



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY: BEING DEFINED BY OTHERS

Rosh Hashanah Sermon Day One 5776

A boy walks into the circle of combat. All he has are sticks and a small puny weapon in his hand. His opponent is more than twice his size, maybe three times his size. He looks like a giant able to crush the boy with no effort. But the boy is able to use his weapon first. He has one shot, and one shot only. And it strikes true! The giant crumbles. And the boy will be remembered forever for his bravery.

What story did I just tell? Right, David and Goliath. But, I am really telling many stories. Because people love the David and Goliath story. We retell it so many ways. The idea of the weaker hero defeating the stronger, evil villain shows up in so many stories: Star Wars, the Lord of the Rings, the Harry Potter books, even the movie Roadhouse. But in real life, this story can be problematic. What if it is not so clear who is David and who is Goliath? What if this becomes fuzzy? Everyone wants to be David. No one wants to be considered Goliath.

We Jews are in a difficult position nowadays, particularly in regard to Israel. Israel is defined in a certain way by many of its opponents. The narrative they are telling about Israel is not the one we usually tell ourselves though. Actually, it may seem like it is from a different planet. This disconnection, though, has real ramifications as it makes it hard for us to use many of the arguments for supporting Israel that were helpful in the past. The narrative being used to define Israel, and us, as foreign as it may sound, affects our ability to be good, effective advocates. In this narrative, Israel is not David. Rather, it is considered Goliath.

Please understand that I surely do not agree with this narrative. If someone walks into the room while I am talking, and asks you why the rabbi is saying such nasty things about Israel, please tell them that I am only

relaying information and he or she does not have to walk out.

But I am going to ask you to take a brief, strange trip with me as I describe what is being said about us, about Israel. This is not pleasant, but please bear with me.

Many people now see Israel as a symbol of American power. They describe it as a symbol of colonialism, though it was not founded that way. It is also seen as a symbol of persecution and racism, and its society is compared to Apartheid in South Africa. And more generally, it is seen as a symbol of Western society as a whole, a West that is oppressive and is attempting to control the whole world.

Sabah A. Salih, in his article "Islamism, BDS, and the West," suggests that there has been an ideological shift going on in the West since the 1970's. This line of thought posits the West as a villain in world politics, particularly the United States. Together with Israel, the US is seen as trying to make the rest of the world like itself, to impose hegemony, especially in regions where Arabs and Muslims are in the majority. Israel is seen as a creation of colonialism and having a necessary role in this dirty effort. One supposed tool of this effort is economic: globalization. Another is even considered more devious, cultural imperialism, which is said to be colonizing, infecting and even wiping out non-Western cultures. According to Salih, this line of thought has moved into the center of how the West itself thinks about itself, and has allowed the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions against Israel Movement to thrive in the West. It has been promoted by television, newspapers, conferences, student organizations, and even high school and college discussions.

So, in the process Israel has come to be seen by many as a symbol of colonialism, US power, and a wider

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Unless otherwise noted, Erev Shabbat services regularly begin at **6:00pm on Friday evenings**, and Shabbat morning services regularly begin at **9:30am on Saturday mornings**.

For more information on a particular style of service or a full outline of worship opportunities, please see Tifereth Israel website (www.tifereth.org) or call the synagogue.

DECEMBER SHABBAT SERVICES

4-5 December | 23 Kislev

Shabbat Parashat Vayeishev

Candle Lighting: 4:25pm

Friday Evening: Traditional Shabbat

Saturday Morning: Traditional Shabbat

11-12 December | 30 Kislev

Shabbat Parashat Miketz

Rosh Chodesh Tevet– Day 1

Candle Lighting: 4:24pm

Friday Evening: Mishpacha Shabbat

*Saturday Morning: Traditional Shabbat,
Tot Shabbat, Children's Service,
Jr. Congregation*

18-19 December | 7 Tevet

Shabbat Parashat Vayigash

Candle Lighting: 4:26pm

Friday Evening: Accoustic Shabbat

Saturday Morning: Traditional Shabbat

25-26 December | 14 Tevet

Shabbat Parashat Veyechi

Candle Lighting: 4:30pm

Friday Evening: Traditional Shabbat

Saturday Morning: Traditional Shabbat

JANUARY SHABBAT SERVICES \

1-2 January | 21 Tevet

Shabbat Parashat Shemot

Candle Lighting: 4:35pm

Friday Evening: Traditional Shabbat

Saturday Morning: Traditional Shabbat

8-9 January | 28 Tevet

Shabbat Parashat Va-eira

Candle Lighting: 4:41pm

Friday Evening: Traditional Shabbat

Saturday Morning: Traditional Shabbat

15-16 January | 6 Shevat

Shabbat Parashat Bo

Candle Lighting: 4:49pm

Friday Evening: Traditional Shabbat

Saturday Morning: Traditional Shabbat

22-23 January | 13 Shevat

Shabbat Parashat Beshalach

Candle Lighting: 4:57pm

Friday Evening: Traditional Shabbat

Saturday Morning: Traditional Shabbat

29-30 January | 20 Shevat

Shabbat Parashat Yitro

Candle Lighting: 5:06pm

Friday Evening: Traditional Shabbat

Saturday Morning: Traditional Shabbat.

*Tot Shabbat, Children's Service,
Jr. Congregation*

Weekday Minyan Weekday Minyan is your opportunity to start your weekdays off davening! We hold regular minyanim on **Tuesdays at 7:15am**; however if it's a national holiday the time will be changed to **9:30am**. We are happy to arrange a minyan on other days by special request. By joining us in morning prayers, you also serve the community by showing support for congregants who are observing a yahrzeit for someone they love.

Are you interested in serving the community by being a minyan regular? Can we contact you when we have special requests to ensure a minyan is present, or on those occasions when an additional minyan is requested? If so, please contact the office and let us know.

Winter Weather Reminder Please remember that if the Des Moines schools cancel classes due to weather conditions, Tifereth offices will be closed and all activities will also be cancelled. You can also find cancellations posted on KCCI-TV.



FROM THE LAY CANTOR'S STUDIO: ADULT HEBREW & SERVICE STUDIES

I am now meeting with several members of the Tifereth community on Sundays, at both 3:00pm and 6:30pm, to work on Hebrew and service skills. These classes are open to anybody connected to the Tifereth community.

The end goal is for our adult members who have not yet celebrated their bar or bat mitzvahs to have that opportunity, although anybody who is interested in improving their Hebrew can attend, whether working toward a bar or bat mitzvah, just interested in enriching his or her ability to engage with traditional Jewish prayer, or even if still somewhere in the process of converting. This class is for you.

Our studies are currently focused on Biblical Hebrew, with an eye toward reading from the Torah and the Prophets, as well as engaging with our Siddur. In the Spring, we will transition into studying the Siddur itself to become better able to use it in services, whether simply to pray or to actually lead the congregation. Following that, we'll

start working on trope (the method of singing from the Torah scroll) for those who are interested in serving the community as readers or celebrating their bar or bat mitzvah.

If you are at all interested in any of these subjects, please let me know, and come by anytime on Sundays! I look forward to studying with you.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to those of you who were able to attend our first Acoustic Shabbat service on November 13th! We had an incredible time putting the music together and leading the congregation in singing the Shabbat prayers, and we're looking forward to sharing our next musical service with you. Mark your calendars now – we're planning on holding the next Acoustic Shabbat service on Friday, December 18th. Please come lift up your voice with us!

L'Shalom,
Patrick

Please join
Tifereth Israel Synagogue
for a
Hanukkah Celebration
Saturday, December 12th
6:30 to 9:00 pm
Valet Parking Available
Donations accepted to benefit Tifereth
The home of Lilianna & Jarad Bernstein
2923 Rutland Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa
 RSVP by December 7th to Tifereth
515-255-1137

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY:

BEING DEFINED BY OTHERS

Cont. from page 1

plan to destroy the culture of native groups, particularly in Arab and Muslim lands.

Please notice how different this is than how we often see ourselves, or at least how we learned about Israel when we were younger. It is part of the reason that older arguments for Israel are not resonating. We see ourselves as victims, but we are seen as the persecutors. We are seen as Goliath instead of David.

We see this play out when we start to look at which types of academics tend to support the BDS movement. Tammi Rossman-Benjamin did a study on this topic and found that vast majority of the 938 boycotting faculty that were included were in the Humanities and the Social Sciences. Can you guess which departments had the highest number of boycotters? English or literature at 21%. Rossman-Benjamin then compared the research interests of the English professors that had joined the boycott and those that had not. The ones that joined the boycott tended to have research interests around four themes: class, gender, race, and empire. Notice something about all four of these. Rossman-Benjamin suggests that all four view the world in a particular way. They divide people into the distinct categories of the oppressed and the oppressor. She believes that those academics who join the boycott are just applying this mental framework to Palestinians, who they see as the oppressed, and the Israelis, who they see as the oppressor. There is little room for nuance here. At the same time, these themes are also seen to have connections with the concept of "social justice." Scholars who work on them tend to blur the distinction between academics and activism.

So, Israel has come to stand for Western imperialism, an effort to conquer and control the rest of the world while devastating native cultures in the process. Our homeland is seen as a base of operations for a larger effort by the West to dominate other lands and cultures.

Of course, this depiction of Israel ignores the democratic nature of the country. It also pays no attention to the progressive elements of Israel, such as its free press, protection of women's rights, and support of gays and lesbians.

At the same time, it turns Israel into a symbol instead of something that is physically real. Let me explain what I mean by this. In general, throughout our history, we Jews been described in many ways and have been used as a symbols for many things. We have been defined as symbols of something else than just Jews and the religion of Judaism. In the book *Anti-Judaism: The Western Tradition*, David Nirenberg talks about the idea that thinkers in Western thought have continually over time used Jews and Judaism as a way of understanding their world. They do not necessarily draw from the ideas of Judaism, but use Jews as a symbol for an idea or a concept, usually a negative one.

For example, in the 1844 writing "On the Jewish Question" and other pieces, Karl Marx (himself Jewish) intervened in a heated debate about whether German Jews needed to convert to Christianity in order to be emancipated from legal disabilities and become citizens. Marx said that the wrong question was being asked. He argued that conversion could not emancipate the Jews of Germany or emancipate Germany of Judaism. To Marx, Judaism was not only a religion but an attitude: an attitude of spiritual slavery and alienation from the world. Furthermore, he argued that the God of Judaism is money. In the article, he essentially used Judaism as a code word for capitalism. Marx understood that some of basic economic concepts - such as money and property- were thought of in Christian culture as "Jewish," and that these things could potentially produce the "Jewishness" of those who used them, whether those users were Jewish or not. This was not a one-time event. Jews and Judaism have repeatedly served as a symbol of ideas and concepts that are not really part of Judaism. As I have already

MIDDLE EAST SPOTLIGHT FROM AIPAC

Our Modern Miracles

For thousands of years, Jews have been forced to confront innumerable enemies while alone, outnumbered, and overmatched in strength. Despite improbable odds, the Jewish people have persevered time and time again. The festival of Hanukkah commemorates a miracle from our past—the Maccabees who overcame a far-superior army to preserve their faith.

The observation of miracles is central to Jewish tradition. As the great philosopher, physician, and rabbi Moses Maimonides wrote, "A miracle cannot prove what is impossible. It is useful only to confirm what is possible." In 1902, Theodor Herzl envisioned a Jewish state in his book *Altneuland*, but there were formidable barriers to re-gathering the people of Israel. Less than a half century later, the birth of the modern state of Israel became a miracle in our time, fulfilling both biblical prophecy and over 1,900 years of Jewish hope to return to the land of our forefathers.

The survival of the nascent state prompted the first Prime Minister of Israel, David Ben-Gurion, to say in 1956, "In Israel, in order to be a realist you must believe in miracles." Today, we continue to see the state of Israel surrounded by enemies seeking its destruction. Along its northern border, terrorist groups including Hezbollah, the Islamic State (IS), and Jabhat al-Nusra are gaining strength. In the south, Hamas remains in firm control of Gaza and terrorists roam the Sinai Peninsula. And to the east, Iran is set to receive approximately one hundred billion dollars in sanctions relief that will further fuel its support for terrorism and regional destabilization.

But as the Middle East descends into chaos, the Jewish state does not have to face these threats alone. Today, Israel looks to the West and finds a trusted partner committed to its enduring security. It finds America ready and willing to send emergency funding for technologies like Iron Dome, which has saved countless lives by shooting down incoming rocket from Gaza. It finds our U.S. Congress ready and willing to provide \$3.1 billion annually for Israel's security, along with broad bipartisan support in response to Palestinian terrorism—even amid unprecedented political gridlock. And it finds in America a strategic ally committed to the common advancement of shared values—democracy, innovation, freedom and the betterment of the entire world.

The presence of a strong, steadfast American partnership is Israel's miracle in our time. As pro-Israel Americans, we bear the honor and responsibility of preserving this miracle and ensuring this vital relationship perseveres. For more information of on the U.S.-Israel relationship, please visit www.aipac.org

It is with great sorrow that we recall the recent passings of
Jerome (Jerry) Geller
Beloved husband of Barbara Geller
Martin Fritzler
Beloved father of Alex (Evelyn) Fritzler
Robert Harvey Siepmann
Beloved father of Stacey Siepmann
May their memory always be for a blessing

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the congregants who volunteered their time and energy to assist with our Shabbat services in November.

Greeters: **Harvey Giller, Jacob Lederman, Krista Pearl, Will Rogers**

Birthday Shabbat: **Peggy Altman, Jody Jacklin, Barbara Geller, Jacob Lederman, Rose Sloven, Steve Weiss**

Service Leaders: **Mara Egherman, Pnina Luban**

Gabbais: **Harvey Giller, Matthew Kirschner, Mike Kuperman, Pnina Luban, Stacey Siepmann**

Torah Readers: **David Friedgood, Stacey Siepmann, Rose Sloven**

Haftarah Readers: **Dorothy Stover**

A BIRTHDAY FOCUS FOR SHABBAT CAFE

For approximately ten years, Shabbat Café has been bringing together our community after Saturday morning services. It's a chance for congregants to sit and converse over a light lunch and often, celebrate a special occasion, such as a birthday or anniversary. Since its inception, many members have recognized their own life cycle events by sponsoring a Shabbat Café. There is now an even easier and more economical way for everyone to participate!

Members born in the same month will be invited to share the sponsorship of a Shabbat café. All members will be notified prior to their birthday and encouraged to join with others. Then the respondents will be assisted in their choice of date and in options for menu, setup, and cost for their month's birthday Shabbat Cafe. Let's celebrate together with our Tifereth Israel community!

REFUGEE RESOURCE CENTER INFORMATION

We open our doors at Tifereth every **Wednesday night from 6-8pm** to refugees seeking assistance, support, and advocacy. Many of the problems we help solve are everyday issues relating to health, education, and housing. Please consider stopping in Wednesday nights to volunteer, or just see for yourself the good work being done! Please contact **Rob Kupitz** at rkupitz@hotmail.com for more information or to volunteer.

"You too must love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." (Deuteronomy 10:19)

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

We continue to accession the generous donations from our members. Recent donors include **Ethel Norman, Jeff Duitch, Jonathan Yentis, and Mike Kuperman**, as well as anonymous donors. Chanukah books are available for families in the children's area and cookbooks in the Customs and Ceremonies section near the Children's Area for new ideas for your celebration. As always, the library is available whenever the building is open. MaryPaul and Rita are usually available on Wednesday mornings.

YOUTH AND YOUNG FAMILIES

TOT SHABBAT/CHILDREN'S SERVICE

Tot Shabbat and Children's Service will be meeting on **Saturday, December 12th at 10:30am**. Both programs provide an opportunity for parents and children to celebrate Shabbat together. Watch tifereth.org and your emails for updates on all youth programs and activities!

JUNIOR CONGREGATION

Junior Congregation, our Saturday supplement to the education offered by Beit Sefer Shalom, will meet this month on **Saturday, December 12th at 10:30am**.

Junior Congregation offers fun and interesting service experiences rooted in the traditions of the Conservative movement to kids in 4th through 6th grade.

UPCOMING YAD ACTIVITIES

Please plan to attend the following December YAD group activity:

Mishpacha Service, followed by YAD Hanukkah Celebration & Dinner

Friday, December 11th at 6:00pm

Watch for emails to come for more information on this event. If you are not on the YAD email list and would like to be, please contact Amanda at office@tifereth.org.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

This year's class focuses on "Not Just Stories: Bible for Adults." Teens grades 8-12 will receive confirmation after two years of participation. The rabbi is in touch with eligible families. We will meet on

Sunday, December 6th this month. Confirmation class is taught by **Rabbi Edelman-Blank**.

The Youth Program offers its thanks to the Larry and Suzanne Engman Fund for all of the support they have given to our youth programs this year!

MAZEL TOV

- Congratulations to **Margo Blumenthal** on her recent award by the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines as a "Sage Over Seventy" for her volunteerism and philanthropy to the Des Moines community. Margo and her husband, Don, have been longtime member-supporters of Tifereth Israel. In Margo's acceptance speech, she mentioned the lesson of Tikkun Olam...repairing the world. Yasher Koach, Margo.
- Mazel Tov to **Inessa Even**, daughter of **MaryPaul and the late Harvey L. Even**. She was married in New York City on the 24th of October to Scott Manziano. The couple lives and works in Manhattan.



Miller Introduction to Judaism Program

OF AMERICAN JEWISH UNIVERSITY

A learning experience for the mind, heart, and soul

Looking to convert to Judaism?

Born Jewish and want to know more?

Sharing your life with a Jew and want to crack the code?

Jew-Curious?

The Miller Introduction to Judaism Program at American Jewish University is the nation's pre-eminent center for welcoming and empowering those who seek to convert to Judaism and all others who wish to learn more and find a home in the Jewish community.

Our interactive, exciting courses explore Jewish history, practice, texts, and culture and are designed for anyone who seeks to live a richer Jewish life, including those contemplating conversion to Judaism.

We believe that Judaism has the power to transform lives, offer meaning, create community, and maybe even help save the world. Join us for an in-depth introduction to Judaism that will open your mind, heart, and soul.

Your journey begins here.

This class meets at Tifereth Israel Synagogue on Sundays, usually at 1:00pm.

Contact Rabbi Steven Edelman-Blank at 515-255-1137 or rabbiedelman-blank@tifereth.org for more information.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

TORAH FUND AND DUES

The 2015-16 Torah Fund Campaign goal is \$2,000. Women's League wishes to thank everyone that has already donated. Generous donations are greatly appreciated to support Jewish seminaries. Any questions, please call **Gwen Griger** at 537-1454.

*A note from **Rabbi Edelman-Blank**:* The Women's League Torah Fund helps subsidize the education of rabbinical students at both Conservative seminaries in America. Personally, I feel deeply indebted to Women's League for helping to make my training possible. Please help our synagogue's Women's League support this worthwhile cause.

The billing statements for Women's League dues has gone out. Please mail your \$36 dues to **Gwen Griger**, 7955 Wistful Drive Unit # 26 WDM, IA 50266. Please have your dues in by **December 15, 2015**.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Women's League Annual Latke Sale

Women's League is selling our delicious latkes for only \$8.50 per dozen!

Order yours today by calling

Louise Kaufmann at 480-9037 or Samantha Johnson at 238-4084



Name _____
of dozen _____
Phone Number _____



What happens when Tex-Mex meets the Maccabees?

You get a Southwest Hanukkah party!

Tifereth Israel Women's League

Invites you to join us as we kick off Hanukkah

Celebrating with our annual Latke Lunch and Mexican

Taco Buffet with all the fixings!

Sunday, December 6 at 12:30 in the Tifereth Israel Social Hall

\$10 per person, Children under 12 \$5, Under 3 years old are free

Our Gift Shop will be open for all your Hanukkah needs! Bring this ad with you for a 10% discount on select items today only!

candles and candy are excluded from the sale

RSVP to Louise Kaufmann at 480-9037 by Wednesday, December 3rd



Let's play Mah Jongg!

We had so much fun at our successful Mah Jongg Night in November

that we want to play again!

Tifereth Israel Women's League presents:

Mah Jongg Night

Tuesday, December 29th at 7:00 p.m. in the Tifereth Israel Social Hall.

Experienced players will walk through the game with the newbies,

while those who already play can jump right in.

Is Mah Jongg not your game? No problem! Feel free to bring a deck of cards

or another game to play with others.

Feel free to bring your own wine or other adult beverage to enjoy.

Snacks will be provided.

All are welcome!

Please bring two non-perishable items to donate to the Food Pantry or \$5

Please RSVP to Samantha Johnson at 515-238-4084 or rsljohn@msn.com

Raise your voice in song at an

Acoustic Shabbat Service

led by

Lay Cantor Patrick Courtney

and guitarists Nels Dovre, Mara Egberman, and Danny Klass

Friday, December 18, 2015 at 6:00pm

in the Tifereth Israel sanctuary

"Who sings in this world, will also sing in the next."

-- Talmud, Sanhedrin

TIFERETH GARDEN NEWS

Sunday, November 8th was “put the garden to bed for the winter” day. That meant ripping out dead plants, removing netting, plant stakes and tomato cages, and storing the hoses and garden bench in the basement. **MaryPaul Even, Margie Koslow, Matt Matijevich, Maizy Mintzer, Michael Mintzer, and Peggy Altman** completed the job in an hour.

Please note that collard, kale and Swiss chard plants and several herbs are still in the beds and producing! If we have a mild winter, the collard and kale plants may continue all season. Please help yourself if you would enjoy them.

A couple of the raised beds will need new material to replace the wooden walls next season and the committee will need to assess options and costs. Your ideas are welcome. Please watch for garden planning meetings in late winter for the 2016 season!

OCTOBER SHELTER DINNER

Tifereth's kitchen was full of activity on Sunday, October 25th when volunteers cooked dinner for the New Directions for Women homeless shelter on Grand. The individuals who donated food and/or cooked the meal that day were: **Andi Duitch, Judy Gregerson, Maggie Matijevich, Margo Nechtow, Ethel Norman, Maddie Schoen, Nancy Waldman and Peggy Altman**. Also, **Cora Matijevich** and **Helena Nechtow** helped their mothers with cooking that day by measuring and stirring the brownie batter (and licking the bowl and spoon afterwards)! The meal was ready in less than two hours for delivery to the shelter for the mothers and their children to enjoy.

Have a couple hours to spare for this worthwhile cause that the Tikkun Olam committee sponsors every other month? Next date will be **December 20th**. Watch for reminders and let the office know you are available so you can be contacted by a committee member for participation.

Have you checked out the Gift Shop lately?

Hanukkah is early this year, and we have everything you need from wrapping paper and gelt to menorahs!

Visit the Gift Shop any time the synagogue is open and the office can assist you with your purchase.



ADULT EDUCATION

MINCHAH MEDITATION & DISCUSSION GROUP

Come participate in a meaningful Shabbat experience on Saturday afternoons!!! We meet **Saturdays at 12:30pm** (following Shabbat Café) for an hour-long exploration of heartfelt Jewish meditation, followed by a thought-provoking **study and discussion group from 1:30-3:30pm**. Please consider yourself invited, whether you're already a regular Saturday attendee, you have enjoyed our High Holiday Alternative Services, or even if you don't often attend because you have trouble connecting with the traditional liturgy. Everyone is welcome – members, visitors, and first-time guests, Jews and non-Jews, young and young-at-heart, and those who think of themselves as “spiritual but not religious.” Come as you are, whether for lunch, meditation, discussion or all three! If you'd like to know more, please contact **Patrick Courtney** in the synagogue office, or just drop by any Saturday.

MILLER INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM PROGRAM

This class covers fundamental elements of the Jewish religion. It is particularly designed for individuals interested in converting to Judaism, but is also appropriate for anyone who would like to learn more about the tradition. Please contact **Rabbi Edelman-Blank** if you would like more information. This class usually meets Sundays at 1:00pm.

JEWISH WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

Following is the final book and host for the year.

Thursday, December 10th, 6:30pm Nancy Waldman. *Henna House* by Nomi Eve

STEP: SUNDAY TORAH EDUCATION PROGRAM

STEP's ongoing study of the Hebrew Bible has transitioned into an examination of the context of the development of the Bible and other texts. The discussion meets **Sundays at 10:00am** (except on holidays) in the Tifereth Israel Classroom. Feel free to stop in anytime; there's always a fresh pot of coffee and something sweet to eat! STEP is moderated by **Mike Kuperman**.

EREV NASHIM

Erev Nashim is Women's Night out! Purely social. Please join us for December dinner.

Wednesday, December 9, 6:30pm- Django-210 10th Street, DM
RSVP to **Jody Hramits** at Hramits@aol.com

ADULT HEBREW

This group meets **Sundays at 3pm and 6:30pm**; see Patrick's article on page 3 for more information.

DONATIONS: OCTOBER 19—NOVEMBER 13

Building Today and Tomorrow Fund

Robbie and Marvin Winick
In Honor of Margo Blumenthal
“Sages Over 70” Award
Recovery of Brad Long
Recovery of Harriet Pidgeon
Recovery of Roselind Rabinowitz
In Memory of Helen Weinstein

Louis and Dorothy Pomerantz Camp Ramah Scholarship Fund

Barb Berven
Recovery of Roselind Rabinowitz
Roselind and Sheldon Rabinowitz
In Honor of Jeanne Levitt’s Birthday
In Honor of Kay Myers’ Birthday
Recovery of Michael Leener
In Memory of Rabbi Marshall Maltzman
In Memory of Helen K. Weinstein

Rissman Children’s Book Fund

Mary and Roger Andersen
In Memory of Jerry Geller
Carol and James Herrig
In Memory of Jerry Geller
Layna and Tom Larson
In Memory of Jerry Geller
Jeanelle and Richard Maynard
In Memory of Jerry Geller
Nancy Waldman
In Memory of Martin Fritzier
Peggy and Bart Warford
In Memory of Jerry Geller
Joann Wilson
In Memory of Jerry Geller

College Scholarship Fund

Jody and Todd Jacklin
In Memory of Jerry Geller
In Memory of Naomi Goldford
In Memory of Mildred Kaufman

General Fund

Richard Ansher
In Memory of Dorothy Diamondstone
Kathy Elsner and Steven Adelman
In Memory of Sheldon “Buddy” Adelman
Isadore Berman
In Memory of Ida Berman
Barb Berven
In Memory of Jerry Geller
Julie and Brian Burton
In Memory of Rose Neiman
Beverly Ellis
In Memory of Jerry Geller
Suzanne and Larry Engman
In Memory of Irving Cohn

General Fund Cont.

Sharon and Josh Engman
In Memory of Jerry Geller
In Memory of Carl Wiggins
Gary Epstein
In Memory of Joseph Epstein
Judy and Larry Feldman
In Memory of Ethel Matulef
Deborah Gitchell
In Honor of Kay Myers’s Birthday
Sally Gottstein
In Honor of Kay Myers’s Birthday
Gwen and Harry Griger
In Memory of Jerry Geller
Susie and Josh Kimelman
In Honor of Kay Myers’s Birthday
Michael Kuperman
In Honor of Kay Myers’s Birthday
In Memory of Martin Fritzier
Christina and Jacob Lederman
In Honor of the Pearl’s Awesomeness
In Memory of Meyer S. Lederman
Barbara and David Lettween
In Memory of Max Lettween
Karen and Labe Mendelsohn, Jr.
In Memory of Eva Mendelsohn
Sally Nagorner
In Memory of Jerry Geller
Lorraine Neiman
In Memory of Rose Neiman
Linda Podolsky
In Memory of Ben Beckerman
Rose Lee Pomerantz
In Memory of Isadore Lipsey
In Memory of Larry Pidgeon
In Memory of Helen K. Weinstein
Frances Rosen
In Memory of Minnie Rimmerman
Simma and Michael Stein
In Memory of Martin Fritzier
In Memory of Jerry Geller

Marcovis Youth Fund

Shirlee and Jim Marcovis
In Honor of Jeanne Levitt’s Birthday
In Honor of Michael Lipsman’s
Birthday
In Honor of Kay Myers’s Birthday
In Good Health to Judy Blank
In Good Health to Harriet Pidgeon
In Good Health to Beth Waldinger
In Memory of Jerry Geller

David D. Pidgeon Book Fund

Zona and Barry Pidgeon
Recovery of Harriet Pidgeon
In Memory of Larry Pidgeon

DONATIONS: OCTOBER 19—NOVEMBER 13

Prayer Book Fund

Ronit and Dana Simon
In Honor of Kay Myers's 80th Birthday
In Memory of Martin Fritzier

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

MaryPaul Even
In Memory of Jerry Geller
Simma and Michael Stein
In Memory of Bernard Stein

Elizabeth Sherman Shabbat Café Fund

Peggy and Phil Paget
In Honor of Granddaughter
Anya Alizabeth Paget
Maddie and Don Schoen
In Memory of Jerry Geller
Nancy Waldman
In Memory of Jerry Geller

Harry Simon Fund

Andi, Bob, Jeff and Marni Duitch
In Honor of Barbara & David Lettween's
Grandson's Birth
Recovery of Harriet Pidgeon
Recovery of Charlotte Raush
In Memory of Louise Duitch
In Memory of Jerry Geller

Harry Simon Fund

Andi, Bob, Jeff, and Marni Duitch
In Memory of Rabbi Marshall Maltzman
In Memory of Cal Wiggins
Vicki Givant
Recovery of Judy Blank
Recovery of Beth Waldinger
In Memory of Jerry Geller
In Memory of Helen K. Weinstein
Sally and Carl Harris
In Memory of Cal Wiggins
Suzann Simon
In Memory of Jerry Geller
In Memory of Rabbi Marshall Maltzman
In Memory of Helen Weinstein
In Memory of Cal Wiggins

Spiro Music Fund

Patrick and Kara Courtney
In Appreciation of the
Friedgood and Homonoff families
Lora Lee Spiro
In Memory of Jerry Geller
In Memory of Max Port
In Memory of Rose Port
In Memory of Cantor Pinchas Spiro
Nancy Waldman
Recovery of Lora Lee Spiro

Tifereth Israel Synagogue families and friends who wish to remember their loved ones throughout the year may make contributions to any of our funds listed below.

General Fund
Brody Youth Fund
Building Endowment Fund
Building Revitalization Fund
Cantor's Discretionary Fund
Library Fund
Gendler Lecture Fund
Stanley Isaacson Torah Fund
Marcovis Youth Fund
David D. Pidgeon Book Fund
Louis and Dorothy Pomerantz Camp Ramah
Scholarship Fund

Prayer Book Fund
Program Endowment Fund
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Rosenthal Memorial Fund
Ruth Rissman Children's Book Fund
Elizabeth Sherman Shabbat Café Fund
Harry Simon Memorial Fund
Spiro Music Endowment Fund
Tifereth Israel Foundation
Tikkun Olam / Garden Fund
Women's League
YAD Group

If you are planning to make dues or Today and Tomorrow payments in December to be credited to your account for 2015 tax purposes, all checks must be dated no later than December 31, 2015, and received in the office by January 10, 2016.

If you are planning to do a stock transfer, please contact Barb, as we have changed accounts and we want to guarantee your payment is received and appropriately applied to your account. Also, it is very helpful to let us know when you are transferring stock. Occasionally, we receive stock transfers with no name attached. We have 1 stock transfer with no name on it. If you have already made a stock transaction, please call Barb to make sure that it has been credited to your account.

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY:

BEING DEFINED BY OTHERS

Cont. from page 4

mentioned, we have been seen as symbols of capitalism. Nirenberg states that he cannot think of any financial innovation, practice, or crisis that was not discussed in terms of Judaism in the 19th and early 20th century. But we have also been symbols of communism. In early 20th century philosophy, there was stigmatization of abstract, logical, or allegedly hyper-rational thought, which was referred to as "Jewish." Psychoanalysis was also considered "Jewish."

So it is happening again, with Israel serving as a symbol of awful things regardless if they match or not. On a practical level, how do we defend against this depiction of Israel? The way is by defining ourselves instead of allowing others to define us. Demonstrating that Israel is a real, breathing country like any other one. That Israelis are not a symbol but are real, live breathing people, like everyone else. Israel is a country like other countries. We need to point out that having disagreements with the policies of a country, and feeling they are illegitimate can be done without saying the country is illegitimate. Let me repeat that. We need to point out that having disagreements with the policies of a country, and feeling they are illegitimate can be done without saying the country is illegitimate. We can explain that Israel has important problems and deficiencies, but a lot is right about Israel.

But even more than taking that approach, we need to remind people about the story of Israel. The moral of the story is that the state of Israel helped save the people of Israel. In the process, we need to make Israel a David again instead of the Goliath it is seen as now. We need to remind others that Israel is an underdog on steroids. That it does not have the power of an empire. That it is a small, lonely people, surrounded by enemies. With morality in its DNA. Zionism throughout most of its history has associated itself with justice. It had a sense of both realism and morality. And it was not all about power politics. We can still emphasize that it is not all about power politics, regardless of what we think of the actions of particular leaders.

Essentially, we can counter others defining us by defining ourselves instead. We can stop others from making us into a Goliath. We can talk about the reality of the state in opposition to the way it is described by its enemies. Perhaps, this will help prevent some of the spreading of the negative depiction of Israel as a symbol of oppression and stem the flow of people attracted to the BDS movement and other anti-Semitic efforts.

I have been talking about self-definition in regard to Israel today. Tomorrow, we will talk more about this process of self-definition, but we will shift our focus to our own community. We will discuss our current opportunity, and it is a great opportunity, to say who we are and for what we stand.

Shanah Tovah!

Rabbi Edelman-Blank

Attention Snow Birds

If you will be leaving town for the winter, please check in with the office to let us know the dates you will be gone and to double check that we have your correct address on file. Thank you!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

December 1 Sheya Finkelstein Jessica Harrington	December 11 Eli Frankel	December 22 Leonid Resh
December 2 Albert Mintzer Tanya Shoykhet	December 12 Samuel Engman David Greenspon	December 23 Anya Finkelshteyn Harlan Rosenberg
December 3 Allan Rovner	December 13 David Hurkin Bernard Levine	December 24 Grant Oxer
December 4 Adi Hazan Alicia Herzog	December 14 Shelley Kitsis	December 25 Anders Dietz- Swenson Jared Levy Jeffrey Marcovis Michael Marcovis Marcie Morrison
December 5 Marilyn Nussbaum	December 15 Moshe Feeley Ariel Simon	December 26 Maggie Matijevich
December 6 Matthew Homonoff	December 18 Lorraine Neiman	December 27 Lindsey Johnson Aaron Rosenberg Tatiana Shcharansky
December 7 Jeanette Rosen Rose Toubes	December 19 Mindy Bell Josh Waltman	December 28 Robert Singer
December 8 Tanya Keith Charlotte Raush	December 20 Sandra Pomerantz- Reed George Shcharansky Abigail Wahlig Alexander Wieczner	December 30 Benjamin Adelman
December 9 Barbara Lettween	December 21 Roger Hon	December 31 Blaine Bookey
December 10 Sophie Homonoff Cynthia Shulman		

HAPPY DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 11 Wendi Harris & Stuart Oxer	Dec 21 Laurie & Joe Wahlig
Dec 14 Heidi Schneider & Joel Mintzer	Dec 29 Vicki & Alan Givant
Dec 15 Maria & Mikhail Mendeleev	Dec 30 Vera & Gennady Aginsky
Dec 17 Toni & Tim Urban	Dec 31 Maggie & Matt Matijevich
Dec 18 Robin & Phillip Bear Allyson & Scott Reister	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:





January 2	Jill Cantor	January 14	Deirdre Farr Jacob Goldstein Maria Hay Rachel Sandler	January 23	Andrew Giller Helena Nechtow Hannah Rogers
January 3	Wendi Harris Charles Lipman	January 15	Adam Kaplan	January 24	Allison Ohringer
January 4	Louise Kaufmann	January 16	Benjamin Hockenberg Harriet Pidgeon	January 25	Jeff Farber Kelsey Kupitz
January 5	Pauline Altman Ayal Naggar Elisabeth Pusin Will Rogers	January 17	Chelsea Bear Andrew Goodman	January 27	Vera Aginsky Molly Bremen
January 7	Jacob Fuller	January 19	Alexsey Resh	January 28	Tania Kac
January 9	Allison Engman Bevin Fritz-Waters Elijah Huisman	January 20	Paige Blair Roselind Rabinowitz	January 29	Brian Pearl
January 10	Ron Feder Noa Kaufman Mark Levitt	January 21	Aaron Beckerman Rian Bevan Laurie Wahlig	January 30	Mark Baresh Lois Brown Julie Burton David Hadenfeldt
January 13	Sahrah Feeley	January 22	Phyllis Friedman	January 31	Miriam Copeland Ron Rosenblatt

HAPPY JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- Jan. 1 Linda & Bob Carpenter
- Jan. 3 Ellen & Matthew Kirschner
- Jan. 12 Shari & Stanley Engman
- Jan. 17 Eleonora & Alexsey Resh
- Jan. 31 Annie & Ayal Naggar






December 2015 / Kislev—Tevet 5776

Calendar subject to change

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1 19 Kislev Morning Minyan 7:15am	2 20 Kislev	3 21 Kislev	4 22 Kislev Evening Services 6:00pm  4:25pm	5 23 Kislev Morning Services 9:30 Shabbat Café 11:30am Havdalah 5:30pm
6 24 Kislev STEP 10:00am Miller Program 1:00pm Women's League Latke Luncheon 12:30pm Confirmation class 5:00pm Adult Hebrew 3 & 6:30	7 25 Kislev Chanukah Day 1	8 26 Kislev Morning Minyan 7:15am Chanukah Day 2	9 27 Kislev Chanukah Day 3 Refugee Resource Center 6-8pm	10 28 Kislev Bulletin Deadline Chanukah Day 4 Jewish Women's Book Group 6:30pm	11 29 Kislev Chanukah Day 5 Michpacha Services 6:00pm YAD Chanukah Celebration 7:00pm  4:24pm	12 30 Kislev Morning Services 9:30 Tot Shabbat, Child's Service Jr. Cong. 10:30 Shabbat Café 11:30am Minchah Med & Study Hanukkah Party 6:30pm Chanukah Day 6
13 1 Tevet STEP 10:00am Miller Program 1:00pm Chanukah Day 7 Adult Hebrew 3 & 6:30	14 2 Tevet Chanukah Day 8	15 3 Tevet Morning Minyan 7:15am	16 4 Tevet Refugee Resource Center 6-8pm	17 5 Tevet	18 6 Tevet Acoustic Shabbat 6:00pm  4:26pm	19 7 Tevet Morning Services 9:30 Shabbat Café 11:30am Minchah Meditation & Study 12:30pm
20 8 Tevet STEP 10:00am Miller Program 1:00pm Shelter Dinner 2:00pm Adult Hebrew 3 & 6:30	21 9 Tevet	22 10 Tevet Morning Minyan 7:15am	23 11 Tevet Refugee Resource Center 6-8pm	24 12 Tevet	25 13 Tevet Evening Services 6:00pm  4:30pm	26 14 Tevet Morning Services 9:30 Shabbat Café 11:30am Minchah Meditation & Study 12:30pm
27 15 Tevet STEP 10:00am Miller Program 1:00pm	28 16 Tevet	29 17 Tevet Morning Minyan 7:15am Mah Jongg Night 7:00pm	30 18 Tevet Refugee Resource Center 6-8pm	31 19 Tevet		

January 2016 / Tevet—Shevat 5776

Calendar subject to change

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 New Years Day Office Closed Evening Services 6:00pm  4:35pm	2 Morning Services 9:30 Shabbat Café 11:30am Minchah Meditation & Study 12:30pm
3 STEP 10:00am Miller Program 1:00pm Adult Hebrew 3 & 6:30	4 23 Tevet	5 24 Tevet Morning Minyan 7:15am	6 25 Tevet Refugee Resource Center 6-8pm	7 26 Tevet	8 27 Tevet Evening Services 6:00pm  4:41pm	9 28 Tevet Morning Services 9:30 Shabbat Café 11:30am Minchah Meditation & Study 12:30pm YAD Havdalah Potluck & Disco 6pm
10 STEP 10:00am Miller Program 1:00pm Confirmation class 5:00pm Adult Hebrew 3 & 6:30	11 1 Shevat Bulletin Deadline	12 2 Shevat Morning Minyan 7:15am	13 3 Shevat Refugee Resource Center 6-8pm	14 4 Shevat	15 5 Shevat Evening Services 6:00pm  4:49pm	16 6 Shevat Morning Services 9:30 Shabbat Café 11:30am Minchah Meditation & Study 12:30pm
17 STEP 10:00am Miller Program 1:00pm Adult Hebrew 3 & 6:30	18 8 Shevat	19 9 Shevat Morning Minyan 7:15am	20 10 Shevat Refugee Resource Center 6-8pm	21 11 Shevat	22 12 Shevat Evening Services 6:00pm  4:27pm	23 13 Shevat Morning Services 9:30 Shabbat Café 11:30am Minchah Meditation & Study 12:30pm
24 STEP 10:00am Miller Program 1:00pm <small>Check the website for more activities</small>	25 15 Shevat Board Meeting 6pm	26 16 Shevat Morning Minyan 7:15am	27 17 Shevat Refugee Resource center 6-9pm	28 18 Shevat	29 19 Shevat Evening Services 6:00pm  5:06pm	30 20 Shevat Morning Services 9:30 Shabbat Café 11:30am Minchah Meditation & Study 12:30pm Tot Shabbat, Children's Service, Jr. Cong, 10:30
31 STEP 10:00am Adult Hebrew 3 & 6:30						

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday* 9:00am—5:00pm
Friday 9:00am—3:00pm
*Closed Monday through Thursday from 12:30pm—1:30pm

*The Rabbi is usually in the building except Mondays.
Please feel free to call the office and set up an appointment.*

STAFF

Rabbi Steven Edelman-Blank:
rabbiedelman-blank@tifereth.org
Patrick Courtney, Lay Cantor
patrick.courtney@tifereth.org
Deirdre Farr, Cantorial Soloist
Pinchas Spiro z”l, Cantor Emeritus
Barbara Berven, Executive Director:
barb.berven@tifereth.org
Amanda Wilcox, Administrative Assistant:
office@tifereth.org
Raizel Small, Youth Director

TIFERETH BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Phil Bear & Harvey Giller, Co-Presidents
Will Rogers, 1st Vice President
Jacob Lederman, Treasurer
Jarad Bernstein, Secretary

GIFT SHOP HOURS

Sunday 9:00am—12:00pm
Wednesday 9:30am—12:00pm
*Also open during office hours

LIBRARIAN HOURS

Wednesdays 9:00am - 11:00am

“We strive to enrich our cultural and spiritual lives as Jews by connecting with our community, the traditions of our People, Israel, and with God”

Tifereth on the Web:

www.tifereth.org | www.facebook.com/tiferethdesmoines

Address Service Requested

924 Polk Boulevard
Des Moines, IA 50312
Phone: 515-255-1137

Tifereth Israel Synagogue
Your Spiritual Home

