



## Rabbi Theodore "Ted" Tsuruoka z"l

**Baruch Dayan Ha'Emet ... Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the Universe, Judge of Truth.**

**It is with profound sorrow that we inform our Temple Isaiah family and community of the death of our beloved rabbi, esteemed teacher, ethical guide, and dear friend, Theodore "Ted" Tsuruoka.**

**THERE ARE STARS** up above,  
 so far away we only see their light  
 long, long after the star itself is gone.  
 And so it is with people that we loved —  
 their memories keep shining ever brightly  
 though their time with us is done.  
 But the stars that light up the darkest night,  
 these are the lights that guide us.  
 As we live our days, these are the ways we remember.

**(Mishkan T'Filah, p. 595)**

**Rabbi Ted, a man of Torah and chesed, had been Temple Isaiah's spiritual leader since 2000. When we first met Ted Tsuruoka he was a rabbinical student who had left his prior professional life behind to answer a compelling call to be a rabbi. The congregation was immediately drawn to his deep spirituality, intellectual rigor, and expression of Jewish values in perfect harmony with the founding principles of Temple Isaiah. We embraced him from the start as he did us, and never stopped loving and respecting him for his spiritual and ethical guidance. It was a shidduch. Rabbi Ted fulfilled the dream of integrating a life of Jewish living with leadership of an active congregation interested in exploring all aspects of our faith.**

**In the subsequent sixteen years, those initial impressions have only grown and deepened. Rabbi Ted was deeply committed to traditional Jewish values, and he had a passion to make Judaism**

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responsive, understandable, and accessible to all. It was his wish that all who desire to discover the treasure and beauty of Judaism be given the means to pursue their quest. He took the definition of rabbi as teacher literally, and he was at his happiest and most fulfilled when he led a class, conducted Torah study, and delivered a sermon. Rabbi Ted broadened our knowledge of Jewish history, doctrine and practice, and enriched our congregation and community.

Above all, Rabbi Ted was committed to Temple Isaiah, the congregation that he so treasured—its valued past, its vibrant present, and its enduring future as an integral part of the Great Neck community. While we are in mourning and reeling from the shock and loss, we understand that the best way to honor the legacy of our beloved Rabbi Ted is to preserve and nurture the unique nature of Temple Isaiah. During the *sheloshim* period of mourning, which will end at Passover, non-religious programming and classes will be postponed. Our congregation and temple family will continue to be filled with the spiritual beauty of our faith, fellowship in the Jewish community, support of Israel, and a commitment to social justice. *L'dor vador* – from Generation to Generation.

If there is need of pastoral care or other urgent business, please contact the co-presidents or the temple office.

*Zeicher Tzadik Livracha* ... may Rabbi Ted find eternal peace, and may his family be comforted by the Omnipresent One, as the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem have been comforted in the past.

*Temple Isaiah Board of Trustees*

## PLEASE NOTE:

Other than our Board of Trustees meeting, all non-religious programs and classes will be postponed during the month of April. The calendar can be found on page 4.

We will be holding our annual Second Night Seder on Saturday, April 23. Further information and a reservation form are on page 5 of this bulletin. Please send in your reservations as soon as possible (April 15th at the latest).

# THE MAN IN THE YARMULKE



A couple of weeks ago, at a Friday night service, while dedicating the memorial plaques for the loved ones of two of our temple congregants, Rabbi Ted paused to reflect about a lesson that he never got in rabbinical school. How to prepare oneself to say that final goodbye to his or her congregants. He said it is a painful thing that a rabbi has to do. Say those final words and prayers. Say goodbye.

As a congregant you simply expect your rabbi to perform this duty. It is necessary. He is your rabbi. You feel for the family. But for the rabbi? You probably have not thought about it. After all, he is supposed to take care, and comfort us. No matter what burdens he carries on his own. He is our rabbi. And now, he is not. What a shock to the soul.

When he met us over 16 years ago as a student rabbi, how could you not be impressed with him? He had traveled many roads before coming to us. In his 50's he left the business world behind, seeking out a path to rabbinical school, and the new role in life, of a rabbi. Not an easy choice, nor transition, but one made by listening to his heart.

His path was chosen. With Buddhism in his background, nevertheless he was raised Christian. Yet he was drawn to Judaism even as a teenager. He learned Hebrew, and converted while in his early 20's. He married his Jewish bride, Linda, and was cheated out of celebrating a 50th anniversary by 3 years.

They joined a temple so that their two children could absorb Judaism. But our rabbi was absorbing Judaism as he rose up the ladder of their temple leadership. Finally he became temple president! It was suggested that he should reach higher. He did, and what a surprise for his family! A mixed blessing? But it was simply our good luck to have found him and in addition, we were able to avail ourselves of Linda's multiple talents as well.

From the first time we met us, he called us "friend". He was sincere. For so many, he was, first and foremost, a friend. He did not put on airs. He did not have to flash his intellect, it was so apparent, and so broad. He did not pontificate. He simply taught. He loved to teach. And the essence of the man was that you could feel his spirituality. It was just there.

But, just as we are not perfect, he had his stubborn streak in him. And he could, on occasion, dig in his heels. Yes, he also had the courage of his convictions, which you could, at times, appreciate, or not!

We had melded into a family. So, with this melding, at times, there had to be squabbles, . Like most families. Sometimes one of us ,might not see eye to eye with him. Or, he with one of us. But you put it behind, because that is what families do.

Nevertheless , we expected him to be there for us, heal our wounds and bring comfort, emotional or physical; he was our rabbi. How I wish there was something more I could have done to help him when he needed help. He was so private.

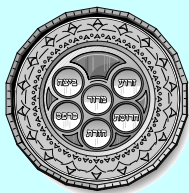
Now we feel his loss, and feel that pain of final goodbye to our rabbi. What an outpouring of grief and coming together was present at his funeral. Justly so.

So goodbye dear Rabbi Ted. We will miss you so much. You wore your yarmulke so proudly.

*June Feldman*

# April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	2 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am
3	4	5 Board Meeting, 7:30pm	6	7	8 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	9 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am
10	11	12	13	14	15 Renewal Service, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	16 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am
17	18	19	20	21	22 First Night Of Pesach	23 Pesach Service, 10:30am  2nd Night Seder at Temple
24	25	26	27	28	29 Yizkor Service, 10:30am  Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:15pm	30



***Please Join Us at the Temple Isaiah Family Seder  
Second Night of Passover  
Saturday, April 23, 6:30PM at Temple Isaiah***

**Temple family and guests are invited to join us for this joyous occasion.  
The seder will be led by Cantor Leslie Friedlander.**

***Space is limited—reservations and payment MUST be made in advance***

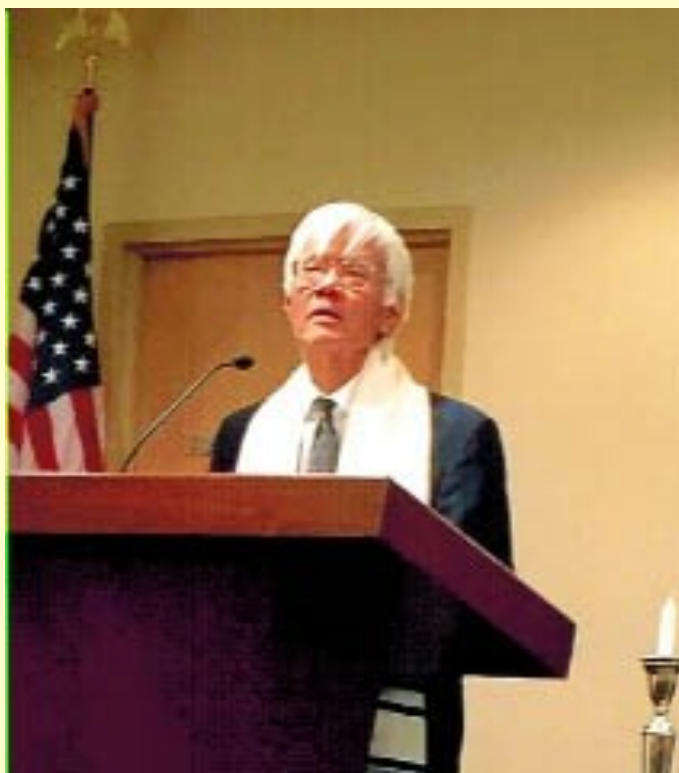
**Adults: \$50.00  
Children 14-18: \$30.00  
Children under 13: Free**

**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:\$\_\_\_\_\_**



## HATZILU RESCUE ORGANIZATION PASSOVER APPEAL

Temple Isaiah's continued sponsorship of Hatzilu Rescue Organization ("Hatzilu") dates back to 1974. Hatzilu is the Hebrew word for "rescue." In 1972, the Jewish community was awakened to the desperate needs of our elderly Jewish brethren who were living below the poverty level. The Council for the Jewish Poor was formed to help provide limited financial assistance in New York City. Hatzilu was founded when a small group of concerned individuals, with representatives of Temple Isaiah of Great Neck, Temple Israel of Great Neck



and several South Shore congregations, met at the home of Martha and Bernie Rosenberg, z"l. This small yet very determined group would not abandon our remaining elderly brethren living in Brownsville and East New York, Brooklyn and the South Bronx. Our co-religionists were living in poverty, despair, without hope, and forgotten by the larger Jewish community. Once vibrant, Jewish middle class communities with flourishing shops, homes and places of worship, were now nothing more than shuttered, boarded-up and burned-out buildings with broken windows. Driven by what they saw, Hatzilu was founded as an organization dedicated to helping the Jewish poor ... if not for the efforts of Hatzilu, they would surely have been forgotten.

Hatzilu opened a storefront at 1770 Pitkin Avenue in Brownsville, Brooklyn to serve as a drop-in center and as an oasis of Yiddishkeit ... a safe and welcoming haven for the Jewish community. Hatzilu provided emergency financial aid (rent, phone, utilities, and medical care); food; and social services. In 1976, as an honors student in the Sociology Department of Queens College, Martha worked at the storefront and received credit towards the school's field work requirement. For several years thereafter, Martha devoted herself to providing assistance to our elderly brethren with housing relocation to safer, Jewish communities in Far Rockaway, Queens; removed from the repetitive muggings or worse to which they were so often subjected. Martha was the driving force behind the amazing accomplishment of rescuing approximately 125 of our co-religionists. Bernie served on the Hatzilu board as financial vice president.

The basic tenet of Hatzilu's mission is as relevant today as when the organization first started. Hatzilu continues to provide support and financial assistance to our needy brethren who are trapped by the shackles of poverty, hunger, unemployment and despair. Although the location and ages of those in need have changed, the determination to help those less fortunate members of our Jewish community in Nassau County, and in our own community of Great Neck, remains the same. *L'dor vador* – from Generation to Generation.

In the Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers) we read "It is not your duty to finish the task, neither are you free to desist from it." Our families have nowhere else to turn for help but to Hatzilu. Temple Isaiah's support & sponsorship of Hatzilu has been continuous for over 40 years. As our Temple community celebrates Passover, please support Hatzilu's work to remove the chains of poverty, isolation, and despair and provide a few precious moments of peace to our less fortunate brethren in Nassau County. Please be as generous as possible with a check payable to Hatzilu Rescue Organization and mail to: Temple Isaiah of Great Neck, Attn: Hatzilu.

Zissen Pesach,  
Denise Miller, Temple Isaiah's Representative to Hatzilu's Board of Trustees



## **General Donations**

### ***In Loving Memory Of:***

Richard Davis, Husband of Kathie Davis and  
Father of Jennifer Davis  
Linda & David Burghardt  
Meg & Steve Grass  
Rachel Greenwald  
Meryl & Jack Menashe  
Ellen Menasse  
Shelley & Bob Willcox  
Barry Weinstein, Brother of Harriet Gellert  
Harriet Gellert  
Rechta & Max Fein, Grandparents of Steve Fein  
Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
Leonard Pollack, Husband of Betty Pollack  
Betty Pollack  
Bruce Reider, Husband of Leslie Reider and  
Father of Bradley Reider  
Leslie Reider  
Ruth Weiner, Mother of Ronald & Sarah  
Weiner  
Rita Rubenstein  
Jacob Soifer, Father of Hank Soifer  
Rebecca Soifer Blitz, Ssiter of Hank Soifer  
Arlene Soifer  
Rabbi Theodore Tsuruoka, Husband of Linda  
Tsuruoka  
Judy & Helman Brook  
Kathie Davis  
Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
June & Allan Feldman  
Gail & Robert Gordon  
Carol & Bill Hersh  
Mindy & Howard Israel  
Terry & Richard Joseph  
Ruth Mandelbaum  
Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
Lynn & Howard Pickus  
William Rosenberg  
Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
Golda Shapiro  
Shelley Sherman  
Benjamin Koenig, Father of Alice Weiner  
Alice & Richard Weiner

### ***Tree of Life:***

In Honor of Our 25th Wedding Anniversary  
Alisa & Martin Secofsky

### ***Tree in Israel:***

In Memory of Ann Schnapper, Wife of Ben  
Schnapper  
Denise Miller and Bill Rosenberg

### ***Rabbi's Discretionary Account:***

In Honor of Rabbi Ted  
June & Allan Feldman  
In Memory of Irving Sollender, Father of  
Amy Kossover  
Amy & Steven Kossover

### ***In Honor of :***

The Speedy Recovery of Luke Reibstein  
Suzanne Branch & Gary McTiernan  
The Hospitality of Ruth Mandelbaum  
Judy & Helman Brook  
The Birth of Isaac Reid Beckerman, Grandson of  
Carol & Bill Hersh  
Linda & David Burghardt  
The Speedy Recovery of Jennifer Davis  
Judy & Helman Brook  
Kathie Davis  
Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
June & Allan Feldman  
Gail & Robert Gordon  
Carol & Bill Hersh  
Mindy & Howard Israel  
Terry & Richard Joseph  
Ruth Mandelbaum  
Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
Shelley Sherman  
The Generosity of Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
The Interesting and Informative Talks by Judy &  
Helman Brook and Ed Moulin  
June & Allan Feldman  
The New Great-Grandson of Franklin Greene  
Judy & Helman Brook  
Kathie Davis  
Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
June & Allan Feldman  
Belle & Elliott Gayer  
Gail & Robert Gordon  
Carol & Bill Hersh  
Mindy & Howard Israel  
Terry & Richard Joseph  
Ruth Mandelbaum  
Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
Shelley Sherman

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

The 25th Anniversary of Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
Judy & Helman Brook  
Kathie Davis  
Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
June Feldman  
Gail & Robert Gordon  
Mindy & Howard Israel  
Terry & Richard Joseph  
Willa Lewis & Edward Moulin  
Ruth Mandelbaum  
Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
Shelley Sherman  
With Thanks to My Temple Isaiah Friends for  
Their  
Concern & Support During Surgery & Recovery  
Ken Greenwald  
The Speedy Recovery of Cantor Leslie  
Friedlander  
Ruth Isaac  
In Honor of Marsha Hochstadt and Jonathan  
Wagner  
William Rosenberg



I am sending this on behalf of the entire JCC, with heavy heart, to acknowledge the passing of Rabbi Tsuruoka. We are all extremely saddened and wish to extend to family, friends and congregants our deepest sympathy.

Please know that our PIC social workers and the entire SJCC staff stand with Temple Isaiah, and will continue to be there by your side to support your congregants in any way that would be helpful. Additionally, I have been contacted by Samantha Fuld at UJA, and they wish to inform you of their continuing support as well.

May Rabbi Tsuruoka's memory be for a blessing.

**Michelle Laser, L.C.S.W.**  
**Director of Social Services**  
**Sid Jacobson JCC**  
300 Forest Drive  
East Hills, NY 11548  
516-484-1545 ext. 200  
Fax 516-484-7354  
[mlaser@sjcc.org](mailto:mlaser@sjcc.org)

# RIVERSIDE- Nassau North Chapels

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Riverside Memorial Chapel is a participating member firm of The PRE Plan,<sup>TM</sup>  
an FDIC insured fund for pre-paid funeral arrangements.



## TEMPLE ISAIAH OF GREAT NECK

1 Chelsea Place  
Great Neck, NY 11021

[www.templeisaiiahgn.org](http://www.templeisaiiahgn.org)

Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism  
Issue No. 161 Published Monthly

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

### BULLETIN

Co-Presidents: Helman Brook, Kathie Davis  
Rabbi: Theodore Tsuruoka  
Cantor: Leslie Friedlander  
Production: Cathy Reibstein

UJA-Federation of New York's

## Partners in Caring

### Did you know there is a Service Corps for Jewish Boomers on Long Island?

Join boomers (and beyond) from Sid Jacobson JCC, Friedberg JCC, The Marion and Aaron Gural JCC, Mid-Island Y JCC and Samuel Field Y in volunteer opportunities and create deep meaningful bonds through UJA-Federation of New York's Engage Jewish Service Corps.



Call or email Susan Berman, Engage Community Organizer at 516-484-1545, ext. 202, [sberman@sjjcc.org](mailto:sberman@sjjcc.org) or complete an online application (see link below) to be matched with meaningful opportunities that use your skills, satisfy your interests and compliment your schedule.

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AP=1013303431](https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?AP=1013303431)