

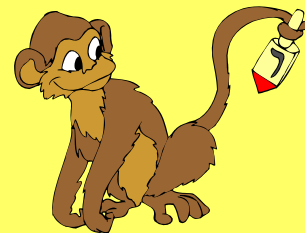
December Calendar of Events

Tues. Dec. 3—Chanukah Dinner, 6:30pm (Religious School meets at 6:30)
 Fri. Dec. 6—Bazaar, 10am to 4:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm
 Sat. Dec. 7—Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
 Sun. Dec. 8—*Bazaar: 10am to 4:30pm*
 Mon. Dec. 9—*Bazaar: 10am to 4pm*
 Tues. Dec. 10—Religious School 4:00pm; Board Meeting, 7:30pm
 Thurs. Dec. 12—Rabbi's Class, "Reform Judaism," 7:30pm (#3)
 Fri. Dec. 13—Shul Talk, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm
 Sat. Dec. 14—Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
 Sun. Dec. 15—Visiting Author Marilyn Oser, 3:00pm
 Mon. Dec. 16—Lunch & Learn at Ayhan's Shish Kebab, 11:30am
 Tues. Dec. 17—Religious School, 4:00pm
 Thurs. Dec. 19—Rabbi's Class, "Book of Samuel," 7:30pm (#1)
 Fri. Dec. 20—Renewal Service, 6:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm
 Sat. Dec. 21—Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
 Tues. Dec. 24—Religious School Closed
 Fri. Dec. 27—Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm
 Sat. Dec. 28—Torah Study 9:30am; Service, 10:30am followed by light lunch hosted by Belle & Elliot Gayer
 Tues. Dec. 31—Religious School closed



December Highlights (Details Inside)

Chanukah Family Dinner
Tuesday, December 3
6:30pm
Choir & Sing-along!



Fabulous Finds Bazaar

Friday, December 6
10am to 4:30pm

Sunday, December 8
10am to 4:30pm

Monday, December 9
10am to 4pm



RABBI'S COLUMN

Car Brain vs 3 MPH



Did you hear about the man who plans to walk across the world in seven years? His name is Paul Salopek and a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and a contributor to National Geographic magazine. His trek originated last January from the Rift Valley of Ethiopia, an early site of Homo Sapien and will end 21 thousand miles and 7 years later in Tierra del Fuego on the southern tip of South America which is thought to be the last spot on earth settled by humans. His “Out of Eden Walk,” as he’s calling it, has as one of its goals the retracing of the steps of humans since the beginning as a way of mirroring events of our modern civilization. I came across a piece of his in a recent NYT Sunday Review (11/24/13) in which he reflects on dramatic shifts in human consciousness in the way people interact with each other since the invention of cars and paved roadways. Salopek says he started his trek in one of the last habitable places on earth where autos are scarce (2 cars per 1000 inhabitants) so most people walk to get places. Walking is a near-universal activity creating human relationships that are shaped by the human foot.

But once he crossed the Red Sea to the Middle East, where car ownership explodes (300 cars/1000), he “entered a region subjugated utterly by the vulcanized rubber tire.” In Saudi Arabia he says, “I had trouble simply communicating with motorists... Asking directions is often pointless. Like drivers everywhere, their frame of reference is rectilinear and limited to narrow ribbons of space, axle-wide that rocket blindly across the land” As a result urban man has become spatially crippled: no longer able to understand the world in human scale. The car has become a prosthetic for those thus perceptually impaired. Salopek calls it Car Brain. “The incidence of Car Brain grows with rising latitudes across the surface of the world... Cocooned inside a bubble of loud noise and a tonnage of steel, members of the internal combustion tribe tend to adopt ownership of all consumable space. They roar too close. They squint with curiosity out of the privacy of their cars as if they themselves were invisible.” In other words, they have become a stranger in their own land – no longer a part of it, but an outsider looking in.

Those suffering from Car Brain miss the slow pleasures in life. They “will never know the ceremony of authentic departures and arrivals” (as Abraham understood). Salopek says Car Brains see auto travel as the “commuter’s inconvenience of simply ‘getting there.’ Car Brains have lost all knowledge of human interaction on foot... a lovely courtliness marks these bipedal encounters.

“AND then there is the simple act of traveling through the world at 3 miles per hour – the speed we were biologically designed to move. There is something mesmerizing about this pace that I can’t adequately describe. While roaming the old pilgrim roads in Saudi Arabia, I came to understand how the journey to Mecca – the *hajj* – in pre-airline days was perhaps as important as reaching Islam’s holiest city.” It must have been how the ancient Israelites experienced the three annual pilgrimages to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices on *Sukkot*, *Pesach* and *Shavuot*. Those 3 pilgrimages are known as “*shalosh regalim*.” The root of the word *regalim* is leg denoting that walking was an important aspect of the journey – a time of quiet and deep conversation, a time of transition and transformation. Anthropological research has discovered that ancient hunter-gatherers walked an average of 7 miles a day in pursuit of game, which works out to be about 2500 miles a year or tramping from NY to LA annually. Salopek concludes: “Given that this ancient economy is one that dominated 95% of human history, walking that distance is our norm. Sitting down is what’s radical.”

Looking at the act of walking this way, things take on different meaning. Such as walking to synagogue on Shabbat. Maybe walking to shul is less about obeying the prohibition against riding than it is about slowing down and appreciating the journey with family and friends on the way to services. Maybe taking the sifrei Torah out of the ark and walking them around the sanctuary with song and joy is really a way to bring God’s world closer to each congregant. On the day we dedicated our new temple five years ago, we walked together with our sacred objects from Stoner Avenue to Chelsea Place. I for one will never forget that glorious morning from start to finish and the sights and conversations we shared walking towards our new spiritual home.

Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka

Winter Classes in Basic Hebrew and Intermediate Hebrew

Separate classes in Basic Hebrew and Intermediate Hebrew are planned beginning in December.

Please call the Temple Office (487-5373) if you are interested in either class.

CANTOR'S COLUMN

A Precious Sacrifice



After graduating from college a few years ago my son, Gabriel, moved back to New York City and has been exploring the variety of Jewish worship services. He has visited tiny Orthodox *stibele*, grand Reform congregations, services that are lay-led, clergy-led, Spanish-Portuguese, Conservative egalitarian, Conservadox, Reconstructionist, Jewish Renewal and some that are too esoteric to even categorize.

Recently Gabriel asked me about the differences in the musical orchestration of services: why are Friday night Shabbat services unaccompanied by musical instruments in more observant synagogues? How is the playing of instruments on Shabbat viewed by other Jewish movements?

Certainly, as we know from descriptions in the Bible, instrumental music played a prominent role in the life of ancient Israelites. In Samuel I we read that David's victorious return was received not only with singing and dancing, but also "with timbrels, with joy, and with three-stringed instruments." (21:12) Also in this book we read about the use of pipes, psaltery and harps. In Numbers 10:2-10 we hear a direct command concerning the construction and use of trumpets: "And God spoke to Moses...make two trumpets of silver, of a whole piece shall you make them..." Throughout Chronicles I and II we read about public ceremonial music and the variety of instruments called for in coronations, dedications, and other public observances. In Chronicles we learn that the Levitical orchestra and chorus, during the reign of King David, employed 4,000 musicians for special occasions. One biblical musicologist, Shlomo Hofman, searched the Bible for citations about music and found 900 definite references to song or musical instruments. We know from our sacred texts that in addition to the shofar, the silver trumpets mentioned in Numbers, timbrels, and three-stringed instruments, the ancient Israelites enjoyed a wide variety of instruments: eight-stringed harp, an assortment of hand drums, flute, pipes, copper cymbals, bells, rattles, a double-reed flute (perhaps like an oboe), and although it wasn't used in the Temple service, a water organ existed that must have been used on other ceremonial occasions. According to the musical historian Abraham Zevi Idelsohn, the Talmud records that the water organ was not part of the Temple service because its sweet and powerful sound would distract from other musical instruments.

One would think that given such texturally rich musical beginnings our present-day worship service would be equally – or even more – rich in instrumental accompaniment. However, the truth is that there is very little instrumental music composed for the synagogue, unlike music for church worship. There is a tremendous and rich collection of instrumental music in the Christian worship tradition. In fact, much of our greatest classical music was composed for the church. The reason for Judaism's lack of a significant body of instrumental worship music has nothing to do with musical taste and certainly not due to lack of creativity on the part of Jewish musicians.

Following the destruction of the Temple in the year 70 C.E. the rabbis decreed that music, because it is so pleasurable, would no longer be permitted, as a sign of national mourning for the Temple and for Jerusalem. Fortunately, the people's love for music and the need to express themselves musically was evidently stronger than the rabbis' ruling and the ban on music was softened. Instrumental music remained forbidden, probably because it was associated with dancing and secular frivolity. Vocal music became the focus of the worship service and to this day, as Gabriel discovered, almost two thousand years after the destruction of the Temple, "traditional" congregations still do not allow instruments in worship services. It was only in 1810 that a musical instrument was heard in a public synagogue service, when the organ was introduced in the first Reform Temple in Seesen, Germany. Most non-Reform congregations to this day do not allow musical instruments on Shabbat or Festivals in the synagogue. Not only do they await the restoration of the Temple, at which time the Temple rite will resume and Levitical choirs and instrumentalists will lead the service, but there is always a chance that playing an instrument can result in a broken string or something that needs to be repaired and the musician might forget the Jewish law forbidding work on the Sabbath or festival.

The prohibition on instrumental music may seem rather severe in this day and age but it really points out how important and precious music is in our culture. The rabbis understood how gratifying music is for the soul, for they chose music as a sacrifice. We all know that for something to be a sacrifice it has to be the choicest, the best, the most precious.

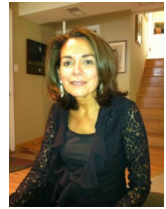
Cantor Leslie Friedlander

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

The Post-Thanksgivingukah Blues



It's been a once-in-a-lifetime event. Hanukkah during Thanksgiving, with lots of jokes, fusion recipes (sweet potato latkes, anyone?) and holiday shopping completed before Black Friday's opening bell. To accommodate this upside down year, Temple Isaiah's Pot Luck Hanukkah Dinner was changed to a Tuesday, so



we have the opportunity to brighten a weekday night with home-made food and a celebration of the Jewish part of this fused holiday. We hope to see you there.

But what will happen when Thanksgivingukah is done? Oh sure, we had our fun, and will recall the merged holiday for years to come, saying things to each other like, "Remember the year we had pumpkin donuts from Dunkin Donuts for Hanukah?" But, after we have figuratively burned our Hanukkah candles from both ends, what the heck are we going to do for the rest of December?

As others continue their Season's Greetings frenzy, Temple Isaiah offers a sanctuary of alternative activities. Let's face it, there is such a thing as too many "Nutcracker's Suite" melodies played in department stores and on television commercials. Have you shopped until you dropped yet? Surely, you are tougher than that. Come buy, sell, kibbitz, and generally hang out at the Temple Bazaar, one that is much more fun than the endless lines at Macy's. Of course, there is also the Rabbi's course, a local author's presentation, regular religious services and Torah study. And, certainly not "least" in priority as the chill of winter sets in, we encourage you to participate in opportunities to help others who would benefit from a helping hand.

Peter, Paul and Mary sang, "Don't let the light go out." We wish you a December that is filled with joy and warmth...and that your memories of Thanksgivingukah provide an inner light that shines even after the Hanukiah's illumination is done. Enjoy!

Gail Gordon & Terry Joseph

Rabbi's Class for December


Book of Samuel

Thursday Evenings 12/19, 1/2 & 1/9

On December 19th a three-week class on the Book of Samuel will be given and will continue on January 2nd and 9th. This pivotal book of the 2nd section of the Tanach collectively known as Neviim, or the Prophets, relates the story of Samuel, Saul and David. The class will highlight the historical chapters of Samuel and Saul – Israel's first king. Emphasis will be placed on King David a man of profound complexity, contradiction, humanity and piety. Selected verses will be examined and explained that reveal the personality of Israel's greatest king.

[The class on the history of the Reform Jewish Movement will conclude on Thursday, December 12th]

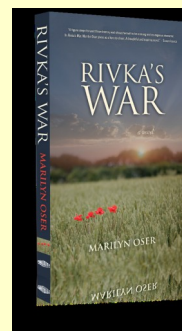
December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  Candle 5	2 Weight Watchers 12:30 Candle 6	3 Chanukah Dinner, 6:30pm Candle 7	4 Candle 8	5	6 <i>Bazaar-10am to 4:30pm</i> Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	7 Torah Study, 9:30am Cantillation, 11:00am
8 <i>Bazaar 10am to 4:30pm</i>	9 Weight Watchers 12:30 <i>Bazaar 10am to 4pm</i>	10 Board Meeting, 7:30pm Religious School 4:00pm	11	12 Rabbi's Class: "Reform Judaism," #3 of 3 7:30pm	13 Shul Talk, 7:30pm Shabbat Service 8:00pm	14 Torah Study, 9:30am Cantillation, 11:00am
15 Visiting Author Marilyn Oser, 3:00pm	16 Lunch & Learn 11:30 (Ayhan's ShishKebab); Weight Watchers 12:30	17 Religious School 4:00pm	18	19 Rabbi's Class: "Book of Samuel," #1 of 3 7:30pm	20 Renewal Service, 7:30pm Shabbat Service	21 Torah Study, 9:30am Cantillation, 11:00am
22	23 Weight Watchers 12:30	24 <i>Religious School Closed</i>	25	26	27 Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:15pm	28 Torah Study, 9:30am; Service, 10:30am (light lunch)
29	30 Weight Watchers 12:30	31 <i>Religious School Closed</i>				



Visiting Author Marilyn Oser Sunday, December 15, 3:00pm

Local author Marilyn Oser will read from her novel, *Rivka's War*, a novel of the Great War, and discuss her work at Temple Isaiah on Sunday, December 15, at 3PM.



In Russia, in 1917, when demoralized soldiers were deserting their posts in droves, one enterprising officer recruited an all-female battalion to set an example for the men. *Rivka's War* tells the story of this battalion—and more—through the eyes of a Jewish girl, daughter of a boot maker.

Marilyn Oser is a former resident of Great Neck and still lives on Long Island's north shore. A Ph.D. in language and literature, she has taught English, history and Judaics, and has raised funds for arts, environmental and community organizations. Author of the novel *Playing for Keeps* and the blog *Streets of Israel*, she is a recipient of the University of Michigan's coveted Avery Hopwood Prize for excellence in writing.

ARZA News

President to Speak at Temple

The president we're talking about is Rabbi Josh Weinberg, the brand new president of ARZA who'll be speaking to our congregation on Friday evening, January 17, 2014. One might say that Rabbi Weinberg and ARZA were made for each other. An American who grew up in the Reform Movement, he made aliyah 10 years ago, worked as a spokesperson for the Israeli Defense Forces, served on the staff of the Israeli Consulate in Chicago, and received his rabbinical training at HUC-JIR in Jerusalem.

Join us in welcoming Rabbi Weinberg to our Temple on January 17.



Save the Date and Start Reading! Tuesday, January 21, 7:30pm

Our next book for discussion is Madeleine Albright's biography "Prague Winter", a personal story of remembrance and war (1937-1948). This is a moving and thoughtful memoir of our former Secretary of State's young years in Czechoslovakia during Nazi occupation, WWII, fascism and the Cold War.

Discussion will be led by Judy Snow and snacks will be provided.

Limited number of copies are available at the Great Neck



**Come to Temple Isaiah to
Light the Chanukiah
Each Night of Chanukah
7:00pm
Call office for information**

Chanukah Potluck Dinner

Tuesday, December 3rd, 6:30PM
Family Celebration with Choir & Sing-Along



**Celebrate the holiday with your
Temple Isaiah Family at our traditional
potluck supper (non-dairy)**

**Call chairwoman Bea Aubrey (482-6588) to RSVP and let
her know what dish you will be bringing.**



Bring your chanukiot and an appetite for latkes!

Please Join Us on this Special Evening

"Fabulous Finds" Bazaar



Books Clothing
Collectibles Designer Scarves
Jewelry Mezzuzahs
China & Glassware Artworks
Toys & Games
"Terry's Treasures"
New & Gently Used Gift Items



Friday, December 6—10am to 4:30pm
Sunday, December 8—10am to 4:30pm
Monday, December 9—10am to 4pm

call Terry Joseph to donate or volunteer (516-466-2971)

Save the Dates and Tell Your Friends!

With Chanukah around the corner, we in Hebrew School have been looking at the meaning of the lights. Rather than focusing on the miracle of the oil, we've been asking ourselves how the Chanukah Lights symbolize us in our lives, and what they represent in the 21st century.



We're also getting ready for the Chanukah Dinner on December 3rd, and we have been making our own very special Menorah. We hope to see everyone at the Dinner and Family Program!



On behalf of our art teacher Sue Turek and myself, a Chag Sameach to all!

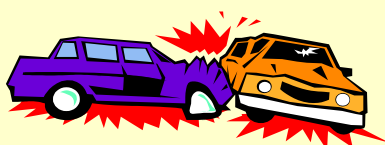
Adam Turek-Herman

Reduce Your Car Insurance Premium!

Do you want to save from about \$300-\$500 from your premiums in three years and remove points from your driver's license? Join Temple Isaiah's Driver Safety Course, given by Claude Springer, on two Sunday mornings, Jan. 12 and 19 from 9am to noon. This six-hour course of \$40 includes a donation of \$15 to the temple for each student. Claude promises you will learn some important aspects of driving to make you safer and drive with less stress—and that it won't be boring! Classes start promptly—late comers can not be accommodated.

Please call Cathy at 516-487-5373 to reserve a place. Checks made out to Empire Safety Council must be received no later than Jan. 7, and are non-refundable except for future classes.

Temple Isaiah of Great Neck
1 Chelsea Place
Great Neck, NY 11021
516-487-5373
Email: isaiahgn@yahoo.com



***Two Successive
Sundays
January 12 & 19***

General Donations

In Loving Memory Of:

Brucha Skulnick, Mother of Mona Bokat
Mona Bokat
Anna Brook, Mother of Helman Brook
Erling Tholfsen, Father of Judy Brook
Judy & Helman Brook
Abraham Berkowitz, Grandfather of Sheila
DeFazio
Jan Narloch, Husband of Barbara Narloch
Louis Cohen, Father of Sheila DeFazio
Sheila & Victor DeFazio
Beatrice Schorr, Sister of Bernice Rafael
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Beth, Sister of Ann Berliant
Herbert Dorfman, Husband of Helene Dorfman
Maurice Wagner, Father of Helene Dorfman
Helene Dorfman
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Leonie & Norman Goldfarb
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Sheila & Victor DeFazio
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Terry & Richard Joseph
Ruth Mandelbaum
Alisa & Martin Secofsky
Shelley Sherman
Herbert Rosenberg, Father of Ruth Isaac
Toby Rosenberg, Mother of Ruth Isaac
Harvey Rosenberg, Brother of Ruth Isaac
Hank Soifer, Husband of Arlene Soifer
Ruth Isaac
Diane Loew, Greataunt of Mindy Israel
Mindy & Howard Israel
Victor Cowen, Father of Amy Levinson
Amy & Lee Levinson

In Loving Memory of (Cont'd):

Charles Maller, Father of Al Maller
Connie & Al Maller
Abraham Secofsky, Father of Joan and Martin
Secofsky
Joan Secofsky & Herbert Kwasnik
William Friesser, Father of Daisy Seigel
Hilda Seigel, Mother of Alfred Seigel
Daisy & Alfred Seigel
P.F.C. Leonard Kristal, Brother of Evelyn Solow
Evelyn & Richard Solow
Hannah Zimberg, Mother of Shelley Willcox
Shelley & Robert Willcox

Tree of Life:

In Honor of the Birthday of Mindy Israel
Judy Brook
Kathie Davis
June Feldman
Gail Gordon
Ruth Isaac
Ruth Mandelbaum
Maria Mann
Judith Schloss Markowitz
Cathy Reibstein
Helene Schwartz & Hy Levinsky
Robin & Larry Tabak
Micki Victor

Kol Nidre:

Rita Blesman
Miriam & Jeffrey Greene
Ruth Isaac

Sunshine Fund:

Suzanne Branch & Gary McTiernan
Margery & David Kashman
Arlene Soifer

Tzedakah Fund:

Willa Lewis & Ed Moulin
Micki Victor

Chanukah Appeal:

Ruth Mandelbaum

In Honor of:

Belle & Elliott Gayer for Conducting
Services at the Atria
Rita Blesman
Betty Kagen and Richard Solow for Their
Special Programs at Temple Isaiah
Kathie & Richard Davis
Willa Lewis & Ed Moulin's for a Wonderful Day
in LIC
Kathie Davis
The Birth of Esme Margaux Bardin,
Greatgranddaughter of Bernard Rosenberg
Kathie & Richard Davis
Sheila & Victor DeFazio
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
June & Allan Feldman
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Steve Fein's Generosity
Micki Victor
Rabbi Ted's Speedy Recovery
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Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism
Issue No. 143 Published Monthly

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

BULLETIN

Co-Presidents: Gail Gordon & Terry Joseph

Rabbi: Theodore Tsuruoka

Cantor: Leslie Friedlander

Production: Cathy Reibstein

Photos: Sheila DeFazio



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