

# BULLETIN

Office - 487-5373, School - 487-8709

Published Monthly

April, 2014

## **April Calendar of Events**

Tues. Apr. 1—Religious School, 4:00pm; Board Meeting, 7:30pm

Fri. Apr. 4—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Sat. Apr. 5—Torah Study and Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am; GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION, 7:30pm

Mon. Apr. 7—Conversational Spanish, 10:30am; Lunch & Learn, 11:30am at Ayhan's Shish Kebab

Tues. Apr. 8—Religious School, 4:00pm; Book Discussion, 7:30pm (*The Dovekeepers*)

Fri. Apr. 11—Shul Talk, 7:30pm, Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Sat. Apr. 12—Torah Study and Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am

Mon. Apr. 14—Conversational Spanish, 10:30am; First Night of Passover

Tues. Apr. 15—First day Pesach morning service, 10:30am; Religious School closed; Second Night Seder at Temple Isaiah (reservations required), 6:30pm

Fri. Apr. 18—Renewal Service, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Sat. Apr. 19—Torah Study and Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am

Mon. Apr. 21—Passover Yiskor Service, 10:30am

Tues. Apr. 22-Religious School closed

Fri. Apr. 25—Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15

Sat. Apr. 26—Torah Study, 9:30am; Service 10:30am followed by light lunch

Sun. Apr. 27—Yom Hashoah Program, 7:30pm

Mon. Apr. 28—Conversational Spanish, 10:30am

Tues. Apr. 29—Religious School, 4:00pm; "Current Events" with Helman Brook, 7:30pm

TANS Prom Dress Drive Runs All of April

Save the Date: May 31st Gala Dinner Dance



# Goods & Services Auction Saturday, April 5

JOIN US FOR A RECEPTION AT 7:30PM BEFORE THE BIDDING BEGINS

ONE OF THE BIGGEST FUNDRAISERS OF THE YEAR AND OUR MOST EXCITING EVE-NING IS FAST APPROACHING. PLEASE PLAN TO BE THERE.

BID ON: VACATIONS, THEATER TICKETS, JEWELRY, ELEGANT DINNERS, RESTAU-RANTS, SPORTING EVENTS, ART, TOYS, COMPUTER LESSONS & MORE

# Second Night Seder Tuesday April 15

**Reserve** Now!



See page 6 for details.

## <u>RABBI'S COLUMN</u> The Wicked Son's Seder



Four times the Torah says that a parent should tell his child the story of Passover. The exodus is to be a personal experience; and yet, it must be observed as a community. The haggadah expresses this concept by including four children. It is not just the wise who come to the seder, but also the simple who have trouble verbalizing their connection. They are joined by the those who can't even ask although they are Jewish – but know little more than that. Along with these comes the wicked child – who rebels and challenges – but at the same time shows up on Passover night regardless of their objection to ritual practices. I've always been

fascinated by this son, who has had to bear the misnomer of wicked for centuries. He is actually an extension of the wise son who he follows immediately in the haggadah – he is the wise son who goes beyond and asks the eternal Why? Shortly before Nat Silver died, he wrote a piece about the wicked son which I'd like to share with you on the eve of Passover. It's beautiful and honors his memory.

"On the poorest street in the poorest section of the poorest city near your house, in front of the poorest house on the street, my limousine pulls up. I have come to see my old mother, who will not move; this is her home. My father is long gone now; my brothers – the wise one, the simple one, the one who did not know how to ask – are too busy to come. Who is left then to run the seder? I, the wicked son. In our part of the house, I will ask the four questions, and my mother will tell the story.

"My father and grandfather are here; both died some time ago, but they both still know the haggadah backwards and forwards, and they still read Hebrew at warp speed. My grandfather is sober and serious, my father full of zest and mischief. At the same table – we can't see each other, but I know that they are here – are families in old striped garments. They are still celebrating Passover within the holocaust; the men have surreptitiously written a haggadah from memory. The women have somehow exchanged enough scraps of food with each other to make a meal. They will always be re-living the holocaust, as if for the first time.

"At the far end of the table are a group of Jews who have brought with them paintings they turn to the wall when the seder begins. They have forgotten why they do this, but their families have done it for generations. They are forced converts of Spain and Italy, conforming Christians on the outside, loyal Jews on the inside. Scattered around the tables are Jews from exotic places: Chinese Jews, Ethiopian Jews, Djerban Jews, Mountain Jews, Yemenite Jews. They have each brought their own customs – the only authentic ones – as far as they are concerned...

"Seated together are a group in modern clothes. They believe that mankind is moving toward a unified spiritual life, and that those merely ritual aspects that separate us should be examined to see whether they are worth keeping. Still, it is Passover, and at Passover one gathers to hold a seder. If you look closely, you will see a group of very ancient Jews, celebrating Passover as they did four thousand years ago. They have spent the last two weeks selecting and preparing the lamb that is to be roasted and eaten, and as darkness begins to fall they are more than ready to begin.

"A night of vigil is about to begin. We dare not leave the house until the break of dawn. What is the vigil for? Isn't that what I was trying to ask, so long ago?" *Nat Silver, z"I* 

The 2013 Pew Research Center survey of American Jews found that only 28% of respondents thought that being part of a Jewish community defined them as Jewish. Once, not long ago, being part of a Jewish community was everything. May God bless the wicked, rebellious child and his or her eternal questioning. Linda and I wish you and your family a wonderful Passover.

Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka

## **CANTOR'S COLUMN** THE AFIKOMAN IS MORE THAN IT SEEMS



One of Passover's most memorable rituals for children is the search for the afikoman. They look forward to this search and the ensuing negotiations for the afikoman's ransom. It maintains their interest and keeps them awake during the seder. But the afikoman is more significant and mystical than a mere piece of matzah.

Although its derivation is unclear, the word "afikoman" is usually explained as "dessert" since it comes from a Greek word used to describe post-banquet partying. At the conclusion of the seder, each person eats a piece of the afikoman, after which no food is eaten. And of course, keeping in mind that the seder is rich in symbolism, there are a variety of meanings for the afikoman. Some feel the afikoman is a symbolic reminder of the destruction of the Temple; others say it stands for the paschal lamb, which was eaten at the end of the meal in ancient days. Like the paschal lamb, which had to be consumed before midnight, the afikoman must be retrieved, negotiated for, and eaten before midnight.

Because of its special role in the seder, the afikoman has taken on some additional meaning, more folk custom than scholarly. And because everything in the seder is, as noted before, rich in symbolism, different Jewish cultures add their own spin on the existing symbolism. During the Middle Ages, mystical powers were ascribed to the afikoman and some Jews even carried it in a pouch as a protective good-luck charm. On long journeys it guarded against storms, particularly at sea. People hung it on their walls to protect against fires. It was believed to have the power to ward off demons, the Evil Eye and even evil people. Kept in ones pocket, it ensured long life and good luck. Pregnant women carried it to secure a safe and healthy delivery. If kept for seven years (seven is a potent number in Jewish folk culture and magic) the afikoman around their son's arms and say, "May you so tie the ketubah to the arm of your bride." In some European communities - to this day - there are people who feel that if an unmarried woman eats a piece of the afikoman she will be guaranteed a husband in the coming year. In Tunisia, guests at the seder are given a piece of the afikoman to carry on their shoulder while visiting relatives, symbolizing hope for the Messianic Age and the triumph of good over evil.

Apart from folk tradition, the afikoman holds yet further symbolism. Breaking the middle matzah during the seder creates the afikoman and its role at the end of the seder makes the meal whole, thereby signifying completeness. The three whole matzot at the seder have their own set of symbolic

connections, as does the number three itself. Depending upon the commentator or the seder leader, the three matzot represent Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; they may symbolize creation, revelation and redemption and still others feel the three matzot symbolize the three measures of fine meal used by Sarah to bake cakes for



Abraham's three angelic visitors in the story of Genesis. Another interpretation holds that the three matzot represent the three categories of Jews - Kohen, Levite and Israelite. Since the afikoman is created from breaking the middle matzah, its hiddenness represents the Levites' exile from the Temple. Further, the return of the afikoman at the end of the seder represents the return of the Levites to their service, symbolized by the seder table itself.

The Passover seder is full of symbolism based on our history and tradition. It is interesting to see how the customs surrounding one of these symbols, the afikoman, has changed as the needs, expressions and beliefs of our culture have evolved.

Steve and I wish you and your families a sweet and happy Passover celebration, a seder rich in both new and old expression!

Cantor Leslie Friedlander

## MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS **Cheerios and Spaghetti Straps**



Remember that plastic bin overflowing with cereal boxes Temple Isaiah members contributed in February? Those boxes joined 2,396 pounds of food collected by the 12 synagogues and 2 JCC's that make up the Tikkun Alliance of the North Shore (or TANS). The food was used to stock the Hatzilu Kosher Food Pantry and to fill mishloach manot boxes for 58 families in need. TANS also provided 713 pounds of non-



kosher food to local church pantries in need.

Temple Isaiah givers, thanks for the Cheerios ! It was a Purim effort that reflected the deepest values of the holiday. What does TANS plan to collect next to make the world a better place? It's something we know you have an abundance of in your home closets: prom dresses for teens in need.

Yes, we were kidding about your closet being full of prom dresses. Perhaps your closets have not contained prom dresses in years, if ever. We know the feeling. One suggestion: ask younger friends and relatives if they have any unused prom dresses in their lives. Perhaps you could spread the word at a seder table. Also, you surely have accessories that might work for a prom evening, and maybe even a dress that would work. If your wardrobe contains only mens' clothing, we are also running a separate drive for men's suits for a local clothing pantry.

With so little effort, you can turn forgotten pieces of fabric hanging in a closet into a dress that makes a young woman's prom night dreams come true. It will be well worth the effort.

Gail Gordon & Terry Joseph



# April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Religious School, 4:00pm Board Meeting, 7:30pm	2	3	4 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	5 Torah Study and Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00 AUCTION, 7:30PM
6	7 Spanish Class, 10:30am Lunch & Learn, 11:30am	8 Religious School, 4:00pm Book Group: "Dovekeepers" 7:30pm	9	10	11 Shul Talk, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	12 Torah Study and Service, 9:30am Cantillation, 11:00am
13	14 Spanish Class, 10:30am First Night Of Pesach	15 Pesach: Morning Ser- vice, 10:30am; Religious School Closed 2nd Night Community Seder, 6:30pm	16	17	18 Renewal Service, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	19 Torah Study and Service, 9:30am Cantillation, 11:00am
20	21 Last Day of Pesach: Yiskor Ser- vice, 10:30am	22 Religious School Closed	23	24	25 Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:15pm	26 Torah Study, 9:30am Torah Ser- vice, 10:30am Light lunch follows
27 Yom Hashoah Program, 7:30pm	28 Spanish Class, 10:30am	29 Religious School, 4:00pm Current Events, 7:30pm	30	March 24t	rom Dress Dr h through Ma ነ's Suits too)	



# Please Join Us at the Temple Isaiah Family Seder Second Night of Passover Tuesday, April 15, 6:30PM at Temple Isaiah

Temple Family and Guests are invited to join us for this joyous occasion. The seder will be led by Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka and Cantor Leslie Friedlander.

Space is Limited—Reservations and payment <u>MUST</u> be made in advance

 Adults:
 \$50.00

 Children 14-18:
 \$20.00

 Children under 13:
 Free

Please Return to Temple Isaiah—1 Chelsea Place, Great Neck, NY 11021

 Sign me up for the Second Night Seder:

 Name

 \_\_\_\_\_\_

 Phone

 Number attending—Adults:
 Children:
 Total Enclosed:\$\_\_\_\_

Image: Displayed black bla

The Rosenberg family expresses our heartfelt appreciation to the Temple Isaiah family for the love, support and condolences during a very difficult time. The tributes in the March bulletin bring solace, joy and tears of happiness to our family. Thank you so very much ... words cannot describe how very grateful we are.

Bernie was the guiding force at the creation of Temple Isaiah in 1967 and it was only fitting to say our final blessings and close the circle of life of our beloved father at Temple Isaiah, where it all started.

> L'Shalom, The Rosenberg Famíly



## Yom Hashoah Program Sunday April 27—7:30pm

Temple Isaiah will be featuring the film "100 Voices: A Journey Home," a deeply moving tribute chronicling a musical voyage from June, 2009. Some of the world's finest cantors came together backed by the Polish National Chorus and a 100 piece orchestra inspiring all with beautiful music and the stories behind them. The group travels from Warsaw to Krakow, ending with a memorial at the gates of Auschwitz.

Included in our program will be a short memorial observance in memory of the victims of the Shoah. Please join us at 7:30 PM.

## Tuesday, April 8 at 7:30pm Book Discussion: *The Dovekeepers* by Alice Hoffman

*"The Dovekeepers* is Alice Hoffman's most ambitious and mesmerizing novel, a tour de force of research and imagination."\*

"Nearly two thousand years ago, nine hundred Jews held out for months against armies of Romans on Masada, a mountain in the Judean desert. According to the ancient historian Josephus, two women and five children survived. Based on this tragic and iconic event, Hoffman's novel is a spellbinding tale of four extraordinarily bold, resourceful, and sensuous women, each of whom has come to Masada by a different path." \*



\*Amazon.com

# ARZA's Double Chai

When ARZA began 36 years ago there were six Reform Congregations in Israel, the Israel Progressive Movement (IMPJ) was five years old and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the rabbinical college of Reform Judaism, was brand new.



Today, as the IMPJ opens their coming convention there will be 43 Reform communities and congregations in Israel. The movement runs 50 pre-school classrooms, provides school-run educational programming, an active and growing youth organization, *Noar Telem*, a summer camp, a fully subscribed *Mechina* (pre-army leadership program), a youth, adult, and students Forum for 20-30 year-olds, as well as four *Batei Midrash*, Jewish study centers.

Show your support for the growth of Reform Judaism in Israel by joining ARZA through the temple. It's a great way to celebrate a double chai birthday.

Calvin Greenbaum

## Dear Temple Isaiah community,

Hello from Hebrew School! As spring is upon us, we have two holidays to celebrate - Purim, which we celebrated earlier, and Passover, which is right around the corner. It seems appropriate that Purim fell in women's history month. We look to Queen Esther not only as a symbol for Jews, but also as a symbol for women everywhere, particularly the women in our own lives. In Hebrew School we looked at Purim not only for Queen Esther and her heroism, but also for the importance of standing up for what we know is right.

With Passover coming up, we look to Moses for the same lesson. Moses was scared to be a leader and face Pharaoh. He moved past his fear, however, and stood up for the enslaved Jews of Egypt.

We hope that all of our Isaiah family has the courage to stand up for what they believe in. I know that if we all do, the world will be a better place. We wish you all call a chag Purim and a happy Passover. Hopefully it will be warmer than this winter has been.

> Fondly, Adam Turek-Herman and Sue Turek

# Josh's Mitzvah Project

As part of my becoming Bar Mitzvah, I am collecting e-waste for my mitzvah p roject.

## Please Donate.....

Old..... Computers, Laptops, LCD Monitors, Keyboards, Mice, Fax Machines, Scanners, Small Copiers and Printers, VCRs, Portable Digital Music Players, DVD Players, Digital Converter Boxes, Cable or Satellite Receivers, Electronic or Video Game Consoles, and Cell Phones.

**Help Save the environment** by donating these devices to be recycled. Help eliminate pollution, and get rid of global warming. We can all make a difference one step at a time.

**Please drop off these items at Temple Isaiah**: 1 Chelsea Place, Great Neck NY. Please donate before April 30<sup>th</sup> 2014. These devices will be given to the e-WASTE Alliance Network collection site in the Village of Saddle Rock. If you have any questions, please call me at 466-3505. Thank you.









Josh Wigler

## **General Donations**

In Loving Memory of: Bernard Rosenberg, Father of Alice, Elaine, Howard and William Deborah Devine & Henry Levitt and Sarah Levitt Meg & Steve Grass Rachel Greenwald Ruth Isaac Connie & Al Maller Rebecca & Matthew Minkin Judy Wolf, Justin David and Lior & Ezra Clara Dick, Mother of Joel Dick Rachel Berg, Mother of Isobel Schwartz Norman Basner, Father of Phil Basner Joel Dick & Everett Kerner Alice Gordon. Wife of Jacob Gordon Jacob Gordon Renee Solow, Sister-in-Law of Evelyn & Richard Solow Kathie & Richard Davis Sheila & Victor DeFazio Denise Miller & Steve Fein June & Allan Feldman Gail & Robert Gordon Mindy & Howard Israel Terry & Richad Joseph Ruth Mandelbaum Rita Rubenstein Alisa & Martin Secofsky Shelley Sherman Stewart Oksenhom Ruth Isaac Marlene Baharlias. Sister-in-Law of Ruth Isaac Kathie & Richard Davis Sheila & Victor DeFazio Denise Miller & Steve Fein June & Allan Feldman Gail & Robert Gordon Ruth Isaac Mindy & Howard Israel Terry & Richad Joseph Ruth Mandelbaum Bill Rosenberg Rita Rubenstein Alisa & Martin Secofsky Shelley Sherman Bella Bekker-Silver & Jonathan Silver Arlene Soifer Mortimer Leavitt, Father of Robin Leavitt Robin Leavitt Leon Malin, Husband of Sheila Malin Sid Goldstein, Husband of Edith Goldstein Connie & Al Maller Recha & Max Fein, Grandparents of Steve Fein Denise Miller & Steve Fein Leonard Pollack, Husband of Betty Pollack Kathie & Richard Davis Sheila & Victor DeFazio Denise Miller & Steve Fein June & Allan Feldman Gail & Robert Gordon Ruth Isaac Mindy & Howard Israel Terry & Richad Joseph Ruth Mandelbaum William Rosenberg Rita Rubenstein Alisa & Martin Secofsky Shelley Sherman Bella Bekker-Silver & Jonathan Silver

### In Loving Memory of (cont'd):

Bruce Reider, Husband of Leslie Reider and Father of Bradley Reider Leslie Reider Anna Rosenberg, Grandmother of William Rosenberg William Rosenberg Bernie Wolf, Husband of Roselle Wolf Alice Moss, Howie Rosenberg and William Rosenberg Sylvia Schalet, Mother of Phyllis Schalet Phyllis Schalet Jacob Soifer, Father of Hank Soifer Arlene Soifer

#### In Honor of:

In Honor of Steve Fein Kathie Davis Sondra & David Mack The Speedy Recovery of Beth Propper Denise Miller & Steve Fein The Speedy Recovery of Micki Victor Ruth Isaac The Speedy Recovery of Betty Pollack Kathie & Richard Davis Sheila & Victor DeFazio Denise Miller & Steve Fein June & Allan Feldman Gail & Robert Gordon Ruth Isaac Mindy & Howard Israel Terry & Richad Joseph Ruth Mandelbaum Alisa & Martin Secofsky Shelley Sherman The Speedy Recovery of Lia Hans Kathie & Richard Davis Sheila & Victor DeFazio Denise Miller & Steve Fein June & Allan Feldman Gail & Robert Gordon Mindy & Howard Israel Terry & Richad Joseph Ruth Mandelbaum Alisa & Martin Secofsky Shelley Sherman

### In Honor of (cont'd):

In Honor of the Diligence of Judy & Helman Brook June & Allan Feldman The Speedy Recovery of Meg Grass Kathie & Richard Davis Sheila & Victor DeFazio Denise Miller & Steve Fein June & Allan Feldman Gail & Robert Gordon Mindy & Howard Israel Terry & Richad Joseph Ruth Mandelbaum Alisa & Martin Secofsky Shelley Sherman The Anniversary of Evelyn & Richard Solow Kathie & Richard Davis Sheila & Victor DeFazio Denise Miller & Steve Fein June & Allan Feldman Gail & Robert Gordon Mindy & Howard Israel Terry & Richad Joseph Ruth Mandelbaum Rita Rubenstein Alisa & Martin Secofsky Shelley Sherman

## Tzedakah Fund:

Micki Victor

Extra...Extra: "Current Events" with Helman Brook originally scheduled for May has been moved up to April 29th at 7:30pm.

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## **TEMPLE ISAIAH OF GREAT NECK**

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#### **BULLETIN**

Co-Presidents: Gail Gordon & Terry Joseph Rabbi: Theodore Tsuruoka Cantor: Leslie Friedlander Production: Cathy Reibstein Photos: Sheila DeFazio

