

# BULLETIN

Office - 487-5373, School - 487-8709

Published Monthly

February, 2014

#### **February Calendar of Events**

Sat. Feb. 1—Torah Study, 9:30am; 50/50 Raffle Drawing and Trivia Night, 7:30pm

Tues. Feb. 4—Religious School 4:00pm; Board Meeting, 7:30pm

Fri. Feb. 7—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm (Guest Sermon by Claude Springer)

Sat. Feb. 8—Torah Study, 9:30am

Sun. Feb. 9—Sina Kiai's Class: "Felix Mendelssohn," 3:00pm (#1)

Tues. Feb. 11—Religious School, 4:00pm

Thursday, Feb. 13—Film Series, "4-Gotten Jewish Hollywood Classics," 7:30pm (#1)

Fri. Feb. 14—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Sat. Feb. 15—Torah Study, 9:30am

Sun. Feb. 16—Sina Kiai's Class: "Felix Mendelssohn," 3:00pm (#2)

Tues. Feb. 18—Religious School closed

Thurs. Feb. 20—Film Series, "4-Gotten Jewish Hollywood Classics," 7:30pm (#2)

Fri. Feb. 21—Renewal Service, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm (Guest Sermon by Helman Brook)

Sat. Feb. 22—Torah Study, 9:30am

Sun. Feb. 23—Sina Kiai's Class: "Felix Mendelssohn," 3:00pm (#3)

Tues. Feb. 25—Religious School, 4:00pm

Thurs. Feb. 27—Film Series, "4-Gotten Jewish Hollywood Classics," 7:30pm (#3)

Fri. Feb. 28—Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm



Team Trivia Night & "50-50" Raffle Drawing Saturday, February 1, 7:30pm

Join us for a fun-filled evening of Team Trivia hosted by our own Quizmaster, Richard Joseph.





Plus... Raffle Prizes and Announcement of Our "50-50" Raffle Prize Winner

Prizes will be awarded to the winning teams and wine and refreshments are included!

\$20 admission with reservation—\$25 at the door. <u>Free Admission with purchase of \$100 Raffle Ticket.</u> Please RSVP to the Temple Office so we can prepare!

#### **RABBI'S COLUMN** Words From the Heart



I writing this column two days before I'm to undergo open heart surgery to replace a leaky mitral valve. This is the very first hospitalization of any kind I've experienced in my 67 years with the exception of a tonsillectomy at 5. So the idea of being the patient is a new and different experience. As a rabbi I have visited scores of people in hospital and at home and have made far more phone calls – all with the desire to share their doubts and fears and to assure them that they are not alone in their struggle.

With my impending surgery, I am quickly understanding what it means to be a recipient rather than the giver of prayers of healing and care giving. In essence, it fully defines blessing. In the universal picture, it is God working through people.

But first, some facts about the heart in Judaism. The word "heart" occurs 101 times in the Torah: 11 times in Genesis, 37 in Exodus, twice in Leviticus, 3 in Numbers, and 48 in Deuteronomy. In all cases it refers to the human heart as opposed to animals. In Judaism, the heart is seen as the seat of memory, rational thought, desire and courage. It is also the place where the inner self resides, where communication with another is unmitigated by pretension or falsity and therefore complete honesty (as in speaking "heart to heart"). Thus a heart that is hardened (as was Pharaoh's) is blind and isolated. Whereas an open heart (sometimes referred metaphorically in the Torah as circumcised) is one which is capable of connecting with others totally and openly. Most of us live our lives shifting in the middle ground between these two extremes. What moves us closer toward one or the other depends on our individual nature and external circumstances. Those who by nature more openly express heart-felt feelings to others usually sense such feelings in return. When a devastating natural or man-made circumstance occurs like Hurricane Sandy or 9/11, we see total strangers selflessly helping others often without regard to personal risk.

Over the past month I have received an avalanche of e-mails, phone calls and cards from congregants and others. The thought that each person took time to write a message expressing wishes for my speedy recovery or an offer to help is both overwhelming and humbling. I consider each act of kindness a blessing – part of an eternal circle of blessing and being blessed. Life is a cycle of helping others at times and accepting help in other times – that's what makes us human. For a person of faith it's God working through us, channeling God's love and eternal presence on earth, connecting us to the fabric of humankind. In the Creation story at the beginning of Genesis we read, "... *let us make man in our image, after our likeness...*" (Gen 1:26) The rabbis understood this to mean that humankind was created with a spark of the Divine and that spark connects all who dwell on earth.

In the last verse of the hymn Adon Olam we sing: "Into his hand I entrust my spirit ... and with my spirit my body also; Adonai is with me and I shall not fear." These words have an additional meaning to me now. In Hebrew the word "his hand" is ambiguous. I now see that "his hand" is not just a metaphor for God, but also the hand of my fellow human being whose heart has turned to me with good wishes in my time of need. As I have blessed you in the past, I thank you for your blessings with all my heart.

L'hitraot Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka

Save the dates: Erev Purim March 15 and mini-retreat March 29

## **CANTOR'S COLUMN** A Delicious Torah Scavenger Hunt



Now that the party season is over and the bitter weather beckons us to stay home, this is the perfect time to curl up with the good book and go on a scavenger hunt.

Last year in my January bulletin article I offered you a scrumptious challenge in the form of a biblical cake. I'm not sure that anyone took me up on it since I wasn't offered any results, but here is another one – a different

recipe, if you did try the last one.

Perhaps members of the Saturday morning Torah study group can each bring in an ingredient and you can bake your way through your next study session! This is actually a fun way to learn your way around the bible and it is something an entire family or book club can do together.



- (A) 1 cup of Judges 5:25, last clause
- (B) 2 cups of Jeremiah 6:20
- (C) 2 teaspoons of I Samuel 14:25, first clause
- (D) 6 of Jeremiah 17:11
- (E) 1/2 cup of Judges 4:19, first clause
- (F) 4-1/2 cups of I Kings 4:22
- (G) 2 teaspoons of Amos 4:5
- (H) 1 cup of I Samuel 30:12, second phrase

(I) 1 cup of Nahum 3:12

(J) II Chronicles 9:9, 2nd phrase, to taste

Cream together A, B, and C. Beat D until frothy; add E to D, then combine with creamed mixture and beat thoroughly. Sift together the first part of F with G, then add the rest of F. Mix together with the first ingredients. Chop and flour H and I before adding. Add a generous amount of J to taste. Beat for 5 minutes, keeping in mind Solomon's advice for making a good boy, Proverbs 23:14, and you will have a good cake.

Bake in a shallow pan at 375 degrees for 10 minutes or until done...maybe longer...

I wish you a warm and delicious February!

Cantor Leslie Friedlander

Thank you to Cantor Friedlander and everyone in the Temple Isaiah family who has rolled up their sleeves to keep temple life running smoothly during the period of the rabbi's recent illness and recovery.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS Hearts and Valves



It's February. A month of icy roads and Valentine's Day fever. Department stores and television commercials are filled with hearts, bright red ones with two loops on the top and a point on the bottom. The idea is to put us in the mood to buy cards, flowers, chocolates, and jewelry.



Lately, at Temple Isaiah, we have been thinking a lot about hearts and love and the amazing abilities of cardiac surgeons. As the extended temple family surely knows, last month our spiritual leader Rabbi Tsuruoka and energetic congregant Ruth Mandelbaum underwent successful heart valve replacement surgeries. Both came through their operations with flying colors, and they are steadily regaining their strength with each passing day.

The confluence of these valve replacements got us thinking about hearts. When a deeply felt emotion is expressed, it is common to touch one's heart and, when an important idea is expressed, we speak of it being "the heart" of the matter. Although the human heart cannot be seen by the naked eye – at least, not without some pretty fancy  $21^{st}$  Century medical technology – it represents the very core of who we are. As with love, we cannot live fully when a heart's flow is disrupted.

This February, the co-presidents are filled with awe at the skills of the medical teams who have repaired the heart values of individuals who are so central to Temple Isaiah and those who have worked on their rehabilitation. We are also grateful for the many Temple staff members and congregants who have pitched in to keep the flow of synagogue life running so smoothly. But most of all, we are relieved that two people who we love so much are healing, and they will be back in no time, actively engaged in the heart of our community's daily life. In the meantime, you could send a little chicken soup and words of encouragement their way. Chicken soup and good wishes may not be products that the Valentine's Day industry promotes, but they are just what the doctor ordered.

Gail Gordon & Terry Joseph

#### **TANS Cereal Drive**



In the spirit of Purim, during February, TANS (Tikkun Alliance of North Shore) is collecting food with a "K" or "U" symbol on the package for distribution to the Jewish poor during March. There is one big difference from our usual Hatzilu drive over the High Holidays. This time we are collecting <u>only CEREAL</u> while other synagogues in TANS will be gathering different items so there is balance in the distribution.

## February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Torah Study; 9:30am 50/50 Raffle & Trivia Night, 7:30pm
2	3	4 Religious School 4:00pm Board Meet- ing, 7:30pm	5	6	7 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm Sermon: Claude Springer	8 Torah Study, 9:30am
9 Mendelssohn Class #1, 3:00pm	10	11 Religious School 4:00pm	12	13 Film #1 Hollywood Musicals & Comedies Series, 7:30pm	14 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	15 Torah Study, 9:30am
16 Mendelssohn Class #2, 3:00pm	17 President's Day	18 Religious School Closed	19	20 Film #2 Hollywood Musicals & Comedies Series, 7:30pm	21 Renewal Service, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm Sermon: Helman Brook	22 Torah Study, 9:30am
23 Mendelssohn Class #3, 3:00pm	24	25 Religious School 4:00pm	26	27 Film #3 Hollywood Musicals & Comedies Series, 7:30pm	28 Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:15pm	<i>March 1</i> Torah Study, 9:30am

## "Felix Mendelssohn" New Classes with Sina Kiai Sundays, February 9, 16 and 23



Felix Mendelssohn was one of the early composers of the style we now call Romanticism in music. Born in the first decade of the 19th century with a few other household names such as Chopin and Liszt, he was a child prodigy comparable to Mozart. Many of his works were written before he was twenty. Some of his melodies are familiar from use in commercials. Among his many masterpieces are *Elijah*, the *Violin Concerto*, and the incidental

music to *A Midsummer Night's Dream.* Also like Mozart, he died tragically young and left the world much richer, inspiring other composers to write some of their best work.

Time 3:00—4:30pm Temple Isaiah of Great Neck—1 Chelsea Place Donation \$15 per class or \$40 for the entire series. Call the Temple office for reservations or more information....516 487-5373

## The Temple Isaiah Winter Film Festival 2 Musicals + 2 Comedies = 4-gotten Jewish Hollywood Classics



It's cold outside but we have plenty of song, dance and laughs at Temple Isaiah this winter. Join local film maven David Aubrey as we bring you four nights of forgotten classic Hollywood movies spanning the decades from the 30's to the 80's—all with a Jewish twist.

\$10 charge per person includes film, refreshments, and lively discussion.

Thursdays, February 13, February 20 and February 27 and Monday, March 3 All Films Shown at 7:30pm Please call the office to reserve your seats-516-487-5373



#### **ARZA News**

#### Israeli Reform Movement Growing, Says ARZA President



Rabbi Josh Weinberg, the new president of ARZA who spoke at our Shabbat service on January 17, reported that increasing numbers of secular Israelis are being drawn to the Reform Movement because it provides a meaningful community for the practice of Judaism in much the same way as it does here in America. Israelis like the idea that men and women can sit together during a service, he

said. They appreciate the inclusivity of Reform, and the fact women play a role that is equal to that of men. Rabbi Weinberg, an American who made aliyah a decade ago, spoke to the congregation from the perspective of an Israeli with a fervent passion for Zionism. His Zionist mission, he explained, is to bring the benefits of Reform practices to non-Orthodox Israelis, as well as to strengthen the ties between American Reform Jews and the Jewish State. He pointed out that this is the mission of ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America. He additionally spoke about the importance of supporting ARZA in the forthcoming election for delegates to the next World Zionist Congress.

Rabbi Weinberg, originally scheduled to be the guest speaker at Shabbat services, filled in for Rabbi Tsuruoka who had just undergone cardiac surgery. When he learned that he would be conducting the service together with Cantor Friedlander he volunteered to bring his guitar. A talented guitar player and former song leader, he complemented the musicality of our cantor. The service that evening rocked with spirited congregational singing. (See page 8 for pictures.)

Calvin Greenbaum

## **Updates from the Hebrew School**

Happy February to all. The Hebrew word for snow is *sheleg*, and that's what we've been having a lot of this month. In Religious School, we've been continuing to work on our Hebrew reading skills, and each and every one of the young men are preparing for the day they stand in front of the congregation and read from the Torah.

We've also been constructing our own 'mini-synagogue' with our art teacher Ms. Sue. Look in the lobby for its completion—it will be fantastic!

During the month of January, we also took out some time to celebrate *Tu B'shevat*, the festival of the trees. We discussed what nature means to us, and how protecting it is not only a modern concern, but a long-standing Jewish tradition. As we sign off, we ask you to think about nature as well, and ways you can protect it in your own life. *Ohev V'shalom* 

Adam Turek-Herman

Cantor Leslie Friedlander at our January 17th Shabbat with Guest Speaker Rabbi Josh Weinberg, President of ARZA





Cantor Friedlander at our January 10th Shabbat Shira with Harpist Karen Louise Strauss

Musical Nights at Temple Isaiah

### **General Donations**

In Loving Memory Of: Harold Branch, Father of Suzanne Branch Suzanne Branch & Gary McTiernan Morris Kerner, Father of Everett Kerner Everett Kerner & Joel Dick Fanny Frankel, Mother of Frances Falon William Roth, Brother-in-Law of Frances Falon Frances Falon Frances Kuchinsky, Mother of Belle Gayer Hannah Tuchinsky, Grandmother of Belle Gaver Belle & Elliott Gayer Irwin Hersh, Father of Bill Hersh Carol & Bill Hersh Donald Arthur Packer, Father of Mindy Israel Jack Roth, Uncle of Mindy Israel Mindy & Howard Israel Mildred Levinson, Mother of Lee Levinson Amy & Lee Levinson Adolph Fuchs, Father of Connie Maller Connie & Al Maller Beatrice & Max Butter. Mother and Father of Sandra Rabeck Sandra & Stuart Rabeck William Rosenberg, Grandfather of William Rosenberg Bruno Levenbach, Uncle of William Rosenberg William Rosenberg Enid Rubin, Mother of Harold Rubin Harold Rubin Renay Malden, Sister of Alfred Seigel Daisy & Alfred Seigel Nuhim Causanschi, Brother of Golda Shapiro Golda Shapiro Sophie Kristal, Mother of Evelyn Solow Evelyn & Richard Solow William Zimberg, Father of Shelley Willcox Shelley & Robert Willcox

My family and I would like to thank all our friends and acquaintances at Temple Isaiah for the outpouring of condolences and contributions in memory of our beloved Michael.

Clare Haber

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Thank you to all of my Temple Isaíah fríends for the many good wíshes and comfortíng thoughts.

Ruth Mandelbaum

#### In Honor of:

The Special Birthday of Bea Aubrey Kathie & Richard Davis Sheila & Victor DeFazio Denise Miller & Steve Fein June & Allan Feldman Gail & Robert Gordon Mindy & Howard Israel Terry & Richad Joseph Ruth Mandelbaum Alisa & Martin Secofsky Shelley Sherman The Speedy Recovery of Linda & Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka Bea and David Aubrey Suzanne Branch & Gary McTiernan Alvin Graham Lia & Mortimer Hans Carol & Bill Hersh Ruth Isaac Rona Levy Willa Lewis & Ed Moulin Connie & Al Maller Linda & Martin Marshak Jacqueline Neumann Erica Papernik & Trevor Shimizu Rita Rubenstein Golda Shapiro Micki Victor Shelley & Robert Willcox The Nomination of Denise Miller & Steve Fein For "Jewish Sainthood" June & Allan Feldman In Honor of Mindy Israel Sharon & Scott Roth The Speedy Recovery of Ruth Mandelbaum Bea and David Aubrey Suzanne Branch & Gary McTiernan Judy & Helman Brook Kathie & Richard Davis Sheila & Victor DeFazio Denise Miller & Steve Fein June & Allan Feldman Gail & Robert Gordon Alvin Graham Meg & Steve Grass Lia & Mortimer Hans Ruth Isaac Mindy & Howard Israel Terry & Richad Joseph

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

Rona Levy Willa Lewis & Ed Moulin Bernie Rosenberg Rita Rubenstein Alisa & Martin Secofsky Golda Shapiro Shelley Sherman Bella Bekker-Silver & Jonathan Silver Micki Victor The Birth of Olivia Meka, Granddaughter of Meryl & Jack Menashe Kathie & Richard Davis Sheila & Victor DeFazio Denise Miller & Steve Fein June & Allan Feldman Gail & Robert Gordon Mindy & Howard Israel Terry & Richad Joseph Ruth Mandelbaum Bernie Rosenberg Alisa & Martin Secofsky Shelley Sherman The Birth of Jacob Levi Savariago, Great Grandson of Connie & Al Maller Kathie & Richard Davis Sheila & Victor DeFazio Denise Miller & Steve Fein June & Allan Feldman Gail & Robert Gordon Mindy & Howard Israel Terry & Richad Joseph Connie & Al Maller Ruth Mandelbaum Alisa & Martin Secofsky Shelley Sherman The Birthday of Jonathan Wagner Laurie & Van Frankel

#### Trees in Israel:

June & Allan Feldman Ruth Isaac Mindy & Howard Israel Judy Snow & Scott Schleifstein In Honor of the Speedy Recovery of Rabbi and Linda Tsuruoka Helene Dorfman

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#### **TEMPLE ISAIAH OF GREAT NECK**

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#### **BULLETIN**

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