



# TEMPLE ISAIAH *BULLETIN*

Office - 487-5373, email: [isaiahgn@yahoo.com](mailto:isaiahgn@yahoo.com)

Published Monthly

January 2020

## January 2020 Calendar of Events

Friday, Jan. 3—Birthday/Anniversary Shabbat, 8:00pm

Saturday, Jan. 4—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am

Sunday, Jan. 5—Bagels & Books, 11:00am

Tuesday, Jan. 7—Board Meeting, 7:30pm

Wednesday, Jan. 8—Tai Chi, 11:30am

Friday, Jan. 10—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Saturday, Jan. 11—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am

Sunday, Jan. 12—Brunch & Learn, 11:30am

Wednesday, Jan. 15, Tai Chi, 11:00am

Friday, Jan. 17—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Saturday, Jan. 18—Torah Study & Service, 9:30am

Monday, Jan. 20—Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service, Details to be announced

Wednesday, Jan. 22—Tai Chi, 11:00am

Friday, Jan. 24—Shabbat Service, 8:00pm

Saturday, Jan. 25—Lay-led Torah Study, 9:30am;  
Karaoke Night, 7:30pm

Tuesday, Jan. 28—Current Events with Helman Brook, 7:30pm

Wednesday, Jan. 29—Tai Chi, 11:00am

Friday, Jan. 31—Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 6:15pm

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

See Inside for Information on  
Upcoming Events at  
Temple Isaiah



*Bagels & Books*

*Craft Party*

*Karaoke Night*



*Tu B'Shevat Seder*

*Musical Program at the  
Silver Home*



*Shabbat Across  
America*

*Plus  
Current Events, Tai Chi  
and more*

## **RABBI'S COLUMN**

By Rabbi Jerry Blum

As we end the decade and begin another decade anew, I am reminded of a conversation I had with a member of our community. He stated that this coming year will be the optometrist's favorite year, because it will be 2020. I of course laughed (wishing that were my joke), but of course he made a very good point. We have to see the coming decade with both eyes open and with full vision of what the next decade will bring to our temple family. We must have clear goals and a workable plan that will help us grow both spiritually and in numbers.



In our weekly Torah study, we often come across the word *Hineni*, and it means I am here, but a truer and more nuanced understanding of the word is, "I am present" and I am prepared to do what is needed to be successful at a given moment. It is a word that describes the state of mind of one who is ready to take on a task of great importance. Our Biblical leaders like Avraham and Moshe were often in that state of readiness, but I often wonder what that would mean for us as moderns. We are not often called upon to lead our people out of slavery, nor asked to perform acts of prophesy, so what can this mean for us, and how might it apply to our lives and our temple community?

*Hineni* is actually a state of mind, and being in a state of "*Hineni*" can take on many different meanings, such as being in a state of spiritual openness during our services, or just being present for someone in our community who is in need of companionship or just a phone call to reach out. It could also mean that one would be on call to help out with our social action activities during the year or perhaps bring their musical talents to the choir or help with our services. But perhaps the most important way we can be in a "*Hineni*" state of mind, is to become an active participant in our temple family. Come and join a committee. You don't have to take on a leading role, but everyone can help make our temple successful. We need you to become our ambassadors to the outside world. Bring friends to our services or our events, and of course, yourselves.

As we enter 2020, we are grateful for all that was good in this past year, and we are cognizant of how we have grown from the challenges of this past year as well. We pray that this coming new decade will inspire us to be present and participate in the growth of our community. When we are called upon to help our temple family, may we always say "*Hineni*", "I am here and ready" to be part of the way forward for our *Kehillah Kedoshah*, our holy community.

Wishing you and those you love a very Happy 2020. May it be a year of health, blessing, growth and peace.

*Rabbi Jerry Blum*



# CANTOR'S COLUMN

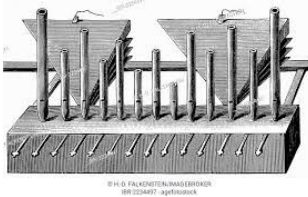
## THE ORGAN IN JEWISH LITURGICAL TRADITION

By Cantor Leslie Friedlander

Although we have no clear way of knowing what music sounded like in biblical times, we do know from text descriptions and early graphic depictions that music played an important role in the culture of the Jewish people from the earliest recorded history. We even have archeological remnants of the instruments themselves, from which measurements have been made and conclusions drawn regarding the kinds of sounds produced. A large number and variety of musical instruments are mentioned throughout the Bible and in descriptions of the Temple cult in the Talmud. We can surmise from this written evidence that music permeated every aspect of life for the ancient Israelites.



It does seem that even lovers of “classical” Jewish liturgical music – what I might call Jewish worship music in the past century – feel that the sound of the organ is particularly Christian sounding. It might come as a surprise to most of us that, as the musicologist and author Tina Frühauf writes, “until the Middle ages, the organ was not officially permitted in any Christian liturgy inasmuch as instrumental music was associated...with the Jewish services once held in the Temple at Jerusalem.” In other words, the sound of the organ was associated with the ancient Jewish worship service even before the inception of Christianity.



In the Talmud there is a particularly interesting description of an instrument called a *magrepha*, a kind of pipe organ that was built on a skin-covered box into which ten reeds with ten holes were fastened. Each hole was able to sound ten different notes, which, by my calculations, means this organ could produce one hundred notes, although it is described as being able to produce 1,000 notes. It was used in the Temple to signal the priests and Levites to their duties and loud enough to be heard in Jericho, 20 miles away. Or so the Talmud says.

It is also recorded in the Talmud that there was another organ, *organon hydraulium*, a water organ, that was played for ceremonies but not in the Temple service, since its voice was so sweet it would distract attention from the traditional instruments in the service.

We know that instrumental music for worship services ceased after the destruction of the Temple in the year 70 C.E. In the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries there were occasional synagogue services in several cities throughout Italy that were accompanied by organ. These occasions were lauded by the rabbi of Modena, Abraham Joseph Solomon Graziano, whose leniency and enjoyment in this matter annoyed his rabbinic colleagues. In a commentary he wrote: “...Jewish musicians should not be prevented from playing the organ to accompany songs and praises performed in honor of God...no competent rabbinic authority would forbid organ playing; only ignorant people would oppose it.” No doubt he was more than a mere annoyance to the other rabbis!

As part of its emphasis on the aesthetic expressions of Jewish worship, use of the organ was re-established by Reform Judaism in Germany in the early 1800s and within ten years, organ accompaniment became the distinguishing feature of Reform congregations.

Although Temple Isaiah doesn't have an organ as part of its worship service, in learning about the history of the organ, we can appreciate the fact that it has its roots in traditional Jewish practice.

Next month we begin the celebration of Jewish Music Season, which begins on Shabbat Shirah and continues until Passover. I look forward to sharing more of our Jewish musical legacy with you over the next several weeks.

*Cantor Leslie Friedlander*

## What is the World Zionist Congress?

The Zionist Congress is the World Zionist Organization's legislative body. The first Congress was called by Theodor Herzl in Basel, Switzerland in 1897 in which he predicted the creation of a Jewish state in our ancestral homeland. The Congress now meets every 5 years in Jerusalem and will meet in the fall of 2020. The Congress is the only body in which all of World Jewry is represented democratically. It determines policy, designates its course of action, chooses the leadership of the World Zionist Organization as well as JNF Israel, and allocates hundreds of millions of dollars in funding.



Importantly the Congress makes decisions that affect the status of Reform Jews in Israel and across the world. The American delegation to the Congress is the largest single delegation from outside Israel, with 145 delegates. The Congress will help determine policy in Israel and world-wide. In short the WZC elections in the United States is crucial for the growth and influence of the Reform Movement in Israel and around the world.

We will be asked to vote online from January 21<sup>st</sup> through March 11<sup>th</sup>. The slate that represents Reform Jewry is ARZA, the Association of Reform Zionists of America. Step by step instructions for voting will be sent soon.

*Shelley Sherman*

## Temple Isaiah Crafts Program

*Sunday, February 2 at 2:30pm*



**It's fun and easy to create an elegant, decoupaged glass plate for serving or display!**

**\$20 fee includes supplies and snacks.**

**Reserve your spot now! Call or email Meryl at 516-395-9341 or [mrsmsgm@aol.com](mailto:mrsmsgm@aol.com)**

**(Reservations are a MUST so we can order the correct amount of supplies!)**



**Sunday, January 12th at 11:30am**

**"Brunch & Learn" at Temple Isaiah**

**Bagels & Lox plus all the fixings**

**\$10.00—RSVP 516-487-5373 or**

**[isaiahgn@yahoo.com](mailto:isaiahgn@yahoo.com)**



# January 2020

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

# February 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b>  <b>Torah Study,</b> <b>9:30am</b> <b>Shacharit</b> <b>Service,</b> <b>10:30am</b>
<b>2</b>  <b>Crafts</b> <b>Program,</b> <b>2:30pm</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>Board</b> <b>Meeting,</b> <b>7:30pm</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>Tai Chi,</b> <b>11:00am</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>Birthday/</b> <b>Anniversary</b> <b>Shabbat</b> <b>Service,</b> <b>8:00pm</b>	<b>8</b>  <b>Torah Study</b> <b>&amp; Service,</b> <b>9:30am</b>
<b>9</b>  <b>Tu B'Shevat</b> <b>Seder,</b> <b>12:00 Noon</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  <b>Tai Chi,</b> <b>11:00am</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>Shabbat</b> <b>Service,</b> <b>8:00pm</b>	<b>15</b>  <b>Torah Study</b> <b>&amp; Service,</b> <b>9:30am</b>
<b>16</b> <b>Musical</b> <b>Program at</b> <b>the Silvers',</b> <b>featuring</b> <b>Richard</b> <b>Weiner,</b> <b>3:30pm</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  <b>Tai Chi,</b> <b>11:00am</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>Shabbat</b> <b>Service,</b> <b>8:00pm</b>	<b>22</b>  <b>Lay-led</b> <b>Torah Study,</b> <b>9:30am</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>Current</b> <b>Events,</b> <b>7:30pm</b>	<b>26</b>  <b>Tai Chi,</b> <b>11:00am</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>Shabbat</b> <b>Across</b> <b>America</b> <b>Dinner &amp;</b> <b>Service,</b> <b>6:30pm</b>	<b>29</b>  <b>Torah Study,</b> <b>9:30am</b> <b>Shacharit</b> <b>Service,</b> <b>10:30am</b>



*Saturday  
January 25*



Come in from the cold into the warmth of the Isaiah community for *Karaoke Night*

Our very own Eric Tosky will be our emcee for the evening. Saturday, January 25 @ 7 PM

*Light refreshments served*

**BYOB**

**\$10.00 per person**

**RSVP**

If you have a favorite song to sing, please email [merylmenashe@gmail.com](mailto:merylmenashe@gmail.com). They need to be ordered IN ADVANCE.



Sunday, February 16th  
An Afternoon of Good Music and Good Company

Join us at the home of Bella Bekker-Silver and Jonathan Silver on February 16th from 3:30 until 5:30 for a sentimental journey of song with Richard Weiner on the piano playing a medley of tunes from your childhood and youth (join in singing), plus show tunes, etc.

Richard Solow will be the guest singer, with tunes from Gilbert and Sullivan, cabaret, etc. This will be a special evening with wine, cocktails and of course, nibbles.

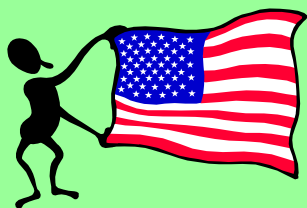
Space will be limited to the first 20-25 people, so please RSVP right away. (\$50 each)



Friday, February 28, 2020

Join tens of thousands of Jews across America as we come together to eat, drink, relax, enjoy, debate and celebrate at the 19th annual

**Shabbat Across**  
**America**



*Bring the family - bring your friends to an  
early Shabbat service at 6:30pm followed by a delicious kosher dinner at  
7:30PM*

(A Program of National Jewish Outreach)

Adults: \$36; Non-member guests \$18; Children under 13: Free

RSVP **REQUIRED**—487-5373 or [isaiahgn@yahoo.com](mailto:isaiahgn@yahoo.com)

Bakers wanted: for information  
please call Kathie Davis at 487-1576 or Sheila DeFazio at 643-1459



# Tu BiShvat Community Seder

Celebrate Tu BiShvat on "The Jewish New Year of Trees" by attending a Community Seder at Temple Isaiah of Great Neck. It is a time of year when we celebrate and honor the sacred and unique connection which exists between Judaism, nature and social action; a time when we remember the biblical teaching that "the tree of the fields is our life" (Deuteronomy 20:19). Enjoy three different types of kosher wines with a gourmet vegetarian lunch featuring dishes containing the customary seven species.

Sunday Afternoon, February 9<sup>th</sup> 2020

Tu BiShvat Seder 12:00 p.m.

RSVP's and payment of non-member fees are mandatory  
and must be received by Tuesday February 4<sup>th</sup> 2020

RSVP to either: [tubishvat.seder@gmail.com](mailto:tubishvat.seder@gmail.com) or call the Temple at (516)-487-5373

Members: A voluntary contribution will always be welcomed!

Non-Members \$36.00 adults; Non-Member Children \$18.00.

There is no charge for the seder for temple members but please remember to RSVP specifying the number of attendees. There will be six, seven or eight persons per table in prearranged seating. Seating is limited so be sure to reserve early.



Tu BiShvat Vegetarian Seder Menu

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Soup:           | Organic Butternut Squash Soup   |
| 2. Seder Offering: | Tu BiShvat Fruits and Nut Cups  |
| 3. Salad:          | Arugula Salad with Dates and Chevre   |
| 4. Bread:          | Sangak Bread and Hummus   |
| 5. Seder Offering: | Fresh Figs with Goat Cheese and Honey   |
| 6. Dessert:        | Viennese Dessert Fantasy Table  |
| 7. Wines:          | Herzog Lineage 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon; Chateau de Bordeaux 2017;<br>Via Encino Rose 2018 |

Volunteer Table Captains are needed to assist with tray & food distribution.

I am reserving \_\_\_ adult seats and \_\_\_ children's seats for the following:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***CURRENT EVENTS***

**With Helman Brook**

**Tuesdays, January 28th & February 25th  
7:30pm**



***Save these Dates!***



## **Watch Out For the White Elephants!**

**Sometime in March they will be coming  
to Temple Isaiah for a fun-filled event  
when you can give & take treasures &  
trash....**

***Sunday, March 29th at 2:00pm  
Linda Burghardt lecture on  
“The New Anti-Semitism and the BDS  
Movement”***



**Thursday, May 7th  
Temple Isaiah Journal/Dinner  
Save the Date!**

## General Donations

### ***In Loving Memory Of:***

Susan Bendor, Mother of Jane and Cathy  
Jane Bendor & Brian Graham  
Anna Rosenthal Brook, Mother of Helman Brook  
Rachel Alexander-Thorsen, Mother of Judy Brook  
Judy & Helman Brook  
Bessie Berkowitz, Grandmother of Sheila  
DeFazio  
Abraham Berkowitz, Grandfather of Sheila  
DeFazio  
Goldie Cohen, Mother of Sheila DeFazio  
Sylvester DeFazio, Father of Victor DeFazio  
Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
Robert Ensler, Brother-in-Law of Sheila &  
Victor DeFazio  
Sheila & Victor DeFazio  
Abraham Dechter, Grandfather of Irwin Ejpstein  
Mary Morella & Irwin Epstein  
Lillian Gorman, Mother of Howard Gorman  
Amy & Howard Gorman  
Ilonka Hans, Mother of Mortimer Hans  
Lia & Mortimer Hans  
Ruth Mandelbaum, Mother of Rose and William  
William Mandelbaum  
Shirley Miller, Mother of Denise Miller  
Denise Miller & SteveFein  
Cissy Sherman, Aunt of Shelley Sherman  
Terry Birnbaum-Horton  
Judy & Helman Brook  
Kathie Davis  
June & Allan Feldman  
Gail & Robert Gordon  
Carol & Bill Hersh  
Terry & Richard Joseph  
Marcia & Scott Ladin  
Denise Miller & Steve Fein  
Alisa & Martin Secofsky  
Clare & Steve Warshavsky  
Esther Causanschi, Mother of Golda Shapiro  
Golda Shapiro  
Audrey Goldberg, Sister of Harriet Shindler  
Harriet Shindler

### ***In Memory of (cont'd)***

William Ang, Father of Sandia Tosky  
Sandia & Eric Tosky  
Rita Rubenstein, Mother of Neil Rubenstein  
Hannah Zimberg, Mother of Shelley Willcox  
Shelley & Robert Willcox

### ***In Honor of:***

The Hard Work of the Auction Committee  
Judy & Helman Brook

### ***Kol Nidre Appeal:***

Sonia & Bruce Funk

### ***The Clergy Discretionary Fund:***

In Memory of Barry Benton  
Kivette (Kit) Benton

**Our Next Soup  
Kitchen Volunteer  
Day is  
Saturday,  
March 7, 2020  
Contact Denise  
Miller for Details**



***When the weather (or  
other circumstance)  
threatens the cancella-  
tion of services or a tem-  
ple event, if the office is  
closed please call Kathie  
Davis to check:  
516-487-1576 or  
516-297-0254***



## **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

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## 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