

## May Calendar of Events

*Plant Sale at Santelli's—May 1—May 11 (See page 6)*

Tues. May 1—Religious School, 4:00pm; Board Meeting, 7:30pm; Show Rehearsal, 7:30pm

Thurs. May 3—Religious School closed; Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah, 7:30pm

Fri. May 4—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Sat. May 5—Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah service, 10:30am

Mon. May 7—Adult Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am

Tues. May 8—Religious School, 4:00pm; Show Rehearsal 7:30pm

Wed. May 9—Congregational Meeting, 7:30pm

Thurs. May 10—Religious School Final Day, 4:00pm; Rabbi's Class: Introduction to Jewish Philosophy I #2, 7:30

Fri. May 11— Shabbat Service, 8:00pm (Religious School Service)

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

Mon. May 14—Adult Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am; Lunch & Learn at Temple Isaiah, 11:30am

Tues. May 15—Show Rehearsal, 7:30pm

Thurs. May 17—Gala Dinner Honoring Alisa & Martin Secofsky, Manhasset Bay Yacht Club, 7:00pm

Fri. May 18— Shul Talk, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

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

Mon. May 21—Adult Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am

Tues. May 22—Show rehearsal, 7:30pm

Thurs. May 24—Rabbi's Class "Introduction to Jewish Philosophy I" #3, 7:30pm

Fri. May 25— Kabbalat Shabbat, 6:15pm

Sat. May 26—Torah Study and Service, 9:30am; Erev Shavuot: Study, 6:15pm; Service, 7:30pm

Sun. May 27—Shavuot: Yizkor Service, 10:30am

Mon. May 28—Memorial Day

Tues. May 29—Show Rehearsal, 7:30pm

Thurs. May 31—Rabbi's Class "Introduction to Jewish Philosophy I" #4, 7:30pm

### Save the Dates

June 23rd & 24th: Temple Isaiah Show "My Fair Sadie"



Thursday, May 17th  
 Journal/Dinner  
 Honoring  
**Alisa & Martin  
 Secofsky**

Please send in your RSVP's and  
 Ads Now  
 (Ad form on Page 7)

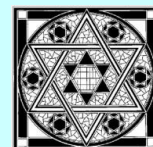
Sheila DeFazio  
 Helene Dorfman  
 Franklin Greene  
 Diane Haber

Invite You to Join Them In Ceremony  
 And Celebration As They are Called to the Torah  
 As B'Nai Mitzvah

Saturday, May 5, 2012  
 10:30am

Kiddush Luncheon to Follow Service

Please RSVP to  
 Sheila (643-1459) or Helene (487-3395)



## **RABBI'S COLUMN**

### **Shavuot and the Land of Israel**



I am writing this column for the May bulletin on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of the counting of the Omer (4/23/12), which means there are 33 days left until we arrive at the festival of Shavuot which this year will begin on Saturday evening, May 26<sup>th</sup>. Shavuot is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the three festivals proclaimed in the Torah – Pesach being the 1<sup>st</sup> and Sukkot the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Collectively, they are known as the 3 pilgrimage festivals (*Shalosh Regalim*) because every family head was obligated to make a personal appearance at the central Temple in Jerusalem to offer first fruits or gifts in observance of the festival. The festivals have come to have a dual connotation: agricultural and religious – the former linking the festival to the Land of Israel, the latter linking the festival to an historical event of the Jewish people depicted in the Torah. Thus we recognize Pesach as the harvest of barley and the Exodus from Egypt; Shavuot as the harvest of wheat and the receiving of the Torah; and Sukkot as the fall harvest and Israel's journey to the Promised Land.

Since the destruction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple in 70 C.E., the bringing of first fruits of the harvest has lost its relevance since there is no longer any place to which to make pilgrimage. Rabbinic Judaism, which reformed Temple Judaism after 70 C.E., emphasized the religious aspects of these festivals thus instituting the Pesach seder, and the many customs related to the sukkah and the lulav for Sukkot. The festival of Shavuot, which is directly linked to Pesach by the counting of the Omer, has less defined observances. Some of the rabbinic decrees and ensuing customs include: reading of *Akdamut*, a magnificent Aramaic poem declaring the greatness of God; eating of dairy products like milk and cheese; the reading of the Book of Ruth; decorating of homes and synagogues with greenery; and engaging in an all-night Torah study (*Tikkun Leil Shavuot*). The Reform Movement has also amplified Shavuot by adding Confirmation as a post bnei mitzvah rite of passage. All these connections have been discussed in previous columns.

Since the creation of the State of Israel 64 years ago, Shavuot has taken on a newer and more modern meaning. In effect Shavuot symbolizes the miracle of the establishment of the sovereign country of Israel – our Promised Land – which was bequeathed to us from the time of Abraham but only recently realized. It is therefore incumbent upon us to talk about what *Midinat Israel* means to us as Jews, especially those who live in the Diaspora. On May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 we will get together to read several sections of the Torah that link the Jewish people to the Land of Israel. This study session, inspired by ARZA, the Reform Jewish advocacy arm that connects American Reform Jews and Israel through education, advocacy and travel, will help make clear how intimately connected all Jews are to Israel. Through the custom of *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*, traditionally an all-evening Torah study marathon, we will recapture – in some small measure – the experience of receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai. Don't be afraid: our *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* study session will commence at 6:15 on Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> until 7:30 PM when our erev Shavout service will begin. It is my hope that you might experience the wonder of Torah study and the worlds it opens to those who welcome Torah into their lives. So join us on a fascinating journey into our Jewish roots

*L'Shalom, Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka*

### ***Please Join Us for Shavuot***

**Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup>:**

**6:15 PM Study Session**

**7:30 PM Erev Shavuot Service**

**Confirmation of Jared Kossover,  
Son of Amy & Steve Kossover**

**Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>:**

**10:30 AM Shavuot Morning Service**

**Yiskor**



## CANTOR'S COLUMN

### THE MELODIES OF REVELATION

The festival of Shavuot celebrates, among other things, the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. According to Midrash, it also marks the moment when God revealed the “tunefulness” of the biblical chanting, which Moses then taught to the Israelites. Throughout the many twists and turns of Jewish history, this system of chanting has been preserved and passed down from generation to generation – surprisingly intact.



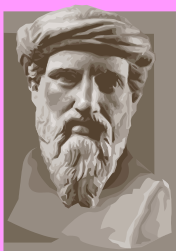
The reality is that the melodies, or the cantillation of the Bible, are not nearly as old as the texts. We know from descriptions in the Talmud that the Torah was recited publicly in the time of Ezra the Scribe more than 2,500 years ago, which would lead us to believe that the melodies are very ancient. Although we don't know for sure what those early chants sounded like, musicologists are fairly certain that the melodies heard today are actually no older than from the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> centuries C.E. The original melodies may have been lost after the destruction of the First Temple or they may have continued to be used and developed further during the centuries when the Talmud was compiled – there is no way of knowing. In all probability, the existing melodies we hear today were developed in Jewish communities throughout the world from original biblical melodies, which are now lost. Ezra most likely chanted the Torah in a simpler manner than we do today, by distinguishing only the beginnings, middles and ends of verses. Over the centuries the practice of chanting the Bible evolved gradually and became more musically elaborate over time, only becoming fixed in its rules once a written system of notation was established, which wasn't until about the 6<sup>th</sup> century C.E.

What we do know is that the practice of cantillation – the system of chanting the Bible – is uniquely Jewish and its function is far more than musical enhancement. Its distinctive purpose is to communicate the meaning of the texts accurately and to carefully preserve the Hebrew text itself.

On Shavuot we celebrate the giving and the receiving of Torah, and the commemoration of the Torah itself incorporates all that Scripture represents, including its tunefulness.

*Cantor Leslie Friedlander*

#### **Rabbi's Class: Introduction to Jewish Philosophy—Part I (Thursdays @ 7:30pm)**



A 4-week class introducing the major thinkers and movers in Jewish Philosophy continues on Thursday evenings, May 10, May 24 and May 31 at 7:30pm. Part I will concentrate on the seminal Jewish thinkers of the Medieval period which will include: Isaac Israeli, Judah Halevi, Ibn Ezra, and Moses Maimonides. It is important to understand the Jewish philosophy, upon which normative Judaism is based, was not created in a vacuum, but rather it was affected and influenced by the philosophies of Greek, Roman and Islamic origin. Part II, which will be offered in the Fall, will continue the survey into the modern era.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### "And Now the Time Has Come, And I Must Face the Final Curtain"

Three years ago, I had the great honor of being elected president of Temple Isaiah. During that time, I've been lucky to work and be associated with a lot of great people. I'd like to think we did it "our way" and not "my way".

One of the most important qualities of a leader is to spend more time listening than speaking and to be sure that when you do speak, you will not later regret your words. I hope I've accomplished that, but I will let others decide.

To quote Mr. Sinatra, "Regrets, I've had a few". I wish I was able to spend more time "being presidential" and taking more advantage of the resources that are offered to temple leaders. Even for a temple of our size, someone needs to keep an eye on the day to day affairs. The Rabbi and Cathy Reibstein do a terrific job of making sure the temple runs and the building is occupied and active, but working full time has not allowed me to take part in as many committees, seminars and opportunities as I would have liked. I also regret that during my term, we have not been able to grow the temple membership. We and other temples are all faced with a changing demographic and a waning interest in temple membership, but I'm still convinced that Temple Isaiah is unique and if more people were exposed to us, we could reverse that trend. For that, I call on you to get the word out and invite your friends to see what you've discovered and continue to support.

Temple Isaiah will always be a part of my life and I will not go slowly into the night. I hope to see you at the Gala Dinner on May 17th. While Lisa and I are being honored, the real honor is mine to have served the temple and the wonderful people (too many to list) that have contributed to my growth and sense of accomplishment.

Temple Isaiah is 45 years young, and it's success and staying power are not due to one person. I'm pleased and proud that I was able to play a small part in the life of the temple.

May we continue to go from strength to strength.

*Martin Secofsky*

Temple Isaiah's  
**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 9, 2012, 7:30pm**

**Come Hear the Latest News**  
**Vote on our 2012/2013 Budget and Board of Trustees**  
***Join us for Installation on Friday, June 8th***

# May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>Plant Sale at Santelli's to Benefit Temple Isaiah May 1—May 11</div>		1  Religious School, 4:00pm  Show Rehearsal, 7:30pm Board Meeting, 7:30pm	2	3  Religious School, 4:00pm  Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah 7:30pm	4  Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	5  Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Service 10:30am  
	6	7  Adult Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am	8  Religious School, 4:00pm  Show Rehearsal, 7:30pm	9  Congregational Meeting, 7:30pm	10  Religious School, 4:00pm—Final Day  Rabbi Class: Intro to Jewish Philosophy I #2, 7:30pm	11  Shabbat Service, 8:00pm, Religious School Service
13  	14 Adult Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am; Lunch & Learn, 11:30am at Temple Isaiah	15  Show Rehearsal, 7:30pm	16	17  Gala Dinner Honoring Alisa & Martin Secofsky  	18 Shul Talk, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	19 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Cantillation Class, 11:00am
20	21  Adult Intermediate Hebrew, 10:00am	22  Show Rehearsal, 7:30pm	23	24  Rabbi Class: Intro to Jewish Philosophy I #3, 7:30pm	25  Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm	26  Torah Study & Service, 9:30am  Erev Shavuot: Study, 6:15pm Service, 7:30pm
27  Shavuot  Yizkor, 10:30am	28  Memorial Day	29  Show Rehearsal, 7:30pm	30	31  Rabbi Class: Intro to Jewish Philosophy I #4, 7:30pm	<div>Sunday June 3 Celebrate Israel Parade (See Page 9)</div>	



**Save The Dates:  
June 23 and June 24**

**The Temple Isaiah  
“Seat of Our Pants” Players  
Present**

**“*My Fair Sadie*”  
Another Fantastic Linda Tsuruoka  
Production  
Details to follow!**

**PLANT SALE AT SANTELLI’S  
for MOTHER’S DAY and Spring Planting**

**Santelli & Sons, Inc. at 214 East Shore Road,  
will graciously give Temple Isaiah 10% of  
your sales for 12 days**

**May 1—May 11**

**Note: Checks Only - Payable to Temple Isaiah-  
Please tell the salesclerk you’re from Temple Isaiah before they ring you up**



<b>Save On:</b>	<b>Summer Bulbs</b>	<b>Annual Flats</b>	<b>Fresh Flowers</b>
	<b>Perennials</b>	<b>Shrubs</b>	<b>Tree Bushes</b>
	<b>Patio Furniture</b>	<b>Flower Pots</b>	<b>Flowering Plants</b>
	<b>Chemicals and Fertilizers</b>		

**For information, call Terry Joseph at 466-2971**





# *Temple Isaiah of Great Neck Proudly Announces Its Gala Dinner Honoring*

*Alisa & Martin Secofsky*

*Thursday Evening*

*May 17, 2012*

*Manahasset Bay Yacht Club*

*Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka  
Cantor Leslie Friedlander  
President Martin Secofsky*

*Journal Chair:  
Bea Aubrey (482-6588)*

*We Invite Your Participation in Our  
Gala Dinner Journal*

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*Name* \_\_\_\_\_

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(All ads are tax deductible)

- ☐ Check Made Payable to Temple Isaiah of Great Neck enclosed
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# Religious School News

## Endings and Beginnings

It seemed only yesterday that we announced the start of Religious School back in September. In a few days the year will come to an end. The students have learned much and are prepared to advance to the next grade. More importantly, they have increased their Jewish awareness and understanding of what defines us as Jews in a multi-cultural society. On Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, the Religious School will be conducting evening Shabbat services. Please join us to help celebrate our students' achievements.

The School is presently running a "Slightly Used Toy Drive" – one of several Tzedakah projects we ran this year. Please bring in your gently used toys and games which will be donated to the Big Brother/Big Sister organization.

I have a quotation pinned to my wall next to my computer at home which I see every day. It's by Fred Rogers, the gentle man who helped stabilize the minds of young children by giving them a sense of self worth and value. He died some years ago, but his words still ring true. He said, "There is no person in this whole world who is a mistake. No matter how different that person may seem, each person is fine." Thank you for entrusting your student with us.

With the end of school this month, we can look forward to a restful and invigorating summer. See you in September.

*L'Shalom, Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka*

Temple Isaiah Religious School's Toy Drive is waiting for your donations! Please bring your gently used toys (in good condition) to the donation box in the lobby. Help our children to help other children!



## Upcoming Plans for Adult Education



Keep your eyes peeled—we have exciting events coming up....

This summer will be the second annual Temple Isaiah Film Festival, with David Aubrey. Details to follow.

And for fall, we will have an update by Michael Olney of his discussion on "Privacy" and a continuation of Helman Brook's current events roundtable.



## General Donations

### *In Loving Memory Of:*

Ada Mass, Mother of Thelma Benjamin  
Thelma Benjamin  
Clara Dick, Mother of Joel Dick  
Joel Dick & Everett Kerner  
Lillian Wagner, Mother of Helene Dorfman  
Helene Dorfman  
Rachel Rose Epstein, Mother of Leon Epstein  
Leon Epstein  
Ida Falkowsky, Mother of Benjamin Falon  
Frances Falon  
Frida & Eugene Lustig, Mother & Father of Lia Hans  
Lia & Mortimer Hans  
Solomon Koss, Father of Nina Koss  
Nina Koss  
Gabrielle Kutcher, Daughter of Blossom & David  
Kutcher  
Blossom Kutcher  
Rosemarie Lesser-Melman, Sister of John Lesser  
Irma & Allen Leboff  
Joan Cowen, Mother of Amy Levinson  
Amy & Lee Levinson  
Arthur Hammer, Dear Friend of Willa Lewis & Ed  
Moulin  
Willa Lewis & Ed Moulin  
Jennie Maller, Mother of Al Maller  
Connie & Al Maller  
Rouhollah Vahdat, Father of Bushra Vahdat  
Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
Isadore Edward Goldbas, Father of Jacqueline  
Neumann  
Jacqueline Neumann  
Joseph Oloff, Husband of Gisela Oloff  
Gisela Oloff  
Anna Rosenberg, Grandmother of William Rosenberg  
Martha Rosenberg, Mother of William Rosenberg  
William Rosenberg  
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Bella Bekker-Silver & Jonathan Silver  
Irving Warshavsky, Father of Steve Warshavsky  
Clare & Steve Warshavsky  
Jennie Yoskowitz, Mother of Sidney Yoskowitz  
Paul Jakubowski, Father of Yvonne Yoskowitz  
Yvonne & Sidney Yoskowitz

### *In Honor of :*

With Gratitude for all the prayers—they worked!  
Meryl & Jack Menashe  
The B'nai Mitzvah of Sheila DeFazio, Helene  
Dorfman, Franklin Greene and Diane Haber  
May Boyle  
Kathie & Richard Davis  
Ariel DeFazio & Nick Ortenburger  
Alex DeFazio  
Anthony DeFazio  
Alvin Graham  
Joan Hariton  
Ruth Mandelbaum  
Meryl & Jack Menashe  
Jacqueline Neumann  
Bernard Rosenberg  
William Rosenberg  
Rita Rubenstein  
Arlene & Hank Soifer  
Micki Victor  
Clare & Steve Warshavsky  
Shelley & Bob Willcox

### *In Honor of (cont'd):*

The Wedding of Nikki Joseph & Josh Elias  
Kathie & Richard Davis  
Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
June & Allan Feldman  
Mindy & Howard Israel  
Willa Lewis & Ed Moulin  
Ruth Mandelbaum  
Meryl & Jack Menashe  
Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
Rita Rubenstein  
Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
Shelley Sherman  
Arlene & Hank Soifer  
Evelyn & Richard Solow  
The Speedy Recovery of Harold Klein  
Kathie & Richard Davis  
Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
June & Allan Feldman  
Mindy & Howard Israel  
Terry & Richard Joseph  
Ruth Mandelbaum  
Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
Bernard Rosenberg  
Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
Shelley Sherman  
The Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Paymer, Granddaughter  
Of Linda & Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka  
Kathie & Richard Davis  
Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
June & Allan Feldman  
Mindy & Howard Israel  
Terry & Richard Joseph  
Ruth Mandelbaum  
Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
Shelley Sherman  
Arlene & Hank Soifer  
The Engagements of the Granddaughters of Irma &  
Allen Leboff: Steffi Weiner to Brian Chernoff  
and Ronit Leboff to Karill Palatnik  
Kathie & Richard Davis  
Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
June & Allan Feldman  
Mindy & Howard Israel  
Terry & Richard Joseph  
Ruth Mandelbaum  
Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
Bernard Rosenberg  
Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
Shelley Sherman  
With Gratitude for all the prayers—they worked!  
Meryl & Jack Menashe

### *Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:*

Kathie & Richard Davis  
Irma & Allen Leboff  
Jean & John Lesser



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## *H-Mart Donations Are Back!*

**Every time you shop at the  
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centage of your purchase  
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ple.**

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receipt in the Temple  
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and we will receive a check  
from H-Mart.**



## **Celebrate Israel Parade Sunday, June 3rd**

**Temple Isaiah is joining  
the Jewish Community  
Relations Council in  
marching in celebration of  
Israel's 64th Anniversary  
of the country's founding.  
Please join us. For more in-  
formation, please call the  
Temple Office or contact  
Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka:  
[rebted@optonline.net](mailto:rebted@optonline.net)**



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Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism  
 Issue No. 127 Published Monthly

*Deadline for submissions—10th of the Month*

## ***On-Line Edition***

### **BULLETIN**

*President:* Martin Secofsky  
*Rabbi:* Theodore Tsuruoka  
*Cantor:* Leslie Friedlander  
*Production:* Cathy Reibstein  
*Photos:* Sheila DeFazio

## **RIVERSIDE- Nassau North Chapels**

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