



# TEMPLE ISAIAH *BULLETIN*

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Published Monthly

December 2019

## December 2019 Calendar of Events

Tuesday, Dec. 3—Board Meeting, 7:30pm  
Wednesday, Dec. 4—Tai Chi, 11:30am  
Thursday, Dec. 5—Rabbi's Class #3, "Jewish Medical Ethics," 7:30pm  
Friday, Dec. 6—Birthday/Anniversary Shabbat, 8:00pm  
Saturday, Dec. 7—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am; Toy Sale, 6:30pm  
Sunday, Dec. 8—Toy Sale, 10:00am to 4:00pm  
Tuesday, Dec. 10—Lunch & Learn, LaRotonda, 12:00noon  
Wednesday, Dec. 11, Tai Chi, 11:00am; Book Group, 7:30pm  
Friday, Dec. 13—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm  
Saturday, Dec. 14—Lay-led Torah Study & Service, 9:30am  
Sunday, Dec. 15—Goods & Services Auction, 2:00pm  
Wednesday, Dec. 18—Tai Chi, 11:00am  
Thursday, Dec. 19—Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm  
Friday, Dec. 20—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm  
Saturday, Dec. 21—Lay-led Torah Study, 9:30am  
Sunday, Dec. 22—Chanukah First Night Latke Party, 5:00pm  
Monday, Dec. 23—Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm  
Friday, Dec. 27—Chanukah Dinner & Shabbat Service with Choir, 6:30pm  
Saturday, Dec. 28—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am

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

## *Goods & Services Auction* **Sunday, December 15 2:00pm** **Send in Your RSVP and Auction Donations (Form on Page 9)**



**Collect Gift Certificates  
from your favorite vendors;  
donate tickets to sports  
events and shows; host a  
dinner or luncheon; teach a  
class or provide a service...  
The possibilities are endless!**



## **RABBI'S COLUMN**

**By Rabbi Jerry Blum**



Everyone knows the story of Hanukkah and the miracle of the oil. The Greeks defiled the Great Temple in Jerusalem and the Hasmoneans lead a revolt to take it back. When they were finally victorious, they desperately wanted to rid the Temple of idols and anything Hellenistic and of course light the Menorah, but they needed consecrated oil. During their search, they were only able to find a single cruse of oil that would be enough to light the Menorah for only one day, As the story goes, they lit the Menorah and the oil lasted for eight days, thus we commemorate the holiday of Hanukkah by lighting our Hanukiyyot (our Hanukkah menorahs) for eight consecutive nights, placing them in our windows for the mitzvah of Pirsum HaNeis, (literally, publicizing the Miracle), so people can see the lights shining from the streets and we can be reminded of our victory over the evil captor.

This is such a great story, with all the trappings of a Jewish holiday. They tried to kill us, we won, let's eat (someone has to eat all the latkes and sufganiot – jelly donuts), and in fact, this is the barebones story we find in the Talmud telling us about Hanukkah, and of course the rules about lighting the Hanukkiah lights. Yet, this is not the whole (or even real) story of Hanukkah found in the Book of the Maccabees. The real story in the text is far more sinister and darker, and not very pleasant at all, so it begs the question, why do the Sages of the Talmud want us to only know about the miracle of the oil and even publicize it?

First of all, the Rabbis of the Talmud had a few bones to pick with the Hasmoneans (remember, the Pharisees were their favorites – you remember that, right? Only kidding), and didn't want them to get all the credit, plus they were very uncomfortable with the idea of military victories, and especially when the victories were maintained with allies like the Romans. Not the message they wanted to send.

Very simply stated, they understood as we do now, that we need miracles. With all the bad news in the world (and there has always been bad news), it's an emotional and spiritual gift to notice miracles in our lives and to celebrate them. I believe the rabbis of old understood the human condition, especially with all the hatred that surrounded the Jewish communities in the diaspora. They knew that we need to publicize the miracles in our lives and in our heritage in order to feel the connection with our tradition.



That same concept is in play right now. With all the hate and specifically the rising tide of blatant anti-Semitism, we need now, more than ever before to be cognizant of the miracles in our lives and be prepared to publicize them. We can no longer afford the luxury of not saying anything or not standing up for those who are made into "the other". We can't allow for people to live in fear

because of what religion they practice, or that they wear a kippah or a hijab. Noted historian Deborah Lipstadt in her recent book "Anti-Semitism: Here and Now" said:

*"When our children fear there is danger in openly identifying as a Jew, it is indeed something that should concern us all."*

The rabbis of the Talmud were right. Their prescription for the hate and injustice that surrounded them was to shine a light in the darkness. To publicize the miracle of hope and freedom. To stand up in the face of injustice and be proud that our heritage teaches tolerance, understanding and Ahavat Chinam, boundless love (my translation), so if you are able, place your hanukkiah (use the electric one please) in the window of your home to publicize the miracle of our day, that we all can come together as human beings to fight hate, and make our communities a safer and more understanding environment for everyone.

Wishing all a joyous Hanukkah.

**Rabbi Jerry Blum**

## **CANTOR'S COLUMN**

### **A FEAST FOR THE EYES**

**By Cantor Leslie Friedlander**

While most of our holidays are a feast for the ears, Chanukah serves to emphasize visual observance and rituals and the Chanukah candles are our visual delight. Unlike all the other Jewish holidays and festivals, there are no official ancient prayer melodies for Chanukah, most likely because historically Chanukah is primarily a home observance. In fact, there is an abundance of music for each of the other special days throughout the year, but for Chanukah there is no true *nusach* or melody.



When we think of any other holiday the first thing that comes to mind, at least for a cantor, is a musical motive, or what I refer to as the musical “logo” or “jingle” of the special day. On Rosh Hashanah we hear the shofar and the special High Holy Day melodies and on Yom Kippur, in addition to the High Holy Day melodies, we confess verbally – another “hearing” ritual. On the festivals of Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot we hear the beautiful festival music and perhaps the chanting of one of the appropriate megillot and its respective trop melody. Purim has its own megillah chants. These are all auditory and oral expressions of the holidays – feasts for the ears.

The one melody most of us associate with Chanukah is not necessarily a synagogue chant but a tune that is actually an amalgam of two or three German folk tunes that became popular in the eighteenth century – the tune we use to sing *Ma'oz Tzur*. There is, of course, folk music, lots of children's songs, and a small amount of concert music composed for Chanukah, in particular, the great oratorio *Judas Maccabeus*, composed by George Frideric Handel in 1747, and still considered one of his greatest works. Note, however, that Handel is not a Jewish composer and he did not necessarily compose for the Jewish community.



The celebration of Chanukah is expressed by the use of the hand and the eye. We light the Chanukah lights with our hand and observe them with our eyes. In fact, Chanukah is truly set apart from the other holidays by minimizing the importance of song, while maximizing the visual cues that form the foundation of this extended celebration.

As we light the Chanukah candles at the darkest time of the year may we watch them glow and remember the courage and spiritual strength of the Jewish people who fight to preserve our identity throughout history.

*Cantor Leslie Friedlander*

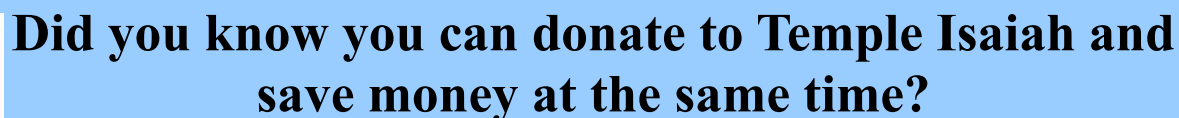
### **Choir Rehearsals for Chanukah Service**

Thursday, December 19, 7:00pm

Monday, December 23, 7:00pm

*New Members Needed & Wanted*





**But there is a tax-free exception you should know about.**

**It is a wonderful way to do something meaningful for Temple Isaiah and reap tax benefits at the same time. Your financial institution will provide the necessary form. When you do this please let Cathy Reibstein know that your IRA check will be coming.**

**Thanks for Donating!**

**If you have questions please contact Steve Warshavsky.**

**Judaism and Medical Ethics**

values  
critical care  
death of life  
physicians  
Bockvar, Boskin, Gregstein, Lauter, Weiler  
end of life  
perspective  
critical treatment  
Jewish young children  
death of Holocausters  
patients

**We will explore the differences between Jewish and secular medical ethics, and how our Jewish tradition treats issues such as organ transplantation, terminal illness and physician-assisted suicide and genetic modification (among many others). This series will hopefully spark some good discussion and shed some new light on how Judaism treats these controversial issues.**

Another special woman, Rita Rubenstein indeed was a lady. Despite more tragedy in her life than one can bear, she traveled onward, a busy woman, always involved with her many activities. She readily had a smile on her face. How many of us could handle what was thrown her way? Even as she was suffering, she was cooking, and she even called Alisa for advice on cooking for her son. Family was everything to her,

Years ago, Rita was not a member, but attended our events with her friends in the congregation, Ruth Mandelbaum for one, and Elsa Glukhauf, about whom one could also write a book. So, one time I said to her, "Rita, I see you here a lot, and you have friends here; why don't you join us?" Whether it was my coaxing, or someone else's, she did join. And we were gladened by her presence.

I sat with her at Ruth's funeral. Before the service began, she said to me, "I lost my best friend." Painful when we lose family, painful when our friends leave us.

**At the end of the service, she looked around at all the friends and members of the temple who came out in honor of Ruth and she said, "Where would we be without Temple Isaiah?" I concurred.**

**She was a lovely lady, and a credit to our little temple family.**

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# December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Board Meeting, 7:30pm	4 Tai Chi, 11:00am	5 Rabbi's Class, #3, 7:30pm <i>Jewish Medical Ethics</i>	6 Birthday/ Anniversary Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	7 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am;  Toy Sale 6:30pm-9:00pm
8 Toy Sale 10:00am—4:00pm	9	10 Lunch & Learn, 12:00noon at LaRotonda	11 Tai Chi, 11:00am;  Book Group, 7:30pm	12	13 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	14 Lay-led Torah Study & Service, 9:30am
15 Goods & Services Auction, 2:00pm 	16	17	18 Tai Chi, 11:00am	19 Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm	20 Shabbat Service, 8:00pm	21 Lay-led Torah Study, 9:30am
22 Chanukah First Night Latke Party, 5:00pm 	23 Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm	24	25	26	27 Choir Shabbat Service & Chanukah Dinner, 6:30pm	28 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am
29 Last night of Chanukah 	30	31	January 1	January 2	January 3	January 4
						

# January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div> <b><i>Welcome to 2020</i></b> </div>						<b>3</b> <b>Birthday/ Anniversary Shabbat Service, 8:00pm</b>
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>4</b> <b>Torah Study &amp; Service, 9:30am</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Board Meeting, 7:30pm</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Tai Chi, 11:00am</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Shabbat Service, 8:00pm</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Torah Study &amp; Service, 9:30am</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Brunch &amp; Learn, 11:30am</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Tai Chi, 11:00am</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Shabbat Service, 8:00pm</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Torah Study &amp; Service, 9:30am</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service; Details TBA</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Tai Chi, 11:00am</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Shabbat Service, 8:00pm</b>	<b>25 Lay-led Torah Study &amp; Service, 9:30am;  Karaoke Night, 7:30pm</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Current Events, 7:30pm</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Tai Chi, 11:00am</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm</b>	<b>Feb. 1</b> <b>Torah Study, 9:30am Shacharit Service, 10:30am</b>





# *Super Toy Sale*

New Toys & Games for All Ages

New & Used Children's Books

Movies/DVD's/CD's

*Huge Selection at Super Discount Prices!*

Saturday Evening, December 7—  
6:30pm-9:00pm

Sunday, December 8—  
10:00am-4:00pm

Buy a Toy (or 2) for Donation to the Kids at Ladles of Hope

Temple Isaiah of Great Neck  
1 Chelsea Place, GN 11021  
516-487-5373



**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.**



## **Chanukah Events 2019**



**Sunday, 12/22: Candle Lighting & Latkes at 5:00pm**

**Friday, 12/27: Potluck Supper & Festive Chanukah Service with Temple Isaiah Choir, 6:30pm  
(See page 11 for details)**

**Bring Your Own Chanukiah on Both Nights!**

## ***Help Wanted for Temple Isaiah Toy Sale***

**We can use help setting up,  
selling, and packing up at the end**

**Please contact Terry Joseph to  
volunteer.**



**Sale is Saturday evening  
12/7 and Sunday 12/8**

**Help needed before & after  
sale days as well!**





# TEMPLE ISAIAH GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION

ONE OF THE BIGGEST FUNDRAISERS OF THE YEAR AND OUR MOST  
EXCITING AFTERNOON IS FAST APPROACHING. PLEASE PLAN TO BE THERE.

**BID ON: VACATIONS, THEATER TICKETS, JEWELRY, ELEGANT DINNERS, RESTAURANTS,  
SPORTING EVENTS, ART, TOYS, COMPUTER LESSONS & MORE**

**JOIN US FOR A RECEPTION BEFORE THE BIDDING BEGINS  
SHOP FOR NEW & "PRE-OWNED" TREASURES - SAMPLE OUR TASTY DESSERTS**

**Great Raffle Prizes!**

**ENCLOSED ARE RAFFLE TICKETS WHICH MAY BE PURCHASED OR SOLD. LET'S WORK  
TOGETHER TO MAKE THIS EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS.**

***RETURN THIS RSVP BY DECEMBER 1 AND RECEIVE 1 FREE RAFFLE  
TICKET VALUED AT \$10.00***

**Raffle Tickets**

**\$10 per Ticket**

**3 Tickets for \$25.00**

**Auction Reservations**

**\$18 Adults,**

**\$5 Children 11-17, Under 10-Free**

***Raffle Drawing at Auction***

***Need not be present to win***

***No purchase necessary***

## TEMPLE ISAIAH GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION

**DECEMBER 15, 2019  
2:00PM**

**NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_**

**AUCTION RESERVATIONS @\$18 ADULTS, \$5 CHILD 11-17 \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**RAFFLE TICKETS @\$10/TKT, OR \$25/3 TKTS \$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
**(NO OTHER PURCHASE NECESSARY-NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN)**

**TOTAL ENCLOSED (CHECK PAYABLE TO TEMPLE ISAIAH) \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

***OR PLEASE CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD (3% FEE FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS)***  
***(MINIMUM FOR CREDIT CARD \$25.00)***

**No. \_\_\_\_\_ TYPE: \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE: \_\_\_\_\_**

***PLEASE ENTER YOUR NAME, ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER ON RAFFLE TICKETS AND  
RETURN THIS FORM AND TICKETS IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO  
TEMPLE ISAIAH, 1 CHELSEA PLACE, G.N., NY 11021  
QUESTIONS: CALL 516-487-5373***

## WZC Elections in 2020

The World Zionist Congress Elections are coming soon, and our congregation's votes are critical to maintaining a large Reform presence. The voting will take place from January 21 – March 11, 2020, and we will need to engage every single Reform Jew to vote for the Reform slate!

The election is our chance to have the Reform Movement's voice and priorities heard in Israel. It's a powerful way to combat the discrimination the

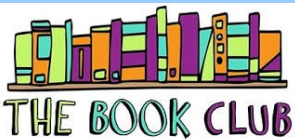
Reform Movement faces from the Israeli government. The World Zionist Congress elections enable us to provide support for creating pluralistic and Reform programs with real financial impact that has allowed our movement to grow despite the stumbling blocks placed before us.



Only by growing the strength of the Reform Movement's voice in these National Institutions can we ultimately make progress on the issues we care about: religious freedom and equality, specifically dealing with personal status issues (marriage/divorce, conversion); Holy Places (The Kotel); and many others.

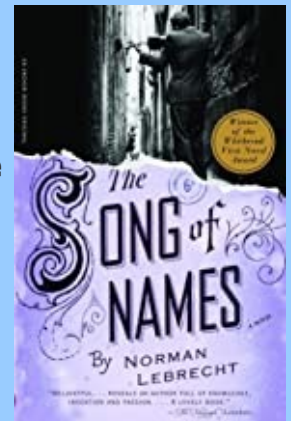
Details will follow in upcoming Bulletin issues.

*Shelley Sherman*



***Wednesday, December 11th at 7:30pm***

The Temple Isaiah Book Group will meet on Wednesday December 11th at 7:30 to discuss **THE SONG OF NAMES** by Norman Lebrecht. In this deeply moving story about friendship, betrayal and reconciliation by a well-known English journalist and music critic, two men who became friends as children in London during WWII are reunited after 40 years. The author was the winner of Britain's Whitbread First Novel Award. The book is available in paperback and on Kindle.



Please RSVP to Shelley at [seeshell98@yahoo.com](mailto:seeshell98@yahoo.com) to let her know that you will be attending. All are welcome.



**Lunch & Learn**  
**Tuesday, December 10th**  
**La Rotonda at 12 Noon**

# Chanukah Family Potluck Dinner And Shabbat Service with Choir

Friday, December 27th, 6:30PM

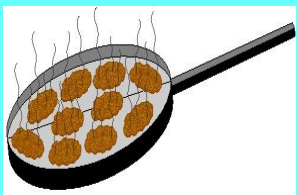
Celebrate the holiday with your  
Temple Isaiah family at our traditional  
“meat” potluck supper  
(Non-Dairy)



**Bring an appetite for great food!**

**Bring the family and friends!**

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



## **FIRST NIGHT OF CHANUKAH CANDLELIGHTING**

**Sunday, December 22 at 5:00pm**

**Join us to light Temple Isaiah's Chanukiah and  
follow tradition with song and latkes.**



### ***Save these Dates!***

**Brunch & Learn at Temple Isaiah  
Sunday, January 12, 11:30am  
Bagels, spreads & desserts  
\$8.00**



**CURRENT EVENTS  
With Helman Brook  
Tuesday, January 28th  
7:30pm**

## **Karaoke Night Saturday, January 25, 7:30pm**

**If you would like to participate, choose your favorite  
song and let me know as they need to be ordered in  
advance of the night. Let us know you are interested  
or would like to help coordinate by RSVP to  
[merylmenashe@gmail.com](mailto:merylmenashe@gmail.com).**



***\$10 to cover songs ad refreshments; BYOB***

## General Donations

### *In Loving Memory Of:*

Rita Rubenstein, Mother of Neil Rubenstein  
and Dear Member of Temple Isaiah

Suzanne Branch  
Terry Birnbaum-Horton  
Judy & Helman Brook  
Kathie Davis  
June & Allan Feldman  
Gail & Robert Gordon  
Carol & Bill Hersh  
Jean Lesser  
Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
Shelley Sherman  
Arlene Soifer  
Micki Victor  
Clare & Steve Warshavsky  
Bracha Skulnick, Mother of Mona Bokat  
Mona Bokat  
Erling Tholfsen, Father of Judy Book  
Judy & Helman Brook  
Esther Shapiro, Mother of Barbara Feldman  
Barbara Feldman  
Leonard J. Gimbel, Brother-in-Law of Jonathan  
Silver & Bella Bekker-Silver  
June & Allan Feldman  
Naomi Greene, Wife of Franklin Greene  
Franklin Greene & Omaira Enriquez  
Ida Haber, Mother of Diane Haber  
Diane Haber  
Herbert Rosenberg, Father of Ruth Isaac  
Harvey Rosenberg, Brother of Ruth Isaac  
Ruth Isaac  
Albert Moulin, Father of Edward Moulin  
Willia Lewis & Edward Moulin  
Rose Fuchs, Mother of Connie Maller  
Connie Maller  
Herbert Rabeck, Father of Stuart Rabeck  
Sandra & Stuart Rabeck  
Abraham Secofsky, Father of Joan Secofsky  
and Martin Secofsky  
Joan Secofsky & Herbert Kwasnik  
Lydia Sherman, Mother of Shelley Sherman  
Shelley Sherman

### *In Loving Memory (cont'd):*

Al "Sonny" Wagner, Brother of Helene Dorfman  
Terry Birnbaum-Horton  
Judy & Helman Brook  
Kathie Davis  
June & Allan Feldman  
Gail & Robert Gordon  
Carol & Bill Hersh  
Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
Shelley Sherman  
Clare & Steve Warshavsky  
Louis Rosner, Father of Harriet Shindler  
Harriet Shindler  
Henry Weiner, Father of Richard Weiner  
Alice & Richard Weiner

### *Kol Nidre Appeal:*

Reva & Robert Levy

### *In Honor of:*

Howard Israel's Program at North Shore Towers  
June & Allan Feldman  
The Speedy Recovery of Beverly Kornfeld  
Ruth Isaac  
Belle & Elliott Gayer's Omelets  
Terry & Richard Joseph  
Jean Lesser  
Belle & Elliott Gayer  
Sylvia Schwartz  
The Speedy Recovery of Steve Fein  
Suzanne Branch  
Terry Birnbaum-Horton  
Judy & Helman Brook  
Kathie Davis  
June & Allan Feldman  
Gail & Robert Gordon  
Carol & Bill Hersh  
Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
Shelley Sherman  
Clare & Steve Warshavsky  
The Hospitality of Judy & Helman Brook  
Stanley Turetsky  
The Allan Feldman Appeal  
June & Allan Feldman  
Jean Lesser

### *In Honor of:*

The Chagall Program Sponsored by the Schiller-  
Tuchinsky Tikkun Olam Foundation  
Terry Birnbaum-Horton  
Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
June & Allan Feldman  
Belle & Elliott Gayer  
Ruth Isaac  
Terry & Richard Joseph  
Judy Snow & Scott Schleifstein  
Alisa & Martin Secofsky

**Our Next Soup  
Kitchen Volunteer  
Day is  
Saturday,  
March 7, 2020  
Contact Denise  
Miller for Details  
(Purchase a toy at  
our Toy Sale on Dec.  
7th & 8th to donate  
to the Ladles of  
Hope kids.)**



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



**SJJCC.ORG**

# RIVERSIDE- Nassau North Chapels

55 North Station Plaza  
Great Neck, New York 11021  
(516) 487-9600

PRE-NEED COUNSELING AVAILABLE

DAVID M. RUBIN



For Generations  
A Symbol Of Jewish Tradition.

Continuing to maintain the high service standards of the Rosenthal, Grossberg and Alpert families.

Riverside Memorial Chapel is a participating member firm of The PRE Plan,<sup>TM</sup>  
an FDIC insured fund for pre-paid funeral arrangements.



## TEMPLE ISAIAH OF GREAT NECK

1 Chelsea Place  
Great Neck, NY 11021

[templeisaiahgn.org](http://templeisaiahgn.org)

Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism  
Published Monthly

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

### BULLETIN

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