

# BULLETIN

Office - 487-5373, School - 487-8709

Published Monthly

December, 2014

#### **December Calendar of Events**

Mon. Dec. 1—Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am; Conversational Spanish, 10:30am

Tues. Dec. 2—Board Meeting, 7:30pm

Fri. Dec. 5—Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Sat. Dec. 6—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am

Mon. Dec. 8—Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am; Conversational Spanish, 10:30am

Fri. Dec. 12—Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Sat. Dec. 13—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am

Mon. Dec. 15—Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am; Lunch & Learn at Ayhan's Shish Kebab, 11:30am

Tues. Dec. 16—First Night of Chanukah

Thurs. Dec. 18—Adult Ed: Guest Speaker Sonia Gollance on "Studying Yiddish in the U.S. and Germany", 7:30pm

Fri. Dec. 19—Chanukah Potluck Dinner; 6:30pm; Family Shabbat Service, 7:30pm

Sat. Dec. 20—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am

Mon. Dec. 22—Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am

Fri. Dec. 26—Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:15pm

Sat. Dec. 27—Torah Study, 9:30am; Torah Service, 10:30am



Temple Isaiah's
Annual
Chanukah
Potluck
Dinner
and
Choir Service

Friday, December 19th



See Page 6 for details on the Dinner and Page 7 for Information on joining the Chanukah Choir.

#### RABBI'S COLUMN

#### Dimensions of Xenophobia: Ebola, Immigration & Judaism



A special part of the Yom Kippur liturgy is the *Ashamnu*, which is a short confession of sins arranged alphabetically. Thus, it begins with sins of: "arrogance, bigotry, cynicism, etc..." and as we near the end, it lists xenophobia – intense dislike or fear of people from other countries. For years I thought it clever and quaint of the authors of our Reform Machzor to manage to find a "sin" that started with an "x!" Recent events though, has proven just how strongly xenophobia still grips our attitudes and behavior even in America.

For example, it turns out Ebola is in fact *two* epidemics: One is the disease of Ebola, and the other is the fear of Ebola. While it is indisputable that the Ebola virus is a deadly and virulent disease, the fear of contracting Ebola has spread like wildfire. It has resulted in extreme quarantine measures, detention of hundreds of foreign travelers and American soldiers, forced isolation and confinement of individuals who had even the slightest suspicion of carrying the disease. Thus, the fear of this disease has marginalized a swath of the American population – making them outsiders and aliens in their own country. The fear of Ebola contagion has spread faster than the disease itself.

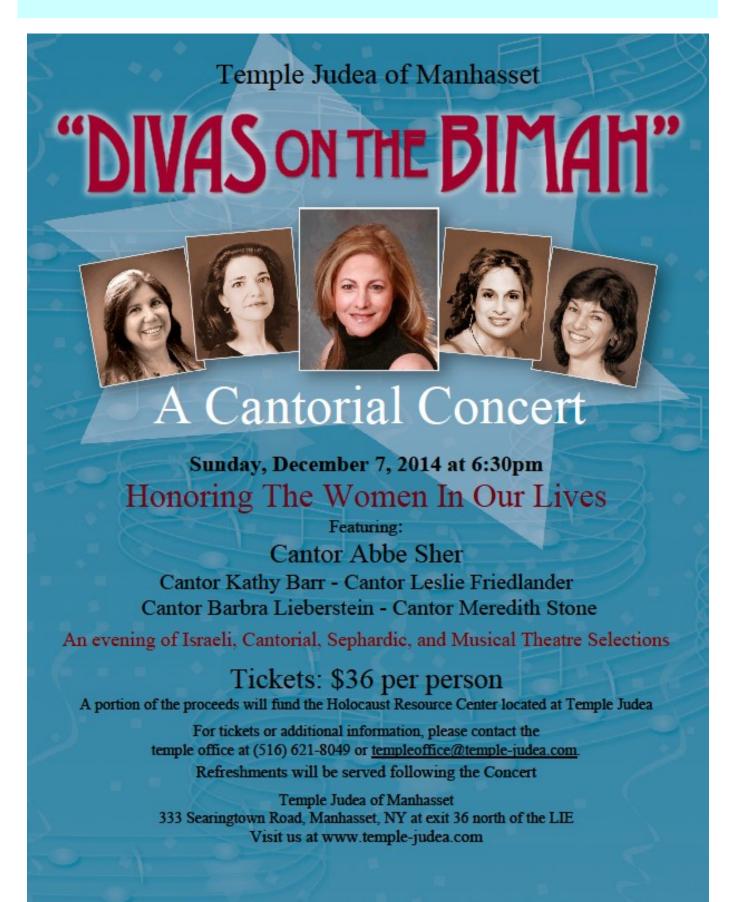
Then there is the issue of undocumented immigrants that is dividing the country today. Of the 11 million undocumented immigrants in search for a better life, there are nearly 5 million who work miserable low-paying jobs, are raising American-born families, and live responsible lives who deserve a chance – like previous immigrants – to apply to stay legally in this country without fear of deportation. Yet there are those who say that immigrants threaten our way of life, are parasites, and are different because they are illegal. These opinions were expressed by Theodore Roosevelt in 1918 in reference to German and other non-Anglo European immigrants. There were the echos of the "yellow peril" regarding Chinese and Japanese immigration at the beginning of the last century. The mid 1800's saw the Irish immigrant as bringing "disease, wretchedness and want to America." The plight of these 11 million is the latest chapter.



Jewish immigration was similar in its time, but with a twist. Multiple waves of Jews - first from Germany and Western Europe in the late 19th century seeking a more modern life, and then larger numbers from Eastern Europe in the early 20th century fleeing antisemitism and Hitler's onslaught, washed upon America's shores. They too experienced exclusion and prejudice by the mostly Christian establishment on account of their foreignness and competition for jobs. In the case of the Jew however, xenophobia took on the dimension of Jewish religion which added to the challenge of integrating into American society. There was hardly a place where a Jew was not made to feel like an outsider, the "other." Until the establishment of Israel in 1948, a Jew had to define his or her Jewish identity through observance of ritual, halachah and customs. The Torah was a miniature sanctuary which you could carry around in your pocket and be a Jew. We understood fully the Torah's meaning when it says: "And the stranger you shall not oppress - for you know the heart of the stranger... for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." When President Obama quoted this verse in his immigration speech on November 20, he was channeling the hopes and dreams of every man, woman and child who is seeking a better life and an opportunity to improve themselves and the world. The rabbis say that all nations come from Adam and Eve so that no one can say their people is better than any America is unique among the nations being made up almost entirely of immigrants. Immigrants built America. Immigration is part of American life and our future strength depends on welcoming the stranger. Politics aside, this is a deep moral issue.

As we observe Chanukah, the Festival of Light, let us remember all those who have brought light to America and blessing to humanity. Linda and I wish you *Chag Urim Sameach!* 

Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka



## Message from the Co-Presidents Temple Isaiah History—Part II

In last month's Bulletin we discussed how Temple Isaiah and the Community Church negotiated the annual rental agreement between the two congregations. In this column we will recount an incident that reflects the spirit of that lost time.

Our founding president, Bernie Rosenberg, z"l, told this story, but some of our more recent members may not have heard it, and it definitely needs to be remembered.



In one of the very earliest negotiations, the temple and the church could not agree on the amount of the temple's "contribution in lieu of rent." Both sides were insistent on positions that were \$250 apart. (That was when the contribution was a couple of thousand dollars per year and \$250 was real money.)

Anyway, after lengthy but unproductive discussion, a church member - Harold Miner - an executive at the United Nations, which had been located in Lake Success before moving to Manhattan, suggested that the meeting be adjourned. He recommended that everyone go home, ponder the situation, and concluded "maybe God will find a way".

A couple of days later, Temple Isaiah received a \$250 contribution from Harold Miner.

In addition to the beautiful example of spirit and brotherhood in this story, there is a fine example of the importance of compromise. The parties were at loggerheads and were frustrated. But Harold Miner's gift allowed both sides to feel some satisfaction - the church got the total amount of rent it desired and the temple paid the amount it felt it could afford. A generous act of kindness prevented a breach of trust.

Helman Brook & Kathie Davis

#### Beguests to Temple Isaiah



It's both impressive and heartwarming—leaving a legacy to our temple for your favorite program or general funding. You can begin by writing out this sentence directing your attorney to modify your will:

"I hereby give, devise, and bequeath \_\_\_\_\_ (a dollar amount, or all or a percentage of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate) to Temple Isaiah of Great Neck, now or formerly in the Village of Great Neck Plaza, 1 Chelsea Place, in the State of New York, for its general purposes."

[Our federal tax ID number is 11-2202208]

For further information, contact the office—we'll be happy to help.—or contact Steve Fein, who has generously volunteered to provide a free consultation on the topic.

# December 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am; Spanish Class, 10:30am	Board Meeting 7:30pm;	3	4	5 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	Torah Study & Service 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
7	8 Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am; Spanish Class, 10:30am	9	10	11	Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	Torah Study & Service 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
14	15 Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am; Lunch & Learn, 11:30am	16 First Night Of Chanukah	17	18 Adult Ed: Guest Speaker Sonia Gollance, 7:30pm	Chanukah Dinner, 6:30pm; Shabbat Service, 7:30pm	20 Torah Study & Service 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
21	Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am;	23	24	25	Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm	Torah Study 9:30am; Torah Service, 10:30am
28	29	30	31	Come to Temple Isaiah to light the Chanukiyah each night of Chanukah: 7:00pm December 16 through December 23		

### **Chanukah Family Potluck Dinner**

Friday, December 19th, 6:30PM Choir Service, 7:30PM

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





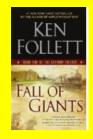
Bring your menorahs and an appetite for great food!

Bring the Family and Friends!

Contact dinner chairpersons
Judy Snow and Scott Schleifstein
to RSVP and let them know what
dish you will be bringing.
(516-829-2343 or email to
judyscott2006@yahoo.com)



Book Discussion with Judy Snow: Ken Follett's "Fall of Giants" January Book Selection (Date to be determined)



"Ken Follett's magnificent... historical epic begins, as five interrelated families move through the momentous dramas of the First World War, the Russian Revolution, and the struggle for women's suffrage." from Amazon.com review

#### **Temple Isaiah's Chanukah Choir Awaits!**

If you've ever wondered what it's like to sing in a choir or have thought about singing in our volunteer choir and wanted a shorter commitment than the High Holy Days – or you simply love to sing and are tired of just singing in the shower, here's your chance!



Our choir for the Chanukah service has only two rehearsals and most of the music will be familiar. Not only do we have just two rehearsals, but they are on Friday December 5 and Friday December 12, both at 6:30, evenings you would come for services anyway. How easy! Just come on December 5. If you've sung in our Chanukah choir in the past, bring your music. If you're new to the choir, just come and I'll have music for you. Singing isn't a spectator sport, so join us in song and remember that 5<sup>th</sup>-century adage: those who sing pray twice!

**Cantor Friedlander** 

#### Adult Education Special Speaker: Yiddish Expert Sonia Gollance Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>



Please join us to hear Sonia Gollance, graduate student from the University of Pennsylvania, speak about her experiences studying Yiddish in the U.S. and Germany. Her research interests include German-Jewish studies, Yiddish literature, dance studies, gender studies and regional fiction. She is presently a doctoral candidate and a Fulbright Research Grant recipient. The lecture will begin at 7:30.

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



The first night of Chanukah is Tuesday, December 16th

### **Long Island Second Generation Group: A Call To Action**

The Long Island Second Generation Group of over 350 members was created to enable descendants of Holocaust survivors to continue the legacy of confronting evil and bearing witness to the world by honoring their memory and the memory of the 6 million Jews and the millions of other civilians who perished at the hands of the Nazi killing machine. The Group's Purpose and Mission includes the following points:



We observe with increasing alarm the hateful venom of anti-Semitic attacks and slogans poisoning the world, an ugly replay of the 1930's and people consumed by hate engaging in criminal attacks on Jews in response to Israel defending itself against attack. We are appalled by the silence of the world, yet again. It is time for all good people of every religion and political persuasion to join us and speak out against these anti-Semitic attacks and the evil forces of terrorism and Islamic jihad that have gripped the world, and threaten the survival not only of Israel and the Jews, but of all people who do not adhere to Sharia law and who do not accept the quest for an ever-expanding Caliphate. ISIS, engaged in a holy war, expanding its influence and

reach, growing exponentially, with many eager recruits and massive weaponry has already conquered an area from southern Syria through northern Iraq killing all who do not accept their brand of Islam. The chilling video of the barbaric beheading of two American journalists proclaims the ISIS mission to the world. The threat to us all is real. Accordingly, we are committed to:

- Develop a grass-roots movement through information and education, local discussion groups and social media sites.
- Voice outrage to media sources who disseminate erroneous reports to support their anti-Semitic and anti-Israel agendas.
- Inform local, state and federal elected officials of the Group's support of Israel, denouncing terrorism and terrorist organizations.
- Advocate the boycott of companies that refuse to do business with Israel, support or fund terrorist organizations.
- Create a broad-based grass-roots coalition among community and religious leaders of all faiths to join in these efforts.

Meryl Menashe, a member of our Temple family, plays a leadership role at the Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County and has spearheaded the HMTC 2G Long Island group since its inception. If you would like further information or want to be included in the Group, please contact Meryl at or at 516-395-9341.

#### **General Donations**

#### In Loving Memory Of:

Brucha Skulnick, Mother of Mona Bokat Mona Bokat

Erling Tholfsen, Father of Judy Brook Judy & Helman Brook

Abraham Berkowitz, Grandfather of Sheila DeFazio Goldie Cohen, Mother of Sheila DeFazio

Sheila & Victor DeFazio

Maurice Wagner, Father of Helene Dorfman Herbert Dorfman, Husband of Helene Dorfman Marjorie Kleinman, Sister of Franklin Greene

Helene Dorfman

Bertha & Samuel Goldfarb, Mother & Father of Norman Goldfarb

Ella & Fred Guttstadt, Mother & Father of Leonie

Leonie & Norman Goldfarb

Eugene Lustig. Father of Lia Hans

Lia & Mortimer Hans

Peter Isaacs, Brother of Patricia Isaacs Patricia Isaacs

Diane Loew, Greataunt of Mindy Israel Mindy & Howard Israel

Rose Schneidermesser, Grandmother of Lisa Lundenberg

Lisa & Joel Lundenberg

Charles Maller, Father of Al Maller

Connie & Al Maller

Alfred Bein, Uncle of William Rosenberg William Rosenberg

Susan Weiss, Daughter of Rita Rubenstein Rita Rubenstein

Etta Schreiber, Mother of Nancy Schreiber Nancy Schreiber

Abraham Secofsky, Father of Joan and Martin Secofsky

Joan Secofsky & Herbert Kwasnik Louis Rosner, Father of Harriet Shindler

Harriet Shindler Hannah Zimberg, Mother of Shelley Willcox Shelley & Robert Willcox

#### ARZA Membership:

June & Allan Feldman Rachel Greenwald

#### In Honor of:

The Speedy Recovery of Minnie Goldwater

Judy & Helman Brook

Kathie & Richard Davis Sheila & Victor DeFazio

June & Allan Feldman

Gail & Robert Gordon

Mindy & Howard Israel Terry & Richard Joseph

Ruth Mandelbaum

Denise Miller & Steve Fein Alisa & Martin Secofsky

Shelley Sherman

The Speedy Recovery of Richard Solow

Judy & Helman Brook

Kathie & Richard Davis

Sheila & Victor DeFazio June & Allan Feldman

Gail & Robert Gordon

Mindy & Howard Israel

Terry & Richard Joseph

Ruth Mandelbaum

Denise Miller & Steve Fein

Alisa & Martin Secofsky

Shelley Sherman

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

The Great Granddaughter of Arlene Aronowitz Helene Dorfman

The Speedy Recovery of Emily Soifer

The Well-Presented and Provocative Presentation of Judy & Helman Brook

Bella Silver's Fabulous Knitting Skills and Generosity Irma & Allen Leboff

June & Allan Feldman

Howard Israel's Responsiveness & Concern

Jean & John Lesser

The Marriage of Luke Reibstein & Emily Campbell

Judy & Helman Brook

Kathie & Richard Davis

Sheila & Victor DeFazio

June & Allan Feldman

Gail & Robert Gordon

Mindy & Howard Israel

Terry & Richard Joseph

Ruth Mandelbaum

Denise Miller & Steve Fein

William Rosenberg

Alisa & Martin Secofsky

Shelley Sherman

The Reibstein Family

Arlene Soifer

Judy & Helman Brook

Stanley Turetsky

#### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

Arlene Soifer

#### Kol Nidre Appeal:

Lia & Mortimer Hans Dorothy Kaminowitz

Thank you for the many good wishes for a speedy recovery from many of my temple friends. Hope to see you soon. Richard Solow

#### "Memories of Evil"

For those of you who were not present to hear Peter Kubicek's talk on his experience during the Holocaust, you can purchase his book on Amazon for \$12.95.

The book is simply written and utterly readable by all ages. (I bought the books for my granddaughters.)

June Feldman

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#### BULLETIN

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