

BULLETIN

Office - 487-5373, School - 487-8709

Published Monthly

January 2014

January Calendar of Events

Fri. Jan. 3—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Sat. Jan. 4—Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am

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

Thurs. Jan. 9—Rabbi's Class, "Book of Samuel," 7:30pm (#1)

Fri. Jan. 10—Shabbat Shira (Sabbath of Song) Service, 8:00pm

Sat. Jan. 11—Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am

Sun. Jan. 12—Driver Safety Class, 9:00—12:00pm (Reservations Required)

Mon, Jan. 13—Lunch & Learn at Ayhan's Shish Kebab, 11:30am

Tues. Jan. 14—Religious School, 4:00pm; "Current Events" with Helman Brook, 7:30pm

Fri. Jan. 17—Shabbat Service with Guest Speaker Rabbi Joshua Weinberg, President of ARZA, 8:00pm

Sat. Jan. 18—Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am

Sun. Jan. 19—Driver Safety Class, 9:00—12:00pm (Reservations Required); Great Neck Clergy Association Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service

Tues. Jan. 21—Religious School, 4:00pm; Book Discussion ("Prague Winter"), 7:30pm

Thurs. Jan. 23—Rabbi's Class, "Book of Samuel," 7:30pm (#2)

Fri. Jan. 24—Renewal Service, 6:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Sat. Jan. 25—Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am

Tues. Jan. 28—Religious School, 4:00pm

Thurs. Jan. 30—Rabbi's Class, "Book of Samuel," 7:30pm (#3)

Fri. Jan. 31—Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm



January Highlights (Details Inside)

Friday, January 10
Shabbat Shira
"Sabbath of Song"

Sunday, January 12 & 19
Two-Session
Driver Safety Class with
Claude Springer

Tuesday, January 14
"Current Events" with
Helman Brook

Friday, January 17
Guest Speaker
Rabbi Joshua Weinberg
President of ARZA

Sunday, January 19
Martin Luther King Jr.
Community Service

Tuesday, January 21
Book Discussion
"Prague Winter"

<u>RABBI'S COLUMN</u> A Short History of American Reform, Zionism & ARZA



The Reform Jewish Movement had its origin in 19th Century Germany during a time of rapid urbanization, social and scientific enlightenment that pervaded Western Europe. It attempted to integrate modernity and the practices of the secular, non-Jewish world into traditional Jewish life. At first European Reform rejected the Zionism of Theodor Herzl – the re-establishment of and a return to a national Jewish homeland and the restoration of the Temple in Jerusalem – because it conflicted with the universalistic notion of the early founders of the movement. This ideology carried over to American Reform in the late 19th century. Shortly after the formation of the Union of American Reform

Congregations (UAHC, known today as the URJ) it was stated in the 1885 Pittsburgh Platform: "We consider ourselves no longer a nation, but a religious community, and do not expect a return to Palestine nor the restoration of Temple sacrificial rites." The rabbinic Reform assembly (CCAR) echoed this sentiment in 1897.

To say that early American Reformers were united against Zionism would certainly overstate the case. Despite active Zionists in the lay and rabbinic leadership, Reform in the years following WW I remained opposed to political Zionism albeit by a narrow margin. Inspired by the Balfour Declaration of 1917, there existed a group of zealous, mainly secular, Jews who settled in Palestine establishing kibbutzim and businesses that paved the way for a state of Israel. The earlier universalist attitude was severely shaken by the Holocaust, and the establishment of Medinat Israel in 1948 was a game changer: virtually every Reform Jew at least became a friend and supporter of Israel. Reform Jews around the world celebrated its creation and rejoiced in its achievements. Still, for the first 20 years of Israel's existence, the Jewish State was a world away from the daily life of Reform Jews living New York City or Los Angeles or Canada. It took the extraordinary event of the Six Day War in 1967 to bring Israel closer to the Jews of America. The decade of the 60's also witnessed increased interest in universal social and ethnic causes: civil rights, hints of feminism, the Vietnam war, and the plight of Soviet Jewry for example. Israel's lightning fast victory sparked similar pride among Jews in the Diaspora and the vindication of the right of Jews to have a sovereign existence in the Promised Land. The 60's saw the rebirth of particularism expressed by pride in Jewish peoplehood and commitment to the State of Israel. It was also in the late 60's that the headquarters of the previously formed World Union for Progressive Judaism (1926) was moved from New York City to Jerusalem helping to focus American interest in Israel. In the 70's rabbi Maurice Eisendrath, a powerful charismatic speaker and President of the UAHC, urged introducing the Reform movement in Israel and the building of Reform congregations there.

The Association of Reform Zionists (ARZA) came into being at the 1978 Biennial Convention of the UAHC. It was created out of the recognition that Jewish tradition requires all Jews to participate in the issues and institutions that affect Jewish existence globally in general and Israel in particular. ARZA sees Jewish nationalism as a seamless aspect of Jewish identity in the 21st century. The founding mission statement speaks of 1] Financial Support of Israel, and 2] Advocating Reform concerns including the establishment and governmental support of Reform congregations.

The Miami Platform, approved by the CCAR in 1997, provided details on our relationship to Israel, our obligations to Israel, and Israel's obligations to the Diaspora: 1] Israeli and Diaspora Jewry are interdependent and responsible for one another; 2] Our obligation to Israel includes helping to promote its security and to ensure the welfare of its citizens through continued political support and financial assistance; and 3] Besides existing for the benefit of its citizens, the Jewish people is best served when Israel is constituted as a pluralistic, democratic society in which no religious interpretation of Judaism takes precedence over another.

That the Reform Movement could reverse its position on Zionism in a little over 100 years is testament to the fundamental concept that informed change in policy and practice is possible – in fact necessary – when circumstances dictate change for Judaism to survive.

On Friday evening, January 17th, Temple Isaiah will welcome to the pulpit ARZA's recently elected president, Rabbi Josh Weinberg. Much has happened since the Miami Platform 16 years ago. During those intervening years there has been wonderful progress and disappointing setbacks in Reform Judaism in Israel. Please join us to learn about ARZA's future plans.

Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka

CANTOR'S COLUMN Praise Adonai with the Harp! (Psalm 33:2)



Much of what we know about music in our ancient tradition we learn from accounts in the Bible and early rabbinic writings. Some of the narratives, particularly in the the Book of Chronicles, describe elaborate rituals and celebrations that involve the use of hundreds of musicians and full orchestras. Several varieties of harps are mentioned in nearly every description, which points to the significance this beautiful instrument played in the religious and secular life of ancient Israel.

The sound of the harp is elegant, luxurious and full and even its physical beauty is almost royal-looking. No wonder it was the favorite instrument of King David. Yes, the harp has a long Jewish history.

On Shabbat in the Temple at Jerusalem special sacrifices were offered, Bible passages were read and a psalm for Shabbat, Psalm 92, was sung by the Levites, the priests responsible for the music in the Temple. This same psalm is still included in the beginning of our evening Shabbat worship. The song begins with the words, *Mizmor Shir*; both words meaning "song." There are nine other psalms that begin with the same two words but this psalm describes some of the musical sounds that were used to celebrate the joy and delight of the day. It contains the words *nevel*, a large harp, *kinnor*, a small harp or lyre (the kind of harp King David played), *asor*, a 10-stringed instrument and other references to the kind of music we would hear in the service.

In the *Mishnah* there is a description of the various musical instruments that were heard following the offering of sacrifices during the service in the Temple. First, the *magrepha* (a pipe organ) was heard, which signaled the priests to enter the Temple. Once the priests entered and prostrated themselves, it was the Levites' turn to sing psalms, sing portions of the Torah and sound instruments. The accompanying orchestra was comprised of at least two and up to six *nevelim* (large harps), at least nine but an unlimited number of *kinnorim* (small harps), at least two and up to 12 *halilim* (a kind of ancient clarinet) and one cymbal. All those harps and wind instruments must have sounded quite heavenly and were certainly divinely inspired.



There were additional instruments used in other parts of the Temple service: percussion instruments that were beaten or shaken and several varieties of trumpets and woodwinds and possibly stringed instruments in addition to the *asar*. But the most highly regarded instruments in biblical times were the two kinds of harps, which were the most important non-human voices in the Temple orchestra.

On January 10, in honor of Shabbat Shirah, the Sabbath of Song, acclaimed harpist Karen Strauss will join us to celebrate Jewish music and add a layer of ancient authenticity to the service. This Shabbat evening service will be anchored by many of the familiar settings we sing every week, and the harp accompaniment will allow us to hear the full harmonies that the composers intended us to experience. It will be a glorious celebration of Jewish music!

Cantor Leslie Friedlander



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Call the office to order your Tree Certificate for \$18.00

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS It Was A Good Problem to Have



There were so many boxes of food, and mountains and mountains of bags filled with clothes and blankets. A gym full of tables could not hold it all. Yet, it was a good problem to have. All of these much-needed items had been gathered by 3 local synagogues who are members of the Tikkun Alliance of the North Shore, or TANS, for distribution to neighbors during Thanksgiving week. Temple Isaiah of Great Neck is the latest member of TANS, which is committed to engaging in coordinated,



synagogue-based social action projects. Temple Isaiah's blankets and coats went to Great Neck and Manhasset families who are clients of social agency programs, like Head Start, located in a now-closed school building not far from North Shore Hospital.

It was an unforgettable afternoon, with local residents of all ages collecting clothing and food that was obviously much appreciated. There were many hard-working volunteers from the 3 congregations, which also included Temple Israel of Great Neck and North Shore Synagogue, located in Syosset. But there was one person who really deserves a special thanks: Ilene Zelniker of North Shore Synagogue. She spearheaded an effort that included an army of adult and religious school student helpers, purchased fresh food with North Shore Synagogue funds and the assistance of its caterers' staff, and organized a dignified, hamish event. Ilene is a dynamo and she deserves full credit for making the event such a success.

So how can we pay tribute to Ilene for all her hard work? By following her example and rolling up our sleeves to help during this cold, cold season. In the spirit of Purim, during February, TANS is collecting food with a "K" or "U" symbol on the package for distribution to the Jewish poor during March through Hatzilu. There is one big difference from our usual Hatzilu drive over the High Holidays. This time we are collecting <u>only CEREAL</u> and other synagogues in TANS will be gathering different items so there is balance in the distribution.

There is a slogan from a long-ago cereal commercial that most of you should remember "Open wide for Maypo." In the spirit of Tikkun Olam, let us open our hearts wide to those in need....Next month, by bringing cereal! Shalom Chaverim.

Gail Gordon & Terry Joseph

Rabbi's Class for January: Book of Samuel Thursday Evenings 1/9, 1/23 and 1/30

On January 9th a three-week class on the <u>Book of Samuel</u> will be given and will continue on January 23rd and January 30th. This pivotal book of the 2nd section of the Tanach collectively known as Neviim, or the Prophets, relates the story of Samuel, Saul and David. The class will highlight the historical chapters of Samuel and Saul – Israel's first king. Emphasis will be placed on King David a man of profound complexity, contradiction, humanity and piety. Selected verses will be examined and explained that reveal the personality of Israel's greatest king.

January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			HAPPY & NEV YEAR	2	Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	Torah Study, 9:30am Cantillation, 11:00am
5	6 Weight Watchers 12:30	7 Religious School 4:00pm Board Meeting, 7:30pm	8	9 Rabbi's Class, "Book of Samuel" #1 7:30pm	Shabbat Shira, ("Sabbath of Song"), 8:00pm	Torah Study, 9:30am Cantillation, 11:00am
Driver Safety Class 1 of 2, 9:00am	Lunch & Learn 11:30 (Ayhan's ShishKebab); Weight Watchers 12:30	14 Religious School 4:00pm "Current Events" with Helman Brook, 7:30pm	15	16 טו בשבט Tu B'Shevat	17 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm with Guest Speaker Rabbi Josh Weinberg, President of ARZA	Torah Study, 9:30am Cantillation, 11:00am
19 Driver Safety Class 2 of 2, 9:00am Martin Luther King Jr. GNCA Community Service	20 Weight Watchers 12:30 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	21 Religious School 4:00pm Book Discussion "Prague Winter" 7:30 pm	22	Rabbi's Class, "Book of Samuel" #2 7:30pm	24 Renewal Service, 7:30pm Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	Torah Study, 9:30am Cantillation, 11:00am
26	Weight Watchers 12:30	28 Religious School 4:00pm	29	Rabbi's Class, "Book of Samuel" #3 7:30pm	31 Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:15pm	February 1 Torah Study, 9:30am; Service, 10:30am (light lunch)



"Current Events" with Helman Brook

Tuesday, January 14, 7:30pm

Bring your newspapers and join the discussion.

Bequests 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.

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Thursday, 1/9 11:00 to 12:45
Sid Jacobson JCC

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For more information, please contact:
Sharon Boykin - Connect to Care
sboykin@sjjcc.org 516-484-1545, ext. 212

Terry Joseph would like to thank all of the people who worked so hard on our recent "Fabulous Finds" Bazaar.



H-Mart Donations Are Back!

Every time you shop at the Great Neck H-Mart a percentage of your purchase will be donated to the temple.

It's easy—just deposit your receipt in the Temple Isaiah bin outside the store and we will receive a check from H-Mart.

ARZA's New President to Speak January 17

Rabbi Josh Weinberg, the brand new president of ARZA, will be speaking to our congregation on Friday evening, January 17, 2014. An American who grew up in the Reform Movement, Rabbi Weinberg made alyiah 10 years ago, worked as a spokesperson for the Israeli Defense Forces, served on the staff of the Israeli Consulate in Chicago, and was ordained as a Rabbi HUC-JIR in Jerusalem.



Join us in welcoming Rabbi Weinberg to Temple Isaiah.

January Book Discussion— "Prague Winter" Tuesday, January 21, 7:30pm



Our next book for discussion is Madeleine Albright's biography "Prague Winter", a personal story of remembrance and war (1937-1948). This is a moving and thoughtful memoir of our former Secretary of State's young years in Czechoslovakia during Nazi occupation, WWII, fascism and the Cold War.

Discussion will be led by Judy Snow and snacks will be provided. Limited number of copies are available at the Great Neck Library.

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Happy (secular) New Year Temple Isaiah!!!

We were so happy to see everyone who came to the Hanukkah Pot-Luck Dinner, and hoped you enjoyed our sewn menorah. The kids took time to ask themselves what do the candles of Hanukkah mean to them, and how do they relate to our lives. We hope you liked their presentation, and the candles that they each sewed by hand.



Moving forward, we are studying Torah; not just the words and prayers, but the meaning of Torah, and how it relates to us. Keep your eyes open when you come to Temple Isaiah for other exciting art projects, and thought-provoking questions.

Again, on behalf of myself and our fantastic art teacher Sue Turek, we wish you a (secular) Shana Tova, a happy and sweet New Year.

Adam Turek-Herman

Reduce Your Car Insurance Premium!

Do you want to save from about \$300-\$500 from your premiums in three years and remove points from your driver's license? Join Temple Isaiah's Driver Safety Course, given by Claude Springer, on two Sunday mornings, Jan.12 and 19 from 9am to noon. This six-hour course of \$40 includes a donation of \$15 to the temple for each student. Claude promises you will learn some important aspects of driving to make you safer and drive with less stress—and that it won't be boring! Classes start promptly-late comers can not be accommodated.

Please call Cathy at 516-487-5373 to reserve a place. Checks made out to Empire Safety Council must be received no later than Jan. 7, and are non-refundable except for future classes.

Temple Isaiah of Great Neck 1 Chelsea Place Great Neck, NY 11021 516-487-5373 Email: isaiahgn@yahoo.com



Two Successive
Sundays
January 12 & 19

General Donations

In Loving Memory Of:

Rachel Tholfsen, Mother of Judy Brook Judy & Helman Brook

Bessie Berkowitz, Grandmother of Sheila DeFazio

Evelyn Reefe, Sister of Vivian Sherman Robert Ensler, Brother-in-Law of Sheila & Victor DeFazio

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Kol Nidre:

Brian Joseph

Tzedakah Fund:

Micki Victor

Bulletin Fund:

Haruno Tsuruoka

Tree of Life:

In Honor of the Birthday of Mindy Israel Beatrice Aubrey

Suzanne Branch & Gary McTiernan

Sheila & Victor DeFazio

Meg & Steve Grass

Terry & Richard Joseph

Meryl & Jack Menashe

Rita Rubenstein

Arlene Soifer

Chanukah Appeal:

Judy & Helman Brook

Diane Haber & Robert Bruce

Kathie & Richard Davis

Helene Dorfman

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Rhoda & Michael Epstein

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Rose Grabelsky

Alvin Graham

Franklin Greene & Omaira Enriquez

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In Honor of:

Belle & Elliott Gayer for Conducting

Services at the Atria

Willa Lewis & Ed Moulin

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The Special Birthday of Frances Falon

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Shelley Sherman

In Honor of (cont'd):

The Speedy Recovery of Linda & Rabbi Ted

The Kindness of Ruth Isaac

The Kindness of Marcia Null

Alvin Graham

The Birth of Amichai Moshe Baker,

Greatgrandson of Arlene Soifer,

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Rita Rubenstein

Ruth Mandelbaum

The Speedy Recovery of David Mack

Denise Miller & Steve Fein

Ruth Mandelbaum

Rita Rubenstein

The Engagement of Luke Reibstein & Emma

Campbell

Sheila & Victor DeFazio

Denise Miller & Steve Fein

June & Allan Feldman

Gail & Robert Gordon Mindy & Howard Israel

Terry & Richad Joseph

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Bernie Rosenberg The Speedy Recovery of Linda Tsuruoka and

Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka

Suzanne Branch & Gary McTiernan

Judy & Helman Brook Kathie & Richard Davis

Sheila & Victor DeFazio

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BULLETIN

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