

January 2016 Calendar of Events

Friday, Jan. 1—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm
 Saturday Jan 2—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
 Sunday, Jan. 3—Review of MEMRI-TV with Elliott Gayer, 11:30am
 Monday, Jan. 4—Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am
 Tuesday, Jan. 5—Board Meeting, 7:30pm
 Friday, Jan. 8—Shul Talk, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm
 Saturday, Jan. 9—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
 Monday, Jan. 11—Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am
 Thursday, Jan. 14—Rabbi's Class, "A Practical Look at the Jewish Prayer Book", 7:30pm (#1)
 Friday, Jan. 15—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm
 Saturday, Jan. 16—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
 Monday, Jan. 18—Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am
 Thursday, Jan. 21—Rabbi's Class, "A Practical Look at the Jewish Prayer Book", 7:30pm (#2)
 Friday, Jan. 22—Renewal Service, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm
 Saturday, Jan. 23—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
 Sunday, Jan. 24—World of Wine with Ed Moulin, 2:00pm (RSVP)
 Monday, Jan. 25—Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am
 Thursday, Jan. 28—Rabbi's Class, "A Practical Look at the Jewish Prayer Book", 7:30pm (#3)
 Friday, Jan. 29—Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm
 Saturday, Jan. 30—Torah Study, 9:30am; Torah Service, 10:30am

Details Inside on Upcoming Events At Temple Isaiah

**Sunday, January 3
11:30am**

**MEMRI-TV
Review with
Elliott Gayer**

**Sunday, January 24
2:00pm**

**World of Wine
With Ed Moulin**

**Friday, February 5
Luncheon in
Honor of
Susan Bendor
At Pearl East**



RABBI'S COLUMN

Some Jewish Resolutions for a Secular Year

It seems to be human nature to start new activities at the beginning of a day or a week – nobody starts a diet on a Wednesday night! New Years is an ideal point in time to make resolutions because it gives us a whole year to accomplish it. As secular year 2015 comes to a close, we have a good opportunity to make plans in our Jewish life for 2016. Here are some suggestions:



1. *Read One Book of the Tanakh* – the Jewish Bible. There are 36 separate books that make up the Tanakh, some very short, like Ruth or Jonah. I suggest you read one with a Jewish commentary. The Jewish Publication Society offers each book separately.

2. *Learn One New Ritual or Prayer.* Rituals and prayers form the spiritual part of Judaism because they take action on the participant's part. Learn how to bless the Shabbat candles, or make Havdallah; recite the Kiddush; lead Birkat Mazon.

3. *Learn to Read Hebrew.* Hebrew is the medium that joins all Jews together through time and space. There are self-teaching books available. Better yet, go to Temple and learn.

4. *Learn About and Join a Jewish Organization.* Jews have organized into groups since the 19th century on all issues and topics across the political and religious spectrum. The list is enormous and includes: Hadassah, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, Hillel, ARZA, Friends of Israel Defense Forces, Hebrew Immigration Aid Society.

5. *Take Up an Active Cause.* We are committed as Jews to *tikkun olam* – repairing the world. Domestically we need to address the issues of Immigration, Income Inequality, Xenophobia, Access to Health Care. Internationally, we need to help in Climate Change, Securing Israel, Human Dignity.

6. *Become an Active Member of a Committee.* Temple Isaiah, like all synagogues, relies on the active participation of its membership to do things. We need members to help in our Caring Community, Ushering, Adult Education, Leading Services, Social Action, just to name a few.

As secular year 2016 begins, I hope you will make some Jewish resolutions. More than ever, the world needs Jews – knowledgeable and committed Jews – who understand that all of humankind is dependent on each other. In the words of Edmond Fleg: *"I am a Jew because the faith of the people Israel places humanity above nations, above Judaism itself."*

Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka

*Happy
New Year*

CANTOR'S COLUMN

To Every Season...



Several weeks ago at a Shul Talk, Rabbi Tsuruoka led an interesting teaching about the origins and traditions surrounding the *Kaddish* prayer. During the discussion, someone reminded us that years ago, Temple Isaiah's custom was to ask only the mourners to rise during the recitation of the *Kaddish Yatom*, the Mourners' *Kaddish*. Our present custom, in line with most Reform and Progressive congregations, is for everyone present to stand in support of those who are mourning and for all those who may not have someone to mourn for them.

One person present at the discussion commented that as people who have lived lives, we all have grandparents or parents who have passed away, and therefore we are all in mourning all the time.

The Book of Ecclesiastes teaches us that the process of mourning is not ongoing but has a defined time, just as all human activity occupies its own space. The author writes, *A season is set for everything, a time for every experience under heaven. A time for being born and a time for dying; A time for planting and a time for uprooting the planted; A time for slaying and a time for healing; A time for tearing up and a time for building up; A time for weeping and a time for laughing;...*

Although Ecclesiastes was referring to the fact that it is God who preordains every experience under heaven, I will expand Ecclesiastes' view and maintain that Judaism has a human response for every experience and through *Halachah* and custom, we are provided with established guidelines for distinguishing the major events in our lives, which includes traditional practices to cope with challenges.

I have a colleague who calls us "the people of the calendar," meaning that the ways we express our Judaism are connected to the dates of the events in our lives in addition to the dates of our holy days. For example, mourners recite *Kaddish* at prescribed times: during the 11 months after losing a parent, during the 30 days after having lost a parent, sibling, spouse or child, and at the anniversary – the *yahrzeit* – of the death of close relatives. We say *Kaddish* at only these specific times so that grief doesn't control our lives.

Expressing our mourning publically in a time-honored way serves to establish a connection to the larger Jewish world. This is what we do as Jews, just as we perform certain other rituals that reinforce and define our Judaism. In return, we become part of a group of people that transcends time and space.

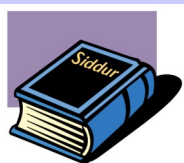
Cantor Leslie Friedlander

Rabbi's Class for January

A Practical Look at the Jewish Prayer Book:

How to Use It

Three Classes: January 14, 21 & 28



The siddur, or prayer book, is the fundamental literary device that enables organized communal worship. The siddur as we know it is the culmination of centuries of thought and work designed to address the needs and hopes of the worshiper. Over time, the fortunes of Jews had its ups and downs. The prayers reflect this path of history as well as anticipating the needs of future users. It is a monument to the liturgic genius of our sages.

The three-session course will examine the basic structure, the order and meaning of the prayers and readings of the siddur. Emphasis will be placed on how the sections are designed to provide continuity and flow – like a symphony – to the process of worship. References and examples will be taken from traditional siddurim as well as Mishkan T'Filah.

All classes are on Thursdays, beginning at 7:30 PM.

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

“Happy 2016”

January: another new year, a time to reflect and hope that the new year brings us all peace and happiness.

Looking back, if only to December, we saw two significant events that interest us as Jews.

First, the Vatican announced that after centuries the Catholic Church, as an institution, would no longer attempt to convert Jews. And some progressive Orthodox rabbis announced that they would no longer adhere to the decades-old prohibition against engaging in interfaith dialogue.

These two changes demonstrate that history is not static and at least in some ways we can respect those with whom we differ.

And what about locally in Great Neck? On Sunday December 6th, together with many fellow congregants we attended a concert given by the Great Neck Choral Society at the Merchant Marine Academy chapel. The program revealed that six of the 45 or so voices in the group belonged to Temple Isaiah members and the program notes were written by our own David Aubrey in his usual charming and informative style. And what of the music itself: some Chanukah songs, but overwhelmingly Christian; Bach's Christmas Oratorio, the Handel Halleluyah, and most significantly, a Charpentier mass that includes the "Credo", the foundational statement of Christian faith. Yes, here in our community a chorus including many Jews can perform essentially Christian church music in a government-owned chapel that serves as a holy meeting space for all religions. The Jewish choristers can sing the Credo simply as music, not as a profession of belief. In many places in the world the very idea of such a thing is unthinkable!

How fortunate we are to live in this country where such things are routine.

We have hope for the future beginning anew in 2016



Kathie Davis and Helman Brook

Save the Date: Friday, February 5th

Susan Bendor Luncheon

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

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.

Susan had a long career as a social worker for 50 years. Plus she had been a professor at Yeshiva University for 27 years. And now that she has retired we think that it will be lovely to enjoy a lunch together with her and her family. Lunch is \$40 at Pearl East on Northern Blvd. at 12:30 on February 5th. I promise the food will be excellent.

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

It will be fun, and nice to celebrate with a great lady.

June Feldman

January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm New Year's Day	2 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
3 MEMRI-TV Review, 11:30am	4 Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am	5 Board Meeting, 7:30pm	6	7	8 Shul Talk, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	9 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
10	11 Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am; Lunch & Learn, 11:30am	12	13	14 Rabbi's Class: "A Practical Look at the Jewish Prayer Book" (1 of 3), 7:30pm	15 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	16 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
17	18 Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am	19	20	21 Rabbi's Class: "A Practical Look at the Jewish Prayer Book" (2 of 3), 7:30pm	22 Renewal Service, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	23 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
24 World of Wine, 2:00pm	25 Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am	26	27	28 Rabbi's Class: "A Practical Look at the Jewish Prayer Book" (3 of 3), 7:30pm	29 Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm	30 Torah Study, 9:30am; Torah Service, 10:30am
31						

February 5
Luncheon in Honor
of
Susan Bendor

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.¹ 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]



Sunday, January 24th 2:00pm 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
RSVP's required so we can properly prepare**

General Donations

In Loving Memory Of:

Peter Alpert, Son of Beatrice & Irving Alpert
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Anna Rosenthal Brook, Mother of Helman Brook
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Judy & Helman Brook
Bessie Berkowitz, Grandmother of Sheila DeFazio
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Arlene Soifer
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Sandia & Eric Tosky
Esther Dibner, Aunt of William Rosenberg
William Rosenberg

Memorial Plaque:

In Memory of Alvin Graham
Miriam and Barry Graham

In Honor of :

The Marriage of Daniel Diamond & Ashley Mask
Suzanne Branch & Gary McTiernan

The Birth of Jake Bennett Elias, Grandson of Terry and Richard Joseph and the Birth of Hendrick Robert Israel, Grandson of Mindy & Howard Israel

Suzanne Branch & Gary McTiernan
Ruth Isaac
William Rosenberg
Rita Rubenstein
Bella Bekker-Silver & Jonathan Silver

Temple Isaiah

Corinne Coe
Jesse & Colleen Stoff

Brian Horton's Valuable Lessons
Kathie & Richard Davis

Mona Bokot

The Speedy Recovery of Luke Reibstein

The Temple Isaiah Members of the Great Neck Choral Society

Bea Aubrey & Marcia Null for Chairing the Chanukah Potluck Dinner

June & Allan Feldman

Steve Fein

Galasso Trucking

The Speedy Recovery of Shelly Weisfeld

Ruth Isaac

The Birthday of Edward Moulin

Willa Lewis & Edward Moulin

The Speedy Recovery of Terry Joseph

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June & Allan Feldman
Gail & Robert Gordon
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Mindy & Howard Israel
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Shelley Sherman

The Special Birthday of Barbara Feldman

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Shelley Sherman

The Bar Mitzvah of Brendon Guevara

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Shelley Sherman

The Speedy Recovery of Micki Victor

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Shelley Sherman

The Engagement of Jeremy Levy & Victoria Nikolav

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Ruth Isaac
Mindy & Howard Israel
Terry & Richard Joseph
Ruth Mandelbaum
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
Alisa & Martin Secofsky
Shelley Sherman

Belle & Elliott Gayer for Hosting the Shabbat Luncheon

Cantor Leslie Friedlander for the Beautiful Kabbalat Service
William Rosenberg

Chanukah Appeal:

Mona Bokot
Judy & Helman Brook
Kathie & Richard Davis
Alan Eiges & Kazue Wada Block
Franklin Greene & Omaira Enriquez
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Lia & Mortimer Hans
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Harriet Shindler
Arlene Soifer
Claude Springer
Haruno Tsuruoka
Alice & Richard Weiner

*Thank you so much to all
those who wished me a
speedy recovery.
Being in your thoughts
was much appreciated.
Micki Victor*

*Thank You to all the
people who celebrated my
80th birthday with me by
sending me their good
wishes.
Barbara Feldman*

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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

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