

## November Calendar of Events

Fri. Nov. 1—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm  
 Sat. Nov. 2—Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am  
 Tues. Nov. 5—Religious School closed; Worship Committee Meeting, 6:30pm; Board Meeting, 7:30pm  
 Thurs. Nov. 7—Rabbi's Class, "Reform Judaism", 7:30pm (#1)  
 Fri. Nov. 8—Shul Talk, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm with Guest Speaker Betty Kagen in Observance of Kristallnacht  
 Sat. Nov. 9—Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am; "Topsy Turvy Time", 7:30pm  
 Mon. Nov. 11—Lunch & Learn at Ayhan's Shish Kebab, 11:30am  
 Tues. Nov. 12—Religious School, 4:00pm; "Current Events" with Helman Brook, 7:30pm  
 Thurs. Nov. 14—Rabbi's Class, "Reform Judaism", 7:30pm (#2)  
 Fri. Nov. 15—Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm  
 Sat. Nov. 16—Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am  
 Sun. Nov. 17—TANS Outreach Program, 10-noon and 1pm—4pm  
 Tues. Nov. 19—Religious School, 4:00pm  
 Thurs. Nov. 20—Rabbi's Class, "Reform Judaism", 7:30pm (#3)  
 Fri. Nov. 21—Choir Rehearsal, 6:00pm; Renewal Service, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm  
 Sat. Nov. 23—Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00pm  
 Mon. Nov. 25—G.N. Clergy Ass'n Community Thanksgiving Service, 7:15pm (location to be announced)  
 Tues. Nov. 26—Religious School, 4:00pm  
 Wed. Nov. 27—First Night of Chanukah  
 Fri. Nov. 29—Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm  
 Sat. Nov. 30—Torah Study 9:30am; Service, 10:30am followed by light lunch hosted by Belle & Elliot Gayer

## Temple Isaiah Presents:

# **"Topsy Turvy Time"** **An Evening of** **Gilbert & Sullivan** **Favorites**

**Saturday, November 9**  
**7:30pm**

Featuring  
**Veteran Comic Lead**  
**Richard Solow**  
**G&S Soprano**  
**Patty Gallagher**  
**And Accompanied by**  
**Sina Kiai**

**Join Us for An Evening**  
**Of Music & Comedy**  
**(and of course, refreshments)**

**\$20 in advance \$25 at the door**

**RSVP: 516-487-5373**



## **RABBI'S COLUMN**

### **Some Thoughts on Jewish Identity in the U.S.**



The first major national survey results of American Jews in over 10 years was recently published by the Pew Research Center. The Pew Center's Religion and Public Life Project found that American Jews overwhelmingly say they are proud to be Jewish and have a strong sense of belonging to the Jewish people. The survey suggests however that *what constitutes* Jewish identity is changing. One-in-five Jews describe themselves as having no religion. More than 60% say being Jewish is mainly a matter of ancestry and/or culture, while only 15% say it is mainly a matter of religion (religious practices). Two-thirds of Jews do not belong to a synagogue and one-fourth do not believe in God. On the other hand, 69% say they feel an emotional attachment to Israel, although only 17% believe Israel's present policy of building settlements on the West Bank is helpful. The results are stunning. Some of the very elements that used to define strong Jewish identity – Jewish religious observance, synagogue affiliation and belief in God – no longer seem to be the basis for a sense of Jewishness and belonging to the Jewish people. These elements tend to split along age lines: older Jews tend to be Jews by religion, younger Jews tend to be Jews of no religion.

Looking at the Jewish population that identify with a denomination, Reform remains the largest American movement (35%), with Conservative Jews at 18% and Orthodox at 10%. Reconstructionist and Jewish Renewal movements make up 6% combined. Fully 30% of Jews do not identify with any denomination. When Jews leave the movements they grew up in, they tend to shift in the direction of less tradition, with Orthodox Jews becoming Conservative and Conservative Jews becoming Reform. Most Reform Jews who leave become non-religious (although Reform has a relatively high retention rate of 55% of members).

Since one of the key aims of the Pew survey was to explore Jewish identity, it asked respondents various questions about: "What does being Jewish mean in America today?" Large majorities of American Jews said that remembering the Holocaust (73%) and leading an ethical life (69%) are essential to their sense of Jewishness. Over half (56%) said that working for social justice and equality is essential to what being Jewish meant to them. Nearly half (49%) indicated that being intellectually curious, and nearly as many felt caring about Israel were important. On the lower end, the survey revealed being part of a Jewish community (28%), observing Jewish law (19%) and eating traditional foods (14%) as reasons for Jewish identity.

The above statistics are just a glimpse of the sea of information gathered from a pool of over 70 thousand from which a statistical sample was taken. As with any survey, the data only provide broad brush strokes and trends and therefore food for thought. With respect to the Reform movement, of which Temple Isaiah is part, it would seem we are in good position to respond what many Jews feel as defining their Jewishness: Working for a just and fair society. Social justice has been a central issue in the Reform movement from the time of the freedom marches of the 60's in the South for racial equality to the present day with regard to immigration reform, women's and gay rights. The Religious Action Center has been a national leader in these endeavors. On the other hand, we appear in some ways the "last stop" before exiting the Jewish community that is synagogue based. This is not just our problem of course, but we are uniquely positioned to be the last attempt to keep Jews affiliated. We need to find ways of making temple affiliation relevant and exciting to the younger population – a population whose world view is light years distant from their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. Let's keep the dialogue going.

*Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka*

#### **Rabbi's Class for November**

#### ***Reform Judaism: How We Differed***

**Thursday Evenings at 7:30pm: November 7, 14 and 21**

A three-week class on the history and basic ideas of the Reform Jewish Movement will be offered beginning Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Born out of the Age of the Enlightenment of late 18<sup>th</sup> - early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Europe, Reform Judaism was a response to need to find ways to harmonize traditional Jewish world with the modernity of the expanding secular world. Until this time, there was fundamentally only one form of Judaism – Orthodox. The class will explore how Reform Judaism rose out of Orthodoxy and how it became the largest denomination in America. All classes are on Thursdays, beginning at 7:30 PM.

## CANTOR'S COLUMN

### WHAT IS NUSACH?



At the completion of one of the festival services a congregant asked me why there are so many different melodies for the same prayer. At first I thought she was about to complain that she didn't want to learn yet another new melody – the one she knew was just fine. But when she asked me how I kept track of the different tunes and seemed genuinely interested, I realized that this subject needed to be discussed.

As those who have attended services know, the music mainly consists of songs and familiar prayer settings – like *V'shamru* and *Shalom Rav*; the musical systems for chanting the various books of the Bible – what we refer to as *trop*; and the *davening* that may be quickly chanted in between passages. In a traditional service there is more of this *davening* than we usually hear in a Reform service but the congregational songs we sing in the service are all based on the music of the *davening*.

The music for *davening* – this quick chanting that you often hear me sing at the end of a prayer – is determined by traditional Jewish prayer modes that are a little like scales. There are five basic prayer modes and they are sung differently within the Ashkenazic and Sephardic traditions. These prayer modes and their accompanying musical motives vary according to occasion and, to some extent, geographic location. They are the most ancient elements of our musical heritage and they even served as the basis for the earliest church music.

All the melodies we sing – not just the *davening* - are based on the modes, or nusach, which is why our melodies change according to the different worship services. As Marsha Edelman describes in her book *Discovering Jewish Music*, "...nusach guarantees that a Jewish "Rip van Winkle" could sleep for 20 years and identify the service to which he had awakened just by its musical motifs."

In order to appreciate the rich expression of nusach, worshippers need only immerse themselves in the music of the service. In other words, listening to nusach enough will create the comfortable worship mode and moods that form the root of our prayer experience.

*Cantor Leslie Friedlander*

### Chanukah Choir Rehearsals

Tuesday December 3<sup>rd</sup> is our temple Chanukah celebration and there will be joyous music provided by our able and enthusiastic choir. The Chanukah choir is open to everyone and we will have two rehearsals (not a big commitment). As always, you do not need to know how to read music or Hebrew to join us – just bring your voice and your love for music – I'll supply everything else.

Rehearsals are *Friday November 15 at 6:30 and Friday November 22 at 6:00*. Bring your dinner and stay for the Shabbat service following the service!

Questions or requests? Just e-mail me or speak to me at a Shabbat oneg.

--Cantor Friedlander ([cancant4u@aol.com](mailto:cancant4u@aol.com))

## MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS With Open Arms



Like Maurice Chevalier, the Co-Presidents thank heaven for little girls. Specifically, they turn to mush on the subject of their baby granddaughters, who are discovering new marvels each day, expressing their joy and dismay without inhibition. One of our precious granddaughters has recently found the expressway to her grandmother's heart. Each time they reunite, there is an instant that this baby girl's face lights up with recognition, and she holds her arms out wide, in the universal language of asking to be held. Grandmothers live for such moments.



But it's not just grandmothers who take pleasure when others ask for a warm embrace. Think of the reaction of World Series baseball players when victory is secured with the last "Out". Do they walk up to other and say, "Not a bad day?" Hardly. They run together and embrace. (Sorry, New York baseball fans, for bringing up such a painful subject this year.) Are people just nodding at each other when they meet up at JFK airport, hospital visiting hours, high school reunions, family dinners, and when it is time to say good-bye after meaningful time together? At such moments, the natural response is to open our arms and exchange a hug, letting the other person know that, yes, I am so happy to be with you and there is something missing when you were gone.

At Temple Isaiah, we aspire to offer a place where everyone feels welcome to enjoy the embrace of intellectual and spiritual growth among friends. With the daylight hours growing ever shorter, the Co-Presidents extend open arms to all of you in the spirit of this year's unique Jewish-American holiday: Thanksukah. In our view, it's "all good" when people come together with the intention of exchanging ideas, stories and concern for each other. The venue could be the temple, a dining room table, or sharing a latte at Starbucks. Who knows, maybe next year it will be at a Mets/Yankees World Series party... What could be better than people who make the effort to share time together for "no better" reason than to bask in the light of our affection for each other, inviting the encounter with open arms? As the outdoor temperatures drop, may you enjoy many such moments that provide reserves of warmth that will last a Wintertime. Happy Chanugiving!

*Gail Gordon & Terry Joseph*

### Kristallnacht Observance Friday November 8 Special Speaker: Betty Kagan



Please join us for our annual observance of Kristallnacht during Friday evening services, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Seventy-four years ago, hundreds of Jewish businesses and synagogues were destroyed in Germany, scores of Jews were killed during a violent evening of "broken glass," which has become known as Kristallnacht and by most accounts marks the beginning of the Holocaust.

Our congregant, Betty Kagan, a survivor of the Holocaust, will tell the story of her Polish family and their experience in the ghetto. It is also a story of redemption, luck and the kindness of strangers who risked their lives to help Jews in distress. Betty was interviewed for Steven Spielberg's series on Holocaust survivors. She is also a long time member of the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous.

# November 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1  <b>Shabbat Service 8:00pm</b>	2 <b>Torah Study, 9:30am Cantillation, 11:00am</b>
3	4 <b>Weight Watchers 12:30</b>	5 <b>Board Meeting 7:30pm</b>  <b>Election Day: No School</b>	6	7 <b>Rabbi's Class: "Reform Judaism" 1 of 3, 7:30pm</b>	8 Shul Talk; 7:30; Shabbat Service 8:00pm with <b>Kristallnacht Guest Speaker Betty Kagen</b>	9 <b>Torah Study, 9:30am Cantillation, 11:00am</b>  <b>"Topsy Turvey", 7:30pm</b>
10	11 <b>Lunch &amp; Learn 11:30 (Ayhan's ShishKebab); Weight Watchers 12:30</b>	12 <b>Religious School 4:00pm</b>  <b>Current Events With Helman Brook, 7:30pm</b>	13	14 <b>Rabbi's Class: "Reform Judaism" 2 of 3, 7:30pm</b>	15 <b>Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm</b>  <b>Shabbat Service 8:00pm</b>	16 <b>Torah Study, 9:30am Cantillation, 11:00am</b>
17 <b>TANS Outreach Program 10-Noon 1pm-4pm</b>	18 <b>Weight Watchers 12:30</b>	19 <b>Religious School 4:00pm</b>	20	21 <b>Rabbi's Class: "Reform Judaism" 2 of 3, 7:30pm</b>	22 <b>Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm</b>  <b>Renewal Service, 7:30pm</b>  <b>Shabbat Service 8:00pm</b>	23 <b>Torah Study, 9:30am Cantillation, 11:00am</b>
24	25 <b>Weight Watchers 12:30; GN Clergy Ass'n Community Thanksgiving Service, 7:15pm</b>	26 <b>Religious School 4:00pm</b>	27 <i>First Night Of Chanukah</i> 	28  <i>Candle 2</i>	29 <b>Kabbalat Shabbat Service 6:15pm</b>  <i>Candle 3</i>	30 <b>Torah Study, 9:30am Service, 10:30am (light lunch)</b>  <i>Candle 4</i>



**Sunday, November 17, 2013**



**TANS—Tikkun Alliance of the  
North Shore**

**5th Annual Community Outreach  
*Neighbors Helping Neighbors***

***Volunteers and Donations Needed***

***10am-12noon Sorting & Organization***

***1-4pm Supply Distribution***

***Email Gail Gordon for details (GJG916@aol.com)***

**ARZA News**

**Working for Social Justice**

Where do you stand on the big issues of social justice in America today? What a silly question. As Reform Jews we're naturally concerned with these issues and do all that we can to support individual rights and inclusivity in American society. But why not work for the cause of social justice in Israeli society as well? If you love Israel and want to show your support for a pluralistic Jewish State with equal religious rights for the Orthodox as well as non-Orthodox, for women as well as men...well, you know what to do. Call the office and tell Cathy that you want to add your name to the growing list of Temple Isaiah members who have joined ARZA this year.



**Current  
Events  
with Helman Brook  
Tuesday  
November 12th  
7:30pm**

**Bring your newspapers  
and join the discussion.**



**Come to Temple Isaiah to  
Light the Chanukiah  
Beginning Wednesday,  
November 27th  
7:00pm  
*Call office for information***

# Chanukah Potluck Dinner

Tuesday, December 3rd, 6:30PM  
Family Service, 8:00PM



**Celebrate the holiday with your  
Temple Isaiah Family at our traditional  
potluck supper (non-dairy)**

**Call chairwoman Bea Aubrey (482-6588) to RSVP and let her  
know what dish you will be bringing.**



**Bring your chanukiahs and an appetite for latkes!**

***Welcome to Our New Temple Members  
Please Join Us on this Special Evening***

## "Fabulous Finds" Bazaar



Books    Clothing  
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Toys & Games  
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Friday, December 6—10am to 4:30pm  
Sunday, December 8—10am to 4:30pm  
Monday, December 9—10am to 4pm

call Terry Joseph to donate or volunteer (516-466-2971)

***Save the Dates!***

Fall is here, and in Hebrew School we're off to another exciting start of the year. In the first weeks, we have been answering the question of 'what does it mean to be Jewish?' Using key terms like Shalom, Kadosh and Tikkun Olam, we have been asking ourselves how these terms apply to ourselves as young Jewish Americans in the 21st Century.

We are thrilled for two exciting events coming up:

**\*On Tuesday, December 3, instead of Hebrew School at the regular time, we will be meeting at 6:30 for the Annual Temple Isaiah Pot Luck Chanukah Dinner and Service. We look forward to seeing each and every family there.**

**\*We are very happy that Sue Turek will be returning to us starting in November, bringing her warmth and kindness, not to mention her expertise in all things artistic (and tissue-papered)!!!!**

**-Adam Turek-Herman**

## Fall Classes in Basic Hebrew & Intermediate Hebrew



Separate classes in Basic Hebrew and Intermediate Hebrew are planned beginning in November.

**Please call the Temple Office (487-5373) if you are interested in either class.**

**Basic Hebrew:** A 5-6 week crash introductory course in the Hebrew alphabet leading to the ability to read prayer-book Hebrew. This class is also good as a refresher course. The class will be taught by Richard Joseph.

**Intermediate Hebrew:** A bi-weekly course introducing basic Hebrew grammar and vocabulary of the Bible and the prayer book. This class is useful for those interested in getting to know the Bible in the original Hebrew as well as obtaining a broader understanding of our sacred texts. The class will be taught by Rabbi Tsuruoka.

**Save  
the  
Dates**

### ***Driver Safety Course at Temple Isaiah***

Claude Springer will be teaching a two-day course on Sundays January 12 and 19 which qualifies those who complete it for reductions in points and insurance premiums. The cost is \$40 (a portion of which goes to the temple) and is open to the public. Details will follow.



## General Donations

### *In Loving Memory Of:*

Herman (Hank) Soifer, Husband of Arlene Soifer  
 Beatrice and David Aubrey  
 Karen & David Bashkin  
 Judy & Helman Brook  
 Diane Haber & Robert Bruce  
 Kathie & Richard Davis  
 Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
 Helene Dorfman  
 June & Allan Feldman  
 Gail & Robert Gordon  
 Lia & Mortimer Hans  
 Mindy & Howard Israel  
 Terry & Richard Joseph  
 Irma & Allen Leboff  
 Willa Lewis & Edward Moulin  
 Ruth Mandelbaum  
 Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
 Bernard Rosenberg  
 Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
 Golda Shapiro  
 Shelley Sherman  
 Bella Bekker-Silver & Jonathan Silver  
 Evelyn & Richard Solow  
 Micki Victor  
 Vivian Zwaik  
 Ida Haber, Mother of Diane Haber  
 Diane Haber & Robert Bruce  
 Goldie Cohen, Mother of Sheila DeFazio  
 Rose Victorio DeFazio, Mother of Victor DeFazio  
 Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
 Sam Frankel, Father of Frances Falon  
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 Louis Dick, Father of Joel Dick  
 Joel Dick & Everett Kerner  
 Eugene Pauncz, Father of Agnes Goldschlager  
 Agnes & Alan Goldschlager  
 Naomi Greene, Wife of Franklin Greene  
 Omaira Enriquez & Franklin Greene  
 Rose Stein Haber, Mother of Clare Haber  
 Clare & Michael Haber  
 Eugene Lustig, Father of Lia Hans  
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 Rose Fuchs, Mother of Connie Maller  
 Connie & Al Maller  
 Ilene Yoss, Mother of Marcia Null  
 Sam Yoss, Father of Marcia Null  
 Marcia Null  
 Herbert Rabeck, Father of Stuart Rabeck  
 Sandra & Stuart Rabeck  
 Peter Roth, Husband of Yvonne Roth and Father of Leslie Reider  
 Leslie Reider  
 Yvonne Roth  
 Isidor Alcalay, Father of Yvonne Roth  
 Yvonne Roth

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

Alfred Bein, Uncle of William Rosenberg  
 William Rosenberg  
 Lydia Sherman, Mother of Shelley Sherman  
 Nathan Sherman, Father of Shelley Sherman  
 Shelley Sherman  
 Louis Rosner, Father of Harriet Shindler  
 Harriet Shindler  
 Charles Silver, Uncle of Jonathan Silver  
 Philip Peck, Father of Janice Schoffman  
 Bella Bekker-Silver & Jonathan Silver  
 Hyman Solow, Father of Richard Solow  
 Evelyn & Richard Solow  
 Jeanette Victor, Mother of Micki Victor  
 Micki Victor

### *Tree of Life:*

In Honor of the Birthday of Gail Gordon  
 Suzanne Branch  
 Kathie Davis  
 Sheila DeFazio  
 June Feldman  
 Rachel Greenwald  
 Terry Birnbaum-Horton  
 Mindy Israel  
 Terry Joseph  
 Irma Leboff  
 Rona Levy  
 Ruth Mandelbaum  
 Cathy Reibstein  
 Shelley Sherman  
 Arlene Soifer  
 Sherry Wallack

### *Chanukiah Fund:*

Kathie & Richard Davis  
 Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
 Ruth Isaac  
 Ruth Mandelbaum

### *21st Century Fund:*

Terry Birnbaum-Horton & Brian Horton

### *Prayerbook Fund:*

In Memory of Hank Soifer  
 Meg & Steve Grass

### *In Honor of:*

The Speedy Recovery of Linda Tsuruoka  
 Kathie & Richard Davis  
 Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
 June & Allan Feldman  
 Gail & Robert Gordon  
 Mindy & Howard Israel  
 Terry & Richard Joseph  
 Ruth Mandelbaum  
 Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
 Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
 Shelley Sherman  
 Temple Isaiah  
 Harriet Herrmann  
 The New Apartment of Arlene Soifer  
 Bella Bekker-Silver & Jonathan Silver

### *Kol Nidre:*

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### *Sunshine Fund:*

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## **TEMPLE ISAIAH OF GREAT NECK**

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Great Neck, NY 11021

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

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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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