

## December Calendar of Events

Tuesday, Dec. 1—Board Meeting, 7:30pm  
 Wednesday, Dec. 2—Scarf Painting with Richard Weiner, 7:00pm  
 Thursday, Dec. 3—Rabbi's Class, "Maccabees & Mishnah", 7:30pm (#1)  
 Friday, Dec. 4—Choir Rehearsal, 6:15pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm  
 Saturday, Dec. 5—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am  
 Sunday, Dec. 6—First Night of Chanukah—Candlelighting at the Temple, 7:00pm  
 Monday, Dec. 7—Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am; Conversational Spanish, 10:30am  
 Thursday, Dec. 10—Rabbi's Class, "Maccabees & Mishnah", 7:30pm (#2)  
 Friday, Dec. 11—Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm; Chanukah Potluck Dinner (Non-Dairy), 6:30pm; Choir Service, 7:30pm  
 Saturday, Dec. 12—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am  
 Sunday, Dec. 13—Bar Mitzvah: Brendon Guevara, 10:30am  
 Monday, Dec. 14—Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am; Lunch & Learn at Shish Kebab, 11:30am  
 Tuesday, Dec. 15—"Current Events" with Helman Brook, 7:30pm  
 Thursday, Dec. 17—Rabbi's Class, "Maccabees & Mishnah", 7:30pm (#3)  
 Friday, Dec. 18—Renewal Service, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm  
 Saturday, Dec. 19—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am  
 Monday, Dec. 21—Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am  
 Friday, Dec. 25—Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm  
 Saturday, Dec. 26—Torah Study, 9:30am; Torah Service, 10:30am  
 Monday, Dec. 28—Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am

**Exciting New Program:**  
**Scarf Painting with**  
**Richard Weiner**  
**Wednesday, 12/2 at 7:00pm**  
**See Page 6 for Details**



**Temple Isaiah's**  
**Annual**  
**Chanukah**  
**Potluck Dinner**  
**and**  
**Choir Service**  
**Friday, 12/11**  
**See page 7 for details**



## **RABBI'S COLUMN**

### **Some Thoughts About Chanukah: 5776**



My December column is inspired by Rabbi Jill Hammer, the author of “The Jewish Book of Days,” and teacher at the Academy for Jewish Religion, my seminary. There is a wonderful connection between the story of Jacob who wrestles with an angel of God and the Festival of *Chanukah* which begins this year on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Jacob is on his way home to confront his angry brother, Esau, from whom he fled 20 years earlier after stealing with guile and deceit the older brother's birthright of inheritance and primary blessing from their father, Isaac. One night, Jacob sends his wives and children onward and remains behind. Rashi explains here that Jacob has gone back to retrieve some small jars he has forgotten. Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav expands this notion by saying that one of these small jars is handed down through history and becomes the small jar of oil found in the Temple when it was purified and rededicated by Judah the Maccabee of *Chanukah* fame. The Talmud further expounds the story by saying that the jar of oil miraculously lasts for eight days.

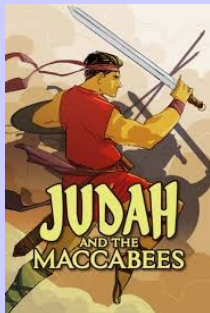
The Torah narrative however, immediately continues from the point where Jacob is alone and isolated. He is confronted by a “man” who comes to wrestle with him all night, until dawn, as neither is able to prevail over the other. When the sun begins to break, the man (really an angel) asks Jacob to let go, but Jacob will only do so if the angel blesses him. The blessing takes the form of a new name: *Israel* – for “*he has striven with God and with men, and has prevailed.*” Besides a new name, the angel thus brings a new light to Jacob by giving him a knowledge of himself he was not aware of before. Israel is destined to strive with God and men for the sake of the world. So too, by lighting the lights of *Chanukah*, we shed light on our memories and our inner selves, and by so doing bring light and peace to the world.

The festival of *Chanukah*, meaning “dedication,” has eight days to commemorate the “miracle” of the jar of oil. But it has another reason. During the civil war between the Syrian Greeks and their sympathetic Jewish allies, the people were forbidden to celebrate *Sukkot* – a seven -day festival with an eighth day appended (*Shemini Atzeret*). Thus the Maccabees ordered a “delayed” eight-day *Sukkot* festival, which became Chanukah as we know it. While Sukkot celebrates the harvest of the earth's bounty, *Chanukah* – the second *Sukkot* – celebrates the harvest of fire and light.

As you light your candles on your *chanukiah* at home I hope you keep in mind that each candle represents a rededication of the Jewish faith. Just as one candle has the power to light an infinite number of other candles, each of us has the power to keep Judaism alive. In so doing we help to bring light into a world that has these days so many places of darkness. Linda and I wish you and those you love, a wonderful *Chag Urim Sameach*!

*Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka*

### **From the Maccabees to the Mishnah Three Classes: December 3, 10 & 17**



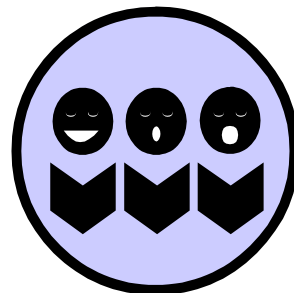
The period of time between the 160's BCE when the Maccabees ruled the Jews, and the later publication of the Mishnah (the Oral Law) in the second century CE, represents a major turning point in the Jewish religion. We witness the transition of Judaism into what becomes known as rabbinic Judaism – the Judaism based on the Talmud and the synagogue. The three-week course will trace the history of Judaism that arises from the late Hellenic period to the Judaism based on the Mishnah and the Talmud which becomes the rabbinic Judaism we know it today. All classes are on Thursdays, beginning at 7:30 PM.

## **CANTOR'S COLUMN**

### **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 in December and much of the music will be familiar. Not only do we have just the two rehearsals, but they are both on Friday evenings, when you would come for services anyway. How easy! Just come on December 4 at 6:15 and December 11 at 5:30, before the Chanukah dinner. 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 Leslie Friedlander*



### **The Story of Yiddish: The Language of Belonging** **A Lecture Presentation by Linda Burghardt, Ph.D.**

**Friday, December 4, 2015, 11:00 a.m.**

**Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County**  
**100 Crescent Beach Road, Glen Cove, NY, 516-571-8040**

For many of us, some of the earliest words we remember learning as children were in Yiddish, the language of home, of family, of warmth and cooking and close-knit community. But where did Yiddish come from? What are its roots? In this presentation Dr. Burghardt will tell the story of Yiddish, from its origins in the Middle Ages to its steep decline after the Holocaust.

She will also talk about the enormous literary, musical and scholarly contributions made in Yiddish throughout history and its interconnectedness with the traditions of Yiddishkeit, and examine rumors of its surprising resurgence in modern culture around the world -- is Yiddish still the best language in which to complain? To insult someone? To connect with our past?

Linda Burghardt is a long-time member of Temple Isaiah as well as journalist and author. She worked as a freelance reporter for The New York Times for 20 years and is the author of three non-fiction books, two on Jewish topics. Her articles and essays have appeared in newspapers throughout the U.S., and she has lectured to both national and international audiences. She holds a Ph.D. from LIU Post and is the daughter of Holocaust survivors from Vienna.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

### Are You There?

If you are reading this article, you might not be our "target audience." But don't stop--continue on.

At Isaiah we are proud of the number and variety of programs and activities we offer our members and the Great Neck community. Isaiah is not just Shabbat and holiday services, as meaningful as they are. And it is more than Torah study and Jewish culture. Over the years we have offered art classes and music lectures; Spanish and bridge lessons; a movie series and origami instruction; flower arranging and ballroom dancing; trivia contests and a baseball night.



It's like Levy's Rye Bread..."you don't have to be Jewish to love Isaiah."

Some members come to almost everything. Others attend those activities that interest them. Yet many members never come to anything. We wonder why. We ask you to let us know what we can offer to interest you. But more than that, we welcome your joining with us.

Isaiah is our religious and spiritual home and it's a good one. But it is also a community in which each member can explore his or her understanding of life and the world in the frame of Judaism and its values. It is also a place to learn and explore new ideas and interests and yes, it is even a place to have FUN! So please come for something. Share your ideas and interests.

This month, make a scarf, enjoy a delicious pot luck Chanukah dinner, study a little Torah or Jewish history, or maybe just consider if latkes should be shaped like a Greek sword, if hamen-tashen are always shaped like Hamen's hat.

*Kathie Davis and Helman Brook*



**Current Events with Helman Brook**  
**Tuesday, December 15th**  
**7:30pm**

### New Bridge Session Begins Wednesday, December 2nd

Claude Springer is starting a new bridge group on Wednesday, 12/2 at 9:30am for new players with some knowledge of bridge. Contact the temple office or call Claude at 466-9733.



(For those with no knowledge, we can start a new group if at least four people are interested.)

# December 2015

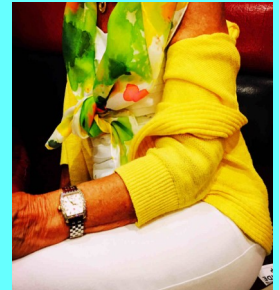
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Board Meeting, 7:30pm	2 Scarf Painting with Richard Weiner, 7:00pm	3 Rabbi's Class: Maccabees & Mishnah, #1; 7:30pm	4 Choir Rehearsal, 6:15pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	5 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
6 First Night Of Chanukah 	7 Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am; Spanish, 10:30am 	8 	9 	10 Rabbi's Class: Maccabees & Mishnah, #2; 7:30pm 	11 Choir Rehearsal, 5:30pm; Chanukah Potluck Dinner, 6:30pm; Choir Service, 7:30pm 	12 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am 
13 Bar Mitzvah: Brendon Guevara, 10:30am 	14 Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am; Lunch & Learn, 11:30am	15 Current Events, 7:30pm	16	17 Rabbi's Class: Maccabees & Mishnah, #3; 7:30pm	18 Renewal Service, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	19 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
20	21 Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am	22	23	24	25 Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm	26 Torah Study, 9:30am; Torah Service, 10:30am
27	28 Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am	29	30	31	 <p>Come to Temple Isaiah to light the Chanukiyah each night of Chanukah: 7:00pm December 6 through December 13</p>	

**Special Event:**  
***Scarf Painting with Richard Weiner***  
**Wednesday Evening, December 2nd at 7:00pm**

**You provide the creative juices and Richard will provide the scarves and paints! Attendees will learn how to make their own silk hand-painted scarf and leave the class with one or more scarves suitable for wearing or gift giving. After a short demo he will work with each attendee to create a beautiful silk scarf 11x60 inches .**

**\$25 fee includes scarf & paint.  
RSVP 516-487-5373 (15 person maximum)**

**Temple Isaiah of Great Neck  
1 Chelsea Place, Great Neck, NY 11021**



**Our December Bar Mitzvah**  
**Brendon Guevara**  
**Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015**



**My name is Brendon Guevara. My Hebrew name is Baruch, meaning a Blessing. However, I am the one who is blessed. I am now in the 8th grade, fortunate to receive a good education both in public school and Hebrew school. I participate in after-school activities such as karate, where I earned my brown belt. I love the outdoors, playing video games and having fun with my friends.**

**It is difficult for me to think about what my future will be since I am not sure what I want to be in the grown-up world. For now, I am looking forward to my Bar Mitzvah and December and celebrating with my family and friends.**

**My Torah portion teaches us that kindness and good deeds are the necessary ingredients needed to live in peace and harmony. My hope is that this Torah reading will be heeded and learned by those who are filled with hatred, violence and prejudice.**

# Chanukah Family Potluck Dinner

Friday, December 11th, 6:30PM

Choir Service, 7:30PM

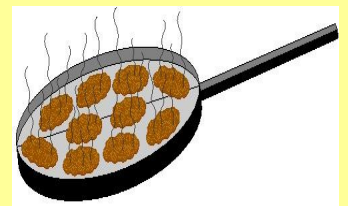
Celebrate the holiday with your  
Temple Isaiah family at our traditional  
“meat” potluck supper  
*(Non-Dairy)*



Bring your menorahs and an appetite for  
great food!

Bring the Family and Friends!

Contact dinner chairpersons Bea Aubrey  
(516-482-6588) and Marcia Null (516-570-  
6322 or [matanu@optonline.net](mailto:matanu@optonline.net) to RSVP  
and let them know what dish you will be  
bringing.



# Save the Date for a New Program: Sunday, January 3, 2016 The Best of Memri TV with Elliott Gayer

Sunday, January 3, 2016 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the first Sunday of each month thereafter....the Best of Memri TV followed by a discussion.

The Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) is a 501 (c)3 organization founded to bridge the language gap between the Middle East and the West by monitoring, translating, and studying Arab, Iranian and Turkish media, schoolbooks, and religious sermons.

“The **Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI)** is a not for profit press monitoring and analysis organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C. MEMRI publishes and distributes free English language translations of Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Pashto, and Turkish media reports.<sup>1</sup> The institute was co-founded in 1998 by Yigal Carmon, a former Israeli military intelligence officer and Meyrav Wurmser, an Israeli-born American political scientist. MEMRI states that its goal is to "bridge the language gap between the Middle East and the West". Critics charge that it aims to portray the Arab and Muslim world in a negative light, through the production and dissemination of inaccurate translations and by selectively translating views of extremists while deemphasizing or ignoring mainstream opinions.” [Wikipedia entry]



# Save the Date: Sunday, January 24th World of Wine with Ed Moulin



Spend a fun and informative evening with our resident wine aficionado Ed Moulin, a second-generation wine expert whose father was a California wine pioneer.

**\$20 fee includes wine and cheese**

## General Donations

### *In Loving Memory Of:*

Brucha Skulnick, Mother of Mona Bokat  
Mona Bokat  
Erling Tholfsen, Father of Judy Brook  
Judy & Helman Brook  
Rose Victorio DeFazio, Mother of Victor DeFazio  
Goldie Cohen, Mother of Sheila DeFazio  
Abraham Berkowitz, Grandfather of Sheila DeFazio  
Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
Herbert Dorfman, Husband of Helene Dorfman  
Helene Dorfman  
Eugene Pauncz, Father of Agnes Goldschlager  
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Robin Leavitt  
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Steven Minall, Son of Elizabeth Minall  
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Charles Maller, Father of Al Maller  
Connie & Al Maller  
Herbert Rabeck, Father of Stuart Rabeck  
Sandra & Stuart Rabeck  
Abraham Secofsky, Father of Joan and Martin Secofsky  
Joan Secofsky & Herbert Kwasnik  
Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
Nathan Sherman, Father of Shelley Sherman  
Shelley Sherman  
Audrey Goldberg, Sister of Harriet Shindler  
Harriet Shindler  
Emily Soifer, Daughter of Arlene Soifer  
Arlene Soifer  
P.F.C. Leonard Kristal, Brother of Evelyn Solow  
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Alice & Richard Weiner  
Michael Tannen, Father of Susan Welkis  
Susan & Jerry Welkis  
Hannah Zimberg, Mother of Shelley Willcox  
Shelley & Robert Willcox

### *In Honor of :*

The Special Birthday of Richard Solow  
The Wedding of Arlene Soifer's Granddaughter  
The Speedy Recovery of Steve Grass  
The Speedy Recovery of Al Maller  
The Speedy Recovery of Jacob Gordon  
Judy & Helman Brook  
Kathie & Richard 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 40th Anniversary of Meryl & Jack Menashe  
Meryl & Jack Menashe  
Belle & Elliott Gayer's Generous Shabbat Luncheon  
William Rosenberg  
Temple Isaiah  
Alan Eiges & Kazue Wada Block  
Colleen & Jesse Stoff

### *In Honor of (Cont'd):*

The Birth of Hendrick Robert Israel, Grandson of  
Mindy & Howard Israel  
Judy & Helman Brook  
Kathie & Richard Davis  
Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
June & Allan Feldman  
Gail & Robert Gordon  
Carol & Bill Hersh  
Terry & Richard Joseph  
Ruth Mandelbaum  
Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
Shelley Sherman  
The Birth of Jake Bennett Elias, Grandson of Terry and  
Richard Joseph  
Judy & Helman Brook  
Kathie & Richard Davis  
Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
June & Allan Feldman  
Gail & Robert Gordon  
Carol & Bill Hersh  
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Shelley Sherman  
Meryl Menashe's Excellent Program  
Rita Rubenstein  
Seymour Rubin, Father of Harold Rubin  
Harold Rubin

### *In Honor of (Cont'd):*

The Speedy Recovery of Shelley Sherman  
The Marriage of Daniel Diamond & Ashley Mask  
Judy & Helman Brook  
Kathie & Richard Davis  
Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
June & Allan Feldman  
Gail & Robert Gordon  
Carol & Bill Hersh  
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Bella Bekker-Silver & Jonathan Silver  
Terry's Hard Work on the Temple Bazaar  
Bella Bekker-Silver & Jonathan Silver  
The Hospitality of Judy & Helman Brook  
Stanley Turetsky

### *Kol Nidre Donations:*

Alan Eiges & Kazue Wada Block  
Libby Weston

### *Tree of Life:*

In Memory of Susan Rubenstein Weiss  
Rita Rubenstein  
In Memory of Sam Berne  
Ben Wallack



## SUPPORT GROUPS AND COUNSELING SERVICES

Small, confidential age and life-stage appropriate groups facilitated by caring, experienced and professional social workers. A brief telephone intake is required for all groups.

#### Support Groups Offered:

- Loss and Bereavement
- Separation and Divorce
- Caregiver Support Groups
- Sandwich Generation Support Group
- Family Members Whose Loved Ones have Dementia
- Family Members Whose Loved Ones are on the Autism Spectrum

*\*New groups may be added to address emerging community needs.*

#### Individual Counseling Services

We offer professional, confidential short-term counseling for individuals, youth, teens, adults, seniors and families.

For more information and to schedule a phone intake, contact Audrey Bernstein, LMSW  
Support Group Coordinator, 516-484-1545, ext. 211, [abernstein@sjcc.org](mailto:abernstein@sjcc.org)

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1 Chelsea Place  
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[www.templeisaiiahgn.org](http://www.templeisaiiahgn.org)

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**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

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