

March Calendar of Events



Fri. Mar. 1—Shabbat Across America Dinner and Family Service, 6:30pm

Sat. Mar. 2—Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am

Mon. Mar. 4—"Oy Canada" Film "Ticket to Heaven", 7:30pm

Tue. Mar. 5—Religious School, 4:00pm; Board Meeting, 7:30pm

Fri. Mar. 8—Shul Talk, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service Honoring Claude Springer and Helman Brook, 8:00pm

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

Mon. Mar. 11—Lunch & Learn, 11:30am

Tues. Mar. 12—Religious School, 4:00pm; "If I Were a Rich Man" Program with Cantor Friedlander, 7:30pm

Wed. Mar. 13—Watercolor Class, 7:30pm

Fri. Mar. 15—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Sat. Mar. 16—Goods & Services Auction, 7:30pm

Tues. Mar. 19—Religious School, 4:00pm; Model Seder

Fri. Mar. 22—ARZA Shabbat with Guest Speaker Barbara Kavadias, 8:00pm; Service Honoring Shelley Sherman and Lloyd Perell

Sat. Mar. 23—Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am

Mon. Mar. 25—First Night of Passover

Tues. Mar. 26—Passover Service, 10:30am; Religious School closed; Second Night Seder at Temple Isaiah, 6:30pm

Thurs. Mar. 28—Rabbi's Class—Jeremiah & Ezekiel (#1), 7:30pm

Fri. Mar. 29—Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:15pm

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

Upcoming Events at Temple Isaiah

Shabbat Across America
Friday, March 1
Dinner & Family Service

Goods & Services Auction Saturday, March 16th



**Vacations, Theater & Sports
Tickets, Elegant Dinners,
Restaurants, Lessons &
More**

*Send in your RSVP's and
Raffle Tickets and Collect Your
Donations*

*(Call the office if you need more forms)
(See Page 7)*

**Second Night Seder
Tuesday, March 26
(See Page 7)**



Save the Date

**The Temple Isaiah Retreat is tentatively
rescheduled for Saturday, April 13th**

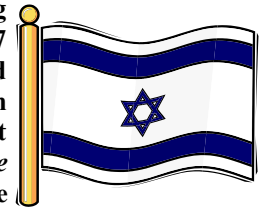
RABBI'S COLUMN

“Remember You Were Strangers...”



As you know, I do not involve myself in political discussions publically from the pulpit or otherwise, but rather keep within the scope as a “*Moreh b’Israel*” – a teacher of Torah – just as my certificate of ordination states. I believe this policy of restraint should apply not only to American politics but to Israeli politics as well. Yet there are some times I cannot help but to make you aware about an issue that is occurring that I believe you should know about. In this case, it is an issue that has emerged in Israel. You are free to draw your own conclusions and act (or not act) according to your conscience. Earlier this month there was an article in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz entitled: “*Israel threatens to deport African-American convert to Judaism*” (2/8/13).

Kirk Maxfield, a 62 year-old black American from Gary, Indiana, underwent a Reform conversion in 1993. In 2011, he came to Israel and in 2012 he decided to apply for Israeli status as a new immigrant under the Law of Return. The Interior Ministry opened a file with his application and he has been in the process of transferring required documents. In the meantime, Maxfield was arrested in Haifa, where he had resided for 7 months, for the reason that he had overstayed his tourist visa, and therefore was imprisoned pending deportation. The Israel Religious Action Center, affiliated with the Union of Reform Judaism, petitioned the High Court of Justice to stay the order of deportation and to grant citizenship to Kirk Maxfield. As Anat Hoffman, Executive Director of the IRAC, says: “*Imagine making alyah ...making a bold journey – only to be rejected by the Israeli authorities.*” According to the IRAC, foreigners applying for citizenship under the Law of Return are generally permitted to stay in Israel once the Ministry of Interior has opened a file. According to Haaretz, in recent years African-American converts have come under intense scrutiny because of their possible connections to the Hebrew Israelites – a community of African-Americans who maintain they are descendants of the Tribe of Judah, but are not recognized as Jews by the state. Maxfield has stated he has absolutely no connection with that community, commonly known as Black Hebrews (Israelites).



According to Haaretz: “*Maxfield said he had decided to move to Israel, among other reasons, because he had been ostracized by his family and community back the US for converting to Judaism. ‘I came here to be with my people, and I ended up getting the same treatment here as I did in America.’*” There are other examples of the differential treatment of African-Americans who have encountered unusual difficulties in their application for Israeli citizenship compared to non-blacks.

I am very disturbed by this incident as a rabbi and personally. I am disturbed first because the validity of a Jewish conversion other than under orthodox authority is again being put into question. But the most personally painful aspect of Maxfield’s difficulties in attaining Israeli citizenship is the tacit sense of unequal treatment at play here. I understand the subtle ways minorities can be treated in ways different from the majority. Being an “other” somehow changes the rules. Why was Maxfield not given the courtesy accorded other applicants to extend their stays past their visitor visa’s expiration while their citizenship papers worked its way through the bureaucracy? Why have the Ethiopian refugees have not been able to mainstream into Israeli society and labor force as readily as non-blacks? As the head of the IRAC’s legal Aid Center for Olim, Nicole Maor-Centner, says: “*We do our very best to help them fight the system and convey to them how deeply we value their desire to become part of Israeli society... If Israel is to remain a homeland for all Jews, it must welcome all Jews.*”

Later this month we will be celebrating Pesach – Z’man Heruteinu – the Season of our Freedom. At our seder we recall the Exodus and celebrate the deliverance of God’s beloved people out of Egyptian bondage under the rule of Torah. This freedom applies to all people who embrace the Jewish faith and hold to its values honestly and with a whole heart. Hoffman continues; “*The new Knesset will have the largest number of Orthodox members of any Knesset in history. The rights of non-Orthodox converts could be in further jeopardy depending on whom Prime Minister Netanyahu picks to head the Ministry of the Interior We need to continue apply pressure on PM Netanyahu to form a government that will respect the rights of all Israelis. Whether you were born into a Jewish family or came to Judaism on you won, living in Israel is your right too.*”

You can add your voice by logging on to IRAC.ORG. Click on the Newsletter link (Pluralist), and select the newsletter dated 2/18/13. You will also find a means of sending in your opinion.

Linda and I wish you a sweet and redeeming Pesach. Next year may we all be free in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka

CANTOR'S COLUMN

“Why We Can’t Fly on Automatic Pilot”

Regardless of the level of our sophistication, all of us live in a world where technology, or “hi tech,” enables us to control our environment in ways that our ancestors could never have imagined. Despite these well-intentioned advances that allow us to influence our immediate universe (even if it only entails traveling south for the winter), there is one truth that has remained constant over the ages: our moods, hopes and dreams are still very much affected by seasonal change. Of course, in our Jewish annual life cycle, which was always tied to the seasons, many of our holidays reinforce that connection. We look forward to Passover, for example, not only because of its spiritual significance, but also because it arrives at a time of the year that we associate with warmth and physical renewal. During the High Holidays, we pray that our Creator will grant us the blessing of life. If we are fortunate to receive this blessing, then we expect that all the seasonal benefits that we connect with this time of the year will arrive, like clockwork, much as we expect daylight to greet us when we wake from our nightly slumber. We expect the increasing warmth of the sun, the heavenly nurturing of the soil and longer days to enjoy our sustenance. Of course, what we do to fill our time is our choice, but we never doubt that spring, as we know it, will arrive in the “package” that is familiar to us. It is, in fact, natural for us to take the essence of our universe for granted. I would suggest, however, that this season of renewal is the perfect time to reconsider what we take for granted in our life.



In the Talmud (Mishna *Pirkei Avot*—Sayings of The Fathers) our rabbis said (chapter 1, verse 1), “Moses received the Torah from Sinai and handed it down to Joshua, Joshua to the Elders; the Elders to the Prophets; the Prophets handed it down to the Men of the Great Assembly. The latter said three things: Be cautious in judgement, raise up many disciples and make a fence for the Torah.” The last part of this phrase, “make a fence for the Torah,” has been the subject for much discussion and interpretation. After all, why must we be reminded to build special protection for that which is most holy, most important and most spiritually primal to us? Wouldn’t we naturally guard and nurture what is most dear to us?

Although there are many interpretations given to explain this phrase, my favorite is that it is human nature to take for granted what is most precious to us. However, if we are too casual about our divine treasures, we immediately increase the possibility that we will forever lose what is truly most important in our lives. Our natural resources, land and water, will not survive if we pollute our environment, much in the same way that our personal relationships will not endure if we don’t nurture others, be they friends, family or strangers. The lesson to be learned during this time of renewal (that our sages reinforced over and over again) is that our heavenly blessings don’t come with a warranty that covers abuse or neglect. Taking our blessings for granted is, indeed, a benign form of neglect, and unless we consciously behave in a way that seeks to perfect and protect what is in our world, then it is certain that, sooner or later, we will lose both our spiritual and earthly inheritance. The divine blessings that we enjoy are not “the gifts that keep on giving” unless we become full-time partners in the process.

It is my prayer that we will all have the wisdom and consciousness of being to be worthy of our divine inheritance, not just during this season, but for all time.

Steve and I wish you all a sweet and meaningful Passover!

Cantor Friedlander



“If I Were a Rich Man”

On Tuesday March 12 at 7:30pm at Temple Isaiah, Cantor Friedlander will present *If I Were a Rich Man*, a presentation that will chronicle the relationship between synagogue music and the rise of American popular music in the early part of the twentieth century. As Eastern European Jews immigrated to the United States, they brought with them their particular musical customs and sounds, ranging from synagogue liturgy to shtetl music. In order to thrive as musicians in their new homeland, they adapted, adopted and invented new forms, sometimes blending their old world culture with the new world mix of cultures in their new home country. Cantor Friedlander will offer specific examples and demonstrate how Jewish music has influenced the dominant culture.

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS Past Presidents Galore!



The honoring of past presidents continues, and March brings a diverse group of individuals who each put a unique imprint on the congregation's direction. On March 8, we honor Claude Springer and Helman Brook; on March 22, it will be the turn of Lloyd Perell and Shelly Sherman.



Now retired, dentist Claude Springer was our very own Theodore Roosevelt, serving one term from 1985 through 1987, and then returning to the role for one year in 1988. The Springer family had left a larger congregation in search of a more family-like environment; they found what they were looking for at Temple Isaiah. During his presidency, Claude became increasingly convinced that we needed to start the process of finding a Temple building of our own, and he began planning and dreaming to achieve that goal. Good idea, Claude; we thank you for pointing us in the right direction.

By 1989, it was attorney Helman Brook's opportunity to take the helm. Helman and his wife Judy, then a physician, liked the size and sprit of Isaiah. When the busy couple joined, they brought a number of friends with children along. Good work, Helman and Judy ! The biggest transition of Helman's presidency was the "retirement" of unpaid do-everything-founding member/administrator Florence Levy. The challenge was to move from a volunteer, informal arrangement to hiring an administrator and rebuilding the office space to accommodate that person and the rabbi. It was our first baby step towards becoming a more professionally run temple, and Helman got the job done.

With characteristic modesty, Lloyd Perell claims that his years as president were reminiscent of the Eisenhower years, not much happened. We beg to differ. As with the mid-20th century, it was a time of increasing financial stability and growth. During Lloyd's presidency, the Capital Campaign reached the \$100,000 mark, a huge accomplishment. As was true of so many of the past presidents, the Perell family joined Isaiah because they were comfortable with its intimacy and the sense of tolerance it exhibited by sharing a building with a church. Now a technology expert with the New York City Corrections Department, Lloyd continues to be a source of wise perspective, never shying away from difficult jobs when called on by the Co-Presidents. We like Ike !

For Hadassah honcho Shelley Sherman, the presidency meant turning Isaiah's dreams of a building into a concrete reality – pun intended. Shelly recalls many meetings with town officials and architects – yes, there was more than one – and steering the congregation to think differently about itself. Like a young person saving up for the first down payment for a house, Temple Isaiah needed to evolve from a renter's mentality, to assuming the responsibilities of ownership. And if there was ever a person to help us with that task, it was Shelley. She has made a career of convincing non-Israelis to support Hadassah's mission of building a world-class hospital in Jerusalem that treats patients regardless of religious affiliation. Her fundraising savvy and organizational skills were an essential part of why we were able to move forward in our journey towards home ownership.

We encourage you to come and tell our past presidents how much you appreciate all they have done to help pass the torch lit by the founding members. As our children might say of us, without them, we would not be who we are today.

Gail Gordon and Terry Joseph






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**Support groups - Short term counseling
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March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Shabbat Across America: Dinner and Family Service	2 Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
3	4 "Oy Canada" Film #3, 7:30pm 	5 Religious School, 4:00pm Board Meeting, 7:30pm	6	7	8 Shul Talk, 7:30pm Shabbat Service Honoring Claude Springer & Helman Brook, 8:00pm	9 Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
10	11 Lunch & Learn, 11:30am	12 Religious School, 4:00pm Cantor's Music Program, 7:30pm	13 Watercolor Class, 7:30pm 	14	15 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	16 GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION, 7:30PM 
17	18	19 Religious School 4:00PM <i>Model Seder</i>	20	21	22 ARZA Shabbat Service, Honoring Shelley Sherman & Lloyd Perell, 8:00pm	23 Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
24	25 Passover, First Night	26 Religious School closed; Passover Service, 10:30am Second Night Seder, 6:30pm	27	28 Jeremiah & Ezekiel, Class #1 7:30pm	29 Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:15pm	30 Torah Study, 9:30am Service, 10:30am

Guest Speaker at Shabbat Services Friday, March 22nd

Barbara Kavadias, acting ARZA Executive Director will be speaking at Shabbat services. She will be reporting on the immediate issues concerning the liberal Jewish movement in Israel and ARZA's role in promoting a Reform agenda. Kavadias is the former Director of Development and played an integral role in stabilizing ARZA's membership, substantially increasing its campaign and raising the collective Israel consciousness of its constituency. Before coming to ARZA, she was Director of Field Services for the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.



Rabbi's Class:

A Look at the Prophets Jeremiah & Ezekiel First Class—March 28th

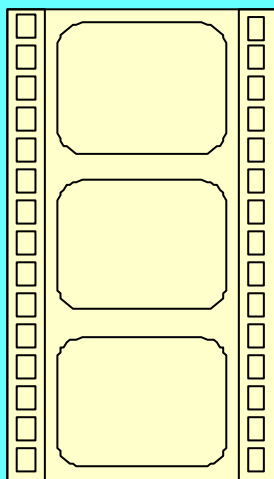


A three-week class in the Books of Jeremiah and Ezekiel will begin on Thursday, March 28, continuing on April 4 and 11. The prophetic books of Jeremiah and Ezekiel represent in a sense bookends of the historical period in early Jewish history. Jeremiah predicted the national disaster to befall Israel as a result of rampant idolatry resulting in the destruction of the Temple in 586 BCE. Ezekiel's prophesy begins in exile and disaster following the destruction of the Temple and ends on a note of hope that follows Israel's return to her homeland. Highlights of both books will be studied in the context of the historical events occurring during their times.

Winter Watercolor Class Wednesday, March 13 7:30pm



The Temple Isaiah Winter Film Festival—*Oy Canada!* Monday, March 4th, 7:30pm



Join David Aubrey for the final film in our series of Jewish films from our neighbor to the north, Canada. "Ticket to Heaven" is a religious "thriller" about a young man from Toronto who joins a cult and the efforts of his family to kidnap and de-program him. (Watch for an early appearance by Kim Cattrall, before she became famous for "Sex and the City".)

\$10 charge per person includes film, refreshments, and lively discussion.



Goods & Services Auction

Saturday, March 16th

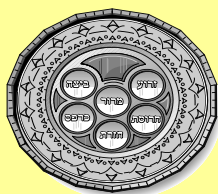
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For auction items you may wish to bid on with friends, such as vacations, date information will be provided before the auction.

**Please come, bring friends,
and *donate* to the event!**

Call Meg Grass at 516-887-7142
or Lloyd Perell at 516-466-3546

Join us for a Reception (7:30pm) before the bidding begins
Shop for New & "Pre-owned" Treasures - Sample Our Tasty Desserts



***Please Join Us at the Temple Isaiah Family Seder
Second Night of Passover
Tuesday, March 26, 6:30PM at Temple Isaiah***

Temple Family and Guests are invited to join us for this joyous occasion.
The Seder will be led by Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka and Cantor Leslie Friedlander.

Space is Limited—Reservations and payment MUST be made in advance

Adults: \$50.00
Children 14-18: \$20.00
Children under 13: Free

Please Return to Temple Isaiah—1 Chelsea Place, Great Neck, NY 11021

Sign me up for the Second Night Seder:

Name _____ Phone _____

Number attending—Adults: _____ Children: _____ Total Enclosed:\$ _____

Religious School News

Delaying Gratification

Our theme of the month--delaying gratification - was not something we planned, but a wonderful learning experience nonetheless. In preparation for the Temple-wide "Mock Trial" to be held at the Retreat, we spent a lot of time analyzing the story of Jacob and Esau. The students adopted the roles of the characters they were portraying and tried to justify why the events in the story took place as they did. The biggest problems the students had were accepting both that parents could overtly favor one sibling over another, and that family members could deceive each other. They also struggled with the idea that Esau was willing to give up his birthright in exchange for a meal. How hungry could Esau have been after a day of hunting that he couldn't wait a little while to eat? He wanted immediate gratification as so many of us do so often. If he had chosen to delay gratification what a different story this would have been.

We were ready for the Saturday program to embark on our mission. Alas, along came a storm, and we, too, had to delay our gratification. We will have to wait for spring to try again for our "Mock Trial." Stay tuned...(Tentative new date for retreat is April 13.)

Shortly after the storm came our lesson on Purim. The students worked hard making Mishloach Manot bags to share with their families and congregants. They learned two things about hammentashen that day:

1. How to make them
2. NEVER use a microwave to cook them.

They smelled delicious and the parts we were able to salvage were a treat, but unfortunately we were not able to share them.

As we begin a new month--hopefully a warmer and healthier one, we hope to have a lot more opportunities to share with others. Our Mitzvah for next month is sharing.

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

General Donations

In Loving Memory Of:

Frank Blum, Brother of Susan Bendor
 Rosalia Schwietzer, Aunt of Susan Bendor
 Susan Bendor
 Lawrence Branch, Brother of Suzanne Branch
 Suzanne Branch & Gary McTiernan
 Irwin Watton, Husband of Geri Watton
 Diane Haber & Robert Bruce
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 Friedlander and Mother-in-Law of
 Cantor Leslie Friedlander
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 Sheila & Victor DeFazio
 Helene Dorfman
 June & Allan Feldman
 Gail & Robert Gordon
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 Denise Miller & Steve Fein
 Bernard Rosenberg
 Alisa & Martin Secofsky
 Shelley Sherman
 Bella Bekker-Silver & Jonathan Silver
 Arlene & Hank Soifer
 Seymour Miller, Husband of Thelma Miller
 Joel Dick & Everett Kerner
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 Sara Epstein, Mother of Irwin Epstein
 Irwin Epstein
 William Roth, Brother-in-Law of Frances Falon
 Frances Falon
 Morris Hamel, Grandfather of Denise Miller
 Denise Miller & Steve Fein
 Alice Gordon, Wife of Jacob Gordon
 Jacob Gordon
 Irwin Hersh, Father of Bill Hersh
 Kathie & Richard Davis
 Sheila & Victor DeFazio
 June & Allan Feldman
 Gail & Robert Gordon
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 Willa Lewis & Ed Moulin
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 Denise Miller & Steve Fein
 Bernard Rosenberg
 Alisa & Martin Secofsky
 Shelley Sherman
 Bella Bekker-Silver & Jonathan Silver
 Arlene & Hank Soifer
 Jerome Weissman, Father of Jean Lesser
 Jean & John Lesser
 Ethel Smith, Mother of Ruth Mandelbaum
 Herbert Mandelbaum, Husband of Ruth
 Mandelbaum
 Ruth Mandelbaum
 Ronnie Wach, Wife of Michael Wach
 Denise Miller & Steve Fein
 Douglas Null, Husband of Marcia Null
 Marcia Null

In Loving Memory of (cont'd):

Leo Fleischmann, Father of Gisela Oloff
 Gisela Oloff
 Albert Levin, Father of Betty Pollack
 Betty & Leonard Pollack
 Beatrice & Max Butter, Mother & Father of
 Sandra Rabeck
 Sandra & Stuart Rabeck
 Louis Kasner, Father of Etta Schreiber
 Etta & Joe Schreiber
 Mary Rosner, Mother of Harriet Shindler
 Harriet Shindler
 Rebecca Blitz, Sister of Hank Soifer
 Arlene & Hank Soifer
 Sophie Kristal, Mother of Evelyn Solow
 Evelyn & Richard Solow
 Leonard Tosky, Father of Eric Tosky
 Sandia & Eric Tosky

In Honor of :

The Speedy Recovery of June Feldman
 Beatrice Aubrey
 Arlene & Hank Soifer
 The Marriage of Jessica Danenberg & Nissim
 Baker (Granddaughter of Arlene & Hank Soifer)
 Kathie & Richard Davis
 Sheila & Victor DeFazio
 Gail & Robert Gordon
 Mindy & Howard Israel
 Terry & Richard Joseph
 Ruth Mandelbaum
 Denise Miller & Steve Fein
 Bernard Rosenberg
 Alisa & Martin Secofsky
 Shelley Sherman
 Arlene & Hank Soifer
 The Honoring of Bernard Rosenberg
 Roslyn Bein and Family
 Richard Joseph's Generosity of Heart
 June & Allan Feldman
 The Speedy Recovery of Sylvia Gersman
 Kathie & Richard Davis
 Sheila & Victor DeFazio
 Gail & Robert Gordon
 Mindy & Howard Israel
 Terry & Richard Joseph
 Ruth Mandelbaum
 Denise Miller & Steve Fein
 Alisa & Martin Secofsky
 Shelley Sherman
 The Speedy Recovery of Harold Klein
 Kathie & Richard Davis
 Sheila & Victor DeFazio
 Gail & Robert Gordon
 Mindy & Howard Israel
 Terry & Richard Joseph
 Ruth Mandelbaum
 Denise Miller & Steve Fein
 Alisa & Martin Secofsky
 Shelley Sherman
 The Kindness to Helen Friedlander of Lia &
 Mort Hans and Rabbi Tsuruoka
 Cantor Leslie & Steven Friedlander
 Rabbi Tsuruoka and the Members of Temple
 Isaiah for Their Support
 Carol & Bill Hersh

In Honor of (cont'd):

The Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Butchen
 Kathie & Richard Davis
 Sheila & Victor DeFazio
 Gail & Robert Gordon
 Mindy & Howard Israel
 Terry & Richard Joseph
 Ruth Mandelbaum
 Denise Miller & Steve Fein
 Alisa & Martin Secofsky
 Shelley Sherman
 The Speedy Recovery of Jeffrey Isaac and
 Michelle Iacolina
 Ruth Isaac
 The Speedy Recovery of Jeffrey Isaac and
 Michelle Iacolina
 Ruth Isaac
 In Honor of Steve Fein
 David Mack
 Zack Reibstein

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Micki Victor

21st Century Fund:

Estate of Stanley Kirshenbaum

Rabbi's Discretionary Account:

Bernard Rosenberg

Trees in Israel:

Ruth Isaac

***In Gratitude for Rabbi
 Tsuruoka's kindness to
 Helen in her final hours
 and for leading a most
 eloquent funeral service,
 and with thanks to the
 Temple Isaiah
 Congregation for their
 support.***

***Cantor Leslie & Steve
 Friedlander***



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Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism
Issue No. 134 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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