium brings together prominent scholars to discuss the challenge of defining antisemitism, explaining its explosion in Europe and the United States, understanding its dissemination through digital media, and determining how scholars and activists should best combat it in an era of intensifying global turmoil.

Session 2: Antisemitism in the U.S.: Between Politics and Religion

Antisemitism has assumed especially worrisome forms in the present-day United States. Whether appearing as coded dog whistles, straightforward hatemongering, or outright violence, attacks against Jewish persons, property, and interests have intensified in contemporary America. Panel #2 focuses on the ideological sources of this hatred by exploring the culpability of broader political and religious forces, including the growing influence of white supremacy, neo-fascism, Christian nationalism, and radical Islamism.

Moderator: Jeff Veidlinger, University of Michigan

Panelists include:

- Pamela Nadell, American University
- Jonathan Sarna, Brandeis University
- Magda Teter, Fordham University

Future sessions:

3. Sunday, May 19, 2024
4. Sunday, June 2, 2024
5. Sunday, June 23, 2024

ACCESSIBILITY

At TI, we want everyone to be able to participate as fully as possible in services and activities.

CONTACT INFO@TIFERETH-ISRAEL.ORG IF YOU NEED:

Accessible parking and/or seating • Use of a walker or wheelchair

TELL A SERVICE GREETER IN THE SANCTUARY IF YOU NEED:

**Assisted Listening Device • Large print prayerbook
Wheelchair accessible seating • Wheelchair lift to Bimah**

ONGOING RELIGIOUS SERVICES & LEARNING

KABBALAT SHABBAT AND MA'ARIV*

Fridays at 6:30 pm

At TI, we love to sing, especially on Friday night! Come warm your soul with a joyful start to Shabbat. Learn more at bit.ly/TIKabbalat.

RISING SONG KABBALAT SHABBAT AND DINNER*

Friday, April 12 at 6:30 pm, snacks at 6:00 pm (2nd Shabbat of the month)

Circle up in song as we catapult the community into a soul-filling Shabbat. Come and sing, stay to eat, and sing some more! Learn more at bit.ly/TIRising.

MISHNA WITH RABBI WERBOW*

Saturdays at 8:15 am

Deepen your understanding of Judaism through the eyes of the early rabbis. All levels of learning and Hebrew skills are welcome.

Learn more at bit.ly/TIMishna.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES*

Saturdays at 9:00 am

Services are traditional and egalitarian, led by TI members in partnership with Rabbi Werbow. Come to pray; stay for a delicious kiddush luncheon and lively conversation.

For online resources, go to bit.ly/TIShabbat.

SUNDAY MORNING MINYAN

Sundays at 9:15 am

Services are lay-led, with Rabbi Werbow sharing insights. Stay around to eat and socialize!

Learn more at bit.ly/TISunday.

MONTHLY LEARNER'S MINYAN

Saturday, April 13 at 10:00 am (2nd Shabbat of the month)

If you'd like more inspiration and less confusion on TI's Saturday mornings, the Learner's Minyan may be right for you. Ritual VP Stan Dorn and special guests will lead these services.

Learn more at bit.ly/LearnersMinyan.

PARASHAT HASHAVUA CLASS**

Mondays at 11:00 am

Meet online with Rabbi Werbow and an engaged group of congregants to discuss insights from the weekly Torah portion.

Learn more at bit.ly/3KLa1hH.

*In person and virtual | **Virtual only

(Continued on page 23)

ONGOING RELIGIOUS SERVICES & LEARNING (cont'd)

INTERMEDIATE HEBREW-BEGINNING TANACH WITH STEPHANIE RUBIN**

Thursdays at 10:30 am

This virtual class is reading [Bereishit](#), covering approximately ten verses each week.

Learn more at bit.ly/45tiT3B.

DIRECTING THE HEART: GUIDED MEDITATION & REFLECTION

Saturday, April 27 at 10:15 pm

TI member Ann Kline offers an opportunity to reflect on the Torah portion in a personal way during the Shabbat Torah service.

Learn more at bit.ly/TIDTH.

MONTHLY TALMUD STUDY WITH RABBI SEIDEL

Saturday, April 6 at 1:00 pm (first Shabbat of the month)

All are welcome to come in person to study *Talmud Bavli, The Steinsaltz Edition*. No prior knowledge or Hebrew skills needed.

Learn more at bit.ly/TITalmud. TI members can access Talmud text at bit.ly/TIBavli.

MONTHLY HEBREW TANACH CLASS: KOHELET (ECCLESIASTES)

Friday, April 12 at 11:00 am

Join an in-person exploration of Kohelet using the Tanach and biblical and rabbinic texts. Ability to read and translate Hebrew without vowels helpful but not required.

Learn more at bit.ly/TITanach.

*In person and virtual | **Virtual only

Purim - photos by Jennifer Kefer



ONGOING ACTIVITIES

CAFÉ KEHILLAH

Saturdays at 10:00 am

Grab a cuppa! Visit with friends or enjoy a moment of quiet contemplation.

SERVE DINNER AT SHEPHERD'S TABLE

Sponsored by the Social Action Committee

Sunday, April 7 at 5:00 pm (first Sunday of the month)

Help serve dinner to homeless individuals on the first Sunday of each month.

Learn more and register at bit.ly/TIServe.

JEWISH HISTORY ONLINE – ADDRESSING ANTISEMITISM: CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES**

Sponsored by Gevarim

Sunday, April 14 at 10:30 am

Addressing Antisemitism: Contemporary Challenges seeks to explain the recent upsurge of Jew hatred in the contemporary world.

Learn more at <https://bit.ly/TIAntisemitism>.

KOL NASHIM BOOK GROUP*

Tuesday, April 16 at 7:30 pm

The book this month is *Plunder* by Menachem Kaiser. All TI members are welcome, including those who have not finished or even started the book.

Learn more at bit.ly/KNBooks.

VIGIL AGAINST RACISM

Sponsored by the Social Action Committee

Fridays at 5:00 pm

Join the TI community on 16th Street in solidarity with Black lives.

Learn more at bit.ly/TIVigil.

CANNED GOODS COLLECTION

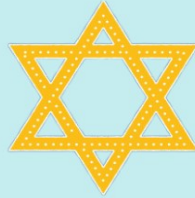
Sponsored by the Social Action Committee

[La Casa](#), a supportive housing building for previously homeless males, is in need of canned goods.

Bring donations to the Juniper Lobby.

Learn more at bit.ly/TILaCasa.

*In person and virtual | **Virtual only



SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

TOT SHABBAT
YOGA WITH DODA | FAMILY JAM
April 6 and 13, May 4 and 11, June 1
at 11:00 am
[Learn more at bit.ly/TITotShabbat.](https://bit.ly/TITotShabbat)

JUNIOR MINYAN (older elementary kids)
April 13 and 27, May 11 and 25, June 8
at 10:15 am
Learn more at [bit.ly/TIJrMinyan.](https://bit.ly/TIJrMinyan)

MINI MINYAN (K-2nd graders)
April 13, May 11, and June 8
at 11:00 am
Learn more at [bit.ly/TIMini.](https://bit.ly/TIMini)

YOUTH & FAMILY ACTIVITIES

BAT/BAR/KABBALAT MITZVAH CLUB (CLUB BBK)
Friday, April 5; Sundays April 21 and May 5
Learn more at [bit.ly/TIBBKClub.](https://bit.ly/TIBBKClub)

Donations—February 13, 2024-March 15, 2024

Annual Appeal

James & Sylvana Ehrman

Bridge Campaign

Robyn Altman & Brendan Doherty

Sharon Freedberg

Devora & Jason Kimelman-Block

Barbara & Michael Milton

Mical & Michael Schneider

Building Preservation Fund

Judith Herzog & Myron Murdock in honor of Laurie Berger's birthday

General Donation

Mark & Mona Berch in memory of Edward Ira Koren, Dave Wachter

Franca Brilliant & Seth Grimes in honor of Ann Kline

Raymond & Rebecca Coleman

Patricia Dicks

Ellen Epstein in memory of Edward Ira Koren

Howard Gleckman & Ann Kline

Myrna Goldman in honor of the birth of Rayna Fae Berch

Myrna Goldman in honor of Howard White's recovery

Paul Goldman & Deborah Pomerance in memory of Edward Ira Koren

Barbara Goldstein in memory of Edward Ira Koren

David & Sara Handwerker in memory of Dave Wachter

Lois & David Hart in memory of Dave Wachter

Rachelle & Stephen Heller in memory of William Adams

Alan Landay in memory of Dave Wachter

Judith Herzog & Myron Murdock

Ben Oren in memory of Edward Ira Koren

Robert & Patricia Polster in memory of Edward Polster

Andrew Reamer in memory of Edward Ira Koren

Arnold & Naomi Revzin in memory of Dave Wachter

Genevieve Sapir & Gregory Stackel for the Teen Takeover kiddush

Eileen Rose & David Silber for Mishloach Manot

Barbara & Howard White in memory of Dave Wachter

Barbara & Howard White in memory of Edward Ira Koren

Ellen Zwibak in memory of Dave Wachter

Helping Hands Fund

Paul Goldman & Deborah Pomerance

Louise Kelley & Jessica Weissman in memory of Dave Wachter

Adele & Ray Natter in memory of Dave Wachter

Alan & Cyndy Weitz in memory of Dave Wachter

Kol Nashim

Myrna Goldman in memory of Dave Wachter

Madeline Nesse Fund

Paula Tucker in memory of Edward Ira Koren, Dave Wachter

Marvin Caplan Social Action

Sheri Blonder in memory of Edward Ira Koren

Miriam Davidson in memory of Edward Ira Koren

Myrna Goldman in memory of Ellen Brotman

Myrna Goldman in memory of Edward Ira Koren

Harvey Kabaker & Andrea Kline in memory of Edward Ira Koren

Lisa & Michael Kraft in memory of Edward Ira Koren

David & Janice Mehler in memory of Dave Wachter

David & Janice Mehler in memory of Edward Ira Koren

Hedy & Lee Ohringer in memory of Edward Ira Koren, Dave Wachter, for Howard White's recovery, in honor of Dana & Sheridan Neimark's TI participation

Howard & Michele Sumka in memory of Ellen Brotman, Edward Ira Koren, and Dave Wachter

Henry Levin & Susan Vitale in memory of Edward Ira Koren

Mishloach Manot (Additional Donations)

Rhea Dorn

Rabbi Chuck & Krayna Feinberg

Miriam Klein

Mitchell Lazarus & Judy Shapiro

Jeffrey and Julie Steinberg

Allison and Daniel Turner

Mollie Berch Library Fund

Sheri Blonder in memory of Dave Wachter

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Michael Nichols in honor of Isaac's affirmation process

Refugee Assistance

Ivy Baer & Marc Rothenberg

Anna Batler & Gil Landau

Mark & Mona Berch

Miriam Davidson in memory of Dave Wachter

Benjamin Dreyfus & Elizabeth Richman

Michael & Sheryl Stempel

Esther & Eugene Herman

Donations—February 13, 2024-March 15, 2024

Refugee Assistance (cont.)

Amy & David Kritz
Joseph & Paula Martin
David & Janice Mehler
Kenneth Morris & Terri Zall
Jonah & Stephanie Murdock
Judith Herzog & Myron Murdock
Kelly & Stephen Rickard
Phillip & Ruth Shapiro
Howard & Michele Sumka
Paula Tucker
Allison & Daniel Turner
Judith & Lester Turner

Yahrzeit Donations

David & Felice Anderson in memory of
Lenore Anderson
David & Felice Anderson in memory of Amelia G. Radler
David & Felice Anderson in memory of
Dr. Herbert Arnold Radler
Judith Berland in memory of Lucille Berland
David & Judith Cohen in memory of Samuel L. Cohen
Morris Cohen in memory of Sol Wolman
David & Helene Emsellem in memory of Larry Rozanski

Marc Fields in memory of Dr. Rona M. Fields
Renee Gindi & Alan Zibel in memory of Eddie Gindi
Judith Halpert in memory of Sylvia Silverman
David & Sara Handwerker in memory of Ed Kleiner
Esther & Eugene Herman in memory of
Norman (Bud) Herman
Sylvia Horwitz & Dov Weitman in memory of
Esther Horwitz
Allan Kolker in memory of Elaine Horwitz and
Irene Kolker
Elihu Leifer in memory of Dudley V. Lascoff, Daniel I.
Leifer, and Sheila Leifer
Kenneth Morris & Terri Zall in memory of Milton Zall
Adele & Ray Natter in memory of David Einsiedler
Jacqueline Ratner in memory of Edith Ratner
Freda & Stephen Resnick in memory of Edith Lopatin
Irene Rosen in memory of Harry Berger,
Rebecca Berger, and Charles Rosen
Carol Sterling in memory of Sheila Leifer
Catherine & Jonathan Tuerk in memory of Helen Tuerk
Harriet Vinner in memory of Jacob Janus
Avi & Devra Weiss in memory of Goldie Goldberg and
Michael Goldberg
Diana & James Zurer in memory of Fanya Woll

New TI Yarning Club - Elaine Weiss

The inaugural meeting of the new TI Yarning Club was a rousing success! Ten members, from college students to grandmothers (plus one adorable baby) and from very novice to extremely experienced, gathered Tuesday evening March 19 to share their current knitting, crocheting, and needle-pointing projects and wish lists for future ones.

We'll be getting together from 7:30 to 9:30 on the first Tuesday of the month at TI, with the potential for a field trip or two in the next few months. And, as an added incentive for newbies who might be on the fence, we'll have snacks, and we'll be exchanging yarn and starting a collection for anyone to use at our second meeting, which will take place on April 2. Hope to see you there!

If you'd like to be added to the list to receive emails about the club, please contact Elaine Weiss ([contact information in the ShulCloud directory](#)). Photos: Rona Siskind.



Upcoming Friday Night Minyan Assignments

April 19, 2024

Timothy Michalak & Robin Reiss
Josephine Mickelson
Michael & Barbara Milton
Amy Morello
Kenneth Morris & Terri Zall
Jonah Murdock & Stephanie Roodman Murdock
Myron Murdock & Judith Herzog Murdock
Joshua Nadas & Lillian Rosen
Raymond & Adele Natter
Sheridan & Dana Neimark
Stephen Nelson & Leslie Goodman -Malamuth
Michael New & Linda Turnowski
Larry Paul & Joye Newman
Fylis Peckham & Perry Peckham
Daniel Pedersen & Dafna Spear
David Pelzer & Ellie Tiemann

April 26, 2024

Melissa Perera
Adam & Jessica Perlmutter
Jeff & Cynthia Peterman
Michael Pitch & Elaine Weiss
Joshua Pitlick & Janet Blank
Aviva Prins
David & Laurel Rabin
Glenn Rapoport
Jacqueline Ratner
Andrew Reamer
Sanford & Shelley Reback
Toby Reiter & Nechama Malkiel
Kelly Rickard & Stephen Rickard
Howard Riker & Danielle Glosser
Morris & Judy Rodenstein
Joel Rogers & Ruth Lieberman
Paul & Esther Roitman Bardack
Charles Rombro & Pamela Stone
Elliot Rosen & Sharon Cohen
Stanley Rosenbaum & Marga Hirsch
Aviel Roshwald & Alene Moyer
Marc Rothenberg & Ivy Baer

May 3, 2024

David & Stephanie Rubin
Howard & Hannah Rubin
Hank Sacks & Jessica Steinberg
Stephen & Jill Saletta
Mark & Diann Saltman
Yael Schacher & Eduardo Canedo
Richard Schachter
Alex Schaffer & Nichole Berns
Lawrence & Pearl Schainker
Eric & Shira Schechtman
Laura Schiavo
Michael & Mical Schneider
Adina Schwartz & Jessica Simpson
Lisa Schwartz
Keith Secular & Susan Catler
Ruth Secular
Rabbi Ethan & Rachel Seidel
Paul Seltman & Jeanne Ireland
David & Lois Shapiro
Mike Shapiro
Phillip & Ruth Shapiro
Noam & Deborah Shelef
Jaclyn Shettler
Randy Showstack & Michele Zador
Richard & Marjorie Siegel

May 17, 2024

David Silber
Morton & Christine Simon
David & Rona Siskind
Joseph Davidson
Jonathan & Catherine Tuerk
Neil & Jessica Sitron
Sarah Sorscher & Marcus Hedrick
Louis & Madge Lee Spector
Gregory Stackel & Genevieve Sapir
Jeffrey & Julie Steinberg
Michael Stempel & Sheryl Frank
Hayim & Malka Stopak
Michael & Michelle Strollo
Edwin Stromberg & Rose Ellen Halper
Geoffrey Storchan & Rachel Katz
Shelley Sturman
Marc Suddleson & Molly Surden

Yochanan Sullivan & Yvonne Shashoua

May 24, 2024

Howard & Michele Sumka
Michael & Adele Sumner
Miriam Sznycer-Taub & Henri Makembe
Jennifer & Naomi Taransky
Kassahun Teffera & Melke Mengiste
Jevera Temsky
Glenn & Diane Thrush
Rachel Tickner
Michael Tilchin & Linda Greer
Adrienne Torrey & Joel Colfidis
Peter & Rhoda Trooboff
Rabbi Lauren Tuchman
Paula Tucker
Allan & Judy Tulchin
Daniel & Allison Turner
Michael Unterweger
Susan Vitale
David Wachtel & Jenny Goldstein
Reenie Wagner
Harry Waldman & Susan Morse
Marc Warshawsky & Vivian Seidner

May 31, 2024

Eric Weiner & Sharon Moshavi
Louise Weingarten Wiener
Leah Weinryb Grohsgal
Jon Weintraub & Judith Heimlich
Dov Weitman & Sylvia Horwitz
Alan & Cynthia Weitz
Melissa Werbow
Howard & Barbara White
Peter Winch & Denice Zeck
Carole Woodle
Adam & Dorothea Wolfson
Lesley Zark
Christopher Zeilinger & Ann Baker
Yohanes Zeleke
Alan Zibel & Renee Gindi
Diana Zurer
Ellen Zwibak

Israel Fantasies - Simcha Kuritzky

When is a coin not a real coin? When it is either a copy (counterfeit, if made to deceive), pattern, or a fantasy. A copy looks like a real coin, a pattern is a test piece made by an official authority in anticipation of authorization which never comes, while a fantasy claims to be a coin (lists an issuing government and a denomination) but is both unauthorized and does not look like any authorized coin.

I have come across an interesting set of Israel fantasies, produced by the main Dutch Mint of Utrecht in the early 1960s. Unfortunately, this mint did not keep its records from back then, and I have yet to find any contemporary articles or advertisements, so I don't know who paid the Dutch to produce this piece, or how many were produced. But I have a good guess as to why.

Today Israel is known as a prolific issuer of coins and medals, with dozens of circulating coin types and hundreds of commemorative coin types. However, Israel only started producing commemorative coins for collectors in 1958. So in 1962, there were only 42 coin types to collect and 15 medals. Someone could quickly complete such a collection, possibly all in one transaction. So someone decided to add their own pieces for collectors.



The choice of gold for these fantasies is peculiar, because most collectors of Israel coins lived in the United States and Israel, and both countries restricted importation of gold medals. The only gold coin Israel had produced was the 1960 Herzl centennial I£20, which had the same dimensions (22mm diameter, 8 grams of 22K gold) as the British gold sovereign (the most popular gold coin in the Middle East at that time), just under a quarter ounce of gold. It was also the only gold coin legal to own in Israel, and the only Israel gold that was legal to import into the United States in the early 1960s. Israel had started producing gold medals which Israelis were allowed to own. The 1961 Israel bar mitzvah medal shows symbols of the 12 tribes, and was issued in 5, 8, and 15 grams of 18K gold, as well as in silver and bronze.



A paper accompanying the Dutch fantasies proclaimed that these coins were produced to commemorate Israel's fifteenth year. The two coins issued at the beginning of that year (dated 5722/1962)

(Continued on page 30)

Israel Fantasies - continued

showed the two kings who ruled at the height of ancient Israel's power, David and Solomon. They are also the only two kings to which the rabbis attributed authorship of Biblical books. Each coin has, on the obverse, the king's name and title in Hebrew at top and English below, with the dates to the side in western numerals. The right-facing crowned bust is purely imaginary as no images or descriptions of their appearance exist. There are probably a few hundred of the 1962 pieces around, and they do show up now and then at auction. They were minted using .900 fine gold, 22.5mm diameter and 6 grams for the 50 shekel denomination and 29mm and 12 grams for the 100 shekel. This means the 50 shekel was 75% of the weight of the Herzl 20 lirot, equal to 15 lirot, which may have also been a reference to Israel's fifteenth year. The reverse shows a *menorah* inside an olive wreath with 12 roundels each showing a symbol of one of the tribes. The denomination in English appears above the *menorah* and ישראל Israel in Hebrew appears beneath. This design may have been inspired by the 1960 20 lirot and 1961 bar mitzvah medal.



At the end of Israel's fifteenth year (1963/5723), two new 50 shekel fantasy coins (and maybe 100 shekel, but none have been found) were issued with modern Jewish leaders: Theodore Herzl and David Ben Gurion, each described on the fantasy coins as founders of Israel, although the Hebrew just has their name. Herzl is, of course, the grandfather of the State of Israel, forming the Zionist Organization (ZO) in 1897. David Ben Gurion served as the head of Histadrut, the Jewish national labor organization from 1920-33, a position he left to become the head of the Jewish Agency. In that capacity, he announced Israel's independence in 1948. Ben Gurion served as Israel's first Prime Minister until 1953, retiring but then serving again as Prime Minister from 1955-63. Israel law prohibits portraying living individuals even on medals, so no Israel state pieces portrayed Ben Gurion until after his death in 1973/5734. I came across these two pieces in an auction, and have never seen any other examples.



(Continued on page 31)

Israel Fantasies - continued

Another fantasy coin was issued a little later in Mexico. It also shows a crowned bust of David, though facing left, and a *menorah* inside an olive wreath, but instead of the twelve tribe symbols, it had two lions supporting the Ten Commandments above and the denomination 100 shekels in English and Hebrew below. This also has the same title and name for King David in Hebrew and English as the Dutch fantasy, but the only date here is in Hebrew 5765 which is 1964/5. I have found these in 42mm 34 gram (over an ounce) gilded silver, and 50mm 40 gram plain silver. A catalog lists a 45mm gold version, but I have never seen one. These fantasies have higher relief than the Dutch pieces, and are much larger. I have not seen an explanation as to why they were produced, but Israel had issued Hanukkah gelt one lira coins from 5719/1958 to 5724/1963, and this was issued one year later, so maybe it was intended to fill in for those coins. These are also scarce.

So in addition to Israel coins and medals, one can collect medallic issues that pretend to be Israel coins. It appears these fantasies were minted to capitalize on the expanding market for Israel collectible coins in the early to mid-1960s, before Israel's coin and medal production became so prolific that there was little need to supplement it.

Purim - Photos by Julie Steinberg



Canned Goods Drive

Sponsored by the Social Action Committee



La Casa, supportive housing for formerly homeless men, is in need of canned goods.

Bring cans to the TI Juniper St. Lobby

Questions? Contact Melissa Perera at TISocialaction@tifereth-israel.org.





The Menorah
Tifereth Israel Congregation
7701 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20012-1495

**Tifereth Israel
Congregation**