

CARES Act Expands Tax Deductions for Charitable Giving in 2020

If you take the standard deduction on your 2020 tax return (the one that you'll file in 2021), you can claim a brand new "above-the-line" deduction of up to \$300 for *cash* donations to charity you make this year.

If you itemize on Schedule A of your tax return, you can claim a deduction for your charitable donations. However, the amount you can deduct for cash contributions is generally limited to 60% of your adjusted gross income (AGI). Any cash donations over that amount can be carried over for up to five years and deducted later.

The CARES Act lifts the 60% of AGI limit for cash donations made in 2020 (although there is still a 100% of AGI limit on all charitable contributions). That means itemizers can deduct more of their charitable cash contributions this year. As with the new above-the-line deduction, donations to donor advised funds and supporting organizations do not count.

Please be sure to discuss this with your tax preparer when filing your 2020 tax return next year.

**Thanks for
Donating!**

Enhancing your Friday Night Services with Zoom

We hope everyone has been enjoying the ability to join our virtual Friday night services with Rabbi Blum and Cantor Friedlander. Please note that when you join via the Zoom link you are both muted, and your video is shut off. Please remember to leave both off until after services when the rabbi invites you to turn on your video and audio. Here is a helpful tip on how to improve the view on your computer screen during services.

- 1) Put your screen on Gallery View. You can toggle between speaker and gallery view with the icon at the top right-hand corner of your screen.
- 2) Hide Non-Video Participants by following these easy instructions:
 - A. When you are in Gallery View, right-click on any participant that has their video off, or you can click on the 3 dots at the upper right of their participant box.
 - B. Choose **Hide Non-Video Participants** to hide all users with their video off.

If you have followed these instructions correctly, you should only see on your screen the rabbi and cantor side by side and not see anyone else.

Happy Zooming.



RABBI'S COLUMN

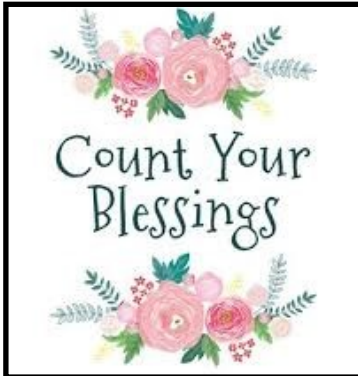
By Rabbi Jerry Blum

Finding the “Upside in the Down”

Anyone who joins us for Torah study knows that we have a shortened prayer session before we begin our study, and everyone who joins in knows that my favorite part of the service is the *birchot hashachar* – *the blessings of the morning*. These first blessings are what we would traditionally say as we wake up, even while still in bed. As we open our eyes, we would say the words *Modeh/Modah ani lifnecha, melech chai v'kayam* – *I thank you, living and eternal Sovereign, for returning my soul back to me in mercy, Great is your faithfulness*. What an amazing affirmation of one's faith in the God and in turn, God's love for us. As we continue our waking routine, we would say the rest of the blessings, thus thanking God for allowing us to open our eyes and participate once again in this world that we live in. But times have changed, and we no longer say these blessings as we wake, rather, we wait until we come to the synagogue to recite all these blessings as we pray communally.



During our daily morning services and after the initial *modeh ani* prayer, we move ahead to thanking God for the purity of our soul and acknowledgment that our bodies are a complex system of veins, organs and nerves. We then move onto the *Nisim b'chol yom* – *the daily list of miracles*, in which we show our gratitude to God for a long list of blessings that are part of our lives. These and the rest of the morning blessing speak to the fragility of life and how cognizant we are of all our blessings and miracles in our lives, no matter how big or small.



Our Sages instruct us to say one hundred blessings each day, and if one goes through the siddur, there are actually more than a hundred opportunities to say a blessing during any given day, but why is this so important? To me, these prayers and blessings are an exercise in mindfulness. We don't always have the time nor the inclination to notice all the blessings in our lives. We are busy and usually not paying much attention, and these days, with the anxiety and fear that envelop our lives daily, many find it difficult to even recognize these small gifts that are hiding in plain sight. We are too often distracted by the “downside” of our current situations, and who could blame us? Helping us to recognize the good in our lives is the basis for all this morning liturgy. The liturgy of our tradition supplies us with words and blessing, because those words aren't always on the tip of our tongue. Of course, some of the blessings in their original form need a lot of interpretation, but nonetheless the focus of this exercise is to help us to discover these small moments of daily holiness. If

so inclined, one might even begin a list of their own blessings and daily miracles. (btw, I'd love to see and discuss those lists with you if you'd be comfortable sharing). It is important for us to acknowledge that as humans we are partners with God in acts of holiness. By doing so, we open ourselves up to hope and positive energy and hopefully we gain solace and strength, something we could all use a little more of these days.

Recently, as many of you know and have participated in, we have been leading Shabbat services and Torah study online. Hardly the best venue for finding spirituality, but during these services and study, I have noticed something I would never in a million years thought could happen. There is an intense level of focus, intimacy and a presence that can be felt through the invisible connections of the internet. As the poet Alden Solovy says “So many beautiful faces, so many radiant souls, shining forth Into our hearts.” I am touched by everyone I see, and the time spent catching up at our impromptu oneg after services is one of the highlights of my week and because of that, I feel deeply blessed.

Perhaps in the next few weeks, and as we contemplate our lives after quarantine (may it come to an end soon and safely), let's try to set aside some time daily to notice our own blessings. Let us show our gratitude for the roof over our head and food in our refrigerators by reaching out to others in our community, family and circle of friends. You never know, you might just find a blessing right in front of your eyes and notice the “Upside in the Down”.

Rabbi Jerry

CANTOR'S COLUMN

By Cantor Leslie Friedlander

An Optimistic Invitation



Around this time each year, between Passover and Shavuot, I start planning the High Holy Day Torah readings. I make sure each reading is assigned and that each year we have one or two new chanters. Sometimes it takes some gentle arm twisting but by service time, every verse has been assigned, studied, and learned. Chanting Torah isn't easy, but the challenge is well worth the satisfaction one receives from such an accomplishment.

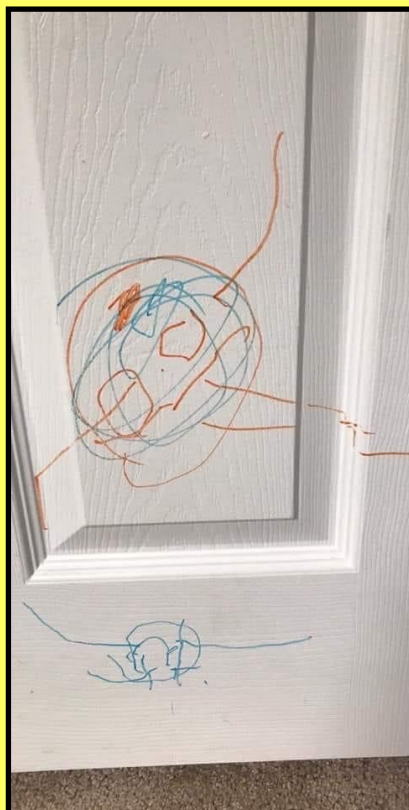
This year there is some uncertainty about how we will experience the High Holy Day services, but one thing is sure - we will pray, learn, discuss, listen and observe together, as we have for over 55 years.

With this optimism in mind, I invite anyone who is willing to learn to chant a few verses of Torah. I will teach you the words, the melody, the meaning, and you will bring honor to the congregation and yourself.



Think about it – if 13-year-olds can do it, certainly any one of us can!

Cantor Leslie Friedlander



***Wrestlers in Action*, 2020**
Eli Williams (b. 2016)

Crayola marker on wooden closet door.

Williams, a fledgling artist with a reputation for drawing it like he sees it, has honed a style that hearkens back to the Realism movement.

In the latest addition to Williams' *Quarantine* series, the subject is WWE wrestlers in action. Williams rejects Romantic conventions and delivers the raw emotion of wrestlers Rey Mysterio and Jeff Hardy in the ring.

Critics agree that *Wrestlers in Action* is a thought-provoking composition that challenges the viewer to reflect on their own emotions stemming from being a prisoner in their own home during a toilet paper shortage.

Gifted to the artist's parents, 2020.

***The Lighter Side of
Coronna Sequestering
(from Facebook)***

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Steven Warshavsky

The end of May 2020 marks the end of my 2-year term as President of Temple Isaiah. At times it feels like the past 2 years have just flown by, and at other times it feels like I have been President for much longer. It has been a true privilege and honor of mine to have worked with such an esteemed and caring group of people that make up the Board of Trustees of Temple Isaiah. Looking back there are many things that we were able to accomplish over the past few years and a few disappointments.



I am very proud of all the programming, fundraising, and educational opportunities that we have offered our community and continue to offer. Even at this time while we all "shelter in place" together, we have continued to offer our weekly Friday night services and Torah study. In addition, you have had the opportunity to join in lunch & learn and book club meetings amongst others. I hope you have taken advantage of some of these offerings. Much gratitude goes to our clergy and our various committee chairs who make this all possible.

The one main disappointment has been our inability to increase our membership base in any significant way, but our efforts will continue.

I am so excited to share with you the listing on the next page which shows next year's full slate of Officers and Trustees making up Temple Isaiah's Board of Trustees for the 2020-2021 fiscal year led by Terry Birnbaum-Horton as President. Having worked with Terry these past two years I am confident she will be an excellent President. Please join me in welcoming them and thanking them for taking on this most important role for our temple family.

As our fiscal year winds down, I am truly disappointed that we are unable to have our annual Journal/Dinner event in person this year. This is such a wonderful fundraising event where we all come together to honor a few of our own members. This year we are honoring Marcia Null and David Aubrey as we thank them for their contributions to Temple Isaiah. If you have not done so already, I encourage you to join us this year as we honor David and Marcia with our first ever Virtual Journal. Whether you join us with a Full Page Ad or more, or simply a Congratulations to our Honorees, I hope you decide to be a part of this important event; both to say thank you to Marcia and David as well as helping us bring in the needed funds to balance our budget for this fiscal year. More information about the Virtual Journal can be found in this Bulletin. You can also click on this link to see a preview.

<https://online.flowpaper.com/7a06076e/JournalTutorial/#page=1>

Looking forward to when we are all able to meet in person at 1 Chelsea Place again. Until then I hope you and your family stays healthy and safe.

Respectfully yours,

Steven Warshavsky

Temple Isaiah Board of Trustees 2020-2021

Executive Committee

President: Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Executive Vice President: Scott Schleifstein
Treasurer: Howard Gorman
Financial Secretary: Bill Hersh
Recording Secretary: Linda Burghardt

Trustees:

Term Ending 6/2021

Steve Fein
Belle Gayer
Elliott Gayer
Denise Miller
Terry Joseph
Martin Secofsky

Term Ending 6/2022

Ruth Isaac
Meryl Menashe
Marcia Null
June Feldman
Kathie Davis

Term Ending 6/2023

Sheila DeFazio
Rachel Greenwald
Rona Levy
Shelley Sherman
Lloyd Perell

Immediate Past President:
Steven Warshavsky

Founding President:
Bernard Rosenberg

Our New Fiscal Year Begins June 1st

May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Online Shabbat Service, 6:30pm	2 Online Torah Study 9:30am
3	4	5	6	7	8 Online Shabbat Service, 6:30pm	9 Online Torah Study 9:30am
10	11	12	13	14	15 Online Shabbat Service, 6:30pm	16 Online Torah Study 9:30am
17	18	19	20	21	22 Online Shabbat Service, 6:30pm	23 Online Torah Study 9:30am
24 Until Further Notice, all Friday Night Services begin at 6:30pm on Zoom All Saturday Morning Torah Studies begin at 9:30am on Zoom	25	26	27	28	29 Online Shabbat Service, 6:30pm	30 Online Torah Study 9:30am



Temple Isaiah of Great Neck

1 Chelsea Place, Great Neck, NY 11021

Tel: 516-487-5373 Fax: 516-829-0825

Templeisaiahgn.org Email: isaiahgn@yahoo.com

Dear Friends,

We hope that you and your family are all well. Please know that your Temple Isaiah family is there for you during this difficult time.

As you know, our annual Dinner honoring Marcia Null and David Aubrey scheduled for May 7th has been postponed. We are, however, going forward with our Journal to support Temple Isaiah. We are creating a beautiful and fun online *Virtual Journal*, which can include as part of your Ad your own video and pictures, to commemorate our gratitude to Marcia and David for all they do to make our temple special.

The Dinner Journal brings in the needed funds to meet our ongoing financial commitments and balance our budget while honoring outstanding members. The Journal is one of two major fundraisers of the year that bring in the needed funds to balance our budget and make everything else work through the year.

This is a time to come together to assure that going forward, the temple that is such a significant part of our lives can continue to offer the warmth and friendship that we all seek and need. We may not be able to have our Dinner now, but you can support Temple Isaiah by donating as generously as possible to our creative Virtual Journal.

Our building may be closed but we are still open! We have been adapting to our new situation and continue to add many of our programs for you to join in via Zoom meetings, from Shabbat services to book group amongst others. Please check our website and your emails for more information on how to participate.

Please review the attached order form and consider placing a special greeting or Ad for our Honorees and Temple Isaiah. *Remember to send us pictures and videos too, to warm our hearts and maybe make us laugh.* If possible, forward the order form to people who may be able to place an Ad in the Journal. Your accountant, doctor, dentist, insurance agent, broker and anyone else that may need to reciprocate a favor.

We hope you will be generous at this time of need and look forward to hearing back from you before the May 15th deadline.

Sincerely,

The Journal & Dinner Committee and The Officers of Temple Isaiah

Journal Ad Form on the Following Page



*Temple Isaiah of Great Neck Proudly
Announces Its Upcoming Virtual Journal
Honoring
David Aubrey and
Marcia Null*

*We invite you to send us your video messages to include
in our virtual journal.*

Advertisement Rates

- ☐ *Menorah Page* \$18,000
- ☐ *Shofar Page* \$9,000
- ☐ *Platinum Page* \$3,600
- ☐ *Gold Page* \$1,800
- ☐ *Silver Page* \$1,500
- ☐ *Bronze Page* \$1,000
- ☐ *Full Page* \$ 500
- ☐ *Half Page* \$ 360
- ☐ *Quarter Page* \$ 200
- ☐ *Eighth Page* \$ 100

(Business card size)

*Note that if your Ad is a Half
Page or larger you can include
your own video, audio or
picture message to our
honorees.*

Ad Copy

You can send us your Ad Copy by

Mail to:

*Temple Isaiah of Great Neck
1 Chelsea Place, Great Neck, NY 11021*

Or via e-mail to:

steve@warshavsky.net

*Please also e-mail all Video, Audio and Pictures
you would like to include in your Ad to:
steve@warshavsky.net*

- ☐ *Congratulations to Our Honorees* \$75

Name _____

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE—Ads Must Be Submitted by May 15, 2020
(All or part of the ad may be tax deductible. Consult with your tax advisor.)

- ☐ Check Made Payable to Temple Isaiah of Great Neck enclosed
- ☐ Visa ☐ Master Charge ☐ American Express (3% fee for credit card payment)

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Name _____ Signature _____

Address _____ Phone _____

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

Ad Obtained by: _____

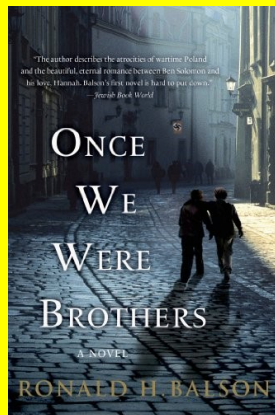
General Donations

In Loving Memory of:

Marshall Burghardt, Father of David Burghardt
 Linda & David Burgardt
 Irwin Hersh, Father of Bill Hersh
 Carol & Bill Hersh
 Sylvia Schalet, Mother of Phyllis Schalet
 Phyllis Schalet
 Barbara Glembourtt, Sister-in-Law of Golda Shapiro
 Terry & Richard Joseph
 Golda Shapiro
 Solomon Koss, Father of Nina Koss
 Nina Koss
 Isadore Edward Goldbas
 Father of Jacqueline Neumann
 Harry Shapiro, Father of Jules Shapiro
 Golda Shapiro
 Benjamin Koenig, Father of Alice Weiner
 Alice & Richard Weiner



A Good Attitude Gets Us Through



May Book Club

Date to be Determined

Our next book is "Once We Were Brothers" by Ronald H. Balson. According to Amazon, this is a "***gripping tale about two boys, once as close as brothers, who find themselves on opposite sides of the Holocaust.***"

Meryl Menashe will be leading a discussion sometime in late May, but everyone can begin reading now. The book is available in e-book form from the library or other formats from various online stores.

In Honor of:

Steve Warshavsky for his Diligence and Resourcefulness
 June & Allan Feldman
 Belle & Elliott Gayer for the Wonderful Tu B'Shevat Seder
 Gail & Robert Gordon
 The Birthday of Allan Feldman
 Terry Birnbaum-Horton
 Judy & Helman Brook
 Kathie Davis
 Gail & Robert Gordon
 Carol & Bill Hersh
 Denise Miller & Steve Fein
 Alisa & Martin Secofsky
 Shelley Sherman
 Clare & Steve Warshavsky
 The Speedy Recovery of Micki Victor
 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

The Tree of Life:

In Honor of the Birth of Ellie Joy Brenner,
 Granddaughter of Arlyn & Rabbi Jerry Blum
 Carol & Bill Hersh



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



SJCC.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,TM
an FDIC insured fund for pre-paid funeral arrangements.



TEMPLE ISAIAH OF GREAT NECK

1 Chelsea Place
Great Neck, NY 11021

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