

December Calendar of Events

Sat. Dec. 1—Torah Study, 9:30am; Service, 10:30am

Tue. Dec. 4—Religious School, 4:00pm; Board Meeting, 7:30pm

Thurs. Dec. 6—Rabbi's Class—Basic Ideas: Islam (#2), 7:30pm

Fri. Dec. 7—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Sat. Dec. 8—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am;
 First Night of Chanukah

Mon. Dec. 10—Lunch & Learn, 11:30am

Tues. Dec. 11—Religious School, 4:00pm; Watercolor Class, 7:30pm

Thurs. Dec. 13—Rabbi's Class—Basic Ideas: Islam (#3), 7:30pm

Fri. Dec. 14—Chanukah Dinner & Family Service, 6:30pm

Sat. Dec. 15—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am; Last Night of Chanukah

Mon. Dec. 17—Guest Speaker, Elaine Wolf, "The Anti-Bullying Novelist", 7:00pm

Tues. Dec. 18—Religious School, 4:00pm; "Current Events" with Helman Brook, 7:30pm

Thurs. Dec. 20—Rabbi's Class—Basic Ideas: Islam (#4), 7:30pm

Fri. Dec. 21—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Sat. Dec. 22—Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am

Fri. Dec. 30—Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm

Sat. Dec. 31—Torah Study, 9:30am

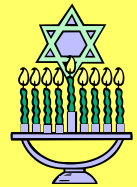


**Join Us Each Night
 of Chanukah
 To Light the
 Menorah**

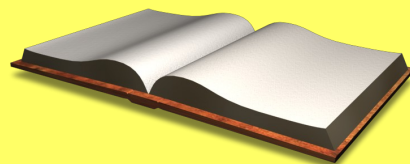
**December 8—December 15,
 7:15PM**

December Highlights: *(See inside for details)*

**Friday, Dec. 14
 Chanukah Dinner
 and
 Welcome to Our
 New Members
 6:30pm**



**Monday, Dec. 17
 Guest Speaker
 Elaine Wolf
 "The Anti-Bullying Novelist"
 7:00pm**



**Tuesday, Dec. 18
 "Current Events"
 With Helman Brook
 7:30pm**

RABBI'S COLUMN

Some Thoughts About Chanukah



Chanukah is an 8-day festival commencing on the 25th of Kislev and lasts until the 2nd of Tevet. As with other festivals in the Jewish calendar, there seems to be a dual origin to Chanukah – historical and seasonal. The *historical* aspect is well known. Chanukah celebrates the military victory of the Jewish people over the Hellenistic Syrians who controlled the land of Israel around 165 B.C.E. and wanted the resident Jews to assimilate to the Greek religion and lifestyle. Miraculously, a small band of zealous rebels, led by Judah the Maccabee, was victorious, reclaimed the Temple and rededicated (Chanukah) it – in part by relighting the sacred lamps. The festival also has a *seasonal* origin which helps to explain its 8-day duration. During the civil rebellion, the Jewish people could not celebrate Sukkot – a 7-day festival that has an 8th day added at its conclusion. After the successful reclaiming of the Temple, the Maccabees decreed a “delayed” Sukkot festival, which eventually morphed into Chanukah as we know it. Sukkot celebrates the harvest of the earth; Chanukah (the 2nd Sukkot) celebrates the harvest of fire. It was left to the rabbis who wrote the Talmud to add the story of the “miracle” of a single cruse of one day’s worth of holy oil lasting for 8 days – the time needed to prepare additional oil to light the Temple menorah (TB: Shabbat 31b).

Whether Chanukah derives its origin from the historic or the seasonal, or a combination of the two, it is clear that the central motif is light. The only mitzvah unique to Chanukah is to kindle the lights each night. There is, of course, the widespread custom of giving Chanukah gelt and – more recently – presents especially to children. Some think the idea of giving material gifts on each night of Chanukah is in response to the giving of gifts at Christmastime. Actually, according to some, the giving of gifts at Chanukah is quite old and independent of the Christmas tradition. From my perspective as a rabbi, it is troublesome that the festival of Chanukah seems to have become centered on gifts rather than the true miracle that occurred nearly 2200 years ago: that the Jewish religion was saved from eradication. That we still recite the prayers and observe the festivals formulated by the ancient sages over two millennia ago, that we read and reread the words of Torah each week and study its words in detail – that is the true miracle that Chanukah represents! As light, the symbol of Chanukah, is equated to the Divine light of God, we must remember the meaning of this festival. Chanukah always falls close to the shortest day of the year – the winter solstice. Thus this festival brings the promise of light and the promise of longer days ahead. With the above in mind, I’d like to suggest a theme for each of the 8 days of Chanukah that is not gift-centered but spiritually centered that you can use at home:



- Day 1 (12/8): Clean and polish your chanukiyah – to remember the Temple’s rededication.
- Day 2 (12/9): Enjoy a piece of artwork or music – the beauty of the Divine presence.
- Day 3 (12/10): Invite a guest to your home – the Jewish value of hospitality and warmth.
- Day 4 (12/11): Eat something cooked in oil – the miracle of the renewal of our faith.
- Day 5 (12/12): Recycle household items – the Maccabees made a menorah out of spears.
- Day 6 (12/13): Honor the mothers in the family – Leah gave birth to a child during Chanukah.
- Day 7 (12/14): Honor women heroes – women bring light into the world each Shabbat.
- Day 8 (12/15): Eat nuts and seeds – the beginning of Winter is the messenger (seeds) of Spring.

Linda and I wish you and those you love a light-filled Chanukah. May you celebrate this festival in the company and warmth of friends and family and may our faith remain a beacon of peace and strength to the world. *Chag urim sameach!*

Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka

Rabbi's Class—December

“Basic Ideas of Islam”: A four-part series introducing the fundamental history and basic beliefs of Islam. Lectures will compare and contrast the Islamic religion both from its traditional origins and its current application in world-wide politics. Classes continue on 12/6 (History), 12/13 (The Qur’an) and 12/20 (Modern Islam).



CANTOR'S COLUMN

DECEMBER DARKNESS AND LIGHT

The seventeenth-century writer, philosopher and physician Sir Thomas Browne wrote, "Light that makes some things seen, makes some things invisible. Were it not for the darkness and the shadow of the earth, the noblest part of the Creation would remain unseen, and the stars in heaven invisible."



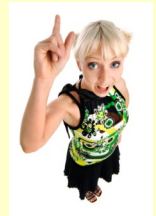
It is hardly ironic that when we are in the darkest month of the year we celebrate the Festival of Lights. In fact, *Chanukah* falls at the end of both the lunar and solar cycles. Like the sunlight, which increases after this annual period of profound natural darkness, the lights of the *chanukiah*, the *Chanukah menorah*, grow in number each night. As the light increases each night, the Jewish spirit, too, increases, moving from darkness to light, just as the miracle of the single cruse of oil recalled the rekindling and triumph of the Jewish spirit.

The *Torah* is also often described in terms of light. In many congregations "*Torah Orah*," or "The Teaching of Light" is sung when the *Torah* is removed from the Ark and in Proverbs [6:23] we read that "the *mitzvah* is a lamp and the *Torah* a light." In Proverbs [20:27] we read that "the human spirit is God's lamp, revealing all its inmost parts." Light, in our tradition, signifies goodness, revelation, holiness, hope, joy, learning, life, vision, wonderment, power, mystery, *Torah*, wisdom, truth, human spirit and more.

"In the Beginning" God commands "Let there be light!" and light itself becomes the bridge between the divine and human realms, for it wasn't until after light was established that God created everything else, including the sun, moon and stars. So, as we enter the month that is, literally, the darkest, let us also understand and take comfort from the truth that the Creator has blessed us with enough contrast in our lives to sharpen our appreciation of all good things.

Cantor Leslie Friedlander

The Chanukah Choir Wants You!



We invite everyone interested in singing in the Chanukah choir to meet in the sanctuary at 5:00 before the Kabbalat Shabbat service this Friday (11/30) to receive music and start singing!

The Chanukah service is December 14 and we have four 1-hour rehearsals scheduled. Some of the music will be the same as last year, so if you've never sung in the choir and need a nudge, this is your moment. Almost all of the music will be familiar and your commitment is short (unlike singing in the HH choir). You do not need to know how to read music or Hebrew -- I will teach you everything you need to know (as I've said before, I spoon-feed notes). This invitation is for everyone -- including children!

Rehearsals are as follows:

Friday 11/30 5:00 (service begins at 6:15)

Saturday 12/1 immediately following the morning service

Friday 12/7 6:00

Friday 12/14 5:30 (Chanukah dinner at 6:30)

If you are unable to attend every rehearsal, come when you can.

Cantor Friedlander

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

A Bazaar Calm in the Midst of the Storm



We are hardly the first synagogue to hold an annual bazaar. Each year, co-president Terry Joseph rallies the troops, and bargains with some of the toughest hondlers in Nassau County; she literally spins gold by selling our cast-off belongings. It is always a sight to behold Terry's unceasing energy - we could sell tickets - and the result is a much-needed infusion to our bank account. In addition, many unsold items are given to those in need.



Terry, we thank you and your hard-working volunteers for your upbeat, can-do spirit that continues year after year, staging a much-loved event in the Isaiah calendar.

But this year, a storm named Sandy created a set of challenges that would have crimped the style of even the most stalwart "treasure" seller. As the weather bore down on our region, ads appeared in the local papers promoting the event. And then the lights, the heat, and gas supplies in the region went out.....and stayed out for weeks...just in time for the Isaiah bazaar. Yet, in the midst of the freezing weather, the Temple building had heat, light, Wi-Fi, and functioning electric outlets. In a word, it was a sanctuary in a world grown cold and dark.

And so, the Bazaar went on, with congregants gathering to sell, recharge, share news and commiserate, much as our ancestors probably did in marketplaces centuries ago. Undeterred by anemic sales in the aftermath of the storm and with gas lines growing, Terry scheduled a second week of the Bazaar. Many of us were happy about that, not just because of the added time to sell, but also because we enjoyed the Bizarre Bazaar's sense of community as LIPA took its time in restoring our homes to the 21st Century. Long story short, we managed to net more proceeds this year than in 2011, and bonds were formed among congregants that will withstand the stormy weather that fate is sure to send our way.

Because we think a year is too long to wait for the bargain hunters of Great Neck, we plan to set up a corner of the basement as an on-going Bazaar that will be open by appointment. So let us know when you have items you believe we can sell to benefit the Temple, or if you would like to look over our stash to find an item that might work for you.

In the meantime, remember the lesson of the Isaiah Bazaar of 2012; as the dark of night lengthens, there is a light that grows when we gather to enjoy the warmth of each other's company. Enjoy the dance of that flame.

Gail Gordon and Terry Joseph



Save the Date!

Category: Fun & Exciting Events

Answer: January 19, 2013

Question: When is "Jeopardy" Night at Temple Isaiah?

Details to Follow....

Who Will Win?

December 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Torah Study, 9:30am Service, 10:30am
2	3	4 Religious School, 4:00pm Board Meeting, 7:30pm	5	6 Basic Ideas: Islam, #2 7:30pm	7 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	8 Torah Study , 9:30am; Family Program, 11:00am Chanukah - First Night
9  Happy Chanukah!	10 Lunch & Learn, 11:30am	11 Religious School, 4:00pm <i>Watercolor,</i> 7:30pm	12	13 Basic Ideas: Islam, #3 7:30pm	14 Chanukah Dinner & Family Service, 6:30pm	15 Torah Study 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am Chanukah— Last Night
16	17 Elaine Wolf, Guest Speaker on Anti- Bullying, 7:00pm	18 Religious School, 4:00pm <i>Helman Brook Current Events</i> 7:30pm	19	20 Basic Ideas: Islam, #4 7:30pm	21 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	22 Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
23	24	25	26	27	28 Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:15pm	29 Torah Study, 9:30am
30	31					

Chanukah Potluck Dinner

Friday, December 14th, 6:30PM

Family Service, 8:00PM



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

**Call chairwoman Marcia Null (570-6322) to RSVP and let her
know what dish you will be bringing.**



Bring your menorahs and an appetite for latkes!

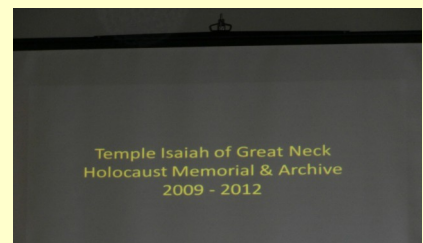
***Welcome to Our New Temple Members
Please Join Us on this Special Evening***

RECENT PROGRAMS AT TEMPLE ISAIAH



**Kristallnacht Program
11/9/12**

**Rabbi Tsuruoka, Howard Israel,
Meryl Menashe, Bill Rosenberg and
Bernie Rosenberg
“The Road to Mauthausen:
A Different Journey by a
Jewish Soldier**



**“FDR and the Decision to
Enter World War II”
Presentation by Harold Klein
10/15/12**



**“The Pernkopf Atlas”
Presentation by Dr. Howard Israel
11/26/12**

STOP BULLYING

Temple Isaiah and the 2nd generation group of the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County are proud to welcome

Elaine Wolf

“the anti-bullying novelist”

Monday, December 17

7:00 pm

@ Temple Isaiah

1 Chelsea Place

Great Neck NY

Ms. Wolf is on a mission to make our schools and camps kinder, gentler places for all kids.

She is committed to ending the bullying epidemic.

This important and timely anti-bullying program should be attended by parents, teens, teachers, librarians, guidance counselors, and school administrators.

Ms. Wolf will speak about her two novels:

CAMP* and *Danny's Mom

Through her moving and powerful works, Wolf addresses the pervasive issue of bullying with passion and sensitivity.

She is determined to keep the conversation about bullying going until our schools, camps, and communities are safer for everyone.

Personalized, signed copies of ***CAMP*** and ***Danny's Mom*** will be available at a specially discounted price for this program.

Attendees can purchase:

CAMP for \$15.00 per copy (retail price - \$16.95),
and ***Danny's Mom*** for \$20.00 (retail price \$24.95)
Proceeds of Book Sales will go to Temple Isaiah

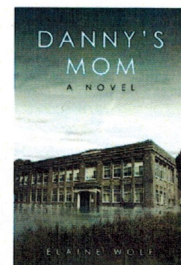
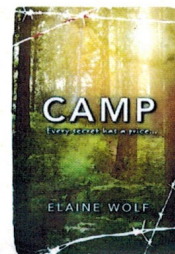
Registration for this program is required.

Call Temple Isaiah at 516-487-5373 or

e-mail Meryl Menashe @ mrsmgm@aol.com



CAMP is a coming-of-age novel about bullying mothers and daughters, and the collateral damage of family secrets. Leaving behind an already unsteady home life with her German-immigrant mother and autistic brother, Amy is sent to Camp Takawanda for Girls for the first time as a teenager. At Takawanda, she is unable to escape the humiliating “initiation” hazing and bullying by other senior campers. And worse—family secrets about Amy’s mother’s past begin to spread, setting in motion a tragic event that completely dismantles Amy’s world.



Danny's Mom – Friday Night Lights meets Ordinary People when Beth Maller returns to her job as a high school guidance counselor shortly after her teenage son, Danny, is killed in a winter car accident. Beth hadn’t wanted Danny to drive that snowy night, but her husband insisted the roads were safe. Beth blames him for Danny’s death, and she blames herself for allowing fear of confrontation to paralyze her. ***Danny's Mom*** shows what really goes on behind the closed doors of our schools from the perspective of the adults who are charged with keeping our children safe.

Fighting bullying one novel at a time

Religious School News

The last month or so was somewhat cut short because of hurricane Sandy: Religious School was canceled on October 30 and the Family Program on November 2nd was rescheduled later on in the month. These disruptions in schedule were only a small part of the experiences that affected all of us one way or another. We had a chance to talk about our experiences after the hurricane at the 11/18 Family Program. We learned that those who lost power and heat were welcomed into the homes of those who did not lose power – a powerful lesson in the value of hospitality. We also learned to be grateful for the things we tend to take for granted such as a light-filled, warm, comfortable home and a sense of security. We learned about the kindness of neighbors helping neighbors during a time of crisis.

December's programs include: Candlemaking – we will make eight Shammash candles to light our Chanukiyot each night, and Religious School participation at our Chanukah dinner and service on 12/14 (please see elsewhere in the bulletin for time and what you need to bring). Speaking of Chanukah, it troubles me sometimes to hear that Chanukah is considered the Jewish equivalent to Christmas when it comes to gift giving. Actually neither Chanukah nor Christmas is about giving gifts! The message of Chanukah is the survival of our faith; the message of Christmas is the beginning of their faith. Let's endeavor to bring this message to our children and grandchildren.



L'Shalom, Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka



**“Current Events”
with Helman Brook
Tuesday 12/18
7:30pm**

**Pack Up Your Newspaper and
Join Us for Another
Lively Discussion of the Latest News**

General Donations

In Loving Memory Of:

Erling Tholfsen, Father of Judy Brook
Judy & Helman Brook
Abraham Berkowitz, Grandfather of Sheila DeFazio
Goldie Cohen, Mother of Sheila DeFazio
Sheila & Victor DeFazio
Maurice Wagner, Father of Helene Dorfman
Helene Dorfman
Jack Grabelsky, Husband of Rose Grabelsky
Rose Grabelsky
Peter Isaacs, Brother of Patricia Isaacs
Kathie & Richard Davis
Sheila & Victor DeFazio
June & Allan Feldman
Gail & Robert Gordon
Mindy & Howard Israel
Terry & Richard Joseph
Irma & Allen Leboff
Ruth Mandelbaum
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
Alisa & Martin Secofsky
Shelley Sherman
Donald Glassman, Father of Jamie Glassman
Meryl & Jack Menashe
Judith Lois Square, Sister of Claire Rivers
Claire Rivers
Alfred Bein, Uncle of William Rosenberg
William Rosenberg
Abraham Secofsky, Father of Joan and Martin Secofsky
Joan Secofsky
Louis Rosner, Father of Harriet Shindler
Harriet Shindler
Lori Gimbel
Scott Gray
Bella Bekker-Silver & Jonathan Silver
P.F.C. Leonard Kristal, Brother of Evelyn Solow
Evelyn & Richard Solow
Hannah Zimberg, Mother of Shelley Willcox
Shelley and Robert Willcox

In Honor of:

Arlene Soifer Becoming a Great Grandmother
Karen & David Bashkin
The Hospitality of Ruth Mandelbaum
Kathie Davis
The Hurricane Hospitality of Judy & Helman
Brook and Denise Miller & Steve Fein
Sheila & Victor DeFazio
Haruno and Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka for Their
Wonderful Sukiyaki Dinner
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
The Special Birthday of Lloyd Perell
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 Solow
The Hard Work of Our Bazaar Committee
Fran Fallon's Return Home
Alvin Graham
The Hospitality of William Rosenberg, the
Wonderful Son of Bernie Rosenberg
Terry & Richard Joseph
The Special Birthday of David Aubrey
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 Wedding Anniversary of Jean & John Lesser
Jean & John Lesser
The Hard Work of the Bazaar Committee
Ruth Mandelbaum
The 90th Birthday of Louis Marshall
Ellen R. Marshall
The Speedy Recovery of Linda Tsuruoka
Meryl & Jack Menashe
The Marriage of Stephanie Weiner & Mark
Chernoff and the Marriage of Ronit Leboff
& Karill Palatnick (Granddaughters of
Irma & Allen Leboff)
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

21st Century Fund:

Meryl & Jack Menashe

Kol Nidre:

Rita Blesman
Lia & Mortimer Hans

Tzedakah Fund:

Denise Miller & Steve Fein



516-484-1545 Ext. 196

"Ready...Set... Get A Job Lunch 'n' Learn"

Sid Jacobson JCC
Tuesday, December 18, 2012
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Searching for a job is more than submitting your resume to job boards or company websites. Learn what it means to search for a job and prepare yourself for a better result.

In this workshop, we will go over the importance of having an organized job search "campaign". Armed with a schedule, we will provide you with ways to create a plan of action, find jobs in the hidden market, and follow up on potential opportunities.

Please feel free to bring your lunch. We will provide coffee, tea and a light dessert.

Call the JCC to Register.

connect.to.care

H-Mart Donations Are Back!

Every time you shop at the Great Neck H-Mart a percentage of your purchase will be donated to the temple.

It's easy—just deposit your receipt in the Temple Isaiah bin outside the store and we will receive a check from H-Mart.



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Call me with any questions or to schedule an appointment.

**Refer me to your friends and neighbors and I will donate 10% of my commission to the
 Temple Isaiah 21st Century Fund**

Bella Bekker-Silver

Licensed Realtor

TEMPLE ISAIAH OF GREAT NECK

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Great Neck, NY 11021

www.templeisaiahgn.org

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BULLETIN

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