

## June Calendar of Events

**Tues. June 3—Erev Shavuot: Study Session, 6:00pm; Service, 7:30pm**

**Wed. June 4—Shavuot: Yiskor Service, 10:30am**

**Fri. June 6—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm; Installation of 2014/2015 Officers and Board of Trustees**

**Sat. June 7—Torah Study and Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am**

**Mon. June 9— Conversational Spanish, 10:30am; Lunch & Learn, 11:30 at Ayhan's Shish Kebab**

**Tues. June 10—Worship Committee; 6:30pm; Board Meeting, 7:30pm**

**Thurs. June 12—Rabbi's Class: *Preparing for the High Holy Days*, #3 of 3, 7:30pm**

**Fri. June 13—Shul Talk, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm**

**Sat. June 14—Torah Study and Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am; "Sunshine Boys" Evening, 7:30pm**

**Mon. June 16—Conversational Spanish, 10:30am**

**Fri. June 20—Renewal Service, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm**

**Sat. June 21—Torah Study and Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am**

**Mon. June 23—Conversational Spanish, 10:30am**

**Fri. June 27—Kabbalat Shabbat Service in Steppingstone Park, 7:00pm (Bring your own food for a pre-service picnic)**

**Sat. June 28—Torah Study, 9:30am; Torah Service, 10:30am**

**Mon. June 30—Conversational Spanish, 10:30am**



**Saturday, June 14th  
 at 7:30pm  
 An Evening of Theatrical  
 Fun  
 Plus Wine & Cheese**

**Scenes from Neil  
 Simon's  
*The Sunshine  
 Boys***

***Featuring Richard Solow  
 & Friends***



***Admission:*  
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 or  
 \$25 at the door  
 RSVP**

## **RABBI'S COLUMN**

### **Anti-Semitism Today: A World Picture**



The results of a new 2013 global survey of over 100 nations was released by the Anti-Defamation League in April designed to measure the extent of anti-Semitism based upon an index of 11 negative stereotypes which respondents indicated were probably true or probably false. Respondents who said at least 6 out of the 11 statements are “probably true” were considered to harbor anti-Semitic attitudes. Some of the 11 anti-Semitic stereotypes (in descending order of agreement) include: “Jews are more loyal to Israel than to [this country/the countries] they live in” (41%), “Jews have too much power in the business world” (35%), “Jews don’t care about what happens to anyone but their own kind” (33%), “Jews think they are better than other people” (34%), “People hate Jews because of the way Jews behave” (32%), “Jews still talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust” (30%), “Jews have too much control over the global media” (25%), “Jews are responsible for most of the world’s wars” (23%). Overall, 26% of respondents agreed with at least 6 out of 11 statements. Countries in the Middle East held the highest index of anti-Semitic attitudes (74%) as might be expected. In the US, only 9% of those surveyed fell into the category making it one of the countries with the lowest index score (this is remarkable given that back in 1984 the number was 29%).

With respect to separate questions on the Holocaust, 35% never heard of it and fully 66% had either not heard of or didn’t believe the historical accounts were accurate. In other words, only 33% expressed confidence in the truth of the Holocaust events reported. In addition, younger people were significantly less aware of the Holocaust than older people – 61% over 50 years old compared to 48% of those under 35.

In general, older people tend to hold more anti-Semitic views: 34% among those over 65 years have an index score of 6 or more compared to only 25% of those under 65. Sorted by those who identify with a religion, with the exception of Buddhists, older adherents hold the same age specific trend. Notably, those 65 and older who indicated no religion had the highest proportion agreeing with the anti-Semitic statements (51%) with the exception of Muslims (55%).

It is tempting to draw detailed conclusions from a survey such as this, but it is probably wiser to understand the results standing back and looking at the larger picture that is painted. *First*, it seems that anti-Semitism is still with us and is a global matter given that about a quarter of the world’s population agrees with the selection of anti-Semitic statements about Jews. What the ADL survey did not seem to do however, was to ask more questions about anti-Semitic attitudes regarding Israel. It may be that anti-Israelism has become a new form of anti-Semitism. *Second*, it is important to keep the memory of the Holocaust fresh in the minds of the younger generation lest history repeat itself again. *Third*, the post Baby Boomer generations need to learn more about Judaism and the Jewish people. Among those who need to learn about our faith and culture are Jews themselves given that so many are unaffiliated and thus cut off from the mainstream of Jewish education. A fuller report of the survey is available at [global100.adl.org/](http://global100.adl.org/) as an executive summary.

*Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka*

### **Rabbi's Class: Preparing for the High Holy Days**

The conclusion of a three-session class on the High Holy Days will take place on Thursday evening, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM. The Days of Awe comprise a series of interrelated services, rituals and observances that often prove difficult to understand and obscure to the average temple goer. Even the regular Friday evening participants may find themselves in unfamiliar territory because the prayer book is not the usual one.

Yom  
Kippur



יום  
כיפור

The last class will present the basic themes of Yom Kippur.

## CANTOR'S COLUMN

### The Sounds of Revelation



Receiving the Torah means accepting its body of knowledge and ethical and moral imperatives. It is also the cornerstone of Jewish belief. In the process of living by its teachings and sharing those teachings with others we perpetuate the giving and receiving of the law.

In the third month after the Israelites left Egypt they came to the wilderness of Sinai and there, amid thunder and lightning and a thick cloud upon the mountain, the people trembled as they heard what God wanted from them. For the first time, God was revealed to every Israelite soul, even those yet unborn.

The encounter with God is one of the most descriptive and dramatic accounts in the Torah. For the most part, narratives in the Torah are fairly straight-forward and devoid of emotion, but here, the words are so powerful one can almost sense the quaking and smell the smoke. The description of the *absence* of sound -- the “music” at Revelation -- is so palpable it is more than eerie. The breathless silence evokes pure awe, an awe of wonder and an awe of fear.

Sound, or music, usually defines the ambience of a place or an event. The sounds of nature and the environment, which is natural-occurring music, create their own harmonies and musical patterns. All these natural, ordinary sounds happening at once in the real world come together to create the usual “musical” backdrop for the universe -- the chirping of birds, the quiet noises of rain, the rush of ocean currents, the bellowing of land and sea animals – the list goes on and on. All of nature’s music stopped in the account at Revelation – not a leaf stirred. It probably never happened before or since. Maybe this was God’s way of singing à capella – a striking manner of singing without accompaniment, creating a setting of such sheer wonderment and awe that the people couldn’t do anything else but listen and hear.

It would be a fair assumption that an event of such great magnitude would be given its own designation in the Torah – perhaps even a set of rituals to mark its significance. It is stunning that there is no command to commemorate the giving of the Torah and it wasn’t until the first century that Shavuot, which had been an agricultural holiday, became associated with Revelation.

It could be that there is a Divine assumption that when human beings accept the laws of the Torah and live by its ethical and moral teachings daily, there is no need to commemorate its giving and receiving, since its commemoration is marked every moment we live our lives in positive, active ways. In the act of living honorable lives and teaching others to do the same we are honoring God’s laws and continually celebrating Revelation.

Chag Same’ach!

*Cantor Leslie Friedlander*



### Shavuot

*Study Session: June 3 – 6:00 - 7:15pm, Evening Service: 7:30pm  
Yiskor: June 4—10:30am*

You are warmly invited to attend a study session in honor of Shavuot Tuesday evening, 6/3. It is traditional to study a part of Torah on this occasion. Accordingly, we will take a close look at the land of Israel through the eyes of the patriarchs and matriarchs.

Erev Shavuot services will begin at 7:30 PM immediately after the study session, followed by a collation. Yiskor service will be held on Wednesday, June 4th at 10:30am.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

This is the first "President's Column" penned by Kathie Davis and Helman Brook, co-presidents of Temple Isaiah for the coming year. We do not need to introduce ourselves as we are both longstanding members of the congregation. We thank all of you for entrusting us with the leadership of our unique "family" and promise to work hard to direct and sustain Isaiah. We, of course, need and vigorously solicit your help and best efforts in that task.

But before we begin, we must look back. Initially, we express the whole-hearted appreciation of the temple to Gail Gordon and Terry Joseph for their tireless efforts and leadership over the past two years. They are truly the most "dynamic duo" since Batman and Robin (and they don't need capes to appear strong). Also, we thank Rabbi Ted and Cantor Friedlander for their efforts both on the bima and off. Isaiah services are always inspirational, melodious, and thought-provoking. Cathy is a dedicated administrator who keeps Isaiah on an even keel and Devon literally keeps our house in order.

Isaiah is in a good place. As a temple, we have a committed membership with many individuals who come forward to plan and carry out its programs and events. Our movie series is unique - even the bad movies teach something and David Aubrey's witty commentaries are a delight. Isaiah in the past two years has produced even more: a song-filled and harmonious Woody Guthrie tribute and a baseball night of stories and trivia. We have a book club led by Judy Snow, who picked three winners this past winter for discussion - each different but all important to a Great Neck (*The Great Gatsby*), Jewish (*The Dovekeepers*), informed (*Prague Winter*) community. And let's not forget our several delicious dinners.

Isaiah has also been home to art classes and instruction in Hebrew and Spanish. "Current Events" has attracted a dedicated following. And what other temple produces original musicals and charming little theater.

Temple Isaiah is not "your grandfather's synagogue." And we believe that that is a good thing. New and innovative - change is essential to growth - but we cannot build in a vacuum and we also take from our religious tradition and its foundations. It is our hope and intention to continue with our established programs which together with Rabbi Ted's extensive teaching and Cantor Friedlander's vast musical knowledge and repertoire make Isaiah a place where so many of us learn, are entertained, and are inspired.

We hope that all of you will join with us in spirit and in participation. Surely there is some class, program, activity or service which fills a need you know or seek to discover. Come, enjoy, learn, experience, and frankly, have a really good time at Temple Isaiah.

We look forward to the year with hope and high expectation.

Lastly, it is spring, a time of renewal - a beginning of a new year for Temple Isaiah. Please submit your membership forms and complete the financial pledge. Isaiah can only function if it meets all of its obligations on time - every time. While we are fulfilled by good works, we are sustained by monetary contributions. Please be as generous as you can.

*Helman Brook and Kathie Davis*

**Installation of 2014-2015 Officers and Board of Trustees  
Friday Evening, June 6th, 8:00pm**

*Please join us for this special occasion.*

# June 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Erev Shavuot: Study Session, 6:00pm; Evening Service, 7:30pm	4 Shavuot: Yiskor Service, 10:30am	5	6 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm  <i>Installation of Officers &amp; Board</i>	7 Torah Study and Service, 9:30am Cantillation, 11:00am
8	9 Spanish Class, 10:30am  Lunch & Learn, 11:30am	10 Worship Committee, 6:30pm; Board Meeting, 7:30pm	11	12 Rabbi's Class: <i>Preparing for the High Holy Days, #3 of 3</i> 7:30pm	13 Shul Talk, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	14 Torah Study and Ser- vice, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am  "Sunshine Boys", 7:30pm
15	16 Spanish Class, 10:30am	17	18	19	20 Renewal Service, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	21 Torah Study and Service, 9:30am Cantillation, 11:00am
22	23 Spanish Class, 10:30am	24	25	26	27 Kabbalat Shab- bat Service in Steppingstone Park, 7:00pm (Bring supper for pre-service picnic)	28 Torah Study, 9:30am; Torah Service, 10:30am
29	30 Spanish Class, 10:30am					



# Kabbalat Shabbat In Steppingstone Park

Friday, June 27, 7:00pm

Join us for a lovely Shabbat service by the water in the peaceful surroundings of Steppingstone Park. Bring your own picnic dinner as well for a pre-service meal. Oneg to follow after service.



(In the event of rain, services will be held at Temple Isaiah.)



## ARZA's Mission Statement

As practitioners of Reform Judaism we are called upon to support ARZA (the Association of Reform Zionists of America). I am taking over this column from Cal Greenbaum who has represented ARZA for many years. Because many people ask what ARZA is I have decided to start with its Mission statement:

**ARZA strengthens and enriches the Jewish identity of Reform Jews in the United States by ensuring that a connection with Eretz Yisrael is a fundamental part of that identity.**

**ARZA develops support for and strengthens the Reform movement in Israel and promotes advocacy for a Jewish, pluralistic, just and democratic society in the State of Israel.**

**ARZA links the people and institutions of the Reform Movements in Israel and the United States, informed by a love of Israel and a belief in K'lal Yisrael – Jewish peoplehood.**

**ARZA works in partnership with the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) and the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism (IMPJ), and their affiliates.**

**ARZA represents United States Reform Jews in national and international Zionist organizations.**

*Shelley Sherman*



## **General Donations**

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### ***In Loving Memory of (cont'd):***

James York, Father of Mitchell York  
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 Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
 June & Allan Feldman  
 Gail & Robert Gordon  
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 Ruth Mandelbaum  
 Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
 Shelley Sherman

### ***In Honor of:***

Josh Wigler Becoming Bar Mitzvah  
 Kathie & Richard Davis  
 Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
 Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
 June & Allan Feldman  
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 Shelley Sherman  
 Cantor Leslie Friedlander and Franklin Greene  
 Helene Dorfman  
 Temple Isaiah  
 Bernard Rosenberg

### ***Trees in Israel:***

Kathie Davis

## **REMINDER:**

**Our New Fiscal Year  
 Begins as of June 1st.**

**Please send in your  
 Membership Papers  
 for  
 2014-2015 and  
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 for one of our  
 committees.**

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### **BULLETIN**

***Co-Presidents:*** Gail Gordon & Terry Joseph

***Rabbi:*** Theodore Tsuruoka

***Cantor:*** Leslie Friedlander

***Production:*** Cathy Reibstein

***Photos:*** Sheila DeFazio



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