

January 2018 Calendar of Events

Tuesday, Jan. 2—Board Meeting, 7:30pm

Wednesday, Jan. 3—Tai Chi, 11:00AM

Friday, Jan. 5—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Saturday, Jan. 6—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; “Guess Who, Part II,” 7:30pm (RSVP)

Monday, Jan. 8—Adult Ed with Cantor Friedlander, “Welcoming the Bride,” 7:30pm

Wednesday, Jan. 10—Tai Chi, 11:00am

Friday, Jan. 12—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Saturday, Jan. 13—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am

Sunday, Jan. 14— “The Historicity of Jesus: Man or Myth?” 11:00am

Wednesday, Jan. 17—Tai Chi, 11:00am

Friday, Jan. 19—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Saturday, Jan. 20—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am

Monday, Jan. 22—Adult Ed with Cantor Friedlander, “Welcoming the Bride,” 7:30pm

Wednesday, Jan. 24—Tai Chi, 11:00am

Thursday, Jan. 25— “Current Events” with Helman Brook, 7:30pm

Friday, Jan. 26—Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm; Tu B'Shevat Seder, 7:00pm (RSVP)

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

Monday, Jan. 29—Adult Ed with Cantor Friedlander, “Welcoming the Bride,” 7:30pm

Wednesday, Jan. 31—Tai Chi, 11:00am; Lunch & Learn with Cantor Friedlander, 11:30am

*When the weather (or other circumstance) threatens the cancellation of services or a temple event, if the office is closed please call Kathie Davis to check:
 516-487-1576 or 516-297-0254*

Saturday,
 January 6th
 7:30pm

“GUESS

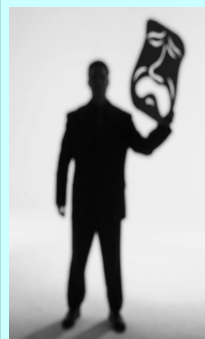
Who?”

Part II

*A Live-Action Trivia
 Contest*

*Politicians, a few;
 New singers & actors too;
 Refreshments for you.*

**Come Out of the Winter Doldrums
 for an Evening of Fun
 and Entertainment with
 Richard Solow**



**Wine, cheese & noshes
 \$20 in advance, \$25 at the
 door
 RSVP to 516-487-5373**

CANTOR'S COLUMN

Welcoming the Bride

By Cantor Leslie Friedlander



On the last Friday evening of each month here at Temple Isaiah, we hold a service that we call *Kabbalat Shabbat* and we differentiate it from the other evening Shabbat services by scheduling it earlier, and by making it slightly shorter and a little less formal. Nearly every congregation on the evening of Shabbat includes elements of the *Kabbalat Shabbat* service, just as we do on every Friday night.

However, a *Kabbalat Shabbat* service is really a preliminary service to the evening Shabbat service and serves as a warm-up to prayer. Just as athletes and musicians need to flex certain muscles before plying their craft, so too do we need to warm-up spiritually before receiving Shabbat.

The 16th-century Kabbalists in Safed understood this and instituted *Kabbalat Shabbat*, which means “Welcoming the Sabbath.” This is one of the most beautiful and moving services in the liturgy and is filled with mysticism, creativity and innovation. In this service, Shabbat is likened to a bride and a queen and poetic images are layered with history and allusions from biblical passages. Through it all runs a thread that speaks of the deep devotion between God and the Jewish people.

Join me for three evenings in January (8, 22, 29) when we will learn about and experience the loveliness of *Kabbalat Shabbat* in all its many facets.



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

WELCOMING THE BRIDE:

A multi-faceted discussion of Kabbalat Shabbat

Come and learn about the Kabbalat Shabbat service through history, liturgy, ritual, poetry, Halacha, Talmud and music. No previous knowledge required, just bring your open mind and your curiosity.



RABBI'S COLUMN

By Rabbi Jerry Blum

If I had a dime for each time I've heard the line, "I can't believe how quickly this year has passed us by (and thank God, it's done)" I'd be a rich man (OK, maybe I could afford a nice lunch, but you understand).

I was speaking recently with a colleague about how quickly this year had passed. We both could not remember another time in recent history that had been quite so tumultuous, so fast paced, and felt so out of control, for our community, our country, and our world.

And yet, when I think back on the last six months since I began here at Temple Isaiah, I realize how many blessings one can have in his life. And yes, it has been fast paced, and tumultuous, filled with both happy and sad moments, and I feel so grateful to be part of this caring community.

Over the past six months, the Temple Isaiah community has given me many learning opportunities, but the one that made the greatest impression on me was participating in the URJ Biennial in Boston this past December. Shabbat services with over 6,000 in attendance was a moment of radical amazement for me. All of us, bowing and welcoming the Sabbath Queen together as we sang the words Bo'i Chalah, Bo'i Chalah – Enter, O bride! Enter, O bride. I felt so proud to be a part of this historic moment.

There were so many new people to meet, and so many old friends that I had not seen in what felt like ages (and in some cases, it was ages) that it felt a little overwhelming at points, but there were some incredible standouts.

The first, and one of the more significant experiences of the Biennial was the music. I have been very impressed with the liturgical music that has come from the Reform Movement in the last few years, and so I was not surprised at the level of music and the artists that were presented at Biennial. The music made my personal prayers feel joyful and meaningful, and it was a true gift to pray in this uplifting environment.



The classes and Torah discussion groups on Shabbat morning and afternoon were a real treat. The level of scholarship was astounding and I felt honored to be learning from some of my present day Jewish heroes.

But, for me, the most important session took place on the very last day of the Biennial and was in my estimation the best presentation on the topic I had ever seen. The topic was "How to Engage the Baby-Boomer Plus Members of our Community" and it felt as if they had Temple Isaiah in mind when they first conceived of this learning session. The presenters were leaders in their field and the flow of ideas was mind blowing. The discussions that came from the breakout groups were thought-

provoking and inspirational. I was delighted and felt extremely encouraged to know that our movement has invested so much time and thought into the plight of our demographic. It feels good to know that the Reform Movement understands our needs and has put a great many resources at our disposal, so we can continue to survive and thrive as a community.

In the next few months, we as a community will begin the process of clarifying our goals, and mapping out a strategic plan for our synagogue. With the help and guidance of the clergy, our presidents, and the board, we hope to bring new innovation to our temple and begin to rebrand ourselves so we may further establish ourselves as a "Makom – A Place" for Jewish culture, education, social action, music, spirituality and of course community.

When I think of the temple's future, I am reminded of the verses from the Prophet Isaiah (our namesake) who said: *"Remember not the first events, and do not meditate over early ones. Behold I am making a new thing, now it will come to pass, now you shall know of it; I will make a road in the wilderness, (and) rivers in the desert."* (Isaiah 43:18-19) Isaiah (in God's name) was telling the people not to dwell on the hard times of the past, but to look towards the future and believe.

We have all the tools at our disposal to grow our temple and move forward. I am encouraged by the support of our
(Continued on page 7)



"VOICES OF ISAIAH"

What Brought Us to the Door of Our Synagogue?

By Alisa & Martin Secofsky

In October 2016, the Isaiah family gathered together in prayer and fellowship for our 50th High Holiday Season and the start of our Jubilee Year. It is a time to reflect on our past and look forward to the future.

This column is two perspectives from the same household. Although the stories are recounted differently the result is the same.

Martin's story:

Many years ago, I was not a temple-goer but wanted to change my ways, so I devised a highly sophisticated plan to select a temple that would meet my needs. My criteria was simple, find the closest temple I could walk to on the High Holidays.

Since Temple Isaiah was located within 1/2 mile from our home it was an easy choice. Had the temple been on Chelsea Place at the time I might be writing this column about an Orthodox/Iranian Temple or Chabad. Everything happens for a reason.

Isaiah is a special place with friendly, bright, interesting people who have an eagerness to learn and engage with each other.

I was immediately drawn to our rabbi and cantor. The bima has changed over the years but my feelings have remained the same for current members of the clergy.

I quickly became more involved in temple life and eventually became president for a three year term. Lisa and I have enjoyed the friends we've made and the spirituality that comes from being a member of Temple Isaiah. On a nice day, we still walk to temple and look back on the journey that got us here and how it has enriched our lives.

Alisa's story:

Twenty plus years ago, my father-in-law Abe Secofsky wanted to say kaddish for his wife; Temple Isaiah fit the bill. Abe joined the temple, came every Friday night and sat in the back of the temple somewhat anonymous. Martin and I joined him on the High Holidays until his death.

Both of us grew up in secular Jewish households. I attended Hebrew school throughout elementary school and Martin went to Kindershul. Neither of us became a bat/bar mitzvah.

Since we didn't have children, we weren't quick to join a synagogue for the typical reasons. So we became High Holiday and yahrzeit temple-goers for a very long time.

We observed the temple family from the outside looking in. I often asked Marty if he wanted to join but he was not ready. Steve Fein's awesome Kol Nidre appeal struck us so deeply that we signed on the "dotted line" but not without a little prodding from June Feldman.

These past years as members have enriched our lives with joy and sometimes sorrow. Through it all we feel blessed to call Temple Isaiah our extended family.

We welcome and solicit your personal story and experience in our "Voices of Isaiah" column. Tell us your story ... the unique path to the door of our synagogue. The *Shehecheyanu* blessings that connect your family to our Temple Isaiah family. Raise your voice, sing out in joy and share your Isaiah experience. Please contact either Kathie Davis or Bill Rosenberg to share your story.

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Board Meeting, 7:30pm	3 Tai Chi, 11:00am	4	5 Shabbat Service 8:00pm	6 Torah Study & Service 9:30am <i>“Guess Who Part II”</i> 7:30pm
7	8 Adult Ed with Cantor Friedlander, 7:30pm	9	10 Tai Chi, 11:00am	11	12 Shabbat Service 8:00pm	13 Torah Study & Service 9:30am
14 <i>“The Historicity of Jesus: Man or Myth?”</i> 11:00am	15	16	17 Tai Chi, 11:00am	18	19 Shabbat Service 8:00pm	20 Torah Study & Service 9:30am
21	22 Adult Ed with Cantor Friedlander, 7:30pm	23	24 Tai Chi, 11:00am	25 “Current Events” with Helman Brook, 7:30pm	26 Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm; Tu B’Shevat Seder, 7:00pm	27 Torah Study 9:30am Shacharit Service 10:30am
28	29 Adult Ed with Cantor Friedlander, 7:30pm	30	31 Tai Chi, 11:00am Lunch & Learn with Cantor, 11:30am			

Our ARZA Connection

Temple Isaiah of Great Neck is not only a member congregation of the Union of Reform Judaism, but is also affiliated with ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists. ARZA is the Zionist organization of the Reform movement, and is part of an international network of like-minded, progressive Jewish voices, working in unison, to build a better Israel. A major thrust of this organization is to build and support a progressive Jewish presence in Israel.



ARZA takes positions and participates in advocacy on many issues. It firmly supports a two state solution, opposes the current Israeli coalition government's west bank policy and vigorously supports (leads) the movement to create a pluralistic worship site at the Western Wall. ARZA fights against all efforts to disenfranchise non-Orthodox Jews in Israel.

I think we can be proud of our association with ARZA and become more involved over time. We have had a speaker from ARZA in the past, and can arrange for one in the future as well.

In the meantime, it is important to remember as we move past Hanukkah, the celebration of Jewish victory over Greek and Syrian culture and rule, that Zionism is about Jewish determination in our own homeland and not about the support or lack thereof of any particular government in Israel.

Shelley Sherman

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2018
11:00 A.M.

THE HISTORICITY OF JESUS:
MAN OR MYTH?

TEMPLE ISAIAH
1 CHELSEA PLACE
GREAT NECK, NEW YORK

Admission is free

| Presentation by Elliott Gayer

(Rabbi's Column Continued from page 3)

movement, the resolve of our temple leadership, and the dedicated and passionate members at Temple Isaiah.

It is my prayer for the coming year that our holy community will create a new beginning, and chart out a map that will take us well into the future. That working together, we will become an even more visible member of the greater Great Neck community, and people will begin to notice the important work we do.

May this coming year also inspire the leadership in our country and around the world to work together towards a lasting and viable plan for peace. May caring for our brothers and sisters rule the day and may we live together in a world built on Chesed – Compassion and Ahavah – Love.

Arlyn and I wish you all a happy and healthy 2018.

B'Shalom

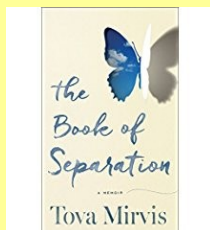
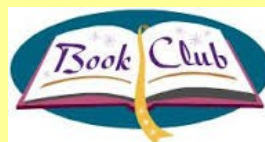
Rabbi Jerry

Book Club

Monday, February 5, 7:30pm

The Book of Separation

By Tova Mirvis



This is the memoir of a woman who leaves her faith and her marriage and sets out to navigate the terrifying, liberating terrain of a newly mapless world. Born and raised in a tight-knit Orthodox Jewish family, she questions the strictures of her community and breaks free. Honest and courageous, Tova takes us through her first year outside her marriage and community as she learns to silence her fears and seek adventure on her own path to happiness.

RSVP to Shelley Sherman at seeshell98@yahoo.com

January Lunch & Learn

Wednesday, January 31, 11:30am

Bistro Burger - 605 Middle Neck Road

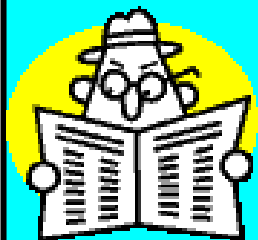
January session led by Cantor Leslie Friedlander



Thursday, January 25, 7:30pm

“Current Events” with Helman Brook

**Bring Your Newspapers & Magazines for
Another Lively Discussion**





Tu B'Shvat
The NEW YEAR for TREES

Tu B'Shevat Community Seder
Friday, January 26th
Kabbalat Shabbat Service at
6:15pm; Seder at 7:00pm

Celebrate and honor the sacred and unique connection which exists between Judaism, nature and social action. Enjoy three different types of kosher wines with a gourmet vegetarian dinner featuring dishes containing the customary seven species.

Non-members \$36.00 (adults), \$18.00 (children)

Members: A voluntary contribution will always be appreciated

Please RSVP by January 19 via voicemail to
516-502-5174 or email to tubishvat.seder@gmail.com.

Thank you to Belle & Elliott Gayer for hosting this special event.



Save the Dates

Fine Art Show

Saturday evening, February 10 and
Sunday afternoon, February 11



Original Works will be On Sale:

Paintings
Ceramics

Sculpture
Photographs

Wine and Cheese, Chocolate & Home-Baked Pastries
Please RSVP 487-5373

General Donations

In Loving Memory Of:

Roslyn Bein, Mother of Perri and Wendy and

Aunt of William Rosenberg

Wendy & Philip Brettschneider

Susan Bendor, Mother of Cathy & Jane

Cathy Bendor & Shelley Klein

Jane Bendor & Brian Graham

Anna Rosenthal Brook, Mother of Helman Brook

Rachel Alexander-Tholfsen, Mother of Judy

Brook

Judy & Helman Brook

Abraham Berkowitz, Grandfather of Sheila

DeFazio

Bessie Berkowitz, Grandmother of Sheila

DeFazio

Louis Cohen, Father of Sheila DeFazio

Robert Ensler, Brother-in-law of Sheila

& Victor DeFazio

Rose Victorio, Mother of Victor DeFazio

Sheila & Victor DeFazio

Lawrence Greenstein, Husband of Helene

Dorfman

Helene Dorfman

Ilonka Hans, Mother of Mortimer Hans

Lia & Mortimer Hans

Charles Maller, Father of Al Maller

Connie Maller

Shirley Miller, Mother of Denise Miller

Denise Miller & Steve Fein

Jack Hurwitz, Dear Friend of Lloyd Perell

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

Esther Dibner, Aunt of William Rosenberg

William Rosenberg

Pearl Saunders, Aunt of Phyllis Schalet

Phyllis Schalet

Harold Schwartz, Husband of Barbara Schwartz

Barbara Schwartz

Esther Causanschi, Mother of Golda Shapiro

Golda Shapiro

Emily Soifer, Daughter of Arlene Soifer

Betty Hillman Bashkin, Mother of Arlene Soifer

Louis Bashkin, Father of Arlene Soifer

Arlene Soifer

Joseph Kristal, Brother of Evelyn Solow

PFC Leonard Kristal, Brother of Evelyn

Solow

Evelyn & Richard Solow

William Ang, Father of Sandia Ang Tosky

Sandia Ang & Eric Tosky

Clergy Discretionary Fund:

In Memory of Brian Horton

Terry Birnbaum-Horton

In Honor of Cantor Friedlander and Our Son

Isaac Becoming Bar Mitzvah

Laura & Douglas Holtz

Memorial Plaques:

In Memory of Julius Sherman

Cornelia Sherman & Robert Carrigan

Verlie Sherman Broad & Richard Broad

Heather & James Sherman

In Honor of:

The Kindness of Bill Rosenberg

Wendy & Philip Brettschneider

The Big Move of Arlyn & Rabbi Jerry Blum

June & Allan Feldman

With Thanks to Sheila DeFazio

Rona Levy

The Speedy Recovery of Harriet Gellert

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

Temple Isaiah

Colleen & Jesse Stoff

Torah Framing Fund:

Micki Victor

Our latest Temple Auction was a resounding success. We were able to raise over \$26,000 for our Temple! The efforts of all who participated are greatly appreciated! Thank you to all the generous bidders, the people who worked so tirelessly in obtaining our auction prizes, and all those who worked on the auction itself. Working together we were able to achieve so much.



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:

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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



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RIVERSIDE- Nassau North Chapels

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TEMPLE ISAIAH OF GREAT NECK

1 Chelsea Place
Great Neck, NY 11021

www.templeisaiahgn.org

Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism
Issue No. 172 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?**

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

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