



TEMPLE ISAIAH *BULLETIN*

Office - 487-5373, email: isaiahgn@yahoo.com

Published Monthly

December, 2018

December 2018 Calendar of Events

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

Sunday, Dec. 2—Cantor Class, 10:30am; Temple Emanuel Festival, 2:00pm; First night of Chanukah—Candle lighting and latkes, 5:00pm

Monday, Dec. 3—Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm

Tuesday, Dec. 4—Board Meeting, 7:30pm

Wednesday, Dec. 5—Tai Chi, 11:00am; Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm

Thursday, Dec. 6—Knit & Nosh, 12:00noon

Friday, Dec. 7—Birthday/Anniversary Shabbat Service, 6:30pm followed by Chanukah Potluck Dinner

Saturday, Dec. 8—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am

Tuesday, Dec. 11—Rosh Chodesh Meeting, 7:30pm

Wednesday, Dec. 12—Tai Chi, 11:00am; Rabbi's Class (#3), 7:30pm

Friday, Dec. 14—Renewal Service, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Saturday, Dec. 15—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am

Sunday, Dec. 16—Books & Bagels, 11:00am

Wednesday, Dec. 19—Tai Chi, 11:00am

Thursday, Dec. 20—“The Curious Adventures of Johanna Hurwitz,” 7:30pm

Friday, Dec. 21—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Monday, Dec. 24—“Dinner & a Movie,” 6:00pm

Wednesday, Dec. 26—Tai Chi, 11:00am

Friday, Dec. 28—Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm

Saturday, Dec. 29 — Torah Study, 9:30am; Shacharit Service, 10:30am

*See Inside for
Details on These
Upcoming Events at
Temple Isaiah*

Cantor's Class

Rabbi's Class

Chanukah Events

Knit & Nosh

Books & Bagels

**Guest Speaker
Johanna Hurwitz**

**Women's Rosh Chodesh
Committee**

**Dinner & A Movie
On Christmas Eve**

**Goodbye to
2018!**

RABBI'S COLUMN

By Rabbi Jerry Blum

In music, there is a concept called a leitmotif, which is a musical phrase that continually repeats and represents a person, place or idea. It literally means a “guiding motif” that leads the listener to a fuller more robust understanding of the story behind the music. It enhances the experience and raises our awareness. The leitmotif also engages us in a relationship with the music and its message.



In the Jewish month of Kislev, our Jewish tradition has a leitmotif of a non-musical nature, and that is the motif of “*Light*”. *Light* plays a major role in Judaism on many levels, and is the nexus to all of creation. With one utterance “*Let there be Light*” there was an immediate separation from darkness and a *spiritual light shone through the universe*. Last year I told of the famous midrash that described the *light of the first day* being created as God donned a great Tallit and the light of its splendor shone from one end of the world to the next. (Genesis Rabbah 3:4).

This was no ordinary *light*. That first *light* did not belong to this world. Rather, it was an emanation of a different essence, from the other side of reality. According to our Jewish traditions, *light serves as the symbol of all that is good, beautiful, and positive in this world and our lives*.

As we begin this month of December and usher in the holiday of Hanukkah, I begin to think about *light* and its healing qualities. I ask myself, *how can I become the light?* What can I do in this world to shine *light* onto darkness? What is my role in bringing healing to this world? How can I be an effective leader of change, for my community, for my family, for me? And where do I find the strength and will to carry on, even when the stench of hatred is in the air?

“I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.”

These words were inscribed on the wall of a cellar in Cologne, Germany, where Jews hid from the Nazis. These words speak to us of faith, even when it is troubled by doubt; of light, even when it is enveloped by darkness. Such is the external and enduring power of light, as demonstrated by the lights of the Hanukkah menorah. Rabbi Adin Steinsalz wrote, “the festival of Hanukkah is expressed by the ceremonial lighting of candles, which increase daily in number thus symbolizing exactly how *light exceeds darkness* in this festival of victory, purification and historic upheaval.” The message of Hanukkah is that we must become the bearer of *light* and shine that *light* on difficult issues. It is our responsibility to *become the light* and carry the message of equality and fairness to all corners of this land. We must teach lessons of peace and understanding and engage with all people in the holy work of building a world that has a foundation of *Chesed – Loving kindness*. We must *believe in the sun, even when it is not shining*, because hope is in the *light*.

One day, a student asked the rabbi: I know that to be Jewish is to have a special job in the world. Rabbi, what is my job as a Jew in the world?

The rabbi looked at her students and asked: Students, what is the most important job in the world?

President of the United States! Prime Minister of Israel said another. Someone even said: Rabbi! Clearly, he was trying for a good grade. Firefighter! Doctor! Teacher! Artist! Teacher! Parent!

The student looked at the rabbi and said: so, what’s the answer?

The Rabbi said: Once upon a time, long before ipads and iphones, before TV and even before there was electricity—there was a person in every town who was responsible for lighting up the streets. On the street corners, lamps sat—ready to be lit each night as the sun began to set. And there was one person whose job it

(Continued on page 4)

CANTOR'S COLUMN

THE LITTLE-KNOWN HISTORY OF CHANUKAH'S DREIDEL SONG

By Cantor Leslie Friedlander



Believe it or not, Chanukah is the only Jewish holiday without its own unique, official, ancient set of melodies, or what is called *nusach* – the music that identifies the special day. There are, however, two or three not-so-ancient Chanukah melodies that probably every one of us knows, including, *I Have a Little Dreidel*, also known as *The Dreidel Song*.

There are some curious origins to this song. One version, attributed to Joshua Jacobson, a professor of music and Jewish studies at Northeastern University, is that the song was originally written in Yiddish and that the opening line was “I made it out of lead.” Lead was changed to clay for rhyming purposes when the lyrics were translated into English. Another version is that the song was written in English, with lyrics by Samuel S. Grossman and music by Samuel E. Goldfarb, brother of Israel Goldfarb, who composed the “traditional” Shalom Aleichem that we all sing. Still another version attributes the song to Mikhl Gelbart, who worked at New York Workmen’s Circle offices, where a fellow office worker claims that Gelbart, in the 1950s, was angry that his song was stolen but he couldn’t afford to hire a lawyer to sue “the interloper.” Gelbart, as one author adds, was known to have borrowed songs from other composers and adapt them for his uses. I will take that information with a grain of salt and assume that Samuel Goldfarb is, indeed, the composer of *The Dreidel Song*.

The Goldfarb brothers, two of 11 children in the family, were born in Galicia, Poland, emigrated to New York in the late 1890s and grew up on New York’s Lower East Side. They both became musicians, were greatly influenced by Tin Pan Alley and wrote a lot of secular songs until they returned to their liturgical roots and published mainly for the synagogue. Their goal was to present modernized versions of cantorial music and old Yiddish songs for Jewish Americans. Their book, *Friday Evening Melodies*, and later expanded as *The Jewish Songster*, was used by Ashkenazi congregations and Hebrew schools throughout the United States for decades and is still an essential part of the history of American Jewish music. There is even a copy in our robing room.



According to Myron Gordon, one of Samuel’s sons, who would now be 98 years old, *The Dreidel Song* was composed in 1927 but was not included in *The Jewish Songster* because the Goldfarb brothers felt it was of no consequence. Gordon says that the song didn’t catch on until the 1950s, around the same time Chanukah was becoming commercialized. It was sung in congregations and schools – even public schools – and its popularity spread through use, not through a single hit recording. *The Dreidel Song* became so famous that Goldfarb’s granddaughter, Susan Wolfe, remembers that when she told her public school class that her grandfather had written it, they didn’t believe her.

The next time you hear this song, you’ll have an insider’s view of how it came to be.

Cantor Leslie Friedlander

Choir Rehearsals for Chanukah Service

Monday, December 3, 7:30pm

Wednesday, December 5, 7:30pm

New Members Needed & Wanted



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Steven Warshavsky

The busy holiday season is upon us once again with Thanksgiving behind us and Chanukah and New Year's fast approaching. Always a very busy time of year for me, both personally and professionally. Full disclosure, I'm writing this on the weekend before Thanksgiving and looking forward to spending the holiday with family and friends so that is what is really on my mind. Thanksgiving weekend is a time for us to reflect on our many blessings and a time for us to give thanks.



So, in that spirit, I want to thank you.

Whether you're a new member or have been with us for more years than you can remember, I want to let you know I appreciate everything you do for Temple Isaiah – through your volunteerism and philanthropy, your participation in our services and educational programs – you make our community a better place.

In the short six months that I have had the privilege of being President of Temple Isaiah, I've been able to witness this first hand. Each of you help make our temple community the wonderful place it is.

Wishing you and your family a happy, healthy and restful holiday season.

Steven Warshavsky

(Rabbi's Column Continued from page 2)

was to walk from street to street, from lamp to lamp, with a flame he carried at the end of a long pole. Each evening, this person would walk their route, lighting each and every lamp—no matter how cold it was, or how hard it was to reach.

But what if the lamp was far away and scary, a student asked? The rabbi answered: It too must be lit so people will feel safe. And what if the lamp is in the middle of an OCEAN asked one of the students!! The rabbi smiled and said: Then one must put on a bathing suit, jump into the water, and light it there. Without it, she said, there would be no light.

The student looked again at the rabbi and said: But Rabbi, I still don't know. What is my job as a Jew in the world?

The rabbi looked at her students and said: You can be anything you want to be. But no matter what you decide to do with your life, you must be a lamplighter on the streets of the world.

And so, even though we all may have different jobs in this world, there is one that everyone of us is responsible for.... #bethelight

Wishing all a Chag Urim Sameach – A Joyous (and meaningful) Festival of Lights.

Rabbi Jerry

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Torah Study, 9:30am; Shacharit Service, 10:30am
2 Cantor's Class, 10:30am; First Night Of Chanukah 	3 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm	4 Board Meeting, 7:30pm	5 Tai Chi, 11:00am Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm	6 Knit & Nosh 12:00	7 Potluck Dinner, 6:30; Birthday/ Anniversary and Chanukah Shabbat Ser- vice with Choir	8 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am
9 Last Night of Chanukah	10	11 Rosh Chodesh Meeting, 7:30pm	12 Tai Chi, 11:00am Rabbi Class #3, 7:30pm	13	14 Renewal Service, 7:30pm; Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	15 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am
16 "Books & Bagels" 11:00am	17	18	19 Tai Chi, 11:00am	20 Johanna Hurwitz Program, 7:30pm	21 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	22
23	24 Movie & Chinese Food, 6:00pm	25	26 Tai Chi, 11:00am	27	28 Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm	29 Torah Study, 9:30am; Shacharit Service, 10:30am
30	31					

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Tai Chi, 11:00am	3	4 Birthday/ Anniversary Shabbat, 8:00pm	5 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am
6	7	8 Board Meeting, 7:30pm	9 Tai Chi, 11:00am	10 Lunch & Learn at Shiraz, 11:30am	11 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	12 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am
13	14	15 Current Events, 7:30pm	16 Tai Chi, 11:00am	17	18 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	19 (No Torah Study)
20	21 Martin Luther King Day Tu B'Shevat	22	23 Tai Chi, 11:00am	24	25 Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm; Tu B'Shevat Seder	26 Torah Study, 9:30am; Shacharit Service, 10:30am
27	28	29	30 Tai Chi, 11:00am	31		

Chanukah Family Potluck Dinner And Shabbat Service

Friday, December 7th, 6:30PM

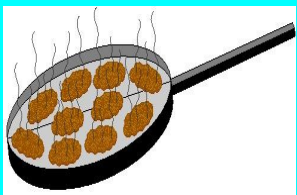
Celebrate the holiday with your
Temple Isaiah family at our traditional
“meat” potluck supper
(Non-Dairy)



Bring an appetite for great food!

Bring the Family and Friends!

Contact dinner chairperson Marcia Null (516-570-6322, matanu@optonline.net) or Micki Kornzweig (516-482-2477, Kornzweig@optonline.net) to RSVP and let them know what dish you will be bringing.





Chanukah Events 2018

- Sunday, 12/2: Festival at Temple Emanuel,
2:00pm
Candle Lighting & Latkes at
Temple Isaiah, 5:00pm
- Friday, 12/7: Potluck Supper &
Chanukah Service with
Choir, 6:30pm

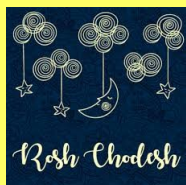
*Join Us for a Service of Renewal
7:30pm Friday, December 14*



Knit & Nosh: December 6 at 12:00noon



**Save the Date:
Tu B'Shevat Seder
Friday, January 25**



Important Dates for Rosh Chodesh Participants

December 2nd, 10:30am—Rosh Chodesh Class with Cantor Friedlander

December 11, 7:30pm—Steering Committee Meeting

March 8th, 8:00pm—Rosh Chodesh Shabbat Women's Service

For more info contact Terry Birnbaum-Horton at tbahorton@aol.com or 516-978-7408.



Rabbi's Class

December 12, 7:30pm

**"Reform Judaism, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow -
A Pluralistic look at Who we Are as a Movement and a People"**

Terry Joseph would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make this year's Tag Sale such a great success! It couldn't be done without our wonderful volunteers.



Adult B'nei Mitzvah Classes Are Coming!

Did you miss out on becoming a bar or bat mitzvah when you were 13, or, did you ever want to re-live that moment again?

It's never too late to become a bar or bat mitzvah! (And it's always fun to re-live their celebration.)



The rabbi will be forming a new Adult B'nei Mitzvah class beginning in February (or maybe March, depending on the weather) for those who never became or those who want to re-live that moment.

Please reach out to the rabbi (rabbi.jerry.isaiahgn@gmail.com) or the office (isaiahgn@yahoo.com) if you are interested. Information will be sent out soon.

***The Betrayers* by David Bezmozgis** **Sunday, December 16th at 11:00am**

**Winner of the *National Jewish Book Award*
A Wall Street Journal Best Book of 2014
A New Yorker Favorite Book of 2014**



from a review:

"In prose that is elegant, sly, precise, and devastating in its awareness of the human heart, David Bezmozgis has rendered a story for the ages, an inquest into the nature of fate and consequence, love and forgiveness. The Betrayers is a high-wire act, a powerful tale of morality and sacrifice that will haunt readers long after they turn the final page."



“The Curious Travels of Johanna Hurwitz” Thursday, December 20th at 7:30pm

Johanna Hurwitz is a new member of Temple Isaiah and an old resident of Great Neck.

She worked at the Great Neck Library for many years and has written a number of children’s books. It is in the latter capacity that she has been invited to travel around the USA and the world. She is going to share some of her unique experiences as a traveling Jew.



December 24th: Chinese Food & A Movie *Keep Up the Tradition!*

Dinner: 6:00

Film: 7:30



**\$25 includes dinner
& film**

**RSVP to
Event Chair
Judy Snow**

jsnow@greatnecklibrary.org

General Donations

In Loving Memory Of:

Susan Bendor, Mother of Jane and Cathy Bendor

Jane Bendor & Brian Graham

Bracha Skulnick, Mother of Mona Bokat
Mona Bokat

Erling Tholfsen, Father of Judy Brook
Judy & Helman Brook

Goldie Cohen, Mother of Sheila DeFazio

Rose Victorio, Mother of Victor DeFazio
Sheila & Victor DeFazio

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Maurice Wagner, Father of Helene Dorfman
Helene Dorfman

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Lia & Mortimer Hans

Charles Maller, Father of Abraham Maller

Connie Maller

Herbert Rabeck, Father of Stuart Rabeck

Sandra & Stuart Rabeck

Peter Roth, Husband of Yvonne Roth

Isidor Alcalay, Father of Yvonne Roth

Yvonne Roth

Susan Weiss, Daughter of Rita Rubenstein

Rita Rubenstein

Seymour Rubin, Father of Harold Rubin

Harold Rubin

Pearl Saunders, Aunt of Phyllis Schalet

Phyllis Schalet

Abraham Secofsky, Father of Joan and

Martin Secofsky

Joan Secofsky & Herbert Kwasnik

Audrey Goldberg, Sister of Harriet Shindler

Harriet Shindler

P.F.C. Leonard Kristal, Brother of Evelyn

Solow

Evelyn & Richard Solow

In Loving Memory of (Cont'd):

Michael Tannen, Father of Susan Welkis

Susan & Jerry Welkis

Henry Weiner, Father of Richard Weiner

Alice & Richard Weiner

Hannah Zimberg, Mother of Shelley Willcox

Shelley & Robert Willcox

In Honor of:

Clare & Steven Warshavsky for Their Great

Job on *Isaiah's Got Talent*

Kathie Davis

June & Allan Feldman

All Who Participated in *Isaiah's Got Talent*

Success and Enjoyability

Helene Dorfman

Cantor Leslie Friedlander for Her Help

Amy & Howard Gorman

The Baby Naming of Rylee Weiner, Great-

Granddaughter of Alice & Richard Weiner

Terry Birnbaum-Horton

Judy & Helen Brook

Kathie Davis

June & Allan Feldman

Denise Miller & Steve Fein

Gail & Robert Gordon

Carol & Bill Hersh

Terry & Richard Joseph

Ruth Mandelabum

Alisa & Martin Secofsky

Shelley Sherman

Evelyn & Richard Solow

Clare & Steven Warshavsky

In Appreciation for the Beautiful Service

and Warm Welcome from Rabbi Blum and

Cantor Friedlander on the Baby Naming

Of Our Great Granddaughter Rylee

Alice & Richard Weiner

With Thanks to Judy & Helman Brook for

Their Hospitality

Stanley Turetsky

With Thanks to Steve Fein for His Help

Shelley & Robert Willcox



Long-term Save the Dates:

Tuesday, February 5th—
Gathering of Memorial
Scrolls at the Herbert &
Eileen Bernard Museum
at Temple Emanu-El in
New York

Sunday, May 5th—
Journal/Gala Dinner

PARTNERS IN CARING (PIC)

Sid Jacobson JCC's Partners in Caring offers an array of specialized services including support groups, counseling, information and community referrals, workshops, autism and Alzheimer's programs, as well as other social services. Together with UJA-Federation of New York and your synagogue, we are your partner in caring for you and your family.

PIC helps create a caring, responsive Jewish community by providing support for:

Bereavement Parenting
Life Cycle Issues
Marital/Family Concerns
Caregiving Issues and more

For assistance, contact us at 516-484-1545 ext. 196.

A licensed social worker will respond promptly to provide you with information and support.



SJJCC.ORG

Partners in Caring is funded by a grant from UJA-Federation of New York and partnering synagogues

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TEMPLE ISAIAH OF GREAT NECK

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***Deadline for submissions
10th of the Month***

BULLETIN

President: Steven Warshavsky
Rabbi: Jerry Blum
Cantor: Leslie Friedlander
Production: Cathy Reibstein