

May Calendar of Events

Thurs. May 2—Rabbi's Class: "Jewish Humor" (#2), 7:30pm

Fri. May 3—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Sat. May 4—Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am

Plant Sale at Santelli's—May 6 through May 14

Tue. May 7—Final Day of Religious School; Board Meeting, 7:30pm

Thurs. May 9—Rabbi's Class: "Jewish Humor" (#3), 7:30pm

Fri. May 10—Shul Talk, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service Honoring Steve Fein & Martin Secofsky, 8:00pm

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

Mon. May 13—Lunch & Learn, 11:30am

Tue. May 14—Erev Shavuot—Study at 6:00pm; Service at 7:30pm

Wed. May 15—Shavuot—Yizkor at 10:30am

Fri. May 17—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Sat. May 18—Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am

Wed. May 22—Annual Congregational Meeting, 7:30pm

Fri. May 24—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Sat. May 25—Torah Study, 9:30am

Fri. May 31—Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm

*Saturday, June 1st
 Dinner Dance!*



Save the Date: Saturday, June 22nd
 Temple Isaiah's Coffee House Tribute to
 Woody Guthrie
 With Student Rabbi Peter Levy
 (And a Cast of Thousands!)

Gala Dinner Dance and Journal

*Saturday, June 1st
 7:00PM*

At Manhasset Bay Yacht Club

*Join Us in Honoring
 All of the
 Past Presidents
 Of Temple Isaiah*

*Send in your RSVP's and
 Journal Ads now*

*Ask your Contacts for
 Ads*

*(See page 7 for
 Journal Ad form)*

RABBI'S COLUMN

Things to Do on Shavuot



Unlike the other two pilgrimage festivals enumerated in the Torah – namely Sukkot and Pesach – Shavuot has no prescribed mitzvot specific to observe. It is considered a semi-Shabbat in the sense that there is a cessation of work and there is to be a sacred assembly. In the main, Shavuot seems to serve as the conclusion to the festival of Pesach. Thus, we are commanded to: “... *count the days from the* [second day of Pesach] ... *7 full weeks...* [and on the next day] *to present an offering to Adonai*” (Vayikra 23:15-16). The counting of the “days of the omer” is traditionally understood as counting up to the day that Moses received the Torah on Mt Sinai – arguably the most important and defining moment in Jewish history. Yet with all its import, we are left with little to do on this momentous day. So what are we supposed to do on Shavuot?

There are five customs that have developed over the centuries of rabbinic Judaism that have become traditional which are signified by the words: Akdamut, Chalav, Ruth, Yarok, and Torah – summarized by the mnemonic: “AChaRYT” – meaning “last” in contradistinction to Torah being called “*Reishit*” or “first.” The following is a description of each:



Akdamut: A liturgical poem (*piyut*) written by Rabbi Meir of Worms, who was forced to defend Judaism during the time of the Crusades. It's opening verses extol the revelation of the Torah: “*Were the sky of parchment made, a quill each reed, each twig and blade, could we with ink the oceans fill, were everyone a scribe of skill, the marvelous story of God's great glory wuld still remain untold.*” The traditional melody conveys the power of this piyut and is part Torah service.

Chalav: Meaning milk, dairy foods are traditionally eaten on Shavuot as an allusion to the Torah being as sweet as “*honey and milk ... under your tongue*” (Song of Songs 4:11). Cheese blintzes, because of their resemblance to scrolls, are popular as well as cheesecake and ice cream.

Ruth: The Book of Ruth connects the story of Ruth to her personality and the time of year her story begins – the beginning barley festival – the time of Shavuot. The book of Ruth is one of the five megillot read over the year. She has become symbolic of the righteous convert to Judaism as she says to Naomi her mother-in-law: “... *for wherever you go, I will go; and where you lodge, I will lodge; your people will be my people, and your God my God...*” (Ruth 1:16).

Yarok: Meaning “green.” A midrash says that, in anticipation of God's giving of the Torah, Mount Sinai suddenly blossomed with greenery. Greenery is also associated with Moses, who was found among the reeds of the river as a baby by Pharaoh's daughter. Accordingly, many synagogues decorate the bemah with greens and flowers.

Torah: According to another midrash, the Israelites overslept on the morning that the Torah was to be given and Moses had to awaken them. It has therefore become traditional to stay awake all night and study Torah on the eve of Shavuot until sunrise. The special study session is called “*Tikun Leil Shavuot.*” Those who are fortunate to be in Jerusalem on Erev Shavuot also have the unique chance to walk to the Kotel (Western Wall) at sunrise for morning services. The Reform Movement also has incorporated Confirmation on Shavuot – a post-bar/bat mitzvah ceremony that re-affirms a young person's understanding and commitment to the Jewish faith and its commandments.

On the evening of May 14th, please join us for a Study Session from 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM. Our family friendly Erev Shavuot service will commence at 7:30 PM. Yikor services will take place the next day, 5/15 at 10:30 AM. May the words of Torah be sweet to you as honey and milk.

Chag Sameach, Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka

Rabbi's “Jewish Humor” Class in May—Thursdays 5/2 and 5/9



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

"The Lineage of Shavuot"

On the sixth day of Sivan, which this year falls on May 15, we celebrate the festival of Shavuot, which commemorates the giving of God's gift to the Jewish people, the Torah. This also marks the occasion for reading the Book of Ruth.



Ruth was not Jewish, although she was married to the Israelite Mahlon, one of Naomi's sons. When Mahlon died, Naomi, also a widow, urged her Moabite daughter-in-law to return to the Moabite tribe while Naomi returned to the Israelites. Ruth refused to abandon Naomi insisting, "Entreat me not to leave you and to return from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God." (Ruth 1:16-17). These verses were Ruth's formal act of conversion to Judaism.



Ruth journeyed with Naomi to Bethlehem, loyally caring for her mother-in-law and harvesting that part of the barley field that was left for the poor. The owner of the field, Boaz, fell in love with Ruth and married her. Their great-grandson was a shepherd boy, David, who became the King of Israel.

There are many reasons why the story of Ruth is read on Shavuot. The events take place at summer harvest time. Shavuot began as an agricultural holiday, marking the end of the barley harvest and the beginning of the wheat harvest. The Book of Ruth also recalls King David, who, according to folklore, was born and died on Shavuot. And the story of Ruth symbolizes the loyal acceptance of Torah and our responsibility to Judaism.

Ruth loyally stood by her mother-in-law and passionately accepted Jewish law. Boaz loyally stood by Ruth and defended her as his Jewish wife. David loyally stood by his flock of sheep and defended them from predators. And so do we loyally accept and defend the gift that God gave us by harvesting our lives according to the Torah.

Chag Sameach!

Cantor Leslie Friedlander

Tikun Liel Shavuot Study Session

May 14th – 6:00 - 7:15 PM

You are warmly invited to attend a study session in honor of Shavuot Tuesday evening, 5/14. It is traditional to study a part of Torah on this occasion. Accordingly, we will take a close look at Chapter 19 of the Book of Vayikra (Leviticus) also known as the "Holiness Code." Chapter 19 can be seen as an elaboration of the Ten Commandments. Our study and discussion will be centered on this concept. Erev Shavuot services will begin at 7:30 PM immediately after the study session.

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENT A Few Good Men



Over the past months, we have recognized the work of Past Presidents at Shabbat Services on a more personal and spiritual basis than the Dinner Dance will allow. At services held on May 10th, we will have the opportunity to focus on a few good men: Past Presidents Steve Fein and Marty Secofsky.



Attorney Steve Fein joined the Temple Isaiah family the old-fashioned way; he married long-time member Denise Miller. Good going, Denise. From the outset, Steve was not shy about taking on leadership responsibilities. Lo and behold, in no time he found himself President. It was an era that the Temple had committed itself to building a new own home and purchased the property to do so, but the future was far from certain. During his presidency, Steve moved the project forward. He was tireless in his fund-raising and spirit-boosting activities. Thank goodness Steve subscribes to the philosophy that a president's job is not done just because his term is over. He organized the Temple trip to Israel, raised lots of money being called to the Torah as an adult Bar Mitzvah, passes out clementines at the end of each Yom Kippur, and oversees the Second Night Seder. His are strong shoulders the co-presidents can lean on.

Speaking of those who go above-and-beyond, Marty Secofsky became president after playing a crucial role in the day-to-day construction of the synagogue building. In the construction materials business, Marty knows a thing or two about how to raise a Temple. Now, he can add the credential of overseeing the congregations's welfare for 3 years, one year more than most of us sign on for. Marty should consider working for the State Department; nobody doesn't like Temple Isaiah's own version of "Sara Lee." During his years, Cantor Al Barouch retired after 20 years as Temple Isaiah's much-loved cantor. Marty helped shepherd the process that lead to the hiring of a new one: Cantor Leslie Friedlander, who has proved to be a most popular and able choice. When he speaks to the congregation, Marty often brings a sentimental tear to the eyes of those listening because of the special way he wears his heart on his sleeve. This Past President says, with his typical sense of humor, that he enjoyed being president 98% of the time. Marty, we enjoyed every minute.

Gail Gordon

Temple Isaiah's
Annual Congregational Meeting
Wednesday, May 22, 2013, 7:30pm

Come Hear the Latest News
Vote on our 2013/2014 Budget and Board of Trustees

May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Jewish Humor, Class #2 7:30pm	3 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	4 Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
5	6  Santelli's Plant Sale Begins	7 Final Day Of Religious School Board Meeting, 7:30pm	8	9 Jewish Humor, Class #3 7:30pm	10 Shul Talk, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm Honoring Steve Fein & Martin Secofsky	11 Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
12 	13 Lunch & Learn, 11:30am	14 Erev Shavuot: Study-6:00 Service-7:30 Last Day Of Plant Sale	15 Shavuot Yizkor 10:30am	16	17 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	18 Torah Study, 9:30am; Cantillation, 11:00am
19	20	21	22 Congregational Meeting, 7:30pm	23	24 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	25 Torah Study, 9:30am
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31 Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm	June 1 Gala Dinner Dance 

PLANT SALE AT SANTELLI's for MOTHER'S DAY and Spring Planting

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ARZA Corner

With this issue of the Temple Bulletin we initiate a new feature to help strengthen a connection between the members of our Congregation and ARZA, that arm of the American Reform Movement that champions progressive Jewish values in Israel.

If you are with Women of the Wall in their struggle for egalitarian prayer at the Kotel, you support ARZA's work. ARZA played an important role in backing a new plan by the Netanyahu government to make the Kotel a place where all Jews can pray comfortably. If you believe that Israeli couples should have the right to a legally recognized marriage conducted by a rabbi of their choice – or enjoy a civil ceremony if they prefer - you support ARZA's work. ARZA is totally dedicated to building an inclusive and democratic Israeli society in which the Orthodox Rabbinate will no longer have a monopoly on marriage and other life cycle events.



Rabbi Tsuruoka and I look forward to continuing these updates with the hope that every member of Temple Isaiah will become a member of ARZA for only \$36 a year.

Calvin Greenbaum
ARZA National Leadership Council

Please Note:

*The May 5th trip to Temple Kehila Kedosha Janina on the Lower East Side has been postponed due to the 5-Boro Bicycle Marathon held that day.
Please call the office if you are interested in joining us when the trip is rescheduled.*



*Temple Isaiah of Great Neck Proudly Announces
Its Gala Dinner Dance Honoring
Our Past Presidents*

*Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka
Cantor Leslie Friedlander
Co-Presidents :
Gail Gordon
Terry Joseph
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Bea Aubrey (482-6588)*

*Saturday Evening
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Religious School News

Reflections

As our Hebrew School year is quickly coming to a close, we reflect upon what worked and what needs to be changed. We are looking ahead to next year to build on the successes of this year.



We look forward to Tuesday afternoons at 4:00 waiting to hear about the results of an academic competition, sports game, or a test. We laugh with the students when they share something funny and empathize with them when they are having a bad day. They know we care about them as individuals, and in turn, they care about each other.

Feelings play a major role in our class. When studying Bible stories, we try to understand why the characters acted as they did. When talking about the too many tragic events that occurred during this school year, we, too, try to understand the feelings of the victims involved.

Reading Hebrew is an integral part of our curriculum. All the students have shown tremendous progress in this area. Because we are such a small group, we can individualize a curriculum for each student. All the students feel good about themselves as they see their progress.

Holidays have been the highlight of the year. We take a hands on approach to learning. We either create or eat just about everything we learn.

In April we focused on 2 important Jewish days--Yom Hashoah and Yom Ha'atzma'ut. On Yom Hashoah we read a book, "Terrible Things." In it Terrible Things come into a forest full of animals and take them away, one species at a time. The other animals in the forest who weren't taken at the time turned their backs on their neighbors pretty much as did people in Nazi occupied countries.



The following week the unfortunate circumstance of the Boston Marathon occurred. This brought out the best in people. So many bystanders ran to help the injured instead of turning their backs and running away. What a lesson in Tikun Olam this was!

Yom Ha'atzma'ut was a lot more upbeat. We learned about Israel by making a cookie map. We decorated the desert with graham crackers as sand and camel cookies. Farther north we put chocolate mountains, white mini marshmallow blossoms, and orange tic tacs for Jaffa orange trees. The goldfish crackers swam in the water. It was a delicious lesson. It was then time to pray at the Western Wall. Graham cracker bricks were held together with frosting. Green chocolate leaves and chocolate people were added. Each child wrote 2 prayers on paper that they stuck into the bricks. Hopefully, the prayers weren't eaten, too.

We wish you all a safe, happy and healthy summer!

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

General Donations

In Loving Memory Of:

Harold Klein, Husband of Ruthe Klein
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 Cantor Albert Barouch
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 Rhoda & Michael Epstein
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 Irving Warshavsky, Father of Steven Warshavsky
 Clare & Steven Warshavsky

Trees in Israel:

Ruth Mandelbaum

Rabbi's Discretionary Account:

Jean & John Lesser

In Honor of:

Temple Isaiah
 Ruth Mandelbaum
 Judith Snow & Scott Schleifstein
 Micki Victor
 The Speedy Recovery of Hannah Diamond
 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 Franklin Greene
 June & Allan Feldman
 With Gratitude for the Friendship and Transportation of Ruth Isaac, Claude Springer,
 Denise Miller & Steve Fein
 Alvin Graham
 The Speedy Recovery of Rita Rubenstein
 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):

The Bat Mitzvah of Jillian Bergman
 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 Birth of Ella Claire, Granddaughter of Rona Levy
 Kathie & Richard Davis
 Sheila & Victor DeFazio
 June & Allan Feldman
 Gail & Robert Gordon
 Mindy & Howard Israel
 Terry & Richard Joseph
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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



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