

## April Calendar of Events

Mon. Apr. 1—Passover Yizkor Service, 10:30am

Tue. Apr. 2—Religious School closed; Board Meeting, 7:30pm

Thurs. Apr. 4—Rabbi's Class: Jeremiah & Ezekiel (#2), 7:30pm

Fri. Apr. 5—Shabbat Service Honoring Terry Joseph and Howard Israel, 8:00pm

Sat. Apr. 6—Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am

Sun. Apr. 7—Yom Hashoah: Guest Speaker Werner Reich, 7:30pm

Tue. Apr. 9—Religious School, 4:00pm

Thurs. Apr. 11—Rabbi's Class: Jeremiah & Ezekiel (#3), 7:30pm

Fri. Apr. 12—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Sat. Apr. 13—Temple Isaiah Retreat: "Justice, Justice You Shall Pursue"

Mon. Apr. 15—Lunch & Learn, 11:30am

Tues. Apr. 16—Religious School, 4:00pm; La Rotonda Donation Day

Fri. Apr. 19—Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm

Sat. Apr. 20—Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am

Sun. Apr. 21—Visiting Author Maggie Anton, 4:00pm

Tues. Apr. 23—Religious School, 4:00pm; Current Events with Helman Brook, 7:30pm

Thurs. Apr. 25—Rabbi's Class: Jewish Humor (#1), 7:30pm

Fri. Apr. 26—Shabbat Service Honoring June Feldman & Irma Leboff, 8:00pm


Sat. Apr. 27—Bat Mitzvah of Jillian Bergman, 10:30am

Tues. Apr. 30—Religious School, 4:00pm



## Upcoming Events at Temple Isaiah

**Saturday,  
 April 13, 2013**

***Temple Isaiah Retreat*** 

**A full day of activities  
 discussions for the entire family  
 (See page 7)**

**Yom Hashoah:  
 Guest Speaker Werner Reich  
 Sunday, April 7  
 (See page 6)**

**Visiting Author  
 Maggie Anton  
 Sunday, April 21  
 (See Page 6)**

***Plus:***

**Current Events with  
 Helman Brook on 4/23**

***La Rotonda  
 Restaurant Donation  
 Day on April 16***



## **RABBI'S COLUMN**

### **What Does It Take to Be Jewish?**



I came across an intriguing Op-Ed piece in the New York Times the other day by David Brooks entitled “The Orthodox Surge” (3/8/13). Brooks, who identifies himself as a Conservative Jew, begins by saying: *“In Midwood, Brooklyn, there’s a luxury kosher grocery store called Pomegranate serving the modern Orthodox and Hasidic communities”* which resembles the style and quality of markets like Whole Foods. He notes that what’s impressive about Pomegranate *“is not found in one section but is pervasive throughout. That’s the specialty products [are] designed around this or that aspect of Jewish law. There are dairy-free cheese puffs in case you want to have some cheese puffs with a meat dish...There are especially designed sponges, which don’t retain water, so you don’t have to do the work of squeezing out water [a prohibited act] on Shabbat.”* He notes further that *“For the people who shop at Pomegranate, the collective covenant with God is the primary reality and obedience to the laws is the primary obligation. They go shopping like the rest of us, but their shopping is minutely governed by an external moral order.”* Brooks notes further that for the Orthodox community *“the laws... give structure to everyday life. They infuse everyday acts with spiritual significance. They build community. They regulate desires. They moderate religious zeal, making religion an everyday practical reality.”*

To me, there’s something attractive about this style of life. Just so you don’t get the wrong impression, I’m speaking from the position of a Reform rabbi. Many of the traditional laws of living in Judaism are based on the idea that God and our relationship with God should be a constant part of our lives, an underlying rhythm that puts everyday life beyond the personal into a larger framework that encompasses community and God. Thus we say *motzi* before meals to sanctify the times we eat. We light Shabbat candles on Friday evening to signify the transition from workaday life to a day of release from labor and its demands. Most of all, I believe many of the laws and rituals Jews are commanded to do are designed to define and enforce Jewish identity. To be a Jew is to do things differently in order to distinguish a Jew from other nations.

Long before I had any dreams of becoming a rabbi, I used to travel the Far Rockaway branch of the LIRR into NYC. By the time I’d get on at Valley Stream, the cars were half-filled with those who got on in the “Five Towns,” which was predominately Jewish, including modern Orthodox. Back then, you had a bunch of seats facing each other on either side of the doors of the commuter car. A few of those were taken up by groups of four playing Hearts on a newspaper spread out over their knees. But some of those groups were doing something else entirely. They were engaged in passionate and often heated debates over a portion of the Talmud or Torah. The intensity of the discussion was obvious as was their enthusiasm of the topic at hand. I used to ask myself how could adult men be so deeply engrossed in an ancient text? I later learned that study, questioning and debate of Jewish law and the Bible is an indispensable part of Jewish identity and a way of keeping Judaism alive. As Reform Jews, we need to capture some of that passion in our everyday lives.

Reform Judaism supports the concept of informed choice with regard to how to follow traditional Jewish practices. We believe we have choices, but we should also be aware we are not free to abandon these practices altogether. The key is to weave into our daily living some aspects of Yiddishkeit. Some examples: Decide to forego one weekday activity on Shabbat such as shopping or being on the computer. Read one book with Jewish content each month. Try to avoid eating pork or shellfish; consider a more vegetarian diet. Take a class that teaches a Jewish text or a Jewish ethic/concept. Choose to avoid mixing meat and dairy products whenever possible. Regularly attend worship services even if it’s only once a month. Put aside money for Tzedakah every Friday or volunteer time at a soup kitchen or the like. Light Shabbat and Festival candles regularly. Recite the Sh’ma upon retiring at night and awaking in the morning. Offer one blessing or prayer each day. These are only a few examples, but I hope you get the idea: do something that distinguishes us from the everyday world. In an age when individualism and independence is so highly valued, it is good to remember that we also are connected and need each other to define a community. How will you define your Jewish identity?

*Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka*

## **Rabbi's Classes in April**

**Jeremiah & Ezekiel: 4/4 and 4/11—A continuation of a survey of two major prophets of the Bible.**

**Jewish Humor: Beginning 4/25—What Makes Jewish Humor Different from All Other Humors? What constitutes Jewish humor? This three week class will delve into the origins of Jewish humor, its nature and its significance.**

## CANTOR'S COLUMN

### “HATIKVAH”

Naftali Hertz Imber, a wandering poet who immigrated to Palestine from Romania, was the author of many Zionist-inspired poems, among them a poem called “Tikvateinu” (Our Hope) that he wrote in 1877 while still in Romania. The story is that Imber loved to drink, travel, and write poetry. His three favorite pastimes came together on a visit to Jerusalem in 1882 and he became sufficiently intoxicated to recite his poems to his traveling companions. He became so inspired (with his own poetry or Jerusalem, it is difficult to tell which) that he wrote an additional eight stanzas to “Tikvateinu.”



Several attempts were made to put the poem to music and the one we know today has unknown roots but elements of a Romanian folk tune, a piano variation by Mozart, the Sephardic nusach for Psalm 117 in the Hallel service, the Bohemian composer Smetana's tone poem *The Moldau*, and Giovanni Battista Viotti's Violin Concerto no. 22. Although the tune's origins are questionable, in 1890, when Rehovot was established, its people chose “Tikvateinu” as their new song. As they built, they sang, and in 1898, when Theodore Herzl, the founder of Zionism, visited Rehovot, the settlers greeted him by singing the song.



In 1897, prior to the First Zionist Congress in Basel, Herzl and Max Nordau, co-founders of the World Zionist Organization, held a contest to choose a national hymn. They received 45 entries and according to Carl Schrag, the editor of the Jerusalem Post, they were all so bad that Herzl ordered them destroyed and he canceled the contest.

In 1948, “Hatikvah,” which “Tikvateinu” was now called, became the country's national anthem, not because it was universally beloved, but, according to some, because nobody had a better idea!

This month observes Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Yom HaZikaron (the Day of Remembrance for Israeli fallen soldiers and civilian victims of terrorism) and Yom HaAtzma'ut (the Declaration of Israel's Independence). As a community we will remember the horrors of the Shoah, experience the sadness and frustration of the losses that come with war and joyfully celebrate Israel's birthday – all on the wings of hope. Join us on Shabbat evenings as we sing “Hatikvah.”

*Cantor Leslie Friedlander*



**Donation Day at La Rotonda—Tuesday, April 16th**  
Have Lunch or Dinner at LaRotonda and they  
will donate 15% of your bill to Temple Isaiah.  
Just tell them you're from Isaiah and pay your bill in cash!  
8 Bond Street, Great Neck

**Next Session of “Current Events” with Helman Brook**  
**Tuesday, April 23rd at 7:30pm**  
**Bring your newspapers for another lively discussion.**



## MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENT Women Past Presidents....and a Great Guy Too



The honoring of past presidents continues, with services acknowledging a plethora of presidents who presided with panache. On April 5<sup>th</sup>, we focus on Terry Joseph and Howard Israel. No need to introduce Terry Joseph; you know her already. Not only did Terry assume the helm for two terms from 1999 through 2003, the now retired educator is current co-president. During her first 2 terms, Isaiah's version of FDR moved us through major changes, including the purchase of the property where our building stands



and the hiring of Rabbi Theodore Tsuruoka. But that was not all, she was also astute enough to hire our do-it-all-and-then-some administrator Cathy Reibstein. Over the past two decades, Terry has also run more time-consuming Temple events than seems humanly possible. Terry, are you sure there is not a clone running around doing all this stuff for you? Wow.

As for Howard, he steered the Temple through very choppy waters, landing us on the shores of our current wonderful building. He did not quite act as bricklayer, but almost. Howard's busy dental surgeon practice did not keep him from handling design, village, financial and construction issues. Then, Howard found us an alternative place to meet during construction. There must have been quite a few sleepless nights that went with being President during a time filled with such dramatic change. Not only did the Temple survive, but it was transformed into a congregation with a building that matched our size and needs. That simply would not have happened without Howard's faith and cheerleading through the ups and downs of the process. Howard, Toda Raba.

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, we honor Irma Leboff and June Feldman, two women who saw us through earlier passages that set the stage for what was to come. For Irma, the biggest challenges concerned changes of personnel and the Temple building. Sound familiar? During her term, a long-time rabbi left, and a new one was hired. During Irma's term, the Temple also acquired its first non-office space to be used exclusively by our congregation, transforming the Shalom Room from a dank basement space to a lovely gathering point for the congregation's use. That evolution was an important lesson for the congregation. Irma remembers with fondness the welcoming touch that Florence Levy brought to her role as member/administrator; Irma described her as "the glue" of Temple Isaiah.

One important person who Florence brought into the fold was June Feldman, who followed Irma as President in 1982. The Feldmans joined Isaiah in the early 1970's and, as anyone who knows June can attest, once she gets involved in a project, she brings her full energy and elegance to the job. As President, she dealt with another change of Rabbis, with the congregation benefitting from the hiring of a spiritual leader who was to stay with Temple Isaiah for over a decade. June has never taken the role of Past President lightly; when it came time to build our own home, she spearheaded the fundraising effort, a job made no easier by Isaiah's lack of experience in such matters. That hardly deterred June. She was the keystone of the effort to achieve the elusive dream of building a space for the Temple. June, there's no place like our new home; thanks for that.

*Gail Gordon*



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# April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Passover Yizkor Service, 10:30am	2 Board Meeting, 7:30pm  Religious School Closed	3	4 Jeremiah & Ezekiel, Class #2 7:30pm	5 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm  Honoring Terry Joseph and Howard Israel	6 Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
7 Yom Hashoah  Guest Speaker Werner Reich, 7:30pm	8	9 Religious School, 4:00pm	10	11 Jeremiah & Ezekiel, Class #3 7:30pm	12 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	13 Temple Isaiah Retreat "Justice, Justice..." (see page 7)
14	15  Lunch & Learn, 11:30am	16 Religious School, 4:00pm  La Rotonda Donation Day 	17	18	19 Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm	20 Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
21 Author Talk, Maggie Anton, 4:00pm 	22	23 Religious School, 4:00pm  Current Events, 7:30pm	24	25 Jewish Humor, Class #1 7:30pm	26 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm  Honoring June Feldman & Irma Leboff	27  Bat Mitzvah of Jillian Bergman, 10:30am
28	29	30 Religious School, 4:00pm				



## **Yom HaShoah**

### **Sunday, April 7th at 7:30pm**

Temple Isaiah is honored to welcome Holocaust survivor Werner Reich. Werner was liberated from Mauthausen by American soldiers, one of which is our founding President, Bernie Rosenberg. This is the first time they are meeting.

As time passes, members of the greatest generation are lost daily. Survivors of World War II, Holocaust survivors and their liberators have an important story to tell. There are less and less people from that generation able to speak to audiences as live witnesses to one of the most horrific events in world history.



Werner Reich is a native of Berlin, living in Yugoslavia when the Nazis came to power. He was in hiding and arrested until sent to Theresienstadt. From there he was sent to Auschwitz, overcoming tremendous odds and then survived a death march to Mauthausen in Austria. He was subsequently liberated in May 1945 with a severe case of frostbite. After liberation, Werner immigrated to England in 1947 and to the US in 1955.

“From 13 to 15 I was in concentration camps and from 17 to 19 in a communist state. At 19, I come to England and am told essentially-welcome to the world, you are now an adult and you have to make a living otherwise you will starve to death. “

Mr. Reich’s mission is to share his story, to teach others to learn from his experiences and to encourage all to stand up for others.

How to be a JUST person and do the right thing:

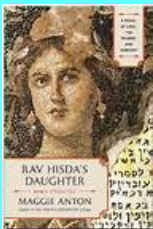
1. Judge situation
2. Understand problem
3. Solve
4. Take action

Indifference Kills.

## **Visiting Author Maggie Anton**

### **“Rav Hisda’s Daughter”**

### **Sunday, April 21st, 4:00pm**



“Rav Hisda’s Daughter” brings the Talmud to life, from a woman’s perspective. Hisdadhukh, the youngest daughter of Rav Hisda, wishes to become a sorceress in third-century Babylonia. Her father derails her plans when he brings two of his students home for her to choose a husband. Although she is only a child, she exclaims that she wants to marry both of them...Tragedies ensue, causing Hisdadhukh to rethink her desire to be an enchantress.”\*

\*Award statement from the Jewish Book Council

Join us to hear from the author, ask questions and have your books signed.

(Books will be available for purchase or bring your own.)

No fee—refreshments will be served.



# **Justice, Justice You Shall Pursue...**

***A Day of Study, Reflection and Activities  
Dedicated to the Theme of Justice***

**Come in from the April showers to enjoy any or all  
of the events planned for Temple Isaiah's  
In-House Shabbat Retreat.**

## **Schedule**

- 9:30am** Service and Torah Study, led by Rabbi  
Tsuruoka
- 11:30am** Post-Service Brunch\*
- 12:00** Inter-age Mock Trial based on Jacob, Esau  
and the leadership of the Jewish People:  
Theft or Justice?\*
- 1:30pm** 1000 Cranes Origami Project with hands-on  
Instruction\*
- 2:30pm** Linda Burghardt, Ph.D., presentation: "Last  
Waltz in Vienna—Escape & Survival at the  
Dawn of the Holocaust"
- 3:30pm** Temple Isaiah Holocaust Archive Project  
Overview by Dr. Howard Israel
- 4:00pm** Cinema event: A Contemporary Israeli Film
- 6:00pm** Havdalah\*

***\*Children Appropriate***

**Who is Invited: *Members, Guests, the Community, and You!***

**When: *Saturday, April 13, 2013***

**Where: *Temple Isaiah of Great Neck  
1 Chelsea Place, GN 11021***

**516-487-5373    isaiahgn@yahoo.com**

**Website: <http://www.templeisaiahgn.org>**

**Cost: Free of Charge**

# Religious School News

## What is Freedom?

As we begin our soon to be warm Spring, we celebrate our first Spring holiday--Pesach. In our class, along with some family members, we had a most unusual, enjoyable, and delicious Model Seder. Our traditional Seder foods were substituted with chocolate ones. Four cups of wine became four cups of chocolate milk, parsley became chocolate leaves, bitter herbs were bitter chocolate, and let's not forget chocolate covered matzo.

The prayers stayed traditional and the students enthusiastically chanted the four questions in Hebrew along with the blessings over the candles, wine, matzo, parsley, and maror. The students along with puppets helped to tell the story of the Exodus from Egypt, while munching on chocolate frogs, bugs, bones, sheep, and eggs.

We then talked about Passover as the holiday of freedom. Thus, the question--are we really free? The students had great insight into that question. They concluded that although we can pray as we choose and say what we feel, we still have to abide by rules. We have to follow the law of the land.

This is a wonderful time for all of us to let go of anger, resentment, and grudges. Then we, too, can truly be free.

Happy Pesach!

*B'Shalom,  
Sue Turek and Adam Turek-Herman*

### Important dates to remember:

April 13th Temple Retreat--You Be The Judge

April 27th Bat Mitzvah of Jillian Bergman

May 5th Religious School trip to Greek Synagogue

May 7th Last day of Religious school





## General Donations

### *In Loving Memory Of:*

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Claude Springer

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Terry & Richard Joseph

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Alisa & Martin Secofsky

Shelley Sherman

Arlene & Hank Soifer

Temple Isaiah

Frances Falon

The Birthday of Robert Lesser, Son of Jean &

John Lesser

Jean & John Lesser

The Beautiful Services Conducted at the Atria by

Belle & Elliott Gayer

Bernard Rosenberg

### *Memorial Plaques:*

In Memory of Sophie Kristal

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Who Participated in  
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“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.**



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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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***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