

## March Calendar of Events

- Mon. Mar. 2—Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am
- Tues. Mar. 3—Board Meeting, 7:30pm
- Wed. Mar. 4—Erev Purim: Megillah Reading and Purim Spiel, 7:30pm
- Fri. Mar. 6—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm
- Sat. Mar. 7—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
- Mon. Mar. 9—Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am
- Tues. Mar. 10—“Current Events” with Helman Brook, 7:30pm
- Thurs. Mar. 12—Rabbi’s Class: “Exploring Christian Gospels Through Jewish Perspective” #1, 7:30pm
- Fri. Mar. 13—Shabbat Across America: Dinner and Service, 6:30pm (See page 5)
- Sat. Mar. 14—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
- Mon. Mar. 16—Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am
- Thurs. Mar. 19—Rabbi’s Class: “Exploring Christian Gospels Through Jewish Perspective” #2, 7:30pm
- Fri. Mar. 20—Renewal Service, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm
- Sat. Mar. 21—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
- Mon. Mar. 23—Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am; Traffic hearing GN Plaza Hall, 7:30pm
- Thurs. Mar. 26—Rabbi’s Class: “Exploring Christian Gospels Through Jewish Perspective” #3, 7:30pm
- Fri. Mar. 27—Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:15pm
- Sat. Mar. 28—Torah Study, 9:30am; Torah Service, 10:30am
- Mon. Mar. 30—Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am
- Tues. Mar. 31—“Historians of Great Neck”, 7:30pm

## TEMPLE ISIAH GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION



***Sunday, April 12th 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**

(A GIFT CERTIFICATE TO GET YOU STARTED IS ON PAGE 3.)

***See Page 5 for Details on  
Shabbat Across America 3/13***

## **RABBI'S COLUMN**

### **Thoughts From An Island Paradise**



Last month Linda and I spent some time in St Thomas, USVI which was a welcome break in the especially brutal cold and heavy snow we've been experiencing this winter. There's a synagogue above town, The Hebrew Congregation of St Thomas, founded in 1796. The building was built in 1833 and has been in continuous use ever since; it is now a Reform Temple – and like us, an affiliate of the URJ. The rabbi is Ron Herstik. He had some thoughts about Purim and its relationship to world events which I'd like to share. I have liberally incorporated his words:

Purim is around the corner. In fact, it begins on the eve of Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. It is a holiday which is celebrated by reading the Scroll of Esther, booing when Haman's name is mentioned, cheering when Mordechai appears and extolling the beauty and wisdom of our hero Esther. In the end, the Jews of Persia are saved from utter death by the willingness of Esther to present herself to the king and expose Haman's plan to destroy the Jews. While there is no hard evidence that the Esther story ever happened, it does present the reality of Jewish existence as a minority living in a foreign land: historically prey to anti-Semitism and persecution. Esther may not be an account of a historical event, but it is a story that embodies the fear of Jews (*"... for the fear of the Jews had fallen upon them [8:17]"*). That sentiment, morphed into anti-Semitism, has certainly been for the last 2000 years our unpredictable status as strangers wherever we go.

One doesn't have to work too hard to uncover the ongoing and disturbing saga of European Jewry. Whether in France or England or Germany or Denmark, Jews find themselves subjected to anti-Semitism. French Jews are leaving for Israel in every-growing numbers – even more so since the Paris attacks. British Jews are reporting a tremendous increase of anti-Semitic acts; then there were the murders in Copenhagen. German Jews, unbelievably, seem so far to fare a little better, but even they still face rising anti-Semitism. A lot of that anti-Semitism is fueled by extremist segments of the Muslim community and by the Left and Right factions in Europe. It often shows up as anti-Israel sentiment, which by and large is a cover for what lies beneath the surface – anti-Semitism. It's no longer rare to hear that Israel is an illegitimate entity and should not exist. The only nation in the world that is Jewish and has a majority of Jews has its very right to exist called into question. Zionism – the liberation movement of the Jewish people – is equated with racism! And when you challenge that assessment, unconvincing, ignorant and stupid answers are given. But then again, anti-Semitism is not rational and amenable to logic and reasoning. So, in a Europe where Jews were the foremost victims of the Nazis, a place made empty of Jews, now the blossoms of what were once flourishing Jewish communities wait in uncertainty, not knowing if Europeans will rise to the challenge of truly confronting their own anti-Semitism and making a safe haven for their Jewish citizens.

When on island, Linda and I usually attend Shabbat services at the temple. Embraced by the warm, sweet air of the Caribbean, it's hard to identify with the suffering and strife of our fellow Jews in distant countries. On St Thomas, where life can be precarious, its residents all join hands to help each other when disaster strikes – it doesn't make any difference if your neighbor is Muslim or Evangelical or Jewish. Even more so, St Thomasonians come together in times of joy and celebration. That doesn't mean there aren't the usual problems of a diverse community, but unwarranted hatred (*sinat chinam*) is rare. As Esther's heroic acts demonstrate: all Jews are intertwined and we – all of us – are responsible for each other where ever we may live on God's earth. Chag Purim Sameach!

*Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka*



**The History of Great Neck -Tuesday, March 31st at 7:30pm**

**Come hear local historians speak on Great Neck's fascinating past, present and future.**



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

## **C E R T I F I C A T E   O F   G I F T**

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**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.**

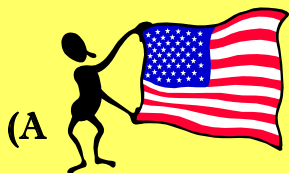
# March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am	3 Board Meeting, 7:30pm	4 Erev Purim: Megillah Reading & Purim Spiel 7:30pm	5	6 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	7 Torah Study & Service 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
8	9 Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am	10 “Current Events” with Helman Brook	11	12 Rabbi’s Class: <i>Christian Gospels</i> , #1 7:30pm	13 Shabbat Across America, 6:30pm (RSVP)	14 Torah Study & Service 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
15	16 Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am; Lunch & Learn, 11:30am	17	18	19 Rabbi’s Class: <i>Christian Gospels</i> , #2 7:30pm	20 Renewal Service, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	21 Torah Study & Service 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
22	23 Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am  Traffic Hearing at GN Plaza, 7:30pm	24	25	26 Rabbi’s Class: <i>Christian Gospels</i> , #3 7:30pm	27 Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm	28 Torah Study 9:30am; Torah Service, 10:30am
29	30 Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am	31 “Historians Of Great Neck”, 7:30am				

# Friday, March 13, 2015

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  
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 Helene Dorfman at 487-3395**

## **March 4th—Purim**



Purim is one of the most joyous and fun holidays on the Jewish calendar. It begins this year on Wednesday evening, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Purim commemorates a time when the Jewish people exiled and living in Persia (5<sup>th</sup> century BCE) were saved from extermination at the hands of Haman – the prototypical embodiment of anti-Semitism down through the ages. Various observances are widely practiced including: Hearing Megillat Esther read in synagogue, sending gifts of food and drink (*shalach manot*) to neighbors, and giving *tzedakah*. There are a variety of lighthearted customs practiced including staging Purim spiels, hissing and shaking of groggers at the mention of Haman's name, wearing costumes, and the eating of hamentaschen. A certain amount of drinking is permitted to increase levity and joy. All these activities have come down through the ages signifying Purim, but why do we celebrate Purim? And what significance

does it hold for the modern day Jew? Here are a few reasons:

- Purim comes to remind us of the importance of Judaism and Jewish identity.
- Jewish customs and rituals preserve Jewish continuity and way of life.
- As long as anti-Semitism persists, Purim reminds the Jew to be aware and vigilant.
- It is the responsibility of each Jew to protect and aid one another.
- It is the duty of each Jew to support Israel as the Jewish spiritual homeland.

So come for the fun and the hamentaschen on March 4th, but stay because Purim is a Jewish holiday that reaches out to every Jew and celebrates our heritage and mission to achieve universal peace in the world.



***Purim Service, Megillah Reading and Spiel:  
Wednesday Evening, March 4th, 7:30pm***

**Rabbi's Class in March:  
Exploring Christian Gospels Through Jewish Perspective  
Thursdays: March 12, 19 & 26**

Jesus of Nazareth was a born Jew and remained so throughout his life. Well before he was born, at least three groups had developed in the aftermath of the Maccabean Revolt (mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C.E.): the Sadducees, the Pharisees, and the Essenes, each espousing a different perspective on Jewish belief and observance. As a Jew, knowledgeable in both the oral and written Torah law, he comes to offer his own original viewpoint that later becomes the foundation to Christianity. On three Thursday evenings, beginning on March 12<sup>th</sup>, we will explore some of the teachings of Jesus as recorded in the Christian Bible (the New Testament). The purpose of the class is to discover, compare and contrast traditional Jewish concepts with the Christian interpretation. All sessions start at 7:30 PM.

**Please Attend the Next GN Plaza Hearing on Cuttermill Road Traffic Issue**

On Monday, March 23rd at 7:30pm there will be a 2nd (follow up) meeting at the Great Neck Plaza Village Hall to discuss the Cutter Mill Traffic situation. There will be a discussion of possible solutions to the speeding situation, difficulty crossing from one side of the street to the other, etc. Please attend this meeting so all involved understand how important finding a solution to this problem is for all of us. Contact Sheila DeFazio



**"Current Events"  
with Helman Brook  
Tuesday, March 10, 7:30pm**

**Bring Your Newspapers**



*From January 15th through April 30th 2015 – the American Zionist Movement will hold open voting for all American Jews to determine the United States' delegation to the 2015 World Zionist Organization. Every Jew has the opportunity to vote for the platform that most aligns with his/her personal views and help shape the agenda of the Congress.*

For more information and to vote go to  
[www.reformjews4israel.org](http://www.reformjews4israel.org)

## General Donations

### *In Loving Memory Of:*

Lawrence Branch, Brother of Suzanne Branch  
 Suzanne Branch & Gary McTiernan  
 Sophia Delettera, Mother of Everett Kerner  
 Everett Kerner & Joel Dick  
 Abraham Dechter, Grandfather of Irwin Epstein  
 Irwin Epstein  
 Irwin Hersh, Father of Bill Hersh  
 Carol & Bill Hersh  
 Donald Packer, Father of Mindy Israel  
 Jack Roth, Uncle of Mindy Israel  
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 Mary Beila & Harris Michaelson, Great-grandparents  
 Of William Rosenberg  
 William Rosenberg  
 Emily Soifer, Daughter of Arlene Soifer  
 Rita Rubenstein  
 Leonard Tosky, Father of Eric Tosky  
 Sandia & Eric Tosky

### *In Honor of:*

The Speedy Recovery of Cathy Reibstein  
 Judy & Helman Brook  
 Kathie & Richard Davis  
 Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
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 The Engagement of Benjamin Wallack &  
 Dana Selznick  
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 Kathie & Richard Davis  
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 June & Allan Feldman  
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 Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
 Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
 Shelley Sherman  
 The Marriage of Melanie Friedman &  
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 June & Allan Feldman  
 Gail & Robert Gordon  
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 Terry & Richard Joseph  
 Ruth Mandelbaum  
 Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
 Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
 Shelley Sherman

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

General Donation In Honor of Temple Isaiah  
 Shelley Sherman  
 The Generosity of Belle & Elliott Gayer  
 Claude Springer

**Congratulations to Diane Haber  
 On the Marriage of Her Daughter  
 Melanie Friedman to  
 Mitchell Rubenstein**

**Congratulations to Sherry & Paul  
 Wallack on the Engagement of Their  
 Son Benjamin Wallack to  
 Dana Selznick**

## 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.**

## RIVERSIDE- Nassau North Chapels

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## **TEMPLE ISAIAH OF GREAT NECK**

1 Chelsea Place

Great Neck, NY 11021

[www.templeisaiahgn.org](http://www.templeisaiahgn.org)

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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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