

## February 2016 Calendar of Events

Tuesday, Feb. 2—Board Meeting, 7:30pm

Friday, Feb. 5—Luncheon in honor of Susan Bendor (Pearl East at 12:30pm, RSVP required); Shabbat Service, 8:00pm (Service led by Claude Springer)

Sunday, Feb. 7—Review of MEMRI-TV with Elliott Gayer, 11:30am

Friday, Feb. 12—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm (Service led by Cantor Leslie Friedlander)

Friday, Feb. 19—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm; Guest Speaker Helman Brook

Tuesday, Feb. 23—“Current Events” with Helman Brook, 7:30pm

Friday, Feb. 26—Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm

Saturday, Feb. 27—Torah Study, 9:30am; Torah Service, 10:30am

Monday, Feb. 29—Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am

**Save the Date for  
 Shabbat Across  
 America**

**Friday, March 4th  
 6:30pm**



**Details on Page 8**

## TEMPLE ISAIAH GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION



***Sunday, March 6, 2:00pm***

**REMEMBER, ONE OF THE BIGGEST  
 FUNDRAISERS OF THE YEAR AND OUR  
 MOST EXCITING EVENING IS FAST  
 APPROACHING. PLEASE PLAN TO BE  
 THERE.**

**BID ON: VACATIONS, THEATER  
 TICKETS, JEWELRY, ELEGANT  
 DINNERS, RESTAURANTS, SPORTING  
 EVENTS, ART, TOYS, COMPUTER  
 LESSONS & MORE**

**START COLLECTING GIFTS  
 FROM THE PEOPLE YOU DO  
 BUSINESS WITH AND LET'S  
 WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE  
 THIS EVENT A HUGE  
 SUCCESS**

**(ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATES FOR  
 PRINTING ARE ON PAGES 6 AND 7)**

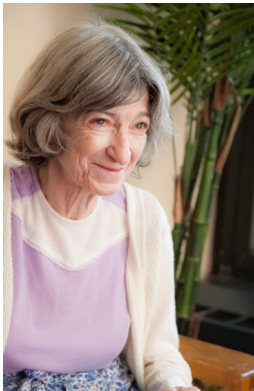
## **RABBI'S COLUMN**

# **A TRIBUTE TO SUSAN BENDOR**

On February 5<sup>th</sup> our Temple family will be honoring Susan Bendor, a beloved and respected congregant. Because Linda and I will be away I'd like to devote my February column to Susan. It's hard to fully comprehend just how one person could experience the totality of Susan Bendor's life story so far: how a young girl, born in Budapest 79 years ago, survived the Shoah as a young child by hiding in a cellar with her family for 9 months; lived in six countries by 21; earned her Master's degree in Social Service by 25 and her Doctorate in Social Welfare in 1986; taught for 26 years as Associate Professor at Yeshivah University's Wurzweiler School of Social Work, topping off 53 years in the field.



Many survivor stories of Shoah victims testify to the endurance of the human spirit and the dominance of will in the face of uncertainty and how luck can play a vital role in outcomes. It also tells us about the true nature of human beings. We know about the evil that people are capable of perpetrating on the poor, marginalized and minority. But we are inspired by the stories of compassion and humanity that come from unexpected sources. For example, Susan's childhood dance teacher who stood up for her right to dance along with the non-Jewish girls at a ballet recital. Or the two German soldiers who safely secured a cellar for Susan, her brother, mother and father and other families for 9 months until it was bombed out. These and other experiences may be reason for her sense of optimism in the innate goodness of individuals – as it is said, “Whenever there is despair, the Jew hopes.”



We are also inspired by how tremendous adversity can be turned around to become the will to do good. For example, when Susan settled in Canada, after years of wandering, she was impressed by a wonderful hospital social worker who helped immigrant families like hers through the crisis of transition – easing their burden, giving them a sense of hope. Susan was thus inspired to devote her life toward making a difference in the lives of families coping with challenges beyond their control. This implied commitment to social justice and elevating human dignity. Working with neglected populations – refugees, immigrants, un-employed, those who other professionals have given up on—has been Susan's passion. She is not shy in shining the light on unpleasant social situations – whether in our country or elsewhere – when justice is ignored and compassion is diluted for the sake of convenience. Living nine months in a dark fetid cellar, being on the run at a moment's notice, being persecuted for being a Jew – tempers the body and mind to withstand temporary discomfort.

Linda and I have known both Susan and Edgar, l"z, since the very first day I became rabbi of Temple Isaiah. Over the years we have become closer and have shared happy and sad times together. One of the things that continues to stand out is Susan's inexhaustible passion and energy for social justice – both individually and collectively. She continues to be our conscience in assisting our indigent families. She is frequently reminding us to attend rallies, write letters to our elected officials and to vote. There is a verse from Psalm 45 that says: “*All the honor of the king's daughter is in her heart.*” Susan Bendor can be compared to a king's daughter in the dignified and modest way she treats others. Her honor comes from that divine spark within each of us that makes all humans kin. Kol ha-Kavod to Susan Bendor – a wonderful, loving and inspiring human being.

*Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka*

*(Please see Page 9 for a special note from the Rabbi.)*

**Sunday, February 7th, 11:30am**  
**Join Elliott Gayer for a lively discussion**  
**The Best of MEMRI-TV**

**MEMRI TV**  
The Middle East Media Research Institute TV Monitor Project



*Please Note: March session will be held on Sunday, March 13th*

## CANTOR'S COLUMN To Every Season...



This year we began the celebration of Jewish Music Season on January 22, a commemoration that runs from *Shabbat Shirah* until Passover. *Shabbat Shirah*, “The Sabbath of Song,” is the Sabbath on which the Torah reading is Exodus 14 – 17, which includes the Song of Moses and the crossing of the Sea of Reeds. God’s love for us is manifest in our deliverance from slavery, which sets the scene for a community preparing to experience freedom and working together to make dreams come true.

Although I like to think that Jewish music is celebrated throughout the year, recognizing Jewish Music Season enables us to take a closer look at some specific aspects of our rich musical tradition.

Valentine’s Day, a day most Americans consider to be a light-hearted secular day, also occurs this month. With these two themes sharing our February calendar, I thought it would be interesting to talk about Jewish love songs.

Jewish sacred love songs find their origins in the poetry of *Shir haShirim*, or The Song of Songs, a part of the Bible composed entirely of a series of love lyrics. According to Jewish tradition, King Solomon wrote *Shir haShirim* in his youth. As a middle-aged man he wrote Proverbs and in his old age, Ecclesiastes. However, modern critical scholarship considers *Shir haShirim* to be a collection of love poetry from various periods.

According to the Talmud, there was great controversy over whether or not the collection should be included in the Bible. The book does not mention God or events in religious history. It speaks of spring and brides, of sensuous delights, of pomegranates and frankincense. The Song of Songs is a book of love songs between a man and a woman. Indeed, its poetry is quite erotic and explicit. The woman, the Shulamite, is certain of and direct about her love:

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth,  
for your love is sweeter than wine (1:2).

She invites her beloved into her garden and it is she who initiates lovemaking. This is one of the few places in the Bible where man and woman are equal, and perhaps the female, in this case, even plays a more prominent role.

Let my beloved come to his garden  
and eat its choicest fruit (4:16).

Certainly, words and images form several layers of meaning and the literal and the metaphorical intertwine. She celebrates both her own sexuality and his. And he is loving, tender and powerful. Like the woman, he uses animal imagery to describe his lover:

Behold, you are beautiful, my love  
behold, you are beautiful!  
Your eyes are doves behind your veil.  
Your hair is like a flock of goats,  
Moving down the slopes of Gilead...(4:1-2)

Your two breasts are like two fawns,  
Twins of a gazelle,  
That feed among the lilies (4:5).

Other animals also live in this garden where all nature – plants, spices, subterranean streams and rivers – glorify the love of female and male. It is a mutual love of heart, mind and soul, a passionate love that makes eternal renewal possible.

It is easy to understand the controversy regarding the collection’s inclusion in the Bible, but it was the great Rabbi Akiba who said, “The whole world is not worth the day on which the Song of Songs was given to Israel; for all the writings are holy, but the Song of Songs is holiest of the holy.”

Rabbi Akiba’s opinion prevailed. Judaism understands the Song of Songs as an allegory for the love of God and God’s people, Israel, and as such is considered sacred. So profound is the love between God and Israel that it can boldly be expressed in such sensuous terms. Out of this passionate love comes God’s pleading command: “Love me then with all your heart and all your soul and all your might!”

Love in this most deep and binding form is the foundation and guarantee of our existence and eternal renewal. *Shir haShirim* stands as a symbol and a loving dialogue between a people and our God.

(Continued on Page 4)

## **MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS**

### **Temple Isaiah History: "The Ambivalence Group, Part Whatever"**

Continuing the series on Isaiah history, we note that in the early 1980s, several couples, referred to as the "younger members of the congregation" created an informal discussion group that quickly took the name "The Ambivalence Group." It met to explore each participant's religious beliefs (or lack of same) and the effect those beliefs and corresponding attitudes would have on their lives, and most importantly, on their children. Why be Jewish? Why pray if you do not believe in G-d? Why be a member of a congregation? What Jewish rituals, if any, were important? If we were ambivalent about Judaism, why did we want our children to be Jewish? Tough questions. While most in the group were professed atheists/agnostics, each valued Judaism and was proudly Jewish.



Under the guidance of a smart, caring rabbi, the members turned inward and struggled for answers. It was not easy. The group was quite diverse, including some who were raised in an Orthodox tradition and others raised with no religion. The group included very active temple members, future temple presidents, officers and board members and others who never came to temple, except on the High Holidays.

All views were expressed openly and respectfully. Each member of the group was free to find his or her own answers. But since it was "ambivalent" it just eventually melted away.

Maybe a new group should be created...think about it. And then again.... maybe not.

*Kathie Davis and Helman Brook*

### ***Make Money for Temple Isaiah While You Shop!***

**Purchase gift cards from stores where you normally shop—buy items which you would normally buy and spend what you would normally spend, and Temple Isaiah receives a percentage of every dollar!**



**Go to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) to see all of the participating retailers (links are on the bottom of the page) and then call the office to place your order.**

***(Supermarkets, restaurants, gas, drug stores and many more!)***

### ***Cantor's Column (Continued from page 3)***

So whether we interpret *Shir haShirim* as a love song between God and the Jewish people, or whether we appreciate this example of beautiful Biblical poetry as an expression of commitment between two people who love each other, we can feel proud that the Song of Songs is such a valued part of our Jewish heritage.

*Cantor Leslie Friedlander*

# February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Board Meeting, 7:30pm	3	4	5 Susan Bendor Luncheon, 12:30pm  Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	6
7  MEMRI-TV Review with Elliott Gayer, 11:30am	8	9	10	11	12  Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	13
14	15	16	17	18	19  Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	20
21	22	23  Current Events with Helman Brook, 7:30pm	24	25	26  Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm	27  Torah Study, 9:30am; Torah Service, 10:30am
28	29  Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am	<p><i>Save these March Dates:</i>            Friday, March 4—Shabbat Across America            Sunday, March 6—Goods &amp; Services Auction            Sunday, March 20—Ed Moulin's World of Wine (new date)            Wednesday March 23—Erev Purim: Megillah Reading &amp; Spiel</p>				



**Temple Isaiah of Great Neck**  
1 Chelsea Place, Great Neck, NY 11021  
Tel: 516-487-5373 Fax: 516-829-0825

## CERTIFICATE OF GIFT

**From: March 2016 Goods and Services Auction**

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

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

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

**The bearer of this letter is entitled to:**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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**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.***



# TEMPLE ISAIAH GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION

JOIN US FOR A RECEPTION BEFORE THE BIDDING BEGINS  
SHOP FOR NEW & "PRE-OWNED" TREASURES - SAMPLE OUR TASTY DESSERTS

REMEMBER, ONE OF THE BIGGEST FUNDRAISERS OF THE YEAR AND OUR MOST  
EXCITING EVENING IS FAST APPROACHING. PLEASE PLAN TO BE THERE.

BID ON: VACATIONS, THEATER TICKETS, JEWELRY, ELEGANT DINNERS, RESTAURANTS,  
SPORTING EVENTS, ART, TOYS, COMPUTER LESSONS & MORE

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ENCLOSED ARE RAFFLE TICKETS WHICH MAY BE PURCHASED OR SOLD. LET'S WORK  
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***RETURN THIS RSVP BY FEBRUARY 12 AND RECEIVE 1 FREE RAFFLE  
TICKET VALUED AT \$10.00***

Raffle Tickets

\$10 per Ticket

3 Tickets for \$25.00

Auction Reservations

\$18 Adults,

\$5 Children 11-17, Under 10-Free

*Raffle Drawing at Auction*

*Need not be present to win*

*No purchase necessary*

## TEMPLE ISAIAH GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION

MARCH 6, 2016  
2:00PM

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

AUCTION RESERVATIONS @\$18 ADULTS, \$5 CHILD 11-17 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RAFFLE TICKETS @\$10/TKT, OR \$25/3 TKTS \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(NO OTHER PURCHASE NECESSARY-NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN)

TOTAL ENCLOSED (CHECK PAYABLE TO TEMPLE ISAIAH) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***OR PLEASE CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD (3% FEE FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS)  
(MINIMUM FOR CREDIT CARD \$25.00)***

No. \_\_\_\_\_ TYPE: \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

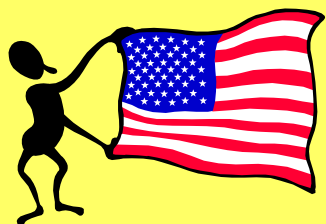
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RETURN THIS FORM AND TICKETS IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO  
TEMPLE ISAIAH, 1 CHELSEA PLACE, G.N., NY 11021  
QUESTIONS: CALL 516-487-5373



# Friday, March 4, 2016

Join tens of thousands of Jews across America as we come together to eat, drink, relax, enjoy, debate and celebrate at the 18th annual

## ***Shabbat Across America***



*Bring the family - bring your friends to a  
delicious kosher dinner at 6:30PM  
followed by Shabbat service at 7:30pm  
(A Program of National Jewish Outreach)*

RSVP ***REQUIRED!***—487-5373

Adults: \$30 in Advance; \$35 at the door; Children under 13: Free

Bakers wanted: for information  
please call Kathie Davis at 487-1576 or Sheila DeFazio at 643-1459



**"Current Events"**  
with Helman Brook  
Tuesday, Feb. 23rd, 7:30pm  
***Bring Your Newspapers  
and Join In The Lively Topical Discussion***

## ***Susan Bendor Luncheon February 5th***

Come One, Come All! Join us to celebrate a very special lady on her birthday, February 5th.

Now that she has retired we think that it will be lovely to enjoy a lunch together with Susan and her friends and family. Lunch is \$40 at Pearl East on Northern Blvd. at 12:30 on February 5th. I promise the food will be excellent.



Susan and Edgar were already members of Temple Isaiah when my family joined. She and her family were just the kind of presence that made me want to join. Brilliant, ethical, salt of the earth people.

We will need a count for the reservation, so if you can join us, please either leave a message for me at (516)487-7876 or let Cathy know at (516)487-5373 (isaiahgn@yahoo.com).

If you can't make it but would like to honor Susan by contributing to a leaf in her honor on our Tree of Life, please call the office at 487-5373.

*June Feldman*



## General Donations

### *In Loving Memory Of:*

Bernard Rosenberg, Brother & Uncle  
 Roslyn & Perri Bein  
 Hilda & Fred Feuerberg, Parents of Linda Burghardt  
 Linda & David Burghardt  
 Jacob Gordon, Father of Robert Gordon  
 Suzanne Branch & Gary McTiernan  
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 June & Allan Feldman  
 Gail & Robert Gordon  
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 Mindy & Howard Israel  
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 Jean Lesser  
 Ruth Mandelbaum  
 Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
 William Rosenberg  
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 Shelley Sherman  
 Robert Ensler, Brother-in-Law of Sheila and Victor DeFazio  
 Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
 Rose Greenberg, Grandmother of Mindy Israel  
 Jack Roth, Uncle of Mindy Israel  
 Mindy & Howard Israel  
 Chales Miller, Grandfather of Denise Miller  
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 Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
 Beatrice & Max Butter, Parents of Sandra Rabeck  
 Sandar & Stuart Rabeck  
 Enid Rubin, Mother of Harold Rubin  
 Harold Rubin  
 Harold Schwartz, Husband of Barbara Schwartz  
 Barbara Schwartz  
 Nuhim Causanschi, Brother of Golda Shapiro  
 Golda Shapiro  
 Lore Aufhauser, Mother of Susan Soifer and Vicki Stein  
 Arlene Soifer  
 Joseph Kristal, Brother of Evelyn Solow  
 Sophie Kristal, Mother of Evelyn Solow  
 Evelyn & Richard Solow  
 William Zimberg, Father of Shelley Willcox  
 Shelley & Robert Willcox

### *In Honor of :*

The Speedy Recovery of Luke Reibstein  
 Beatrice Aubrey  
 The Thoughtfulness of Belle & Elliott Gayer  
 Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
 The Antiquities Donation of Johanna Hurwitz  
 Kathie & Richard Davis  
 The 80th Birthday of Sanford Nack  
 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  
 Laura & Sanford Nack  
 Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
 Shelley Sherman

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

The Compassion and Graciousness of June & Allan Feldman  
 Jean Lesser  
 The Concern & Help of Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
 Ruth Mandelbaum  
 The Speedy Recovery of Marcia Null  
 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 Birth of Isaac Reid Beckerman, Grandson of Carol & Bill Hersh  
 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 June Feldman  
 Judy & Helman Brook  
 Kathie & Richard Davis  
 Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
 Gail & Robert Gordon  
 Mindy & Howard Israel  
 Terry & Richard Joseph  
 Willa Lewis & Edward Moulin  
 Ruth Mandelbaum  
 Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
 Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
 Shelley Sherman

### *Chanukah Appeal:*

Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
 Gail & Robert Gordon  
 Willa Lewis & Edward Moulin

### *Trees in Israel:*

In Memory of Harry Krieger, Husband of Ellen Krieger  
 In Memory of Lillian Fischer, Mother of Leonard Fischer  
 Marcia Null

### *Kol Nidre:*

In Honor of Bill Rosenberg's Heartfelt Holiday Appeal  
 Roslyn and Perri Bein  
 Ruth Isaac

### *Rabbi's Discretionary Account:*

Micki Victor  
 In Memory of Jacob Gordon, Father of Robert Gordon  
 Laura and Andy Skodol  
 Miriam Parmer

*Thank You to all the Temple Isaiah friends who sent their warm wishes on the occasion of the wedding of Daniel Diamond & Ashley Mask Shelley Sherman*

## A Note From the Rabbi

I wish to let you know that I will be away and off the pulpit for most of February. The Board of Trustees and I have agreed to cut back my time at the Temple to meet the reduction in salary necessitated by budget cuts. Please be assured that my pastoral and life-cycle duties and responsibilities as rabbi of the congregation continues without interruption. What it means is that I will not be leading services and teaching classes for the first three weeks of February. I will return to lead services for the last Friday and Saturday – February 26 & 27. Please feel free to contact me either by phone or e-mail at any time. Linda and I will be doing some traveling, but will be only a phone call or e-mail away. Cantor Friedlander will continue to serve as Cantor and take up some of my pulpit duties in my absence. I am very grateful to have a capable partner on the bema.

In my absence I have arranged the following coverage: 2/5: Claude Springer will lead the service and give the sermon; 2/12: Cantor Friedlander will serve as both Cantor and Rabbi; 2/19: Cantor Friedlander will conduct services and Helman Brook will deliver the sermon. Looking forward to returning to you on February 26<sup>th</sup>. L'Shalom,

*Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka*

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## TEMPLE ISAIAH OF GREAT NECK

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

Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism  
Issue No. 161 Published Monthly

**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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