

What's new, what's coming?

Lazy days of summer are here and we generally take a little break from our usual schedules... This year is different. We have (or will have) a calendar full with things to do; Spiritual, study, social and more.

NEW: Summer Torah Study during the week with the Rabbi! Join the study group. No pressure, whether a novice or an expert, we'll study and read a little and have lively discussions.

Torah: 4 sessions, 7:30 to 8:30pm, Wed. July 15th & Thursdays July 23rd, August 6th, 20th

(FYI, previously, Temple Isaiah had lay-led Torah study during the summer. This year no break for the Rabbi, his choice.)

NEW: Adult Ed program with the Rabbi, "Making Prayer Real." The meanings of prayer, how we pray and more. Each session will stand on its own so come for all or one.

Adult Ed: 3 sessions, 7:30 to 8:30pm, Mon. July 20th, Wed. August 12th, Thur. August 25th.

In the works are a couple of fun events—a sneak peek to one: A Temple Isaiah Walk: social/membership/mini-fundraiser event. **We'll walk, we'll talk and have a nosh.**

Coming sooner than you think -Before you know it, it will be the High Holiday's – this year it means we all have to get our technology in good working order and choose a comfortable perfect spot in our homes to participate in services and prayer. If you need help; shout out to us, a family member or computer repair person.

Looking forward there will be more mini Zoom programs. We're testing out various times to accommodate more people. We recently tried a program with the Rabbi in the late afternoon, which had a good turnout.

Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.

LOOK FOR POP-UP ACTIVITIES!!!

Call me with a mini program you'd like to give, for now, on Zoom. We will help you host. Call me with ideas or I will be calling you.

Terry Birnbaum-Horton



Reminder:

*Our New Fiscal Year Began on June 1st and We Need
 Your Pledges and Paperwork To Plan Our Year!*
 Additional pledge form can be found on page 8.

(If you want to contribute to ARZA, please make payment payable to Temple Isaiah.)

RABBI'S COLUMN

By Rabbi Jerry Blum

*See the curtains hangin' in the window, in the evenin' on a Friday night
A little light a-shinin' through the window, lets me know everything is alright
Summer breeze, makes me feel fine, blowing through the jasmine in my mind
(Summer Breeze – Seals and Crofts, 1972)*



Each time I think about the Summer months, my mind drifts to pictures of the ocean and beaches, with white sand and my feet walking through the waves, laughing and enjoying the time spent with family and friends. Or, I imagine myself hiking through a forest trail, heading towards an opening that unfolds into a meadow filled with wildflowers and places to sit and take in the nature that surrounds me. But, because of circumstances, this Summer will be different. This Summer will be enjoyed in other ways, with new activities that engage our minds and creative sides and hopefully some exciting learning and spiritual experiences.

In the past years, we went into vacation mode at our temple and had lay-led Summer services and this will not change. We will still have our services led by our members (albeit via zoom), but not all the Shabbatot are covered, so the cantor and I will be filling in when needed. If you want to lead a service, please be in touch with Kathie Davis, or me, and we'll "hook you up" with a service and will also help you with the online services, so have no fear.

In regard to Torah study, in the past during the Summer months, our regular Torah study became less formalized and a small group of learners banded together to study the weekly *parashah* (Torah portion). This Summer, we will change that up a teeny bit. We will be experimenting with doing our Torah study on a weeknight, still studying the weekly portion, but not on Shabbat morning. Hopefully, we will get more participants and those who go away or to the beach during the Summer, won't miss our sessions. We will be having four sessions spread through July and August (see the schedule on the page 5 calendar) and you will be getting reading packets (don't worry, this isn't homework) to prepare you for our discussions. The first session is July 15th (Wednesday) at 7:30 – 8:30 pm. The rest of the sessions will be on Thursday evenings.

This Summer, we will also continue our learning together with a three-session series on prayer called "Making Prayer Real". For those who participated in my "short discussion" on prayer a few weeks ago, this will continue on our quest to understand prayer and how we as moderns can incorporate a prayer ritual into our lives, in creative and meaningful ways. Again, see the calendar for dates and times.

Of course, if it's Summer, the High Holy Days can't be too far away (OMG, did I just say High Holy Days? AHHHHH!) This year, because of Covid and our need to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible, our Holy Day services will be different, but hopefully meaningful and as engaging as possible. We ask for your understanding, but also your participation. Many of you have gotten phone calls asking about your personal feelings regarding the services and what is important for you. Please think about these questions, AND, also give some thought to participating in some way. The cantor and I are working on some interesting ways for you all to participate and will fill you in in the coming weeks.

Back to the lyrics above. I mentioned that each time I think about the Summer, my mind takes me to images of Summer activities and of course, for me, images of God's blessings of nature. These lyrics above (besides making me feel like a teenager again) also remind me of my childhood during the Summers, upstate with my grandparents in the bungalow colonies, walking in between these small homes filled with Shabbat joys and peace. Looking through the windows with the curtains flowing in the Summer breezes one could see the flickering "*little lights a shinin*" from the Shabbat candles that blessed each house with rest, warmth and peace. These *lights a shinin*, let me know that everything is all right. These memories always brought me a sense of calm, and comfort that carried me through the weekend and much of the week as well, even if things were fraught with other less pleasant times.

I pray that although our "new normal" isn't quite what we expected and isn't as relaxing or as much fun as our regular activities, we are able to acknowledge all the blessings that surround us. Let's try to feel those summer breezes, even if only in our mind, and may we experience comfort, peace and a sense of calm.

Although we are socially distant, we are as close as ever. Remember, the synagogue is not a building, but rather, it is a community, a family and our spiritual home.

Rabbi Jerry

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Terry Birnbaum-Horton



Hello my Temple Isaiah friends,

It has been months of contemplation and anxiety, fits of productivity and inactivity. We miss being with each other and are working very hard to be near each other through our technology, phones and computers. Maybe we listen to a little too much news, lately sad and scary. We will miss Governor Cuomo's daily update to both give us the facts and his opinions, trying his best to keep us calm and focused.

Well, Temple Isaiah clergy and committees are working hard to keep us focused and calm too. We're figuring out the new way of doing things. I know, I am a broken record about how hard people are working for TI, BUT they really are working hard and it has to be said. How do we bring our services, activities, programs to our members and how do we continue our always needed fundraising efforts?

I must say, it is exciting to see more faces at Shabbat services and other programs and sad that we are missing others. Lately, people are finding ways to finally get online with our zoom activities. I hope more and more join us. It isn't the best scenario but it is the only way at the moment.

Call or email me! Let me know what you would like to see! Do you have an idea for us to keep our social, academic and spiritual bond?

With that said, 'we' are still here, Rabbi Blum, Cantor Friedlander, Cathy Reibstein, Devon Shuriah and our building too, even though often empty the engine is still running. Feel free to call or email any of them as well to say hello, ask a question or ask for help.

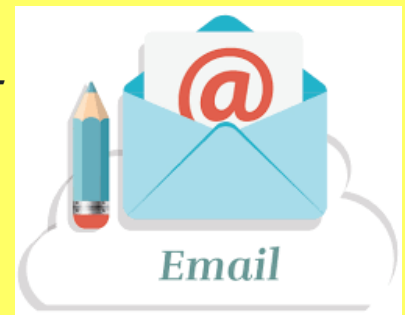
TI is there for you, NY is doing an excellent job, wear a mask.

Affectionately, Terry

Please remember to check your emails for Temple Isaiah news, programs, and events as we develop our new normal.

We hope that you reach out and join some of the future events or even consider hosting one. We also hope you reach out if you have technology issues and questions that we can help you with so that you can participate.

- Terry



Enhancing your Zoom Experience

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.

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.

July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Online Shabbat Service, 6:30pm	4
5	6	7 Board Meeting, 7:30pm	8	9 Book Group Discussion, 7:30pm	10 Online Shabbat Service, 6:30pm led by Belle & Elliott Gayer	11
12	13	14	15 Online Torah Study, 7:30pm—8:30pm	16	17 Online Shabbat Service, 6:30pm	18
19	20 Adult Ed., 7:30pm—8:30pm: “Making Prayer Real”	21	22	23 Online Torah Study, 7:30pm—8:30pm	24 Online Shabbat Service, 6:30pm led by Judy Snow & Scott Schleifstein	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Online Shabbat Service, 6:30pm led by Denise Miller & Steve Fein	



Every year Temple Isaiah, a proud member of the Union of Reform Judaism asks our members to join ARZA and submit a membership fee of \$50. Some have naturally asked -

**What is ARZA? and what does its tagline (directly below) mean?
Equality. Democracy. Pluralism. Israel.**

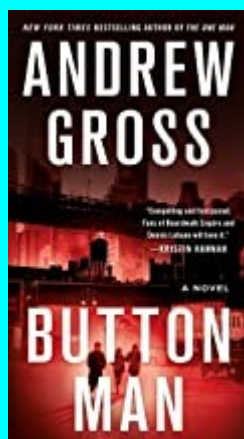
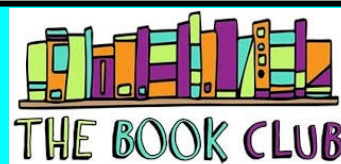
The Association of Reform Zionists of America is the Israel arm of the Reform Movement, representing our community to the Zionist National Institutions.

ARZA is dedicated to advancing progressive values in Israel and making Israel a central pillar of Jewish identity for every Reform Jew. ARZA represents the Reform Movement to the Zionist National Institutions, using our position to create a more equal, democratic, and pluralistic Israel. The Jewish State must be a society that reflects the whole Jewish people, with the respect and legitimacy granted to all denominations. We work for acceptance of the Reform Movement, addressing issues of gender equality, civil marriage, conversion, racial justice and much more. These are our values and this is our Homeland.

To join ARZA, please include \$50 (or send a separate check made out to Temple Isaiah) when you submit this year's pledge form and dues payment.

Shelley Sherman

Book Club—Zoom Meeting Thursday, July 9, 7:30pm *Button Man* by Andrew Gross



***Button Man* is a stirring story of a Jewish family brought together in the dawn of the women's garment business and torn apart by the birth of organized crime in New York City in the 1930s.**

Zoom link will be provided closer to the date of the meeting.

High Holiday Plans Are In the Works

There is at least one thing we know about the future—the High Holidays will be coming in mid-September and your clergy, officers and ritual committee have been hard at work already making plans (and Plan B and Plan C, etc.).

In the event that we will not be able to have in-person services in our sanctuary we are researching all of the alternative modalities and resources available in order to assure that our holiday observances will be meaningful to us all.

Shortly, you will be contacted by phone or email to address those aspects of the HH services that are most integral to your observance. If we go to a virtual model, we know that services will have to be different—at the very least shorter and more varied. Please be thinking about this and be prepared when you are contacted to discuss or answer questions about your feelings about these holiday services.

Thank you!

Shelley Sherman and Ruth Isaac, Co-chairs of the Ritual Committee
Terry Birnbaum-Horton & Scott Schleifstein
Rabbi Blum & Cantor Friedlander

Did you miss the Virtual Journal honoring David Aubrey and Marcia Null?



Steve Warshavsky created a beautiful tribute to our honorees, and our members provided a wonderful level of participation.

In case you haven't seen it, please check it out at:

<https://online.flowpaper.com/7a06076e/TempleIsaiah2020Journal/>



Have you seen a cartoon that lightened your spirits in these trying times? If so, send it to the temple office and we'll try to share it with your fellow congregants.

TEMPLE ISAIAH OF GREAT NECK

Membership Dues Form—June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021

We're thrilled to have you join the Temple Isaiah family. As you review the membership categories below, remember that our founders mandated a voluntary dues system. While we provide recommended dues based on our budget requirements, the recommendations are always subject to your self-evaluation, and your pledge is entirely confidential.

Please select from one of our membership categories below.

_____ First year "check us out" membership \$ 995

_____ 35 and under Sustaining member \$ 995

_____ Sustaining member \$ 2,500

_____ Mitzvah member* \$ 3,600

_____ Isaiah's Circle member* \$ 4,500

_____ Torah member* \$ 5,400

_____ Gift from the heart pledge (*see the FAQ*) \$ _____

_____ Voluntary ARZA dues: I would like to support ARZA and have enclosed \$50 (payable to Temple Isaiah)

*These categories entitle the member to a credit towards the Journal Dinner. Credits are Mitzvah member - \$250; Isaiah's Circle member - \$500; Torah member - \$750; Credit expires at the end of the current fiscal year. Member must attend the Journal Dinner to use the credit.

Payment Options

Check One	Plan	Method (Circle One)	Billing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Full payment enclosed	Check PayPal** Credit card***	Make check payable to Temple Isaiah of Great Neck
<input type="checkbox"/>	Automatic Online Banking Payment	As scheduled	Monthly/quarterly/semi-annually scheduled with bank
<input type="checkbox"/>	1/2 Enclosed	Check PayPal** Credit card***	Second half due on December 1, 2019
<input type="checkbox"/>	1/3 Enclosed	Check PayPal** Credit card***	Subsequent thirds due on October 1, 2019 and February 1, 2020
<input type="checkbox"/>	Monthly	Credit card payments or Online Banking on-ly***	10 Automatic payments billed on the first of each month, June through March (Your first payment must include any prior months from June through the date of payment)

To use PayPal go to the Temple Isaiah web page at <https://templeisiahgn.org> (just type in templeisiahgn.org in your browser and you will automatically get a secure connection) and click on Donate in the upper right hand corner. This will take you to a new page with a link to click on and instructions for using PayPal – it's easy. **IMPORTANT – Please notify the temple office of the amount you are sending.

***Credit card information must be provided below if you wish to pay this way. All follow-up payments will be automatically charged to your credit card on the payment due date. All Credit Card payments will include a 3% surcharge.

If paying with stock, please inform the temple office when you submit the transfer request to your broker.

If you are 72 or older, you can donate directly from your traditional IRA to Temple Isaiah and it will count towards your RMD but it will be non-taxable – We encourage you to discuss this with your accountant.

General Donations

In Loving Memory of:

Louise Helen Ferguson, Mother of David Ferguson

Susie & David Fergisun
Irwin Israel, Father of Howard Israel
Evelyn Israel, Mother of Howard Israel
Al Loew, Uncle of Mindy Israel
Mindy & Howard Israel

Morris Schalet, Father of Phyllis Schalet
Phyllis Schalet

Anna Eisenman, Mother of Bella Bekker-Silver
Bella Bekker-Silver & Jonathan Silver
Esther Solow, Mother of Richard Solow
Stanley Kristal, Brother of Evelyn Solo
Evelyn & Richard Solow

In Honor of:

The Special Occasions Celebrated by
Belle & Elliott Gayer

Denise Miller & Steve Fein
Johanna Hurwitz
Ruth Isaac
Meryl & Jack Menashe
Linda Burghardt's Chagall Program
Ruth Isaac

The Continued Good Health of Lia & Mort Hans
The Continued Good Health of Johanna Hurwitz
June & Allan Feldman

The Birth of Miriam Alara Winn, Granddaughter
of Cantor Leslie & Steven Friedlander

Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Judy & Helman Brook
Kathie Davis
June & Allan Feldman
Gail & Robert Gordon
Carol & Bill Hersh
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
Judy Snow & Scott Schleifstein
Alisa & Martin Secofsky
Shelley Sherman

In Honor of (cont'd):

The Speedy Recovery of Steven Friedlander

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

The Speedy Recovery of Elliot Katz

Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Judy & Helman Brook
Kathie Davis
June & Allan Feldman
Gail & Robert Gordon
Carol & Bill Hersh
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
Judy Snow & Scott Schleifstein
Alisa & Martin Secofsky
Shelley Sherman

ARZA:

Kathie Davis
Sheila & Victor DeFazio



*It is a Tree of Life to those
who hold it fast.*

*And all who cling to it find
happiness.*

**Would you like to
celebrate a joyous event?
Honor a dear friend,
relative or loved one?**

**Contact the temple office
for details.**

**(Information on
Memorial Plaques is also
available.)**



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
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(516) 487-9600

PRE-NEED COUNSELING AVAILABLE

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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