



Hakol
הקול 'The Voice'

The Judaism of Discomfort: Social Action – Thoughts from Rabbi Paul Citrin

Editor's Note:

The following is reprinted from "Ten Sheaves: Collected Sermons, Articles and Addresses" by Paul J. Citrin.

As you read, please substitute "community" for "congregation", "members" for "congregants" and "TJC" for "temple". Please also note that the TJC Board of Directors is not referenced in this article.

The Judaism of Discomfort: Social Action

There is probably no theme stronger in Judaism than the call for us to be responsible individuals for as our tradition teaches, there can be no innocence in the presence of depravity, no silence in the face of evil.

Social Justice from the Bimah

Recently a trustee of the congregation who is also a member of the Personnel Committee made a statement to me of approximately these words: Your sermons are too political. We have a number of members who are politically conservative, and they feel you're pushing your own political agenda. You should keep in mind the best interests of the temple when considering what you will address in your sermons.

Some congregants will agree with the trustee's statement, others will not, but in either case, I want you to know my position on addressing contemporary issues. These are the components of my approach: I neither advocate nor denigrate from the bimah a candidate, an official, or a political party. I address issues from a basis of 3,500 years of Jewish ethics and values, not from the platform of a political party.

Judaism is not merely a tradition of belief, prayer, and holiday observance. Judaism's focus and vision aim at the creation of just, righteous and peaceful social relations. These values are to be established in the family, in the community, and ultimately among the nations. The Prophets of Israel, from Elijah and Isaiah to Amos and Malachi, believed that Judaism without social ethics is an empty shell, a mockery of Israel's covenant with God. I am deeply influenced by their view of Judaism. I assent to the truth of their understanding.

The ethical tradition of Judaism goes far beyond platitudes. It provides rules about caring for the poor and the disenfranchised. Judaism teaches consistently the value of persons over property, of truth-telling over spin, of diversity of thought over dogmatism, of peace as a supreme value while recognizing the obligation of self-defense. These, among

cont'd on page 9

High Holy Day Schedule * *The TJC welcomes Rabbi Paul Citrin for the High Holiday Services for the second year.*

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 24

7:00 pm Doors Open

7:30 pm Evening Service with Torah Dedication followed by Kiddush

Rosh Hashanah - First Day

Thursday, September 25

9:00 – 9:45 am Children and Family Service

10:00 – 12:30 pm Morning Service *

12:30 – 12:45 pm Kiddush with Apples and Honey

1:00 pm Pot Luck Lunch



Rosh Hashanah Second Day

Friday, September 26

8:30 – 10:00 am Hike the Yerba Trail on the Taos Ski Valley Road**

9:30 – 10:30 am Bagels, Coffee and Tea served at the Amizette Inn

10:30 – 12:00 pm Morning Service at the Amizette Inn followed by Tashlikh

12:00 pm Lunch at the Amizette Inn

Yom Kippur

Erev Yom Kippur /Kol Nidrei

Friday, October 3

7:00 pm Doors Open

7:30 pm Evening Service

Yom Kippur

Saturday, October 4

9:00 – 9:45 am Children and Family Service

10:00 – 12:30 pm Morning Service *

2:30 – 3:45 pm Torah Study and Discussion with Rabbi Paul Citrin

4:00 – 5:30 pm Afternoon Service

5:30 – 6:30 pm Yizkor Service

6:30 – 7:15 pm Ne'ilah

7:15 – 7:30 pm Havdalah

7:30 pm Break the Fast – Pot Luck, All are Welcome!

*Child Care available First day of Rosh Hashana; and Yom Kippur morning service.

**Hike in the Taos Ski Valley Directions available.

HaKol

is the voice of the Taos Jewish community and its friends, published quarterly by the Taos Jewish Center.

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TAOS JEWISH CENTER is dedicated to fostering a positive Jewish identity by providing programs and services that enrich the lives of the people it serves in Northern New Mexico. The Center is open to all who wish to explore and participate in these experiences that reflect and incorporate Jewish ethics, culture, and observances.

Board of Directors:

Gary Atias, President
Jude Goldman Núñez Vice President
Judy Kasper, Treasurer
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The Taos Jewish Center is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of New Mexico.

Editor's Message

Dear TJC Family,

I have been honored to be your HaKol Editor. Putting out an issue of HaKol is a team effort and I want to let you know, we are all volunteering our creative energy and time to keep the TJC newsletter going. Please read the acknowledgements and contributor list in each issue, and thank our dedicated team.

I am also responsible for sending the group email messages and reminders out to our members and supporters. It's a little bit lonely, since there is rarely, if ever, any feedback or replies to our newsletter or our email messages. I encourage you to email me at tjchakol@gmail.com. All news, comments and kudos will be considered for publication. Let me know what you wish to share. I look forward to hearing from you. ■

May I wish each of you a sweet New Year!

L'shanah tovah tikatev v'taihatem!

Jude Goldman Núñez, HaKol Editor



High Holy Days 2013 / 5773-4



President of the Board of Directors Message

Dear TJC Community,

As preparations for the High Holidays commence, I am struck by how quickly the last year seemed to pass. As expected, it was a year of both joys and sorrows. I am grateful to be part of a community that has supported me through all of these times. The bonds I have formed with so many of you are a source of great comfort and inspiration. I look forward to nurturing those bonds and strengthening my relationships with you during my remaining years in Taos.

As you've already heard, I will not be spending the rest of my life on the TJC Board. While my presidency has been extended to January, 2016; my ten years on the Board will still come to an end in June, 2016. This will still allow a five month transition period with the incoming president. If no one is willing to be the next president, and no one else is willing to join the Board, the Taos Jewish Center will be forced to close.

However, I don't believe that we will close. The TJC means so much to so many people that I have faith that some person or persons will step forward. I've witnessed on several occasions people coming back to the TJC in times of need; be it for a Rabbi or just a sacred space. However, we cannot sustain the TJC if a significant part of our community ignores us until they are in need. The risk, of course, is that the TJC will not be there when the need arises. A caring community must ensure that a unifying force such as the TJC is sustained for the common good. You may never be a person who someday needs the TJC, but if we really are a community, how can we not strive to be there for our friends who do?

We do not agree among ourselves on everything and we never will. Yet I believe that every one of you is important to our community in spite of our differences. We live in very polarized times. We've seen how this polarization prevents this country from being governed effectively and rationally. Let us not embrace the forces that drive us apart, but those which bring us closer together. That's simply what a caring community does.

In case you haven't heard, the TJC is doing fine financially and we have a very workable business model going forward. We will, however, always depend on your generosity of money and/or time to be successful. We always have the choice of being part of the problem or part of the solution. Let's come together and reach our full potential as a community! Please accept my sincere wishes for a healthy, prosperous and sweet 5775. I look forward to seeing you at Services. ■

Sincerely,

— Gary Atias, President of the Board of Directors



*My desire to be well informed is currently at odds
with my desire to remain sane.*

Inside This Issue

Thoughts From Rabbi Paul Citrin	1
High Holy Day Schedule	1
Editor's Message	2
President's Message	3
Program Committee Chair Update	4
Cultures of the Diaspora	5
What the TJC Means to Me	5
Ongoing Activities	6
Upcoming Events	7
TJC Shabbat Family School	8
Teshuvah	8
Tot Shabbat	9
Yahrzeit Listing	10
Our Sponsors	11

Hakol Submissions

We are a Jewish quarterly journal of local news, commentary and activities. Our deadlines are the 25th of October, January, April and July.

Letters to the Editors should be 300 words or less, and essays such as memoir, Jewish travel and commentary between 300-500 words. We prefer documents in Word format, please do not add extra formatting.

Please e-mail your submissions to tjc@newmex.com. If you need to mail us something, please address it to Hakol, 1335 Gusdorf Rd., Suite R, Taos, NM 87571. We reserve the right to edit and publish at our discretion.

Hakol Subscriptions

Hakol is printed quarterly and is available in its entirety on the Taos Jewish Center's website at www.taosjewishcenter.org.

Members of the Taos Jewish Center receive the printed version of Hakol at no charge via US mail.

Non-members may subscribe to the printed version of Hakol for \$36 a year. Please make checks payable to Taos Jewish Center and write Hakol in the memo line. Send check to TJC, 1335 Gusdorf Rd., Suite R, Taos, NM 87571.

If you have any questions please contact the TJC at 575 758-8615 for assistance.

News from the Program Committee

Marianne Furedi

Much as this summer is bringing our gardens to exuberant bloom so our programming committee's plans for the coming months are bringing ways to share new, broadening experiences. We've laughed, been inspired, and waxed nostalgic watching recently screened movies and are looking forward to even wider appeal with *Yoo Hoo Mrs. Goldberg*, a documentary about the life and career of Gertrude Berg, the creator of the extraordinarily popular radio program *The Rise of the Goldbergs* and the television sit-com *The Goldbergs* in August and *Defiant Requiem: Voices of Resistance*, "... the story of an artistic uprising in the Nazi concentration camp, Terezin, where a chorus of 150 inmates confronts the Nazis face-to-face—and sings to them what they dare not say" (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2401005/>) in October.

On September 7th from 3:00 to 5:00 we will resume our Sunday Afternoon Tea and Conversation programs with the first in our *Cultures of the Diaspora* series. Gabe Weinstein will share his experience with and knowledge of Jewish communities in India. We're planning to offer some Jewish-Indian specialties for the "Tea" component of the program.

[Note: We welcome and would support exploration and/or sharing experiences, information, research into other cultures of the diaspora—Tell us about your interests.]

Our Book Group meets on September 8th to compile our reading list for the next cycle. Please bring titles of books you are recommending (and have read at least ¼ way through). Last year this was a very interesting and fun meeting. We meet at 11:30 for a brown-bag lunch (and social catching-up) and commence with our book agenda at 12:15. Please check the TJC website calendar listing for possible changes of time/venue.

In October, publisher Ron Hart of Gaon Books and Gloria Abella Ballon, author and artist will bring *The Power of the Hebrew Alphabet* to the Taos Jewish Center.

According to the Gaon website this book "is a fusion between mysticism, art, and Jewish spiritual traditions. Abella Ballen leads the viewer through the maze of twenty-two letters that changed the world. The letters brought us the stories of Abraham, Moses, and the Ten Commandments. The lyrical images of Abella Ballen spread across the pages in full color filled with insight into religious truths drawn from the well of Jewish traditions."

We look forward to meeting author and artist and being introduced to her work. There will be an eBlast as well as TJC calendar listing on our website to inform you of the date of the presentation.

On Saturday, November 15th the TJC will host an evening program on Crypto-Jewish Life in collaboration with our own Taosena Anita Rodriguez, and Hershel Weiss of Nahalat Shalom, Albuquerque. The program will feature Rabbi Jordi Gendra-Molina, a native of Barcelona with Converso history, Maria Apodaca, one of New Mexico's Anusim, and an art show of Anita's work. The program will also include Havdallah.

(Rabbi Gendra was the featured guest at last year's Festival Djudeo-Espanyol. He was so enthusiastically received, that he was brought back for a five-day residency at Nahalat Shalom.)

December will bring the annual Peace Chanukah on Wednesday the 16th at St. James Church, and the TJC Chanukah Party (for children and adults) on Sunday the 21st. The Chanukah Party will also feature a "Latke Cook-off and Recipe Exchange." ■

Please keep in touch with comments, suggestions, and questions.

Marianne
mfuredi@gmail.com



Cultures of the Diaspora

Presented by Gabe Weinstein, Sunday, September 7, 3:00 – 5:00, at the TJC

Most residents in Mumbai can tell you about the Sassoon docks. They are some of the city's most well known commercial fishing docks. The docks are one of many things in Mumbai built by the Sassoon family, an Indian Jewish family of Iraqi origin who made its fortune trading opium, textiles, tea and silk during the 19th century.

The story of the Sassoons is one of many interesting tales in Indian Jewish history, a history that stretches back thousands of years. Indian Jews with roots on the country's western Konkan coast believe their ancestors arrived between the sixth and eighth centuries BCE after a shipwreck. The Jews of Kerala, a state in southern India, trace their history back to the time of King Solomon and are the eldest of India's Jewish communities.

The Jewish story in India shares many similarities with other Diaspora communities. Indian Jews adopted local customs, intermarried and became leaders and respected statesmen of their communities just like Jews did in New Mexico.

Konkan coast Jews adopted the local language of Marathi, intermarried and adopted Indian cultural traditions. Kerala's Jews adopted Malayam, the local language in Kerala.

The tides of trade and international travel added new flavors to Kerala's Jewry. Jews came to Kerala from Yemen, Portugal, Spain and other countries in search of economic opportunities and religious freedom.

Iraqi Jews like the Sassoons, known as Baghdadi Jews, started streaming into India's Western coast around the early 19th century. Mumbai and Calcutta emerged as the hubs of Baghdadi Jews. The Baghdadis brought their own language, traditions, and carved out their own niche in India's Jewish community.

Today, India has one of the world's more interesting Jewish landscapes. Jewish communities are dwindling in Kerala while Chabad houses are popping up in Manali and Pushkar, which are popular spots for Israeli backpackers. There are Jewish communities in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh and the northeastern states of Manipur and Mizoram that identify as "Lost Tribes" of Israel.

I will discuss these topics and others during my talk on Indian Jewry Sept. 7. I encourage you to attend as we talk about one of the world's oldest and most intriguing Jewish communities.

What the TJC Means to Me

TJC Members

TJC has always been a place for me to reconnect with my Jewish roots, through friends, food, books, music, prayer and just plain fun. I love the fact that there are so many ways to "be Jewish!"

Cindy Grossman

The TJC is a warm and welcoming community. The TJC has warmly welcomed me to Northern New Mexico and has provided me spiritual renewal, meaningful conversation and friendship.

Gabe Weinstein

The Taos Jewish Center is my Jewish Home in Taos. The TJC and B'nai Shalom provide the center and roots of my Taos Jewish Family. From services to movie night and beyond, it is where I go for interaction with my extended Jewish Family of Taos. Thank you for being there and may you find blessings within the House of the Lord and Joy within your Hearts.

Richard A Wallach

The TJC means family and friends. It's a place where you can be yourself, where children can run and play with other Jewish kids, and where children are free to participate in Jewish holidays and services. The TJC will always be special to me as the place where my daughter Skylar had her Hebrew naming ceremony with Rabbi Paul.

Emily Fateman

To me the TJC is the realization of a dream for an authentic home that provides Jewish prayer, study and celebrations. I hope it will always be a reflection of the dedication that Jews in Northern New Mexico have to the mission of maintaining a center that embodies the oneness of our community.

Bruce Grossman

Editor's Note: If you would like to submit your own response to "What the TJC means to me" please email me at tjchakol@gmail.com and it will be included in the next issue of HaKol.

Photos from Joanne Foreman's 80th Birthday Party at the TJC

Ongoing Activities at the TJC

TJC Shabbaton meets monthly with Rabbi Paul Citrin, on the 2nd Shabbat of each month.

Kabbalat Shabbat; 6:00 PM Friday night **Potluck Dinner** ; 7:00 p.m. Shabbat Service.

Shabbat Family School with Rabbi Paul; 8:45 – 10:10 a.m. Saturday Morning; for school age children and their parents.

Torah Study with Rabbi Paul; 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 Saturday Morning, in the TJC library.

Save these dates for Shabbatons: September 12 – 13, October 10 - 11, November 14 - 15 and December 12 - 13.

Community Led Torah Study: Saturday mornings TBD. For more information about dates and times, please contact Bruce Ross 758-7174(o) or 770-0796(h); or Roger Lerman 758-5525(o) or 758-0710(h).

Rosen Method Exercise: Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the TJC. Appropriate for people of all ages and body shapes, this gentle low impact movement, set to music, increases flexibility, balance and overall well being. Classes are fun, stress-reducing and energizing, creating a sense of support and community among participants. This easy and unhurried form of movement was designed to prevent physical difficulties before they arise, and to help people feel better and age more gracefully. The class can be adapted for those who experience pain or have physical limitations. Our motto is: No Pain, All Gain! This is not an exhausting or sweaty workout. Participants leave class refreshed, rejuvenated and ready for the day ahead. Classes are offered on a donation basis. Come join us! If you would like more information, call Suzie Verkamp at 575-770-4089. There is a video about Rosen Movement on www.youtube.com/watch?v=tO7fpndUgeo.

Jewish Yoga Yoga with Hannah Salander, Fridays at the TJC, 11:30 – 1:00. The Shabbat yoga class has been a deep way to engage in Jewish spiritual practice that is embodied, centering and devotional. We practice together one of the primary principles of Judaism and Yoga both, which is to listen deeply. In the class we engage in the simple practice of presence with the body and breath, stabilizing the mind and opening the heart. We enter a stillness and spaciousness together that creates the opportunity for holy listening and attunement. In doing so, we ready ourselves to enter more mindfully into Shabbat in a way that is grounded in ourselves and in our community. Everyone is welcome to join in this practice that is gentle, restorative, strengthening and devotional. Suggested donation is \$10 per class. For further information: hsalander@yahoo.com 575-224-1312.

Thursday Night at the Movies! Every 4th Thursday of the Month! 7:00 p.m. at the TJC - except in September.

Watch for E-Blasts about the movie of the month. Free admission; Donations appreciated!

Popcorn, baked goods and beverages are available for purchase.

TJC Women's Book Group meets at the TJC 11:30 – 1:30 once each month. To confirm dates and for further information: mfuredi@gmail.com.

Reading List to be determined at the September meeting: September 8, 11:30

Men's Homeless Shelter, Distribution of Meals: every 3rd Thursday. Please contact either: mfuredi@gmail.com or rlerman57@gmail.com.



Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for the following special events. If you have any questions, feel free to call us at 758-8615.

SEPTEMBER 2014

**Cultures of the Diaspora, 3:00-5:00 PM,
Sunday, September 7, 2014**

**Shabbaton with Rabbi Paul, Sept 12-13
Kabbalat Shabbat, Friday, September 12**

6:00 PM Potluck Dinner

7:00 PM Shabbat Service

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2014

8:45 – 10:10 AM, Family Shabbat School

Torah Study, **10:30 AM**

Rosh Hashanah

Erev Rosh Hashanah Wednesday, September 24

First Day Thursday, September 25

Second Day Friday, September 26

(See Cover for High Holiday Details)

OCTOBER 2014

Yom Kippur

Kol Nidre Friday, October 3

Yom Kippur Saturday, October 4

Sukkot Celebration with B'Nai Shalom

3:00 PM Sunday, October 12 at Bette Myerson's.

Bring a dish and something to hang in the Sukkah.

Kabbalat Shabbat, Friday, October 10

6:00 PM Potluck Dinner

7:00 PM Shabbat Service

Saturday, October 11, 2014

8:45 – 10:10 AM, Family Shabbat School

Torah Study, **10:30 AM**

**Power of the Hebrew Alphabet, Sunday, October 19,
3:00 - 5:00 PM**

October Movie Night

7:00 PM Thursday, October 23, *Defiant Requiem*

Defiant Requiem tells the little known story of the Nazi concentration camp Terezin. Led by imprisoned conductor Rafael Schachter, the inmates of Terezin fought back with art and music.

NOVEMBER 2014

Shabbaton, November 14 -15

Kabbalat Shabbat, Friday, November 14

6:00 PM Potluck Dinner

7:00 PM Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 15, 2014

8:45 – 10:10 AM, Family Shabbat School

Torah Study, **10:30 AM**

Crypto-Jew Conference, Saturday, November 15, Havdallah Service Led by Rabbi Jordi Gendra. Art Show and Reception 3:30 - 5:00 PM, Conference 5:00 - 7:00 PM

November Movie Night

7:00 PM Thursday, November 20, *Crossing Delancey*

Crossing Delancey is a romantic comedy film starring Amy Irving and Peter Riegert that was released in 1988. It is directed by Joan Micklin Silver and was based on a play by Susan Sandler, who also wrote the screenplay. Amy Irving was nominated for a Golden Globe for the movie, for "Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture Comedy/Musical."

DECEMBER 2014

Shabbaton, December 12 – 13

Kabbalat Shabbat, Friday, December 12

6:00 PM Potluck Dinner

7:00 PM Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 13, 2014

8:45 – 10:10 AM, Family Shabbat School

Torah Study, **10:30 AM**

Peace Hanukah with B'Nai Shalom

December 17 at St James Episcopal Church

December Movie Night

7:00 PM Thursday, December 18, *The Holiday*

The Holiday is a 2006 American Christmas-themed romantic comedy film written, produced and directed by Nancy Meyers. Distributed by Columbia Pictures and Universal Studios and filmed in both California and England, it stars Cameron Diaz and Kate Winslet as two lovelorn women from opposite sides of the Atlantic Ocean, who temporarily exchange homes to escape heartbreak during the holiday season. Jude Law and Jack Black co-star, with the late Eli Wallach, Shannyn Sossamon, Edward Burns and Rufus Sewell playing key supporting roles.

TJC Chanukah Party, Sunday December 21, 4:00 6:00 PM

TJC Shabbat Family School

Jude Goldman Núñez

The TJC Family Shabbat School began under the leadership of Rabbi Paul Citrin one year ago on Rosh Hashanah. We had an auspicious start with a Children's Service for Rosh Hashanah with a new Machzor edited by Rabbi Paul. We look forward to seeing you and your children at this year's Children's Services.

The Family Shabbat School is led by Rabbi Paul, and is a parent facilitated program. The program is free of charge for TJC members. The TJC provides juice and challah for each session, which meets on the

Saturday morning of each Shabbaton weekend, from 8:45 AM to 10:10 AM. Families learn together and begin a monthly Jewish practice for home with suggested readings, songs and activities geared to children ages 5 – 12. Each family will shape their own Jewish family traditions.

The first meeting of this year's Family Shabbat School will be on Saturday, September 13, 8:45 to 10:10 AM. The TJC Family Shabbat School is coordinated by Jude Goldman Núñez. For more information please contact Jude at tjchakol@gmail.com. ■

Teshuvah

Hannah Salander

Dear Chevra,

As we turn our attention to the New Year I am inspired once again to consider the practice of teshuvah. Although this word is often synonymous with repentance, the word itself is better translated as "return." In our tradition, we are asked in this practice to get honest with ourselves and others about our forgetting, how we may have strayed from our paths, 'missed the mark,' or caused harm in our relationships. We are asked to look at ourselves in honest evaluation, and in doing so we have the opportunity to return to knowing our true nature, one that is aligned with our *neshama*, our soul, the spark of divinity within. In her book "Sacred Therapy," Estelle Frankel writes that this work of teshuvah is a "journey of spiritual homecoming." In this practice of return, it is implied that we have all that we need inside us right here; a luminous jewel of wholeness, a remembrance of completeness, waiting to be unearthed, particularly at this time as we set the foundation for the year to come.

Teshuvah is that imbedded longing and impulse toward healing and wholeness. It is a kind of compass pivoting our attention toward true north. Though as we know, this work of honesty with ourselves and others can be challenging. We may confront in ourselves a harmful action we have taken against another, a mis-speak or harsh word, a deceit, a righteous judgment, an exclusion, an unkindness toward ourselves, a forgetfulness of our impact on the planet. These are the times we have gone to sleep, forgetting our kind and loving commitment to others, the earth, ourselves and God. This forgetting can act as a veil between us and God and through teshuvah we lift this veil by exploring how we may have gone astray. Our tendencies of middot ra-ot, our less desirable characteristics, such as a need to control, a fear based response, an anger or rage, an arrogance, become illuminated. Our path of teshuvah begins with a recognition and awareness of these attributes, a commitment to change through our holy admission, and further, a kavanah, an intent, towards wakefulness and cultivating positive loving attributes that support the fullest expression of our neshama.

In other mystic traditions we find this same sentiment and invitation toward return. This is true certainly in yoga, and is the essence of the yoga sutras, the instructions and foundation of Ashtanga yoga offered by Patanjali around 400 CE. The sutras are an in-depth exploration of consciousness and a recipe for how to cultivate steady clear seeing so

that one's true nature can be revealed. The sutras illuminate our tendency to identify with the fluctuation of the mind and illusory thinking, the ground on which the middot ra-ot take root. Through a dedicated practice and Self-return, we learn to identify more with the wise clear mind and heart. This is our true nature that is open to the experience of yichud, unification, connection, stable presence, and a clarity that gives rise to compassion and understanding.

So I wish us all well in our practice of teshuvah this year. May we enter this returning with an attitude of simcha, of joy and celebration, and ahavah, love, motivated by the spark of our wise neshama, calling us back home. And through this return, may we know our own innate wholeness, and through that knowing feel intimately linked with all of creation. May we hear and praise the 'echadness,' the oneness, of our existence, as we return again and again.

Much love and kindness to all of us on this path,

Hannah Salander

Please join us in a yoga practice on Fridays 11:30-1pm at the TJC as a preparation for Shabbat. The first half hour of our practice includes Hebrew chanting and meditation, and you are welcome to come just for this portion. The following hour is an all levels asana practice. All are welcome! ■



The Judaism of Discomfort: Social Action – Thoughts from Rabbi Paul Citrin

cont'd from page 1

others, are the yard-sticks by which I measure and consider contemporary life, for they are, in the view of Judaism, universal and timeless.

My primary identity as a human being is expressed through my identity as a Jew and my bond with our religious culture. It is my fervent wish that the same would be true for each and every one of you, and for our children. I can maintain my integrity as a Jew and as your rabbi only if I am true to the teachings of the tradition I cherish.

Occasionally, as a result of expressing my conviction, some may feel offended. I urge those who do to reflect that the rabbi's forty years of Torah study (from mid teens through seminary and thirty years in the rabbinate) ground his interpretation and understanding in a measure of authenticity. Does this mean that no one but the rabbi may interpret Jewish tradition? Certainly not! But, if one claims the Jewishness of one's position, let it be based on study of Jewish text, history, and practice.

I agree with Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, who said the purpose of

Jewish religion is not to make us comfortable, but to make us uncomfortable with the status quo. Thus we ought to question where we are in our personal moral progress as well as where our society is going. Let me assure you, I question myself. Carefully, I search the tradition diligently, before I speak publicly on a social issue. Yet, for me to avoid issues from a Jewish perspective would not be "in the best interests of the temple."

What I have shared here is not meant as a defense or as an apology. It is an expression of my understanding, in part, of the role of the rabbi as a teacher of Torah. I hope it increases your awareness of the place of Torah in our lives; it ought to be our touchstone and the lamp for our path. ■

Temple Sinai
2002/5763
Palm Desert, CA

Tot Shabbat

The TJC will launch the first Tot Shabbat program this year for children ages 1 – 4. The program will meet on the 2nd full Shabbat weekend of each month, on Friday TBD. We will introduce the children to Shabbat songs, stories, and of course, food. We will incorporate important holidays as they come up, in a developmentally appropriate context. Each

child must be accompanied by a parent. The program will be taught by Emily and Meryl Fateman, and Jude Goldman Núñez, Early Childhood Educators. For more information, please contact Jude Goldman Núñez at tjchakol@gmail.com. ■



Yahrzeit Listing

Below are the Yahrzeits that the TJC has on file for the Fall months that this issue covers.
If you would like a loved one added to our list please contact the TJC at 758-8615

September Yahrzeit

Jacobson Ross, Ruth	9/1/1997
Brodsky, Lee	9/2/1992
Sharfin, Artie	9/5/2004
Schwartz, Louie	9/11/1997
Pasternach, Lillian	9/11/1978
Rosenfield, Leon	9/11/2008
Ross, Shirley	9/15/1957
Weisman, Jean	9/16/2007
Kimmel, Mike	9/22/1997

October Yahrzeit *cont'd*

Katz, Samuel	10/19/2011
Cora, Chet	10/19/2002
Fonsa, Gabriel (GIL)	10/19/2010
Tucker, Bessie	10/21/1994
Kaplan, Gene	10/22/2009
Milchman, Sheldon	10/23/1998
Levine, Ralph	10/24/2011
Ziegfeld, Ernest	10/26/2004
Starr, Jenny	10/30/2001

October Yahrzeit

Rosenbaum Wood, Muriel	10/2/2005
Stanton, Henry	10/3/2006
Julius, Riveles	10/7/2002
Rosenberg, Robert	10/4/2002
Rosen, Dr. Al	10/12/2011
Wallach, Hermine	10/15/2007
Meltzer, Marty	10/16/2006
Lowenberg, Cassira	10/17/2001
Sidman, Lewis E.	10/17/2004
Bryer Wilson, Betty	10/17/2005

November Yahrzeit

Kalom, Chana Barlian L.	11/5/1961
Geller, Meryl	11/7/2005
Seidman, Lou	11/8/2011
Rubin, Brady Abraham	11/12/2011
Weiss, Jonathan	11/21/1999
Goodman, Esther	11/22/1950
Penn, Howard (Chaim)	11/23/09
Tucker, Sidney E.	11/27/1991
Diamond, Laura	11/29/2005

Isadore Ressler, father of Susan Ressler, passed away on August 22, 2014.
 The TJC sends it's condolences to Susan and her family.



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