

April 2018 Calendar of Events

Monday, April 2—Spanish Class, 10:30am; Adult Ed with Cantor Friedlander, “Welcoming the Bride,” 7:30pm

Tuesday, April 3—Board Meeting, 7:30pm

Wednesday, April 4—Tai Chi, 11:00am

Friday, April 6—Passover Yizkor Service, 10:30am; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Saturday, April 7—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am

Monday, April 9—Spanish Class, 10:30am; Adult Ed with Cantor Friedlander, “Welcoming the Bride,” 7:30pm

Wednesday, April 11, Tai Chi, 11:00am

Friday, April 13—Shabbat Service, 7:30pm; *Memory Keepers* Film in Observance of Yom Hashoah (note early time)

Saturday, April 14—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am

Monday, April 16—Spanish Class, 10:30am; Adult Ed with Cantor Friedlander, “Welcoming the Bride,” 7:30pm

Wednesday, April 18—Tai Chi, 11:00am

Thursday, April 19—Lunch & Learn, 11:00am

Friday, April 20—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Saturday, April 21—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am

Monday, April 23—Spanish Class, 10:30am

Wednesday, April 25—Tai Chi, 11:00am

Friday, April 27—Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm

Saturday, April 28—Torah Study, 9:30am; Shacharit Service, 10:30am

Sunday, April 29—Gala Dinner in honor of Belle & Elliott Gayer, 6:00pm at Colbeh

Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 29
Gala Dinner in Honor of
Belle & Elliott Gayer
6:00pm at Colbeh



Please Submit Your Journal
Ads and Those Collected from
Friends and
Local Businesses
(Ad form on Page 8)

CANTOR'S COLUMN
Counting the Days
By Cantor Leslie Friedlander



For many reasons April is a bit of a transition month. It is the time many of us start planning for the summer and looking forward to warm temperatures and feeling unencumbered from heavy winter clothing. It is my favorite outdoor month because of the feeling of anticipation and lightness it holds for the coming weather.

Even on our Jewish calendar, April is a transition month. Traditional Jews express this by counting the *Omer*, the daily counting that occurs from the second night of Passover until the first day of *Shavuot*, the fiftieth day of the counting. In ancient days, the *Omer*, a measure of new grain, was offered in the Temple on the second day of Passover as an acknowledgement of thanksgiving for the ripening fruit and as an act of devotion and prayer for a future abundant harvest.

This transition month is a good time to take account of the coming season and to take the time to think about the year up until now. Perhaps this is what the ancients had in mind when they counted the *Omer*. In the book of Exodus we read (3:12), [God speaking to Moses] "...and when you have freed the people from Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain." According to Midrash, the people asked Moses when that service would take place, and he answered, 'After fifty days,' at which time every person eagerly counted each day in expectation of this event.

We all know that old adage, 'a watched pot never boils,' meaning that something we wait for with impatient attention seems to take forever. In a positive light, if we watch the pot, that is, take the time to count the days, or account for the coming days, we can savor this transition time and make the wonderful month of April seem to last longer.

Cantor Leslie Friedlander

Adult Ed with Cantor Friedlander
Mondays—April 2nd, 9th & 16th at 7:30pm

WELCOMING THE BRIDE:
A multi-faceted discussion of Kabbalat Shabbat



Come and learn about the Kabbalat Shabbat service through history, liturgy, ritual, poetry, Halacha, Talmud and music. No previous knowledge required, just bring your open mind and your curiosity.

RABBI'S COLUMN

By Rabbi Jerry Blum

On the elliptical machine that I favor in my gym (when I actually go) there is a counter that tells me how many minutes until I can collapse into a pool of sweat on the ground. It literally begins at 40 minutes (sometimes 25) and counts down the time until I can stop at 0. There's a sort of thrill I get when I can count down. I'm sure that when you prepare to go on a great vacation, you tick down the days until your getaway. Only 10 days left. Just 3 days til I'm outta here. 24 little hours until we get on that plane.

It's exciting to count down. I remember when I was a child and we'd watch the rocket launches from Cape Canaveral (or Kennedy, depending on your birthdate). The moment that Houston Control began that countdown from 10 to lift off, I felt as if I was aboard the space capsule readying for take-off. Even today, it brings back memories of the adventure in space and all the stories of the astronauts and their space exploration.



Countdowns can be the beginning of monumental and life-changing moments in people's lives. Even today, we count down the days until retirement, or the birth of a grandchild. These countdowns are time markers in our lives. Checking off just another life event in a list that I pray is long and filled with many joys.



But, in our Jewish tradition there is a different sort of counting. On the second night of Pesach, during the seder, we begin the process of “S’firat HaOmer or The Counting of the Omer [Literally, the Counting or measuring of the grain]”. We count up 49 days or seven weeks until we get to the festival of Shavuot, which is the time we commemorate the giving of the Torah. We count the days from the most popular and most celebrated of Jewish Holidays, Passover, to the most important, but least observed holiday, Shavuot.

So, what's up with all this counting, and why do we even bother? I mean let's face it, counting the omer is pretty low on our “to do” list, but maybe it shouldn't be such a low priority.

I'm sure many of you have heard the saying that it takes 28 days to begin a new habit. How does it work? You practice a specific new habit again and again, until it becomes second nature. We simply focus on doing something new and keep that focus sharp until the change becomes part of our daily practice. It's the same concept in Weight Watchers. You begin to take notice of what, and how you eat. Each day you count up your points and count up the days, weeks and months. Week after week, your results are shown, and your weigh-ins record the results of all that focus. It becomes an exercise in mindfulness.

This is the same concept behind “S’firat HaOmer.” The counting up of the 49 days between Pesach and Shavuot is a mindfulness practice that challenges us to become cognizant of who we are spiritually. Each of the seven weeks of the counting has a theme based on seven “S’firot, or Godly qualities” in kabbalistic thought. Week one is “*Chesed – Loving Kindness*”, week two, “*Gevurah – Strength*”, week three is “*Tiferet – Harmony or balance*”, week four is “*Netzach – endurance*”, week five is, “*Hod – Splendor or humility*”, week six is “*Yesod – foundation or roots*” and finally, week seven is “*Malchut – nobility or sovereignty*”. Traditionally, each day we would focus on one of these qualities and become mindful of how we would embody these s’firot. But, the real message is just to become mindful by engaging in a daily ritual. Ask yourself, “How can I be more?” Perhaps reach out to an old friend or family member you haven't spoken to in a while. Add something new to your daily routine. Try a new exercise, or perhaps begin journaling. Study something new each day (perhaps some Torah), or just make an effort to spend more time outdoors. It doesn't matter what you do, it just matters that you have something to focus on. You'll begin to see how our lives begin to expand with each day that we count up to Shavuot and with each new ritual.

Wishing you all a meaningful counting!

Rabbi Jerry Blum

“VOICES OF ISAIAH”

What Brought Us to the Door of Our Synagogue? By Shelley Sherman

In October 2016, the Isaiah family gathered together in prayer and fellowship for our 50th High Holiday Season and the start of our Jubilee Year. It is a time to reflect on our past and look forward to the future.



My path to Temple Isaiah actually began in my childhood in the late 50's and 60's in suburban New Jersey. There were very few Jews in my town and as a child, I was subjected to overt and subtle anti-Semitism. My synagogue met in an old Victorian house and was my refuge and came to play a significant role in my life. It had a liberal, social action and intellectual atmosphere which I credit with supporting my family in shaping the values that guided my life and career.

When I moved to Great Neck 35 years ago, a vibrant Jewish community, I thought I must have found Eden. So many synagogues, and I visited them all for the High Holidays and random Shabbats. I was frankly overwhelmed by their size and grandeur and searched in vain for the intimacy, the sense of community, the warmth and intellectual stimulation I so valued from my childhood synagogue. One night, I attended the adult confirmation class at a Great Neck synagogue and ran into a friend from law school. I eagerly approached him to ask about membership in that synagogue. He said he didn't belong there, he had a friend being confirmed. He belonged to Temple Isaiah of Great Neck, about which I had never heard. He described it and it sounded like a dream come true. I attended the next Shabbat and was greeted warmly and treated to a lovely service and a lively conversation. I knew I had found my new home. Over the years Temple Isaiah educated and inspired me and my family, my son and daughter were B'nai Mitzvah and so was I! My daughter was named at Temple Isaiah and it was with great joy that my granddaughter was also named there last year. Sadly, its clergy also buried my parents and my husband and helped me through those losses. I have made some of my closest friends here and it has been an integral part of my life for all of these years. Along the way I have held every officer and board position including president and volunteered for countless fundraisers and committees. I am proud to have been part of the process of building a *Home of Our Own* along with so many other dedicated congregants. In fact, the more involved I have been, the more I have contributed in time and effort, the more I have benefitted and enriched my life in return. I will always be grateful that I found Temple Isaiah seemingly by chance, but really it was bashert!

**April Lunch & Learn
with Rabbi Jerry Blum
Thursday, April 19th
11:00 at Bistro Burger**



**Spanish Classes with Rena Levy
resume Monday, April 2 at
10:30am
Call Kathie Davis at 487-1576
if you're interested in joining**

April 2018

1	2 Spanish, 10:30am Adult Ed, 7:30pm	3 Board Meeting, 7:30pm	4 Tai Chi, 11:00am	5	6 Passover Yizkor Service, 10:30am Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	7 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am
8	9 Spanish, 10:30am Adult Ed, 7:30pm	10	11 Tai Chi, 11:00am	12	13 Shabbat Service, 7:30pm; <i>Memory Keepers</i> Film In Observance of Yom Hashoah	14 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am
15	16 Spanish, 10:30am Adult Ed, 7:30pm	17	18 Tai Chi, 11:00am	19 Lunch & Learn, 11:00am	20 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	21 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am
22	23 Spanish, 10:30am	24	25 Tai Chi, 11:00am	26	27 Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm	28 Torah Study, 9:30am Shacharit Service, 10:30am
29 Gala Dinner Honoring Belle & Elliott Gayer, 6:00pm 	30	31	Save the Date: Wednesday, May 16th Congregational Meeting			

Yom Hashoah Observance

Friday, April 13th—7:30pm

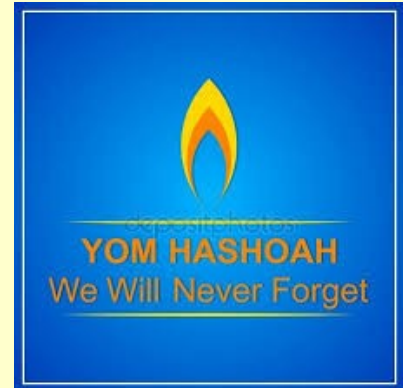
Memory Keepers Video

When our histories are rooted in trauma, how do we reconcile the need to honor and remember the past, yet free ourselves as we create the future?

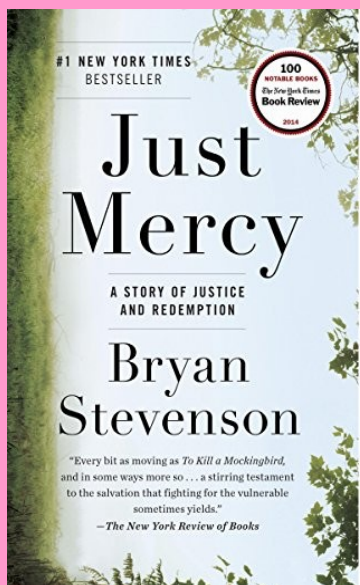
Through the eyes of the descendants of the Jewish community of Sighet, Romania, *Memory Keepers*, a fascinating video, explores how different generations carry memory in the face of the tragedy of the Holocaust.

Before World War II, the Jewish community of Sighet flourished. The city nurtured important Jewish thinkers, including Elie Wiesel. In May of 1944, this vibrant city was devastated when 13,000 men, women and children were deported to Auschwitz. 70 years later, in May 2014, over 100 descendants of the community gathered in Sighet and *Memory Keepers* uses the lens of this event to reveal rich stories of past lives and consider the impact of the past on the present.

Join us for our Shabbat/Yom HaShoah observance on Friday, April 13 at 7:30p.m. when we will view this short film and share thoughts on the importance of memory and the responsibility of who in each family or in the community will be your Memory Keeper.



Save the Date for Our Next Book Club Meeting—May 7th



Please join the Temple Isaiah family on Monday evening May 7th at 7:30 at the temple, when we read and discuss *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson.

This book tells the story of an extraordinary man who refused to do nothing in the face of terrible injustice. The great grandson of slaves, Stevenson grew up to attend Harvard Law School and ultimately co-found the Equal Justice Institute in Alabama. He has spent his life representing poor clients who were denied fair trials, including the man at the center of this memoir who sat on death row for years although he had an ironclad alibi for the murder.

The book is very readable and is—despite the serious subject matter—hopeful. It reinforces that one person can have an impact on the lives of many but is mostly about the cause rather than the man.

I urge you to obtain the book, available in paperback on Amazon and at Barnes and Noble and possibly through the library system. You will be glad you did!

Shelley Sherman

As there will be snacks I would appreciate RSVP's to seeshell98@yahoo.com. Thanks.



A Message from Our Membership Chair

Fellow Congregants,

Spring is almost here, and we have been thinking about what we could do together as an excursion.

We do know that Great Neck Adult Ed. has great trips, and we can always go with them, but a more intimate outing could be attractive as well.

What interests you? Would the Botanical Gardens do, or the Brooklyn Museum?

How about going to Nassau County Museum, in Roslyn? An off-Broadway show?

I know that many of you take the train into the city, and do things like go to the Jewish Museum, or have seen the Tenement Museum many times, but would they also be appealing?

Think about what would you like to do with others in our temple family.

Obviously , money is a factor. Renting a bus is so very costly. Perhaps we could get drivers from the temple.

I have found Uber to be a very good deal, and they have vans that can accommodate 8 people. That would certainly take the pressure off those who might drive. And we would do better with the cost.

Depending on where you are going in the city (east or west side), of course there is a difference in price.

We would probably have lunch as well.

But, first of all, can you think about what is attractive to you, and if you might be interested in pursuing this endeavour.

Please email me at june.feldman@gmail.com and tell me what you think.

**Best Wishes,
June Feldman**

**Save the Date: Tuesday, May 29 at 7:30pm
"The Zapruder Film:
What It Can Tell Us About the Assassination of JFK"**



Temple Isaiah of Great Neck Proudly
Announces Its Gala Journal Dinner
Honoring
Belle & Elliott Gayer
Sunday, April 29, 2018
6 P.M.
Colbeh Restaurant

Advertisement Rates

- Menorah Page \$18,000*****
- Shofar Page \$9,000****
- Platinum Page \$3,600***
- Gold Page \$1,800**
- Silver Page \$1,500**
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- Full Page \$ 500*
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- Quarter Page \$ 200
- Eighth Page \$ 100
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*****includes 10 tickets to the Dinner valued at \$150 each

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Obtaining \$500 in ads from outside sources will give you one ticket to the dinner.

Ad Copy
(Please print or clip here—No staples)

- Congratulations to Our Honorees \$60

Name _____

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- Visa Master Charge American Express (3% fee for credit card payment)

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Barbara Feldman
Burton Schwartz, Brother of Rita Rubenstein
Judy & Helman Brook
Kathie Davis
Sheila & Victor DeFazio
June & Allan Feldman
Gail & Robert Gordon
Carol & Bill Hersh
Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Mindy & Howard Israel
Terry & Richard Joseph
Rona Levy
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Shelley Sherman
Arlene Soifer
Bruce Reider, Husband of Leslie Reider
Leslie Reider
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Rita Rubenstein
Mary Rosner, Mother of Harriet Shindler
Harriet Shindler
Jacob Soifer, Father of Herman Soifer
Reva Soifer Blitz, Sister of Herman Soifer
Arlene Soifer

In Honor of :

The Speedy Recovery of Denise Miller
Judy & Helman Brook
Kathie Davis
Sheila & Victor DeFazio
June & Allan Feldman
Gail & Robert Gordon
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In Honor of (Cont'd):

The 70th Birthday of Bill Mandelbaum
Judy & Helman Brook
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June & Allan Feldman
Gail & Robert Gordon
Carol & Bill Hersh
Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Mindy & Howard Israel
Terry & Richard Joseph
Ruth Mandelbaum
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
Bill Rosenberg
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Shelley Sherman
With Warm Thoughts for Gary McTiernan
And Suzanne Branch
Judy & Helman Brook
Kathie Davis
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June & Allan Feldman
Gail & Robert Gordon
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Mindy & Howard Israel
Terry & Richard Joseph
Ruth Mandelbaum
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
Bill Rosenberg
Alisa & Martin Secofsky
Shelley Sherman
Micki Victor
The Birth of Benjamin Joseph, Grandson of
Terry & Richard Joseph
Judy & Helman Brook
Kathie Davis
Sheila & Victor DeFazio
June & Allan Feldman
Gail & Robert Gordon
Carol & Bill Hersh
Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Mindy & Howard Israel
Ruth Mandelbaum
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
Bill Rosenberg
Alisa & Martin Secofsky
Shelley Sherman
Micki Victor

Memorial Plaques:

In Memory of Burton Schwartz
Rita Rubenstein



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Sid Jacobson JCC's Partners in Caring offers an array of specialized services including support groups, counseling, information and community referrals, workshops, autism and Alzheimer's programs, as well as other social services. Together with UJA-Federation of New York and your synagogue, we are your partner in caring for you and your family.

PIC helps create a caring, responsive Jewish community by providing support for:

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516-484-1545 ext. 196.**

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Partners in Caring is funded by a grant from UJA-Federation of New York and partnering synagogues



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1 Chelsea Place
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Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism
Issue No. 174 Published Monthly

**Deadline for submissions
10th of the Month**

BULLETIN

Co-Presidents: Kathie Davis, Bill Rosenberg
Cantor: Leslie Friedlander
Rabbi: Jerry Blum
Production: Cathy Reibstein