

# BULLETIN

Office - 487-5373, School - 487-8709

Published Monthly

September, 2014

#### **September Calendar of Events** *Full High Holy Day Schedule on Page 7*

Wed. Sept. 3—Watercolor Class, 7:30pm

Fri. Sept. 5—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Sat. Sept. 6—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:30am

Sun. Sept. 7—Open House, 11:00am to 2:00pm

Tues. Sept. 9—Board Meeting, 7:30pm

Fri. Sept. 12—Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Sat. Sept. 13—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:30am

Mon. Sept. 15—Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm; Cuttermill Rd. Traffic hearing, 7:30pm

Tues. Sept. 16— Religious School Opens, 4:00pm; "Klinghoffer Opera" Controversy Discussion, 7:30pm

Thurs. Sept. 18— "Current Events" with Helman Brook, 7:30pm

Fri. Sept. 19—Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Sat. Sept. 20—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:30am; Selichot, 8:00pm

Tues. Sept. 23—Religious School, 4:00pm;Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm

Wed. Sept. 24—Erev Rosh Hashana, 8:00pm

Thurs. Sept. 25—Rosh Hashana, 10:00am

Fri. Sept. 26—Rosh Hashana Second Day Program (see page 7 for details); Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm

Sat. Sept. 27—Torah Study, 9:30am; Service, 10:30am

Tues. Sept. 30—Religious School, 4:00pm; Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm

**Temple** Isaiah **Open House** Tour Sunday Sept. 7 <mark>11am-2pm</mark> Spread the Word **Bring Your Friends** & **Neighbors** Torah. Chocolate **Fondue and** Origami, too! **Call the office for** more information

### **RABBI'S COLUMN** Un'taneh Tokef: Living Past Adversity



It has been said that no prayer focuses on the awesome nature of the Days of Awe more intensely than the Un'taneh Tokef – a  $13^{th}$ -century poem (*piyut*) based upon a legendary tale of Rabbi Amnon of Mayence who was martyred rather than renounce his Jewish faith. It is part of *both* Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur morning services, right before the Kiddusha, and includes the memorable line: "On Rosh Hashana it is written and on Yom Kippur it is sealed..." We are confronted with the starkness of the Day of Judgement – "when even the angels of heaven are judged." The prayer continues with a list of alternative fates: "... How many shall pass on, how many shall come to be; who shall live and who shall die; who shall see

ripe age and who shall not; who shall perish by fire and who by water...who shall be secure and who shall be driven; who shall be tranquil and who shall be troubled; who shall be poor and who shall be rich, who shall be humbled and who exalted..." And then comes the pivotal statement: "oo-teshuvah, oo-tefilah, oo-tzdakah maaverin et-roah hag-gazerah." This is translated in the Gates of Repentance: "But Repentance, Prayer and Charity temper judgement's severe decree. We very well know these lines and every year they seem to mean more. Yet, the message is dissonant because it purports things we know are simply not true: 1) we are rewarded or punished based on our actions, and 2) we can change our fate.

At first this litany seems fatalistic, as though our life for the next year is predestined. But how can this be? Judaism holds that each individual is given the power of free will – the power to choose good over evil, life over death, the left path over the right path. Much that befalls us in life is a result of good or bad decisions we make: if we smoke we're liable to contract pulmonary disease – even cancer; if we are kind towards others, we will most probably find ourselves surrounded by love in old age. But there are still those things that happen to people that seem totally undeserved which begs the question – why do bad things happen to good people, and *visa versa*? A wise man of the Bible, Kohelet, tells us that life is uncertain and that much of what happens to us happens by chance. We are left with the question: how do we live a life filled with shifting consequences and random events?

And then, the notion that we can mitigate – even cancel (according to traditional prayer books) – the terrible decree by doing *teshuvah, tefilah* and *tzadakah* sounds to the modern ear more like magical thinking. In reality, the compilers of the Bible and the prayer book knew something important about this classical idea of reward and punishment and its cancellation by certain acts. *They knew it wasn't true!* Un'taneh Tokef comes to remind us to overcome the natural tendency to look for a cause for every negative effect. This was Job's question also. As Job learns, there's no comprehensible answer to how or why things happen they way they do. We can only deal with the hand of cards we're dealt in life. How we respond to the rewards and adversities along the thread of life will determine whether we come out in the end ok.

This key message, I believe, is found in a rephrasing of the last words of the line quoted above: "ooteshuvah, oo-tefilah, oo-tzdakah ma-averin et-roah hag-gazerah." It should be translated as: "And repentance, prayer and charity help the hardship of the decree pass." The key word is ma-averin whose root meaning is "to pass" – in other words, to make bearable and survivable what hardships befall an individual. There is no promise of eliminating or even deflecting the severity of the hardship, and acts of repentance, prayer and charity can make it easier for us to deal with the consequences of living. If we are eager to undo the mistakes we make because we're human (teshuvah); engage in heartfelt prayer and partnering with God (tefilah); and perform acts of loving kindness to ease the suffering of others and bring justice into the world (tzedakah) – then we might be better able to handle the bad things that happen to us in our lives. This is not a magic, inkeradicating, formula. Rather, it is a recipe of doable acts that make for a connected, empathetic, joyful human being created in the image of God.

The Days of Awe, which begin with Selichot and run through Simchat Torah, give us a period to assess our actions, to reset our compass towards life affirming actions, and to start a new year refreshed in body and soul. Linda and I wish you and your loved ones a *Shanah Tovah*.

Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka

#### **CANTOR'S COLUMN** PREPARING OURSELVES



The Saturday evening before *Rosh Hashana* is the time traditionally set aside for *Selichot*, a special order of penitential prayers that are meant to set the mood and help prepare us for the holy days to come. The word *selichot* is the plural of *selicha*, which means "forgiveness."

Originally, Selichot prayers were recited on all days of fasting throughout the year, including Yom Kippur, Tisha B'av and the Fast of Esther. The tradition of observing Selichot the Saturday evening before Rosh Hashana grew out of the custom of fasting on the days before Rosh Hashana.

Selichot can be a quite moving observance because it touches on the musical and subject motifs of the holidays as almost an entryway into the Holy Days themselves. Because of its unusual time, 9:15 P.M. at Temple Isaiah (often at midnight in other congregations), this, too, serves to set it apart from any of our other rituals, making it feel, for some of us, almost mystical.

One of the most intimate and mysterious narratives in the Torah occurs in Exodus 33, beginning with verse 18, when Moses pleads with God to allow him to see God's presence. God answers by placing Moses in the cleft of a rock and allowing Moses to "see" God's back, in actuality, keeping Moses hidden from the Divine. Moses could, however, hear God's words, which have become known as the "Thirteen Attributes of God." This text is the heart and the central prayer of the traditional *Selichot* worship. Moses heard these words from the cleft in the rock: "Adonai, Adonai, merciful and gracious God, slow to anger, abundant in loyalty and faithfulness, extending kindness to the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin and granting pardon."

Perhaps God is really saying that 'this is everything people need to know of Me.' Our sages have depicted God wrapped in a tallit, having descended from the mystical mist in the encounter with Moses, and imagined God saying, 'Whenever Israel sins, let them perform this rite and I will forgive them.'

In the Selichot worship we also confess communal sins, which, in a longer version, is one of the essential and familiar prayers of Yom Kippur. In fact, the entire essence of the Selichot liturgy calls to mind the familiar poetry and melodies of the impending Holy Day services, which allows us to emotionally connect through our sense memory and begin to prepare ourselves for the approaching Days of Awe.

Cantor Leslie Friedlander

L'Shana Tova To All Our Fríends



# Message from the Co-Presidents Preparing for the High Holy Days Part II



In the July Bulletin we discussed how each Isaiah member could prepare to participate in temple programs during the coming year - services, study, the movie series, discussions, dinners and more. Each member was encouraged to think about what they hoped to gain from participation and what they could offer to the congregation. Again we emphasize, if you have any particular knowledge, interest or talent, please share it with us.



But preparation for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur involve more than temple planning for the coming year. The High Holy Days are a time for reflection, introspection and reconsideration of our lives and relationships. Traditionally, the days of awe were also that time to atone and forgive. Jews were expected to seek out those they had injured and ask for forgiveness and to grant forgiveness to those who sincerely admitted that they had done an injustice and requested to be relieved from the offense.

When Jews lived in small insular communities it was probably easy to know who one had offended and to forgive someone who had acted badly. In a large, busy city or area with a population in the millions, where thousands of hasty, impersonal interactions take place in a year, it is impossible to know how many wrongs we have done inadvertently or intentionally, or to locate those we need to ask for forgiveness. So rather than attempt to seek out all those we have injured or wronged, the days of awe might be better spent looking inward and considering how we live every day and what we can do to make sure our attitudes and behavior are thoughtful, kind and considerate. As humans we will inevitably fall short - miss the mark - transgress and wrong someone. But that is not a reason to forgo introspection and a resolve to do better in the coming year - and maybe Temple Isaiah can help each of us in that self improvement.

Temple Isaiah is a community of friends. We are non-judgmental concerning anyone's Jewishness or level of commitment to Jewish practice. Membership in the Isaiah community is the significant Jewish choice that is enough. Membership creates the connection that is its own reward.

Helman Brook & Kathie Davis

# **Temple Isaiah's Sandy Koufax**

Jared Kossover (16) was selected as an All-Star in his summer Travel League, HOT STOVE. Jared plays for the Long Island Gators during the summer and is entering his senior year at Great Neck North High School. He pitches for both the Gators and GN North.

Photo attached is of Jared pitching in HOT STOVE All-Star game in July which took place at MCU Park in Brooklyn (Coney Island), home of the

Brooklyn Cyclones.

Jared is a member of the temple and is a bar mitzvah who was confirmed as well. He also has assisted Rabbi Ted at the hebrew school over the years.



# September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Watercolor Class, 7:30pm		Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	Torah Study & Service 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
7 <i>Open House</i> 11:00am To 2:00pm	8 Spanish Class, 10:30am; Weight Watchers, 12:30pm	9 Board Meeeting, 7:30pm	10	11	12 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	13 Torah Study & Service 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
14	15 Spanish Class, 10:30am Weight Watchers, 12:30pm Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm Cuttermill Road Hearing, 7:30pm	16 Religious School Opens, 4:00pm "Klinghoffer Opera" Controversy Discussion, 7:30pm	17	18 Current Events with Helman Brook, 7:30pm	19 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	20 Torah Study & Service 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am; Selichot, 8:00pm
21	22 Spanish Class, 10:30am; Weight Watchers, 12:30pm	23 Religious School, 4:00pm Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm	24 Erev Rosh Hashana Service, 8:00pm	25 Rosh Hashana Service, 10:00am	26 Rosh Hashana Program 2nd Day: 10:30am; Tashlich, 12:30pm Kabbalat Svc. 6:15pm	27 Torah Study, 9:30am Service, 10:30am
28	29 Spanish Class, 10:30am; Weight Watchers, 12:30pm	30 Religious School, 4:00pm Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm			October 3— Kol Nidre 8:00pm	October 4— Yom Kippur 10:00am (see full schedule on page 7)



# **Current Events** with Helman Brook

#### Thursday, September 18 7:30pm

### Come Join the Stimulating Discussion At Our Popular Continuing Series

Temple Isaiah Choir Rehearsals Friday, September 12: 6:30pm Monday, September 15: 7:00pm Friday, September 19: 6:30pm Tuesday, September 23: 7:00pm Tuesday, September 30: 7:00pm



If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact Cantor Friedlander At CanCant4U@aol.com

# Future Book Discussion Selection: Tova Mirvis' Visible City

An entertaining novel about people's lives intersecting on the Upper West Side, the story is about life choices and the alienation people feel in the city (with Jewish themes).

The author will be coming to the Station Branch of the Great Neck Library on Tuesday, 9/16 at 2pm.

Temple Isaiah's book discussion will be scheduled for a date in October.

# The Klinghoffer Controversy

You are invited to a lively program on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM about the "Death of Klinghoffer" opera controversy that has been in the news lately. Elizabeth (Liz) Berney, Esq. will be speaking, followed by a Q & A session and discussion. Some of the issues to be raised include: 1) The Klinghoffer opera's stated goal was to "humanize" the terrorists. Is it wise or moral to speak of terrorists as "men of ideals?" 2) Is the opera anti-semitic? Is the opera antigay? 3) What is the inside story on the partial cancellation and upcoming protests of the Metropolitan Opera's planned 8 performances? 4) How does the Klinghoffer opera fit into a larger context? What should be the role of art?

As you can see there's much to discuss. Liz Berney is the Director of Special Projects and LI/Queens Region Executive Director of the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA). Please join us.

# Selichot Program & Service: 9/20/2014

Selichot, meaning forgiveness, officially begins the High Holy Day season for many Jews. Occurring a few days before Rosh Hashana, it serves as a gateway to a process of self assessment, repentance, reconciliation and renewal. Preceding our Selichot Service, there will be an interactive discussion about the meaning of Zionism. The term "Zionism" was coined in 1890. Its general definition means the national movement for the return of the Jewish people to their homeland. From inception, Zionism advocated tangible and spiritual aims. Jews of all persuasions - left, right, religious and secular - formed the Zionist movement and worked together toward its goals. Disagreements in philosophy has led to rifts in the Zionist movement of the years and a number of separate forms have emerged, notably: Political Zionism; **Religious Zionism; Socialist Zionism and Territorial** Zionism.

> Selichot Program: 8:00 PM Selichot Service: 9:15 PM



#### Rosh Hashana 2<sup>nd</sup> Day Program & Tashlich: 9/26/2014

Please join us for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Day Rosh Hashana program in which we will discuss the question: "Why Be Jewish?" Until the Age of Enlightenment a Jew never questioned his religious identity because it identified a unique community. Today, Jews feel comfortable affiliating with communities other than purely religious (eg. social, political, cultural), which begs the question: "Why Stay Jewish?" Following our morning program, please join us at Stepping Stone Park for Tashlich.

2<sup>nd</sup> Day Rosh Hashana program: 10:30AM Tashlich at Stepping Stone Park: 12:30PM

#### High Holy Day Schedule 2014-5775

Selichot Saturday, September 20 Program: 8:00PM, Service: 9:15-10:00PM

**Erev Rosh Hashana** Wednesday, September 24 – 8:00 – 9:30 PM

**Rosh Hashana: 1<sup>st</sup> Day** Thursday, September 25 Morning Service: 10:00 – 12:30 PM

> Rosh Hashana: 2<sup>nd</sup> Day Friday, September 26 Program: 10:30 – 12:00 PM Tashlich: 12:30 – 1:00 PM (Steppingstone Park)

**Yom Kippur: Kol Nidre** Friday, October 3 – 8:00 – 9:30 PM

Yom Kippur: Day Saturday, October 4 Morning Service: 10:00 – 12:45 PM Discussion 1:00 – 2:30 PM Personal Moment at Ark – 2:30 – 3:00 PM Afternoon Service - 3:00 – 4:45 PM Yizkor: 4:45 PM Neilah: 5:15 PM Break-the-Fast: 6:15 PM

Erev Sukkot: Wednesday, October 8 Complete Sukkah Decoration: 5:00 Evening Service: 7:30 PM

**Sukkot: Morning** Thursday, October 9 – 10:30 – 12:00 PM

**Erev Simchat Torah** Wednesday, October 15 – 7:30 PM

**Simchat Torah: Yizkor** Thursday, October 16 - 10:30 – 12:00 PM

Please submit your membership papers, High Holy Day ticket orders and Memorial Book orders if you haven't done so!

# NEWS FROM ARZA



As I write this we are in the second month of rockets raining down on Israel. The sirens wail seemingly non-stop giving people 15 seconds to run for shelter. Almost everyone has a safe room or shelter in their home or nearby which is stocked with provisions if a long stay is necessary. The elderly or disabled who cannot readily run up or down stairs must stay in the shelters full time. The lives of hundreds of thousands of civilians are disrupted as even traveling to work or school can be inter-

rupted by a siren, causing them to get out of their cars and crouch by the side of the road.

Israel has responded with Operation Protective Edge aimed at the sites where missile batteries are located in Gaza and at known Hamas sites. Hamas deliberately positions its rocket launchers in civilian areas- in schools, hospitals and nursing homes, practically daring Israel to fire on these sites. Before Israel fires missiles it warns the civilians in the targeted areas to leave their homes and to take shelter. But Hamas urges them to stay and even to gather on the rooftops. For Hamas it is a win-win—either Israel is deterred from firing on these sites, or it does fire and the injured civilians are used as pawns in a PR fight. The loss of life in Gaza is tragic and even more so in that it could have been avoided.

Israel called up over 40,000 reservists to prepare for the land assault. No one in Israel or the civilized world wanted that to happen, but the Israelis who live and raise families with the constant stress of missile fire needed to be protected.

The Reform Movement through ARZA is doing its part in Israel. The Havaya Summer Camp of Noar Telem (the IMPJ youth movement) has made a special effort to host displaced families from the north and south of Israel. Furthermore, Reform communities and kibbutzim across the country will host those who are looking to relocate temporarily.

Our movement's Keren B'Kavod ("Dignity Fund") is working around the clock to provide support to those in need and those effected by the current crisis.

If you have not yet joined ARZA, please consider making your donation today to assure that our movement is represented in Israel in good times and challenging ones.

**Shelley Sherman** 

# **World Zionist Congress**

Theodor Herzl convened the first Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, in 1897, which served as the foundation for the Zionist Movement – the creative force and organizational framework behind the State of Israel. The 37<sup>th</sup> World Zionist Congress will convene in the third week of October 2015, and across the globe preparations have already begun.

Delegates to the World Zionist Congress will elect the Movement's international leadership and chart its course for the next five years. The United States boasts 29 percent of the elected delegates to the Zionist Congress, and as an American Jew you will have the right and opportunity to register and vote. Open registration and voting begin on January 13, 2015. Watch this box for more information.

# ATTENTION TEMPLE MEMBERS: Chelsea Place and Cutter Mill Road Traffic Hearing



On Monday, September 15 at 7:30 at Great Neck Plaza Village Hall there will be a meeting concerning the traffic on Cutter Mill Road.

Please attend and see what can be done to address the problem of pulling out and crossing the street at this dangerous intersection.

Call Sheila DeFazio for more information....516-643-1459.

# **General Donations**

In Loving Memory Of: Rachel & Benjamin Barouch, Parents of Albert Barouch Herman, Marvin & Solomon Barouch, Brothers of Albert Barouch Albert Barouch Joanne Branch, Mother of Suzanne Branch Suzanne Branch & Gary McTiernan Leona Marks, Mother of Kathie Davis Kathie & Richard Davis Benjamin Falon, Husband of Frances Falon Frances Falon Olga Gowryluk, Mother of June Feldman June & Allan Feldman John Moses Ferguson, Father of David Ferguson Philip Mayer, Jr., Father of Jacqueline Ferguson David Ferguson Ruth & Sam Weinstein, Parents of Harriet Gellert Sandra Verson, Sister of Harriet Gellert Harriet Gellert Patti Gelman, Wife of Gary Gelman Gary Gelman Larry Kaplan, Husband of Jeanne Kaplan Alvin Graham Michael Bernstein, Son of Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Bernstein Molly Lang, Sister of Marilyn Rosenberg Michael Bernstein, Husband of Teresa Bernstein Ruth Isaac Benjamin Joseph, Husband of Joan Joseph Joan Joseph Sylvia Kelman, Mother of Steven Kelman Steven Kelman & Shelley Metzenbaum Marilyn & Stanley Kirshenbaum Richard and Dana Kirshenbaum Fulie Ruhm, Aunt of Connie Maller Connie & Al Maller Lenore Washor, Mother of Andrew Washor Denise Miller & Steve Fein May Secofsky, Mother of Joan Secofsky Joan Secofsky & Herbert Kwasnik Jules Shapiro, Husband of Golda Shapiro

Rose Shapiro, Mother of Jules Shapiro Golda Shapiro

David Diamond, Husband of Shelley Sherman Shelley Sherman

#### In Honor of :

The Speedy Recovery of Bea Aubrey Judy & Helman Brook Kathie & Richard Davis Sheila & Victor DeFazio June & Allan Feldman Gail & Robert Gordon Mindy & Howard Israel Terry & Richard Joseph Ruth Mandelbaum Denise Miller & Steve Fein Rita Rubenstein Alisa & Martin Secofsky Shelley Sherman The Speedy Recovery of Frances Falon Judy & Helman Brook 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

*In Honor of (cont'd):* A Basketful of L'Chaims to my Temple Family The Full Recovery of Rabbi Tsuruoka Alvin Graham The Speedy Recovery of Mindy Israel Judy & Helman Brook 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 The Birthday of Richard Davis William Rosenberg The Birthday of Rita Rubenstein Rita Rubenstein Ruth Weiner Jeanne Lief The Speedy Recoveries of Jonah Moulin and Willa Lewis Judy & Helman Brook 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

#### Tzedaka Income:

Micki Victor

#### Tree of Life:

In Honor of the 90th Birthday of Rita Rubenstein Myra Breakstone Judy & Helman Brook Kathie & Richard Davis Sheila & Victor DeFazio June & Allan Feldman Ruth Isaac Mindy & Howard Israel Terry & Richard Joseph Ruth Mandelbaum Alisa & Martin Secofsky Arlene Soifer Evelyn & Richard Solow Micki Victor In Honor of the 75th Birthday of Richard Davis Suzanne Branch & Gary McTiernan Judy & Helman Brook June & Allan Feldman Mindy & Howard Israel Terry & Richard Joseph Willa Lewis & Edward Moulin Ruth Mandelbaum Denise Miller & Steve Fein Rita Rubenstein William Rosenberg

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#### **BULLETIN**

Co-Presidents: Helman Brook, Kathie Davis Rabbi: Theodore Tsuruoka Cantor: Leslie Friedlander Production: Cathy Reibstein

