



TEMPLE ISAIAH *BULLETIN*

Office - 487-5373, email: isaiahgn@yahoo.com

Published Monthly

March 2018

March 2018 Calendar of Events

*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*

Friday, March 2—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Saturday, March 3—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am

Tuesday, March 6—Board Meeting, 7:30pm

Wednesday, March 7—Tai Chi, 11:00AM

Friday, March 9—Shabbat Across America Dinner & Service, 6:30pm (RSVP)

Saturday, March 10—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am

Wednesday, March 14—Tai Chi, 11:00am

Friday, March 16—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Saturday, March 17—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am

Sunday, March 18—"Brunch & Learn" at Temple Isaiah, 11:00am

Monday, March 19—Book Club, 7:30pm (RSVP)

Wednesday, March 21—Tai Chi, 11:00am

Friday, March 23—Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm

Saturday, March 24—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am

Sunday, March 25—"Guess Who?" Part 2 with Richard Solow, 3:00pm (RSVP)

Wednesday, March 28—Tai Chi, 11:00am

Friday, March 30—First Night of Passover; Service at Atria Cuttermill (3:15pm) open to temple members

Saturday, March 31—Passover Service, 10:30am; Second night seder, 6:30pm (RSVP)

Upcoming Events

Friday, March 9
Shabbat Across America

Sunday, March 18
"Brunch & Learn"

Monday, March 19
Book Club

Sunday, March 25
"Guess Who?" Part II

Saturday, March 31
Second Night Seder

Save the Date:
Sunday, April 29
Journal/Dinner
(Ad form on Page 8)

CANTOR'S COLUMN

A Deeper Purim and Passover Lesson

By Cantor Leslie Friedlander



March of this year is one of those rare occurrences when we celebrate both Purim and Passover in the same Gregorian month. Of course, Purim always falls on the 14th of Adar and Passover on the 15th of Nissan (notice that both dates are full moons, but that is a discussion for another time). I checked my 200-year Hebrew calendar and the last time both holidays occurred in the same month was March of 1964; the next time won't be until March of 2029. I'm not sure why that even matters except that it made me consider both holidays in a deeper, connected way.

On Purim we usually sing silly songs that describe the characters in the story of Esther in a flamboyant, almost burlesque manner. In the songs Haman is usually portrayed as a stupid fool, someone to be laughed at and in a couple of them we sing of rejoicing at his hanging. One astute seventh grade student of mine, in fact, asked, "Why there are so many Purim songs in which we laugh at a person's demise, albeit an enemy of the Jews?"

One of the most important ethical lessons we learn at the Passover seder deals with the treatment of God's creatures – all of them. We are cautioned, in the Haggadah, not to rejoice over our enemies' drowning in the Sea of Reeds. As the Children of Israel cross the Sea of Reeds we rejoice and celebrate our liberation. This is one of the most exciting passages in the Torah. The poetry is strong and victorious and contains some of the most visually descriptive verses in the entire Book. At the same time the Israelites escape, though, Pharaoh and his army of horses and men die in the sea.

In Exodus 14:19 - 20 we read, "The angel of God, who had been going ahead of the Israelite army, now moved and followed behind them...and it came between the army of the Egyptians and the army of Israel...and the one could not come near the other all through the night," referring to Pharaoh and the Israelites at the Sea of Reeds. We read in the Talmud that upon witnessing the destruction of the Egyptians the ministering angels wanted to break into song. God reproaches the angels saying, 'What! The works of My hands are sunk in the waters, yet you can sing songs before Me!'

As we recite the Ten Plagues at the seder we are to do so, according to the ancient rabbis (Rabbi Akiba and his contemporaries), without allowing the recitation to express vengefulness. Their caution was to magnify the achievements of the Eternal without gloating over the punishment of the foe. While telling the story, we spill ten drops of wine, symbolically diminishing our joy in remembering the Egyptians' suffering. We read in the Haggadah:

Though we descend from those redeemed from brutal Egypt,
And have ourselves rejoiced to see oppressors overcome,
Yet our triumph is diminished
By the slaughter of the foe,
As the wine within the cup is lessened
When we pour ten drops for the plagues upon Egypt.

Within the traditional eight-day observance of Passover there is a restraint in the liturgy on the last days, reflecting this rabbinic caution. There must be some diminution, some qualification of the feeling of festivity on a day marked by such a disaster to befall others. Hallel, the psalms of praise, is read in its entirety on the first two days of Passover. However, on the intermediate days and the last two days a half Hallel is recited because it was on the seventh day of Passover that the Egyptians were drowned in the Sea of Reeds. In fact, we read in Proverbs 24:17, "If your enemy falls, do not exult; If he trips, let your heart not rejoice."

And so, when we undertake the customary seasonal celebrations of reading the Megillah on Purim and telling the Passover story at our seders, we see that our observance is incomplete without the benefit of the wisdom of our Talmudic sages. It is their teaching that expands our understanding of the text to remind us that our Jewish tradition demands that we behave ethically and with compassion, even in the face of persecution.

Cantor Leslie Friedlander

RABBI'S COLUMN

By Rabbi Jerry Blum

OMG – I can't believe that it's almost Pesach (Passover) and there is so much to be done. The food and the preparations. Inviting all the guests, figuring out which songs to sing, which jokes to tell, and so on. (I'm getting tired already). There's a ton of work to do and virtually no time to do it. But I must tell you, I don't really mind. I love Pesach, and everything that goes with it, down to the last wine stained tablecloth.

Pesach for me is a state of mind. The holiday brings together traditions, family, friends, music and so many other things that all meld into one big pot of spiritual matzoh ball soup that not only nourishes the body, but the soul too.



The Torah speaks of four names for Passover. It is called Chag HaMatzot, the Holiday of Matzot, Chag HaAviv, the Holiday of the Spring (literally, "new ears of grain"), Chag HaPesach, literally meaning The Holiday of the Pass-Over, representing the paschal lamb that was slaughtered and its blood smeared over the doors of the Israelites during the tenth plague, and finally Yom HaCherut, or better known as Z'man Cherutenu, or the Time of our Emancipation or Freedom. If you ask any Hebrew school kid, they'll tell you that Pesach is all about freedom. But, what is freedom and what does it mean to be Jewish and to be free?

The average person will define freedom as the ability to do anything they want or having control over one's life. But, in the past few years, the Jewish community has been offered several fascinating and frankly disturbing discussions on what it means to be Jewish and be "free." From the most recent acts of nationalism in Charlottesville, VA, where the local Reform synagogue felt directly threatened, to the ban on circumcision in certain European countries, and most recently the Holocaust laws and the move to ban ritual (Kosher) slaughter in Poland, the Jewish community's sense of freedom and security has come under attack in ways not seen in decades. Are we as Jews able to choose a life of freedom and what does that freedom look like for us? Is it really defined as emancipation?

Abraham Joshua Heschel states:

Freedom means more than mere emancipation. It is primarily freedom of conscience, bound up with inner allegiance. The danger begins when freedom is thought to consist of the fact that "I can act as I desire." This definition not only overlooks the compulsions which often lie behind our desires; it reveals the tragic truth that freedom may develop within itself the seed of its own destruction.

I understand this to mean, when we just believe we can do anything we want, our inner desires, and perhaps inner feelings of anger and hate will overtake us and lead to destructive activities. We no longer think of the other, rather just ourselves.

In Jewish tradition we do not define freedom as just being able to do anything we want. Although the desire is always there, Jewish tradition has laws and statutes, providing structure to live an ethical and moral life.

Each parent knows that they cannot leave their child alone to fare in this world without rules. No, you can't jump on the couch. No, standing on that table is not allowed. No, you can't call your friend a bad name, or use a bad word to describe someone, or to hate. Yes, you must share with your brother or sister. Ethics and morals are taught and given to our children as a code of living. We do it with words and we do it with our actions.

We as Jews have the same obligations to teach. We were given rules and regulations about how we treat others. How we are to interact with our friends, family and even enemies. How we are to treat the poor, downtrodden, and enslaved. We have rules as to how we think about freedom, and what our obligations are to stand up for those who are not free.

(Continued on page 9)

“VOICES OF ISAIAH”

What Brought Us to the Door of Our Synagogue?

By Yvette & Ron Gitelman

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.

We are Yvette & Ron Gitelman and have been members at Temple Isaiah since early 2015. We live in New Hyde Park, with our two beautiful children, Kristina 23 and Aaron 15.



While we both came from two very diverse cultures and religious backgrounds ... we always felt and shared the fundamentals of our love of God, our loved ones, and above all else the importance of family unity.

When our son Aaron was approaching the age of bar mitzvah, we began searching for a congregation that would assist in preparing Aaron in his studies as well as to help him recognize the religious importance of the bar mitzvah and the rite of passage. Our primary focus was to ensure that this life-cycle event would have long-lasting meaning specifically for Aaron, but also to our family, relatives, and friends.

An internet search for a Reform congregation, the interesting and intriguing write-ups of Rabbi Theodore “Ted” Tsuruoka and Cantor Leslie Friedlander, led us to a short list of potential temples that included Temple Isaiah of Great Neck.

We contacted the temple for preliminary information and were advised to contact Rabbi Tsuruoka. The first time we met with Rabbi Ted, he made us feel invited and welcomed. He showed us around the Temple and told us about the congregation in detail.

The visit left no doubt in our minds (and in our hearts) that we found the right temple and the right person to give Aaron an incredible introduction to his religious education and culture. Undoubtedly, Rabbi Ted was a very influential person in our son Aaron’s life as well as in our lives. His tragic and sudden death left a void in all of our hearts, a void that will forever remain.

On a sunny Sabbath morning in June of 2016, with a tremendous deal of pride and honor, we witnessed our son Aaron becoming a bar mitzvah in front of our entire family, our friends, and the congregation.

Although we don’t get to come to temple as often as we wish we could, we are always welcomed with a smile and a kind word. There is always a warm and welcoming feeling when entering our temple.

We are currently in our third year as members at Temple Isaiah, and looking forward to attending services and celebrating holidays for many more years with the great people of this beautiful congregation.

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.

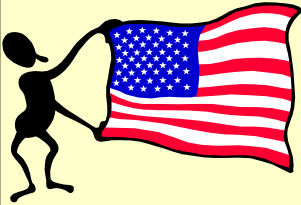
March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Shabbat Service 8:00pm	3 Torah Study & Service 9:30am
4	5	6 Board Meeting, 7:30pm	7 Tai Chi, 11:00am	8	9 Shabbat Across America, 6:30pm	10 Torah Study & Service 9:30am
11	12	13	14 Tai Chi, 11:00am	15	16 Shabbat Service 8:00pm	17 Torah Study & Service 9:30am
18 “Brunch & Learn” at Temple Isaiah, 11:00am	19 Book Club, 7:30pm	20	21 Tai Chi, 11:00am	22	23 Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm	24 Torah Study & Service 9:30am
25 “Guess Who?” Part 2 With Richard Solow, 3:00pm	26	27	28 Tai Chi, 11:00am	29	30 First Night of Passover Shabbat Service at Atria, 3:15pm	31 Passover Service, 10:30am Second Night Seder, 6:30pm

Friday, March 9, 2018

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 an early Shabbat service at 6:30pm followed by a delicious kosher dinner at 7:30PM
(A Program of National Jewish Outreach)



Adults: \$36; Non-member guests only \$18; Children under 13: Free
RSVP REQUIRED—487-5373 or isaiahgn@yahoo.com

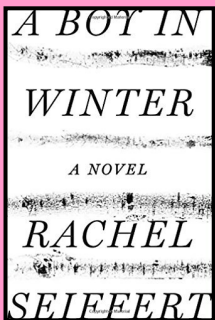
Bakers wanted: for information

please call Kathie Davis at 487-1576 or Sheila DeFazio at 643-1459

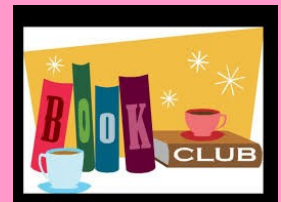


“Brunch & Learn” at Temple Isaiah
Sunday, March 18th at 11:00am (cost-\$8.00)

Bagels & Lox plus all the fixings, and of course all the Chametz (that's cookies, cakes, etc.) you can...and PLEASE, eat!
Rabbi Jerry will be talking about: “We left Egypt and all I got was this crummy piece of matzah? A modern look at the festival of Passover.”



Book Club
Monday, March 19, 7:30pm
A Boy In Winter
By Rachel Seiffert



***A Boy in Winter*, by Rachel Seiffert, provides an emotional close-up of the experiences of several characters in a small Ukrainian town on the day the German troops arrive to round up the Jews. *A Boy In Winter* is a story of hope when all is lost, and of mercy when the times have none. A New York Times Notable Book of 2017 and a Times Book of the Year 2017.**

[In April, the TI book club is taking a short break from our commitment to reading Jewish books in order to read a book of topical interest to us as Jews. Please join in reading ***Just Mercy: a Story of Justice and Redemption*** by Bryan Stevenson. This is a powerful moving non-fiction book that is at the same time very readable. The date is to be determined.]



*Temple Isaiah of Great Neck Proudly
Announces Its Gala Journal Dinner
Honoring
Belle & Elliott Gayer
Sunday, April 29, 2018
6 P.M.
Colbeh Restaurant*

Advertisement Rates

- ☐ *Menorah Page* \$18,000*****
- ☐ *Shofar Page* \$9,000****
- ☐ *Platinum Page* \$3,600***
- ☐ *Gold Page* \$1,800**
- ☐ *Silver Page* \$1,500**
- ☐ *Bronze Page* \$1,000**
- ☐ *Full Page* \$ 500*
- ☐ *Half Page* \$ 360
- ☐ *Quarter Page* \$ 200
- ☐ *Eighth Page* \$ 100
(Business card size)

*****includes 10 tickets to the Dinner
valued at \$150 each

****includes 6 tickets to the Dinner
valued at \$150 each

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valued at \$150 each

Obtaining \$500 in ads from outside sources
will give you one ticket to the dinner.

*Ad Copy
(Please print or clip here—No staples)*

- ☐ *Congratulations to Our Honorees* \$60

Name _____

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE—Ads Must Be Submitted by April 15, 2018
(All or part of the ad may be tax deductible. Consult with your tax adviser.)

- ☐ Check Made Payable to Temple Isaiah of Great Neck enclosed
- ☐ Visa ☐ Master Charge ☐ American Express (3% fee for credit card payment)

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Name _____ Signature _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Temple Isaiah of Great Neck 1 Chelsea Place, Great Neck, NY 11021 516-487-5373

Ad Obtained by: _____

General Donations

In Loving Memory Of:

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Jane Bendor & Brian Graham
Hilda & Fred Feuerberg, Parents of Linda Burghardt
Linda & David Burghardt
Irwin Hersh, Father of Bill Hersh
Carol & Bill Hersh
Fannie & Isidore Kornzweig, Parents of Marilyn Kornzweig
Marilyn Kornzweig
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Fred Fein, Father of Steve Fein
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Sandra & Stuart Rabeck
Bernard Rosenberg, Father of Howard Rosenberg
Laura & Howard Rosenberg
Bruno Levenbach, Uncle of Bill Rosenberg
Bill Rosenberg
Rebecca Soifer Blitz, Sister of Hank Soifer
Arlene Soifer
Leonard Tosky, Father of Eric Tosky
Sandia & Eric Tosky

In Honor of:

Belle & Elliott Gayer for Their Hard Work and Dedication in Hosting the Lovely Tu B'Shevat Seder
Helene Dorfman
Rachel Greenwald
Alisa & Martin Secofsky
Claude Springer
Terry Joseph and the "Crew" for Their Hard Work on the Temple Isaiah Art Show
June & Allan Feldman
The Baby Naming of Iris "Chaya" Reibstein
Kathie Davis
Helene Dorfman
Cathy & Gene Reibstein
The Special Birthday of Bill Hersh
Judy & Helman Brook
Kathie Davis
Sheila & Victor DeFazio
June & Allan Feldman
Gail & Robert Gordon
Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Mindy & Howard Israel
Terry & Richard Joseph
Ruth Mandelbaum
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
Bill Rosenberg
Alisa & Martin Secofsky
Shelley Sherman
Temple Isaiah
Allen Leboff

Clergy Discretionary Account:

In Honor of Rabbi Jerry Blum for the Lovely Baby Naming Service of Iris Reibstein
Cathy & Gene Reibstein
Jessica Tayts & Zack Reibstein
Musya & Yuri Tayts

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:

Bereavement
Parenting
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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Rabbi's Column

(Continued from page 3)

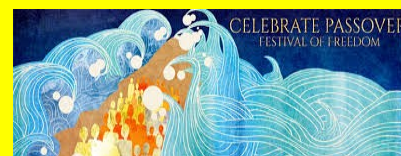
In a few weeks, we will say the words, "Avadim Hayinu l'pharoh b'mitzrayim – We were slave to the Pharaoh in Egypt, and we are reminded that "had God not taken our ancestors out of Egypt, we, our children and our children's children would still be slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt. We are also told to retell the story of our slavery and ultimate freedom, and those who do that are considered praiseworthy.

Living in relative freedom today in America has made us often forget the fragility of freedom. We don't usually think of ourselves in jeopardy of losing our religious freedoms, and we rarely have to look over our own shoulders to see if someone will attack us for being Jewish.

The message of Pesach is to never forget that freedom can easily be lost. We must never forget that somewhere in this world, there is another Pharaoh waiting to enslave us or others. We as a Jewish community cannot allow for this to happen again. As we are obligated to retell the story of the Passover and our freedom from the bonds of slavery, so too are we obligated to stand up for those who are enslaved in many other ways in this world.

The Haggadah says, "This is the bread of affliction our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. Let all those who are hungry come and eat, and all who are in distress, come and celebrate the Passover." It is clear that our freedom as a Jewish community is tied to the freedom of others.

Wishing all a sweet and meaningful Pesach.



RIVERSIDE- Nassau North Chapels

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TEMPLE ISAIAH OF GREAT NECK

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www.templeisaiahgn.org

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***Deadline for submissions
10th of the Month***

BULLETIN

Co-Presidents: Kathie Davis, Bill Rosenberg
Cantor: Leslie Friedlander
Rabbi: Jerry Blum
Production: Cathy Reibstein