



# TEMPLE ISAH *BULLETIN*

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Published Monthly

December, 2017

## December 2017 Calendar of Events

Friday, Dec. 1—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm  
Saturday, Dec. 2—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am  
Monday, Dec. 4—Spanish Class, 10:30am (final class of the season)  
Tuesday, Dec. 5—Board Meeting, 7:30pm  
Wednesday, Dec. 6—Tai Chi, 11:00am  
Thursday, Dec. 7—Rabbi's Class: *Pirkei Avot*, 7:30pm  
Friday, Dec. 8—Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm  
Saturday, Dec. 9—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am  
Sunday, Dec. 10—*GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION*, 2:00PM  
Monday, Dec. 11—Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm  
Tuesday, Dec. 12—First Night of Chanukah  
Wednesday, Dec. 13—Tai Chi, 11:00am  
Thursday, Dec. 14—Rabbi's Class: *Pirkei Avot*, 7:30pm  
Friday, Dec. 15—Chanukah Potluck Dinner and Service, 6:30pm  
Saturday, Dec. 16—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am  
Monday, Dec. 18—Book Club, 7:30pm  
Tuesday, Dec. 19—Final Night of Chanukah  
Wednesday, Dec. 20—Tai Chi, 11:00am; Lunch & Learn, 11:30am  
Thursday, Dec. 21—Rabbi's Class: *Pirkei Avot*, 7:30pm  
Friday, Dec. 22—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm  
Saturday, Dec. 23—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am  
Sunday, Dec. 24—Chinese Food & A Movie  
Wednesday, Dec. 27—Tai Chi, 11:00am  
Friday, Dec. 29—Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm  
Saturday, Dec. 30—Torah Study, 9:30am; Shacharit Service, 10:30am



*Temple Isaiah*  
*Goods &*  
*Services*  
*Auction*  
Sunday, December 10  
2:00pm



Don't Miss The  
Fun—RSVP Now!  
See pages 9 & 10 for more info.

## **CANTOR'S COLUMN**

### **A Celebration for the Eyes and the Spirit**

**By Cantor Leslie Friedlander**



Like it or not, Chanukah is officially a minor holiday, so called because it isn't mentioned in the bible – not even by the prophets. In fact, the Talmud barely mentions Chanukah. In the last two centuries Chanukah has played a more prominent role in our yearly cycle of celebrations, maybe because we live in more secular communities and see the glitter and glam of Christmas or perhaps because it's the only Jewish holiday where personal gift-giving is an important component.

Whatever the reason is that we've upped the ante for Chanukah, one thing remains: Chanukah is our only holiday that does not have an official ancient set of melodies, or *nusach* – the musical jingles of the special celebration. Every major Jewish holiday has its own recognizable tunes or sounds that tell us not only the day, but in some cases, the music will tell us what time of day it is – evening, morning or afternoon. We can identify our three festivals – Sukkot, Passover and Shavuot - by special music and even each festival has its own identifiable melodies. The High Holy Days have their unique music and even specific prayers "own" certain melodies. These are all expressions of sound. On Rosh Hashanah we hear the shofar and on Yom Kippur we confess aloud, both rituals that involve hearing.

Chanukah has none of this. On Chanukah we sing because singing is simply the way we always celebrate. But what we sing is not rooted in ancient tradition because there is no musical tradition. The music that most of us associate with Chanukah is the *Ma'oz Tzur* melody, which has no ancient Jewish roots but is a blend of German folk tunes that became popular in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Although Chanukah doesn't have ancient musical roots, folk and concert music have been composed for Chanukah and Handel wrote an entire oratorio, *Judas Maccabaeus*, in 1746.

While Chanukah isn't necessarily a feast for the ears, it is distinguished from the other holidays by its display of light. And while the importance of song is minimized, the most important expression of Chanukah is observing the lights with our eyes, and our sense of sight conveys the message.



**ADULT  
EDUCATION**



***Save the Dates:***  
**Adult Ed with Cantor Friedlander**  
**Mondays—January 8th, 22nd and 29th at 7:30pm**

## **RABBI'S COLUMN**

**By Rabbi Jerry Blum**

While most Rabbis or Cantors will be using their December articles to talk about light and the beauty of the Hanukkah season, this month I'd like to talk about turning off the lights.

As a few of you already know, Arlyn and I have sold our home in Jericho and will become full time city dwellers in the next few days. Thrilling? Yes, in a manner of speaking, this is a big move and we are excited, and of course a teeny bit stressed out over the packing, and the organizing, and of course, the downsizing.

But, perhaps the most stressful part of this entire process is the leaving itself. This had been Arlyn's home for the last 28 years (and for me, the last 12 years), and the only home our youngest daughter has ever known. There are a lot of memories hidden away in the old furniture, and the folded over pages of the books. The pictures on the wall speak about Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, weddings, family get-togethers and family members that are no longer with us. You can almost hear the sounds of each seder, or Shabbos dinners, and of course you can almost smell them too. You knew what holiday it was with each different aroma (can you smell that brisket roasting?)



As we (that's code for mostly Arlyn) cleaned out the closets and looked in boxes long forgotten, the memories came back with a flood of emotions. I can remember the other week finding picture albums of Arlyn's parents on their honeymoon. How these pictures reminded us of what was, and the sweet and warm feelings these pictures conjured up. There were a few tears and lots of "gee I wish they were still around to see us now."

There were the high school yearbooks and of course the photos from the summers past at the family cabana club, plus the toy trains, and old record albums; a treasure-trove of memories that made our hearts burst with joy and with sadness (and all at the same time).

But, alas, this Friday, after the final walk-through, and the last moments alone in our home, we'll hug and turn out the lights for the last time. The tears will well up, and we'll both hold each other for a moment, knowing that there is a new life waiting for us. There are new adventures and new memories (and a few challenges as well) to come, and we'll meet them as we have in the past. With courage, a sense of adventure and the love and comfort that comes with a loving family and community around you.

Light has a great deal of significance in Jewish culture and religion and was in fact the first creation, "And God said: Let there be light, and there was light" (Genesis 1:3). The Midrash (the exegetical biblical stories of our Sages) asks "from what was (this) light created?" The rabbi's answer was whispered – "and God put on a great white tallit, and the light of its splendor shone from one end of the world, to the other" (Genesis Rabbah 3:4), meaning that light, fundamentally, does not belong to this world, but rather it is an emanation of a different essence, from the other side of reality. Light serves as the symbol of good and the beautiful, of all that is positive. Light has always been a sign of purity in our heritage, and lighting candles is how we begin our holy days and Sabbath.

And so, although this story began with turning out the lights, it ends with us kindling a new light; a light of change, and growth. We are inspired by the lessons that light brings to us and our people. We are also inspired by the miracles of Hanukkah and the stories of Maccabean courage as they stood up against the mighty Greek empire. As our heroes of Hanukkah did in the Temple, we too will light the candles and place them in our window to show the world that light that shines through the darkness, and so too shall we. It is light that will bring new memories, new experiences and a sense of warmth and comfort to our family, and friends.

Both Arlyn and I wish you and those you love a joyous Hanukkah, filled with the blessings of health and peace. May the light of the Menorah inspire us all to build a world from love, understanding and compassion, and may this come about in our lifetimes.

***Chag Urim Sameach – Happy Festival of Lights***

## **CO-PRESIDENTS' COLUMN**

### **Looking Back/Looking Forward**

**By Kathie Davis & Bill Rosenberg**



What an exciting year this has been at Temple Isaiah. This year is the temple's 50th anniversary, our Jubilee Year. We sponsored two excellent events with Neil Yerman, our scholar-in-residence. We held a wonderful journal dinner in honor of the temple and we welcomed Rabbi Jerry Blum, who shares the bimah with Cantor Leslie Friedlander.

We just finished having a very successful bazaar. On December 10 we will be holding our auction. Let's make this the best one yet. We've had classes given by our rabbi and cantor and also Lunch & Learn directed by them. We hold Spanish class, Tai Chi, Current Events and we now have a book club. We continue to have delicious potluck dinners and show interesting films. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to work on these events. We won't mention names for fear of leaving someone out.

In 2018 we will also hold dinners, classes, movies, Lunch & Learn and other exciting events. On March 9 we will again hold Shabbat Across America, where Jewish people across the USA celebrate Shabbat together with prayer, fellowship, and good eating.

On April 29 we will hold our journal dinner at Colbeh, honoring Belle and Elliott Gayer.

We are looking forward to 2018, a year filled with Jewish learning and enjoyable events for everyone.

As 2017 comes to a close we wish you a Happy Chanukah and the year ahead filled with good health and happiness.

*L'Shalom*

Kathie & Bill

### ***Save the Dates:***

**Saturday, January 6th— “Guess Who?—Part 2” with  
Richard Solow**

**Sunday, January 14th— “Historicity of Jesus—  
Man or Myth” with Elliott Gayer**

# December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Shabbat Service 8:00pm	2 Torah Study & Service 9:30am
3	4 Spanish Class 10:30am	5 Board Meeting, 7:30pm	6 Tai Chi 11:00am	7 Rabbi's Class: <i>Pirkei Avot</i> 7:30pm	8 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm; Shabbat Service 8:00pm	9 Torah Study & Service 9:30am
10 Auction 2:00pm 	11 Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm	12 First Night Of Chanukah 	13 Tai Chi 11:00am	14 Rabbi's Class: <i>Pirkei Avot</i> 7:30pm	15 Chanukah Potluck Dinner and Service 6:30pm	16 Torah Study & Service 9:30am
17	18 Book Club 7:30pm	19 Last Night of Chanukah	20 Tai Chi 11:00am; Lunch & Learn 11:30am	21 Rabbi's Class: <i>Pirkei Avot</i> 7:30pm	22 Shabbat Service 8:00pm	23 Torah Study & Service 9:30am
24 Chinese Food & a Movie 	25	26	27 Tai Chi 11:00am	28	29 Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:15pm	30 Torah Study 9:30am  Shacharit Service 10:30am
31						January 6  "Guess Who Part 2" with Richard Solow



## December 24th: Chinese Food & A Movie *Keep Up the Tradition!*

**Details to Follow**



### Rabbi's Class Continues in December December 7, 14 and 21 7:30pm *Pirkei Avot*—Ethics of the Fathers (Sages)

Come join us as we explore one of the most cherished and accessible rabbinic texts, the *Pirkei Avot* - Ethics of our Fathers (Sages).

The *Pirkei Avot* is a collection of insights on ethics and interpersonal relationships by our most revered sages of the *Mishnah*.

Over six weeks we will explore all six chapters of *Pirkei Avot* through different lenses, so we may get a better understanding of ethical living as seen through the eyes of our sages.

Each class will stand on its own and no prior knowledge of Hebrew or Bible is needed.

Looking forward to learning with you all.  
Rabbi Jerry



# Chanukah Family Potluck Dinner And Shabbat Service

Friday, December 15th, 6:30PM

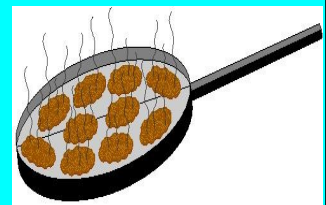
Celebrate the holiday with your  
Temple Isaiah family at our traditional  
“meat” potluck supper  
(Non-Dairy)



**Bring an appetite for great food!**

**Bring the Family and Friends!**

Contact dinner chairpersons Marcia  
Null (516-570-6322 or  
matanu@optonline.net) or  
Helene Dorfman (487-3395 or  
heledo@optonline.net) to RSVP and let  
them know what dish you will be bringing.



## Choir Rehearsals for Chanukah Service

Friday, December 8, 6:30pm—7:30pm

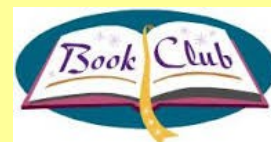
Monday, December 11, 7:00pm—8:00pm

*New Members Needed & Wanted*



## Book Club

### Monday, December 18



**"*The Ministry of Special Cases* is the story of a family living through Argentina's darkest moment. It contains all the marvelous qualities for which Nathan Englander's first book was immediately beloved: his exuberant wit and invention, his cosmic sense of the absurd, his genius for balancing joyfulness and despair.**



**Through the devastation of a single family, Englander captures, indelibly, the grief of a nation. *The Ministry of Special Cases*, like *For the Relief of Unbearable Urges*, is a celebration of our humanity, in all its weakness and its hope."**

**Contact Judy Snow to see if the Great Neck Library can acquire additional copies of the book.**

**RSVP to Shelley Sherman at [seeshell98@yahoo.com](mailto:seeshell98@yahoo.com)**

## December Lunch & Learn

### Wednesday, December 20, 11:30am

## Bistro Burger

### 605 Middle Neck Road



**December session led by Rabbi Jerry Blum**



## A Yeoman's Job

So, they did it again: with mostly items that would belong in a rummage sale, they pulled in over \$7,200. Simply magic.



But what work! Taking everything upstairs, setting a multitude of things in place, and then having to move the items because there was a service!

Terry Joseph and Marcia Null deserve a medal, but they did have help, and they know who they are, and should feel good about themselves. (I fear to mention their names, in case I leave someone out.)

Quite honestly, no one else would take on this task.

Thanks again, guys. We understand that this is the last time we will have such an event. Either that, or Terry will hear some choice words from Richard.

Well, we will think about it when the time comes.

Unbeknownst to Helman, Judy Brook now has volunteered her home for next year. (Ahem).

June Feldman



## *Annual Goods & Services Auction in December...Donations Still Needed!*

On Sunday, December 10th at 2:00pm, Temple Isaiah of Great Neck will be holding its Annual Goods and Services Auction. This event is one of our LARGEST fundraisers of the year! Temple Isaiah has served the Great Neck community for 50 years, and now, as we wind up our Jubilee Year, we will continue to do so with your help.

*Please support this vital event by donating an auction prize or service and asking stores and service professionals to donate also. All contributions to Temple Isaiah are tax deductible. Merchandise or services will be acknowledged in our auction program and you will be given a tax receipt confirming your donation and its value. Also, we invite you to join us for the afternoon's festivities, which will include champagne, hors d'oeuvres and delicious desserts.*

We urge you to solicit donations and donate your own dinners, timeshares and other items. *Please attend and join in the fun and purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win great prizes!* A copy of a donation form is on the next page. Call the office to RSVP.



# Temple Isaiah of Great Neck

1 Chelsea Place, Great Neck, NY 11021

Tel: 516-487-5373 Fax: 516-829-0825

## CERTIFICATE OF GIFT

From: December 2017 Goods and Services Auction

To Highest Bidder: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The bearer of this letter is entitled to:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized signature from firm

Collected by member \_\_\_\_\_

*Note to Member: Please mail this Certificate to Cathy at the Temple office. It will be recorded in our catalog and put up for auction.*

## General Donations

### *In Loving Memory Of:*

Roslyn Bein, Mother of Perri and Wendy and  
Aunt of William Rosenberg

Perri Bein  
Maxine & Mark Berger-Bienstock  
Harriet Gellert  
Ruth Isaac

Bracha Skulnick, Mother of Mona Bokat  
Mona Bokat

Brian Horton, Husband of Terry Birnbaum-  
Horton

Suzanne Branch & Gary McTiernan  
Rachel Greenwald  
Ruth Isaac  
Meryl & Jack Menashe  
Bella Bekker-Silver & Jonathan Silver  
Evelyn & Richard Solow  
Shelley & Robert Willcox

Erling Tholfsen, Father of Judy Brook  
Judy & Helman Brook

Herbert Dorfman, Husband of Helene Dorfman

Maurice Wagner, Father of Helene Dorfman  
Helene Dorfman

Esther Shapiro, Mother of Barbara Feldman  
Barbara Feldman

Ella & Fred Guttstadt, Parents of Leonie Goldfarb

Sam & Bertha Goldfarb, Parents of Norman  
Goldfarb

Leonie Goldfarb

Toby and Herbert Rosenberg, Parents of Ruth  
Isaac

Harvey Rosenberg, Brother of Ruth Isaac

Jack Peter Fink, Father of Cantor Leslie  
Friedlander

Jonathan Aubrey, Brother of David Aubrey

Linda Tsuruoka, Mother of Amy and Jeff  
Ruth Isaac

Rosalind Gervitzman, Wife of Irving Gervitzman  
Terry & Richard Joseph

Seymour Rubin, Father of Harold Rubin  
Harold Rubin

Abraham Secofsky, Father of Joan Secofsky  
Joan Secofsky & Herbert Kwasnik

Audrey Goldberg, Sister of Harriet Shindler  
Harriet Shindler

Henry Weiner, Father of Richard Weiner  
Alice & Richard Weiner

Michael Tannen, Father of Susan Welkis  
Susan & Jerry Welkis

Hannah Zimberg, Mother of Shelley Willcox  
Shelley & Robert Willcox

### *Kol Nidre:*

Ruth Isaac  
Arlene Soifer

### *In Honor of:*

The Kindness of Bill Rosenberg  
Perri Bein

The Speedy Recovery of Willa Lewis

Suzanne Branch & Gary McTiernan  
Judy & Helman Brook

Kathie Davis  
Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
June & Allan Feldman  
Denise Miller & Steve Fein

Gail & Robert Gordon  
Carol & Bill Hersh

Terry Birnbaum-Horton  
Mindy & Howard Israel

Terry & Richard Joseph  
Ruth Mandelbaum

Bill Rosenberg  
Alisa & Martin Secofsky

Shelley Sherman

The Birth of Iris Reibstein, Granddaughter of  
Cathy & Gene Reibstein

Suzanne Branch & Gary McTiernan  
Judy & Helman Brook

Kathie Davis  
Sheila & Victor DeFazio

June & Allan Feldman  
Denise Miller & Steve Fein

Gail & Robert Gordon  
Carol & Bill Hersh

Terry Birnbaum-Horton  
Mindy & Howard Israel

Terry & Richard Joseph  
Ruth Mandelbaum

Bill Rosenberg  
Alisa & Martin Secofsky

Shelley Sherman

Bella Bekker-Silver & Jonathan Silver



*How about a Game Night in January?*

*The Possibilities are Many:*

*Board Games, Card Games,*

*Mah Jongg etc.*

*Please contact Meryl Menashe if  
interested.*

## **PARTNERS IN CARING (PIC)**

Sid Jacobson JCC's Partners in Caring offers an array of specialized services including support groups, counseling, information and community referrals, workshops, autism and Alzheimer's programs, as well as other social services. Together with UJA-Federation of New York and your synagogue, we are your partner in caring for you and your family.

PIC helps create a caring, responsive Jewish community by providing support for:

**Bereavement  
Parenting  
Life Cycle Issues  
Marital/Family Concerns  
Divorce/Separation  
Caregiving issues  
Respite programs and  
services**

**For assistance, contact us at  
516-484-1545 ext. 196.**

A licensed social worker will respond promptly to provide you with information and support.

*Partners in Caring is funded by a  
grant from UJA-Federation of  
New York and partnering  
synagogues*



SJJCC.ORG

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## TEMPLE ISAIAH OF GREAT NECK

1 Chelsea Place  
Great Neck, NY 11021

[www.templeisaiahgn.org](http://www.templeisaiahgn.org)  
Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism  
Issue No. 171 Published Monthly

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

### BULLETIN

Co-Presidents: Kathie Davis, Bill Rosenberg  
Cantor: Leslie Friedlander  
Rabbi: Jerry Blum  
Production: Cathy Reibstein



**Need Help?  
Facing a  
Challenge?**

PIC helps create a caring, responsive Jewish community by providing support for:

Bereavement    Parenting  
Life Cycle Issues    Marital/Family Concerns  
Divorce/Separation    Caregiving issues  
Respite programs and services

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