

## October Calendar of Events

Tues. Oct. 1—Religious School, 4:00pm; Worship Committee Meeting, 6:30pm; Board Meeting, 7:30pm

Thurs. Oct. 3—Rabbi's Class, "What the Bible Really Said", 7:30pm (#1)

Fri. Oct. 4—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm with Guest Speaker Ewa Maniawski from SYNERGY: Long Island

Sat. Oct. 5—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am

Tues. Oct. 8—Religious School, 4:00pm

Thurs. Oct. 10—Rabbi's Class, "What the Bible Really Said", 7:30pm (#2)

Fri. Oct. 11—Shul Talk, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Sat. Oct. 12—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am

Tues. Oct. 15—Religious School, 4:00pm; Book Club, 7:30pm ("The Great Gatsby")

Thurs. Oct. 17—Rabbi's Class, "What the Bible Really Said", 7:30pm (#3)

Fri. Oct. 18—Renewal Service, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Sat. Oct. 19—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00pm

Mon. Oct. 21—Lunch & Learn, 11:30am at Ayhan's Shish Kebab, 132 Middleneck Rd., Great Neck

Tues. Oct. 22—Religious School, 4:00pm

Thur. Oct. 24—Rabbi's Class, "What the Bible Really Said", 7:30pm (#4)

Fri. Oct. 25—Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm

Sat. Oct. 26—Torah Study 9:30am; Service, 10:30am

Tues. Oct. 29—Religious School, 4:00pm

Temple Isaiah Presents:

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

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

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

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## **RABBI'S COLUMN**

### **A Time for Every Purpose Under Heaven: A Second Look at the Book of Kohelet**



It's hard to believe that the High Holidays are behind us! Just a month ago we were experiencing long, warm summer days; we hoped the season would never end. Now, the days are noticeably shorter and there is change in the air. Which is why I believe we read the Book of Kohelet (Ecclesiastes) during the Festival of Sukkot. Of all the books of the Bible, it speaks most clearly about change and uncertainty in life – a major theme of Sukkot. Kohelet is found in the third section of the Jewish Bible, the Tanach. Its authorship is ascribed to King Solomon, although this is doubtful as the book was written some 400 years after Solomon. Kohelet – along with Proverbs and Job – are known as Wisdom literature. By definition, Wisdom literature is a non-revelatory mode of thought that focuses on personal consciousness of truth and right conduct based upon human experience. It is human in orientation and worldly with a drive to pass on practical advice to the reader. Sadly the Book of Kohelet is widely misunderstood due to old English (mis) translations, and therefore is often considered pessimistic and foreboding. In reality the author strives to detail a positive path for practical living and life-affirming strategies to integrate human existence in an ever changing world.

Kohelet sees the world where hard and fast distinctions are lacking. The opening verse contains the words traditionally translated as *"Vanity of vanities, all is vanity..."* (Koh 1:2). A better translation is *"Emptying upon emptying! Everything is emptying."* The Hebrew word *"hevel,"* commonly translated as "vanity," actually means "breath" or "vapor," implying not that life is worthless (vain), but impermanent and empty of stability. Just as the waves crash upon the shore and recede only to repeat the process endlessly, so life is impermanent and in constant state of flux. Kohelet is saying that there is nowhere to go and nothing to get: only this moment to live. As a result the perplexing events in life can and do occur: bad things happen to good people and evil people succeed materially. There is no rationale for this and to complain is a waste of time. Thus, Chapter 3, which contains the well-known verses about *"a time to be born and a time to die, etc,"* ought to be understood in the light of a world of impermanence: everything is in the process of emptying – of arriving and falling away. Living in a world of impermanence means living in synch with the times and circumstances as they occur – "going with the flow" in common parlance. Rabbi Rami Shapiro in his translation and commentary on Ecclesiastes says; *"Life is a series of moments each with its own truth and rationale. The only thing to do is to live them as they arise. When it's a moment to cry – cry. When the moment calls for laughter – laugh. Do not anticipate what's next or cling to what was; just engage in what is for the moment it is."*

Understood this way, the sukkah – which we are commanded to build and to live in for the 7 days of Sukkot – symbolizes a life that accepts the world's impermanence and constant change. Just as the sukkah is built not to be permanent and subject to destruction by a strong breeze or storm, so too our lives are fragile and susceptible to the random events of life. So how does one live in a world of uncertainty? Kohelet offers a simple prescription for living well: *Eat simply, drink moderately, work constructively and cultivate love and friendship with two or three others.* I offer this sage advice from an ancient man of wisdom.

*Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka*

#### **Rabbi's Class: "What the Bible Really Said"** **Thursdays Evenings at 7:30pm: October 3, 10, 17 & 24**

The stories in the Torah we've read and reread since childhood are the product of hundreds of centuries of transmission, first orally and then in written form. Along the way subtle and even major changes have crept into the original narrative. This four-week class will examine some of the well-known stories through the prism of the culture, beliefs and customs of the ancient world in which the Torah was transmitted. Close attention will be placed on details often overlooked as clues to the true meaning of the text. For example: The Great Flood came about at least in part because of the mating of the "sons of God" (angels) with the daughters of humans, which produced a race of violent and corrupt giants. Thus, the Flood was not the result of the children of Adam and Eve as we know them alone, but as a result of an unwholesome union of angels and humans. The first class begins October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 PM.

## CANTOR'S COLUMN

### GUARANTEED OVERNIGHT DELIVERY



The other day while driving north on I-95 I encountered an eighteen-wheeler truck whose side panel read *G.O.D.* I wondered what could possibly be in God's truck so I sped up and upon closer inspection I saw that the passenger's door read *Guaranteed Overnight Delivery*. At some point in southern Connecticut the truck either disappeared into thin air or exited the interstate and I would never know where it was headed or what mysteries had been inside this divine vehicle.

Driving often causes my mind to wander, and continuing on my trip, the truck made me think about what we expect from praying. Do we really expect our prayers to be delivered?

Many people find it difficult to pray either because they have not found their personal relationship with God or their individual theology is undefined and they feel uncomfortable participating in a ritual about which they are uncertain. To be sure, as congregants, we participate in the prayers and read the words that are not even our own. In fact, sometimes those words reflect values and beliefs that no longer seem relevant in our contemporary world. We engage in rituals whose meanings and histories we do not always fully understand or remember. And so it is understandable that having a personal relationship or communion with God may seem difficult. Our tradition even acknowledges the difficulties some of us have with prayer. In the service there are even prayers to be able to pray.

When I was a seminary student we were required to take a course, *Defining Your Personal Theology*, which I knew would require weekly "gut" papers and a hefty treatise revealing my most personal thoughts concerning God and Judaism. I was sure that at some point in that semester I would be scolded for being a renegade, for voicing uncertainties in a place that was preparing us to be religious leaders. How could I possibly lead a congregation and, at the same time, question divine presence and will?

Surprisingly, defining my personal theology and being compelled to define my ideas in concrete terms was probably the most self-defining and important semesters in my 20+ years of school. And one of my most important discoveries was something I had already been taught but had to uncover for myself: each of us finds God through routine practice, study, ritual -- action words. Those "doing things" serve as a bridge to belief and private communication with God, regardless of how each of us defines and finds God.

One of those "doing things" is prayer and ultimately, prayer is the way to your soul. As Abraham Joshua Heschel said, "To pray is to take notice of the wonder, to regain a sense of the mystery that animates all beings, the Divine margin of all attainments. Prayer is our humble answer to the inconceivable surprise of living." And it is Heschel who also said, "[...prayer is] an act which makes the heart audible to God."

And do we expect those prayers to be delivered? Without question, they are guaranteed delivery, even more quickly than "overnight."

*Cantor Leslie Friedlander*

**Guest Speaker: Ewa Maniawski,  
SYNERGY: Long Island  
Friday Evening October 4<sup>th</sup>**

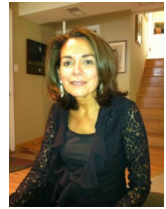
Ewa Maniawski, Program Executive of SYNERGY: Long Island, will be speaking about this important initiative which is supported by the UJA Federation of New York. The program is committed to forming dynamic partnerships with the rabbis, cantors and lay leaders of local congregations. It seeks to strengthen synagogues as vital centers of caring, learning, and spiritual renewal where Jews and Jewish families can find inspiration, learning, and engagement. Please join us and learn more about this program and how Temple Isaiah can participate.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

### *The Beauty of Ah-Ha Moments*



After many years of leading Yom Kippur afternoon discussions, Claude Springer felt the time had come to pass the torch-like microphone to another moderator. Claude, we thank and applaud you for years of thought-provoking discussions.



But what to do about a new leader? Fortunately, Helman Brook picked up that microphone and ran with it, leading an uplifting talk about “Ah-Ha” moments. All of those present would agree that Temple Isaiah’s own Ah-Ha moment was thinking of Helman. What a great job he did!

So many of those present on Yom Kippur afternoon shared memorable moments they had experienced of awe and connectedness with the divine. One was Terry Horton-Birnbaum’s description of seeing a sunlit spider web outside her kitchen window on a recent morning. So often we associate spiders with feelings of discomfort. Terry saw great beauty in the web and she was particularly struck by the tiny creature’s ability to create such a complex and strong structure.

It occurred to the co-presidents that the image of a spider web is one that suits our Temple. Our sanctuary skylight is not unlike a spider web, with smaller panes of glass woven together into a bigger window by steel supports, allowing us to see the sky from within our four walls. And, of course, it is the web of our own relationships with each other that constitutes the heart and soul of Temple Isaiah.

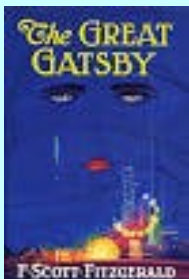
Now, Temple Isaiah is embarking on a new way of connecting with others: those in need in our community. We have recently joined the Tikkun Alliance of the North Shore (TANS), a collaboration of 14 synagogues dedicated to addressing local issues with a focus is on the notion of Tikkun Olam, repairing the world. In the up-coming year, we will be participating in 5 TANS programs, with the first taking place on November 17<sup>th</sup>. It is called Neighbors Helping Neighbors and involves providing food and clothing for those in need. It will take place at a location on Spinney Hill called EOC.

For the co-presidents, the “Ah-Ha” moments come on a regular basis, observing how our fellow congregants rise to the occasion time and again to help each other and those in need in the community. For us, that is the definition of awesome.

*Gail Gordon & Terry Joseph*

## Temple Isaiah Book Club

### Tuesday, October 15th at 7:30pm



We will be discussing “The Great Gatsby” by F. Scott Fitzgerald, a classic novel set during the roaring twenties on Long Island. Whether you have read the book or seen one of the movie versions, it should be a fun time. A limited number of copies are available at the Great Neck Library.

Refreshments will be provided by Judy Snow, who will be leading the discussion.

# October 2013

| Sun       | Mon  | Tue  | Wed       | Thu   | Fri   | Sat   |
|-----------|--|--|-----------|---|---|---|
|           |  | <b>1</b><br>Religious School, 4:00pm<br><br>Board Meeting, 7:30                    | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br>Rabbi's Class—<br>“What the Bible Really Said”<br>(1 of 4)<br>7:30pm  | <b>4</b><br>Shabbat Service 8:00pm;<br>Guest Speaker Ewa Maniawski  | <b>5</b><br>Torah Study, 9:30am<br>Cantillation, 11:00am  |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b><br>Weight Watchers 12:30  | <b>8</b><br>Religious School, 4:00pm   | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b><br>Rabbi's Class—<br>“What the Bible Really Said”<br>(2 of 4)<br>7:30pm | <b>11</b><br>Shul Talk, 7:30pm;<br><br>Shabbat Service 8:00pm       | <b>12</b><br>Torah Study, 9:30am<br>Cantillation, 11:00am |
| <b>13</b> | <b>14</b><br>Weight Watchers 12:30   | <b>15</b><br>Religious School, 4:00pm<br><br>Book Group: “The Great Gatsby” 7:30pm | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b><br>Rabbi's Class—<br>“What the Bible Really Said”<br>(3 of 4)<br>7:30pm | <b>18</b><br>Renewal Service, 7:30pm;<br><br>Shabbat Service 8:00pm | <b>19</b><br>Torah Study, 9:30am<br>Cantillation, 11:00am |
| <b>20</b> | <b>21</b> Lunch & Learn 11:30 (Ayhan's ShishKebab);<br><br>Weight Watchers 12:30 | <b>22</b><br>Religious School, 4:00pm  | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b><br>Rabbi's Class—<br>“What the Bible Really Said”<br>(4 of 4)<br>7:30pm | <b>25</b><br>Kabbalat Service, 6:15pm                               | <b>26</b><br>Torah Study, 9:30am<br>Service, 10:30am      |
| <b>27</b> | <b>28</b><br>Weight Watchers 12:30   | <b>29</b><br>Religious School, 4:00pm  | <b>30</b> | <b>31</b>   |   |   |



**Save the Date:  
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)***

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*Information Sources Beyond Daily TV and Print Media:* These website resources provide interesting, helpful and credible information on developments in Israel, as well as an Israeli perspective on current events. They are offered as added sources to information available through popular television and print media. While we believe the following websites are credible and are committed to providing accurate information, the viewpoints expressed represent only those of the respective websites.

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Rose Soifer, Mother of Hank Soifer  
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Herman Kristal, Father of Evelyn Solow  
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### ***Memorial Plaque:***

In Memory of  
Frances Tuchinsky, Mother of Belle Gayer  
Harry Tuchinsky, Father of Belle Gayer  
Samuel I. Schiller, Grandfather of Belle Gayer  
Florence Schiller, Grandmother of Belle Gayer  
Jacob Tuchinsky, Grandfather of Belle Gayer  
Hannah Tuchinsky, "Bubbe" to Belle Gayer  
Frank Gayer, Father of Elliott Gayer  
Hyman Gayer, Grandfather of Elliott Gayer  
Jennie Gayer, Grandmother of Elliott Gayer  
Belle & Elliott Gayer

### ***Tree of Life:***

In Loving Memory of Miklos & Ibolya Weisz  
Cathy Bendor

To Honor the Memory of:

Esther Pinkas Shapiro and Charles Shapiro  
David K. Pinks and Murray B. Pinks  
Tamara Santiago Shapiro and Edward Arthur Shapiro  
Barbara Feldman

### ***ARZA Membership:***

Jonathan Wagner

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

The 60th Birthday of Gail Gordon

Kathie & Richard Davis  
Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
June & Allan Feldman  
Mindy & Howard Israel  
Terry & Richard Joseph  
Ruth Mandelbaum  
Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
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Shelley Sherman

The Speedy Recovery of Steve Grass

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Shelley Sherman

Rabbi Ted and Linda Tsuruoka

Gloria & Norman Gersman

L'Shana Tovah

Rose Grabelsky

The Speedy Recovery of Sandy Iacolina

Ruth Isaac

In Honor of Ruth Mandelbaum

Micki Victor

*We would like to  
thank the members who  
have made a contribu-  
tion to Al Maller for his  
90th birthday.*

*Thanks,  
Connie & Al Maller*

### ***Kol Nidre:***

Sue & Howard Begelman  
Roslyn and Perri Bein  
Judy & Helman Brook  
Diane Haber & Robert Bruce  
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In Memory of  
Martha Rosenberg*

*Harriet Gellert  
In Memory of  
Ruth & Sam Weinstein*





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Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism  
Issue No. 141 Published Monthly

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

### **BULLETIN**

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

***Rabbi:*** Theodore Tsuruoka

***Cantor:*** Leslie Friedlander

***Production:*** Cathy Reibstein

***Photos:*** Sheila DeFazio



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