



# TEMPLE ISAIAH *BULLETIN*

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

*Published Monthly*

May 2018

## May 2018 Calendar of Events

Tuesday, May 1—Board Meeting, 7:30pm  
Wednesday, May 2—Tai Chi, 11:00am  
Friday, May 4—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm  
Monday, May 7—Book Club, *Just Mercy*, 7:30pm  
Tuesday, May 8—“Current Events” with Helman Brook, 7:30pm  
Wednesday, May 9—Tai Chi, 11:00am  
Thursday, May 10—“The Story of Yiddish” with Linda Burghardt, 7:30pm  
Friday, May 11—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm  
Saturday, May 12—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am  
Monday, May 14—Spanish Class, 10:30am  
Tuesday, May 15—Lunch & Learn with Cantor Friedlander, 11:30am at Shiraz, 770 Middleneck Road  
Wednesday, May 16—Tai Chi, 11:00am; Congregational Meeting, 7:30pm  
Friday, May 18—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm  
Saturday, May 19—Shavuot Service, 7:30pm  
Sunday, May 20—Shavuot Yizkor Service, 10:30am  
Monday, May 21—Spanish Class, 10:30am  
Wednesday, May 23—Tai Chi, 11:00am  
Friday, May 25—Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm  
Saturday, May 26—Torah Study, 9:30am; Shacharit Service, 10:30am  
Monday, May 28—Spanish, 10:30am  
Tuesday, May 29—“The Zapruder Film” with Elliott Gayer, 7:30pm  
Wednesday, May 30—Tai Chi, 11:00am

## May Events (Details Inside)

Plant Sale—*All Month*

Book Club—May 7th

Current Events—May 8

“The Story of Yiddish”  
May 10

Lunch & Learn—May 15

Congregational Meeting  
May 16th

Shavuot—May 19 & 20

“The Zapruder Film”  
May 29

## **CANTOR'S COLUMN**

### **Yom Ha'imahot**

By Cantor Leslie Friedlander



*Yom Ha'imahot...*It sounds so authentic: *Mother's Day*...but it's probably just the gravitas of the Hebrew that makes it sound like an actual holiday. Judaism has no special annual celebration set aside for mothers as we do in the United States.

Growing up, as the date approached, my mother reminded us that Mother's Day was a holiday promoted by commercialism and that we should celebrate it by being particularly kind to each other. In retrospect, I see that her greatest gift was a peaceful home instead of four kids arguing with each other, but she couched it in a more spiritual way. At the time, I thought she was just being coy and that she really did want us to bring her flowers and draw her pictures. I do remember that my father constantly reminded us that every day of the year was Mother's Day.

Jewish holidays, as opposed to American holidays, commemorate events in time and allow us to experience them spiritually. For example, we recently observed Yom Ha'atzma'ut, which celebrates the formal establishment of the State of Israel on the 5<sup>th</sup> of Iyar. This month we celebrate the giving of the Torah on the festival of Shavuot, which allows us to re-enact the acceptance of Torah, both personally and as a community. On Passover we are to tell the story of the Exodus in a way that allows each person to sense the escape from Egypt. In other words, we observe our Jewish holidays in a way that allows us not to re-experience the actual event, but to experience the spirituality recalled from a particular historical event, and this is true for all our holidays.

Celebrating mothers is not an annual Jewish event, but something that is woven into our daily lives. And if we need reminding, we need only turn to our sages to know that our mothers are always to be honored, celebrated and revered. Our ancestors built this into our weekly prayer, *Eishet Chayil*, recited by the husband on behalf of the entire family on Shabbat evening:



*Happy Mother's Day*

*What a rare find is a capable woman; Her worth is far beyond that of rubies. Her husband puts his confidence in her and lacks nothing...Her mouth is full of wisdom, her tongue with kindly teaching...Her children declare her happy, her husband praises her, "Many women have done well, but you surpass them all." Grace is deceptive, beauty is illusory...Extol her for the fruit of her hand, and let her works praise her in the gates.*

So happy Mother's Day on every day of the year!

Cantor Leslie Friedlander



**Tuesday, May 15th, 11:30am  
Lunch & Learn with  
Cantor Leslie Friedlander  
New Location:  
Shiraz, 770 Middleneck Road**

## **RABBI'S COLUMN**

**By Rabbi Jerry Blum**

As we count up the days of the Omer, we begin to feel the excitement rising (OK, go with me on this) as we get closer and closer to *Z'man Mattan Toratenu – the Time of the giving of our Torah*, or otherwise known as Shavuot.

*Shavuot*, which commemorates the giving of our Torah, is the most important of the *Shalosh Regalim* - our three harvest holidays (*Sukkot, Pesach and Shavuot*), but by far, the least observed outside of the traditional Jewish communities.



*Shavuot*, literally the Festival of Weeks (it's been seven weeks since Pesach) falls on the sixth day of the Hebrew month of Sivan, and many of our Sages in the Talmud said it was the day the Torah was given to the Israelites. One thing that adds a small question regarding the date is that the Torah does not actually tell us when Shavuot falls, thus there were many different ways to calculate when the holiday does occur.



But what interests me is the concept of giving. As I pointed out above, one of Shavuot's names is "*Z'man Mattan Toratenu – the Time of the Giving of the Torah*". Many people who understand a bit of Hebrew can see the word *mattan* – give and may know the word, *mattanah* or gift, and it is clear that the Torah was meant to be a gift to the Israelites. But can there be giving without receiving? Before I mentioned that Shavuot is one of the least observed holidays. If the day commemorates the giving of the Torah, but our hearts are not open to receiving the essence of the Torah, is the Torah really a gift? Did the Jewish people really get the Torah, even when many ignore the lessons of the Torah?

Maimonides said that when the Torah was given to Israel, the people gathered around *Har Sinai - Mount Sinai*, some around the base of the mount and some higher up the mount face, so they were actually closer to the top. Maimonides' understanding of this is, although some were closer to the top, thus closer to the actual giving of the Torah, each and every member of *Klal Yisrael – The Community of Israel* received the same Torah equally and we are all the recipients of the blessings and the spirit of the law.

When one gives a gift, it is generally given with good intention and caring, and many of us feel good when we are able to give to others. When we receive a gift from someone else, we feel appreciated and we return that appreciation with (mostly) genuine feelings of gratitude. When we take the gift and show our appreciation, we then give a gift to the giver in the form of gratitude. We were able to receive the gift and the feelings behind it, thus allowing the giver and receiver of the gift to feel closer. This holds true in gift giving, and in relationships as well.

Relationships are reciprocal. When we show our friends and family how much we appreciate their gestures of kindness and giving, we are building a deep and loving relationship. This forms the relationships between family, friends, and also with God and Torah. In the same sense, the giving of the Torah was a gift to the Israelite nation, and it is our part of the relationship with God to take into our hearts the essence and spirit of Torah. Yes, it's true that many of the laws are difficult to understand, and to even consider participating in, but there is the ethical and moral side, the "spirit of the law" that forms a guide to living our lives, and to show we are truly created in the divine image. By accepting the ethical values in the Torah into our lives and hearts, we make room for a possible relationship with God. This works with Torah, and in our daily lives. The more room we make to accept the gifts from others, the deeper and more emotionally nourishing our relationships can be.

I wish you all the blessing of an open heart and the gift of close and loving relationships. *Chag Shavuot Sameach – Happy Shavuot*

*Rabbi Jerry*

## **CO-PRESIDENTS' COLUMN**

**By Kathie Davis & Bill Rosenberg**

For 50+ years, Temple Isaiah has been an important part of the Great Neck community. The door of our temple has always been open as we share in the spiritual beauty of our faith. The Isaiah community has been there to build a bridge that honors and cherishes our past and continues to embrace the future. *L'dor v'dor* – from generation-to-generation.



It has been an honor to serve this congregation and its members. May we build upon past successes as we plan for an even greater future with renewed spirit, increased wisdom, and with the continued support of our members and friends. May our Temple Isaiah family continue to go from strength-to-strength. The torch now passes to Steve Warshavsky and Terry B. Horton. We wish them well.

*Kathie Davis and Bill Rosenberg*



## **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.

# May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <b>Plant Sale at Santelli's— May 1st to May 30th! See page 6</b>		1 Board Meeting, 7:30pm	2 Tai Chi, 11:00am	3  Lag Ba'Omer	4 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	5
6	7 Book Club, 7:30 (Just Mercy)	8 “Current Events” with Helman Brook, 7:30pm	9 Tai Chi, 11:00am	10 “The Story of Yiddish” With Linda Burghardt, 7:30pm	11 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	12 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am
13 	14 Spanish, 10:30am	15 Lunch & Learn with Cantor Friedlander, 11:30am (at Shiraz)	16 Tai Chi, 11:00am  Congrega-tional Meeting, 7:30pm	17	18 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	19 Shavuot Service, 7:30pm
20 Yizkor Service, 10:30am	21 Spanish, 10:30am	22	23 Tai Chi, 11:00am	24	25 Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm	26 Torah Study, 9:30am  Shacharit Service, 10:30am
27	28 Spanish, 10:30am	29 “The Zapruder Film” with Elliott Gayer, 7:30pm	30 Tai Chi, 11:00am	31		
 <b>Plant Sale at Santelli's All Month!</b>						



# *The Story of Yiddish: The Language of Belonging*

A lecture presentation by

**Dr. Linda F. Burghardt**

Scholar-in-Residence, Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center

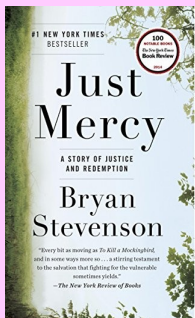
**Thursday, May 10, 2018, 7:30pm**



Does Yiddish still matter today? Is it a true language, a literary mishmash, or perhaps something much larger, even a way of living? Is it still the best language in which to complain, to tell a joke, to insult someone? Join us as Dr. Linda Burghardt tells the story of Yiddish, from its roots in the Middle Ages and its enormous literary, musical and scholarly contributions, to its steep decline after the Holocaust -- and its surprising resurgence in modern culture throughout the world today.

*Free of Charge and Open to the Public*

## **Book Club Meeting—May 7th**



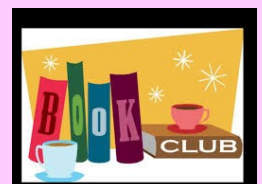
Please join the Temple Isaiah family on Monday evening May 7th at 7:30 at the temple, when we read and discuss *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson.

This book tells the story of an extraordinary man who refused to do nothing in the face of terrible injustice. The great grandson of slaves, Stevenson grew up to attend Harvard Law School and ultimately co-found the Equal Justice Institute in Alabama. He has spent his life representing poor clients who were denied fair trials, including the man at the center of this memoir who sat on death row for years although he had an ironclad alibi for the murder.

The book is very readable and is—despite the serious subject matter—hopeful. It reinforces that one person can have an impact on the lives of many but is mostly about the cause rather than the man.

Shelley Sherman

*As there will be snacks I would appreciate RSVP's to  
seeshell98@yahoo.com. Thanks.*



# PLANT SALE AT SANTELLI's for MOTHER'S DAY and Spring Planting

Santelli & Sons, Inc. at 214 East Shore Road, will graciously give  
Temple Isaiah 10% of your sales for the

**ENTIRE MONTH OF MAY**



**Important Note: Checks Only - Payable to**  
**Temple Isaiah-**  
**Please tell the salesclerk you're from Temple**  
**Isaiah before they ring you up!**



**“Current Events”**  
**With Helman Brook**  
**Tuesday, May 8 at 7:30pm**

Temple Isaiah's  
Annual  
**Congregational Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 16th,**  
**7:30pm**

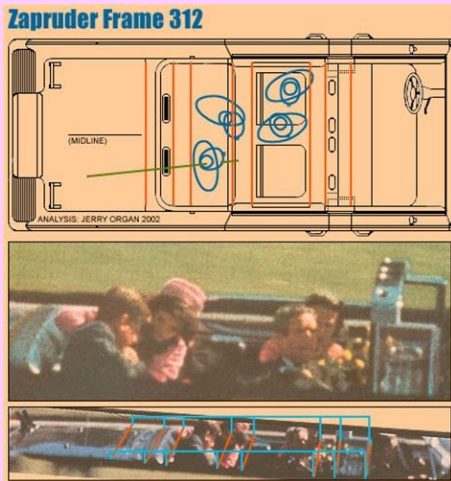
**Come Hear the Latest News**  
**Vote on Our 2018/2019**  
**Budget and**  
**Board of Trustees**



**Shavuot Services**

Evening—Saturday, May 19—7:30pm  
Yizkor—Sunday, May 20—10:30am

**Tuesday, May 29 at 7:30pm**  
**"The Zapruder Film: What It Can Tell Us**  
**About the Assassination of JFK"**  
**Presented by Elliott Gayer**



*"Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future."*

*John F. Kennedy*  
*Born May 29, 1917*

**Save the Date: Sunday, June 10th, 3:00pm**

**"JFK in Crisis: From the Bedroom to the War Room"**  
**A Musical Comedy**



**An original production about JFK's affairs of state and the state of his affairs! Join us for a staged presentation and discussion with authors Philip B. Becker and Abraham Becker, followed by a fun Q&A session.**

**Admission: \$25 (includes refreshments)**  
**Doors open at 2:30pm**  
**RSVP 487-5373 or [isaiahgn@yahoo.com](mailto:isaiahgn@yahoo.com)**



## General Donations

### *In Loving Memory Of:*

Gary McTiernan, Husband of Suzanne Branch  
Suzanne Branch  
Judy & Helman Brook  
Kathie Davis  
Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
June & Allan Feldman  
Gail & Robert Gordon  
Meg & Steve Grass  
Carol & Bill Hersh  
Terry Birnbaum-Horton  
Mindy & Howard Israel  
Terry & Richard Joseph  
Rona Levy  
Ruth Mandelbaum  
Meryl & Jack Menashe  
Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
Willa Lewis & Edward Moulin  
Bill Rosenberg  
Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
Shelley Sherman  
Shelley & Robert Willcox

Henriette Vanderryn, Dear Friend of Linda  
And David Burghardt  
Marshall Burghardt, Father of David Burghardt  
Linda & David Burghardt  
Lillian Wagner, Mother of Helene Dorfman  
Helene Dorfman  
Sara Epstein, Mother of Irwin Epstein  
Israel Epstein, Grandfather of Irwin Epstein  
Philip Epstein, Uncle of Irwin Epstein  
Irwin Epstein  
Solomon Koss, Father of Nina Koss  
Nina Koss  
Helen Madow, Mother of Laurie Vogl and Amy  
Cordero  
Temple Isaiah of Great Neck  
Jennie Maller, Mother of Abraham Maller  
Connie Maller  
Burton Schwartz, Brother of Rita Rubenstein  
Meryl & Jack Menashe  
Isadore Edward Goldbas, Father of Jacqueline  
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Jacqueline Neumann  
Martha Levenbach Rosenberg, Mother of Alice  
Moss, Elaine Wolf, Howard Rosenberg and  
William Rosenberg  
Laura & Howard Rosenberg  
William Rosenberg  
Harry Shapiro, Father of Jules Shapiro  
Golda Shapiro  
Benjamin Koenig, Father of Alice Weiner  
Alice & Richard Weiner

### *In Honor of:*

The Engagements of Ali Ponzetto & Chris Mather  
And Kerri Fortune & Jonah Moulin  
Suzanne Branch  
Music for Our Gala Dinner  
Kathie Davis  
The Baby-naming of Iris Tayts Reibstein  
The Birth of Benjamin Joseph, Grandson of  
Terry & Richard Joseph  
Meryl & Jack Menashe  
The Generosity of Steve Warshavsky  
Mickey Kornzweig  
Marcia Null

### *Trees in Israel:*

In Memory of Helen Madow  
In Memory of Gary McTiernan

*Many thanks to  
everyone for their  
good wishes on my  
recent recovery from  
hip surgery. Your  
kindness was much  
appreciated.*  
*Denise Miller*

*Join us for  
Tai Chi  
Wednesdays at 11:00am*



**Temple Isaiah  
Sweatshirts  
On Sale Now  
\$25 each  
Call for details.**



## 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  
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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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## TEMPLE ISAIAH OF GREAT NECK

1 Chelsea Place  
Great Neck, NY 11021

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

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### BULLETIN

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Cantor: Leslie Friedlander

Rabbi: Jerry Blum

Production: Cathy Reibstein