

Preparing for the Holidays!

The High Holy Days are fast approaching. A time in our year of great importance to us. They mark our calendar and our lives, they reset us and bring us peace. This year it is more important than ever that we be together, that we connect! We won't be in our sanctuary this year. We will still be together in prayer, song and celebration on Zoom. The Clergy, Ritual Committee, Scott and I and many others are working to help make the holidays meaningful. So get ready, find a special place in your home to join us. More details will be following later.

Below you will find a schedule for the holidays*.

S'lichot; Saturday, September 12th, 8pm
 Rosh HaShanah Evening; Friday, September 18th, 7:30pm
 Rosh HaShanah day 1; Saturday, September 19th, 10:30 to 12 noon
 Rosh HaShanah day2 program; September 20th, 10:30 to 11:30 am
 Tashlich ; September 20th, 12 noon at Steppingstone Park – location not confirmed
 Yom Kippur & Kol Nidre; Sunday, September 27th, 7:30pm
 Yom Kippur day; Monday, September 28th; Service; 10:30 to 12 pm,
 Meditation & Musical Interlude; 1 to 2:00pm
 Discussion session #1; 2:00 to 3:00pm
 Mincha-afternoon service & discussion session #2; 3:30 to 5:00pm
 Yizkor; 5:15pm to 5:45
 N'ilah, Havdalah and sounding of the Shofar; 6:00 to 6:40pm

**Subject to changes*

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



I began writing this month's article on the day we commemorate Rosh Chodesh Av, the beginning of the Hebrew month of Av, the most intense and complex of all months in the Jewish calendar. In Jewish tradition the month of Av has always been a month of dichotomies. It is the month that begins with Tisha B'Av – the 9th of Av, the saddest day of the Jewish year, which serves as a reminder of the destruction of both the First and Second Temple in Jerusalem. Our rabbis taught that these calamities were brought on by the sin of *Sinat Chinam* – *Baseless Hatred*. Thus, Tisha B'Av teaches us that we must be mindful of the way we treat others. This lesson of course resonates in the world situation we are currently in. We are continually bombarded with new examples of Sinat Chinam, when in fact, we desperately need just the opposite, *Ahavat Chinam* – *Loving others freely and without judgement*.



As Tisha B'Av ends, we are comforted by the words of the Prophet Isaiah as he says "*nachamu, nachamu ami, yomar eloheichem* – (Be) comforted (be) comforted my people, says your God" (Isaiah 40:1). We are taken from the depths of mourning, and immediately we begin a process of healing and renewal. Six days later, we celebrate *Tu B'Av* or the 15th of Av,

which is a day dedicated to the pursuits of love, family and joy. But the most significant part is that the month of Av is a portal into the High Holy Days and the Hebrew month of *Elul*. *Elul* begins a process of self-examination and introspection *Cheshbon haNefesh*, that is all about renewal of spirit, refreshing of one's soul and ultimately, the feeling of being reborn on Rosh HaShanah, and spiritually cleansed on Yom Kippur. Truly, *Av* and *Elul* are months of transformation, and this transformation will affect the way we live for many years to come.

As we approach the *Yamim Nora'im* – the Days of Awe, the temple leadership and the clergy have been working tirelessly to find the best and most engaging way to present our *Rosh HaShanah* and *Yom Kippur* services. Of course, they will be different from years past, but we believe that our services will be participatory, innovative and of course meaningful. We have been reaching out to many of you (and will continue that process), finding out what is most important about the holiday services and the feedback has been very helpful in guiding us, as we create a prayer service that will be moving and keep you engaged. Based on this feedback, we plan on adding music, discussion and thoughtful prayer, along with insights and inspirational meditations, while making sure the most important prayer moments are kept in place and there is nothing superfluous. We realize that things don't always work perfectly and there will be glitches along the way, but we know that our Temple Isaiah spirit and commitment to our community will help us to enjoy and celebrate together, albeit in different ways than in the past.

Check our High Holy Day schedule on page 1, and please participate in our learning opportunities coming up in the next many weeks before the holidays. Join us as we begin this process of renewal during the days leading up to the *Yamim Nora'im*, I pray that this journey together will bring us comfort, growth and transformation.

Please stay safe, healthy and cool.

Rabbi Jerry

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Terry Birnbaum-Horton



NORMAL! This summer is not anyone's "normal".

We are obsessed with the way it was before the pandemic and what we're doing during the pandemic and when we will, if ever, get back to normal.

Normally in the summer, we relax and we slow down. We enjoy the outdoors and the long days. Life is informal in the summer. We take a break from our busy routines. Well, now things are not typical of our past summers. We are inside more, we are not sharing meals or socializing in person. *We are all trying our best though and meeting on Zoom for learning and conversations.*

Normally, as most everyone takes a break from our yearlong routines, the clergy, on summer break from services, are reenergizing and preparing for the High Holy Day services. Many of the TI committees are busy—from Ritual to Membership—in the summer too.

This year 'normal' takes ingenuity and patience because things are so different. The Temple Isaiah community is working diligently to bring the new normal to everyone. No lazy summer for some.

In these new times be patient with yourselves and others. *Please try to join a Zoom program or service this summer. Get ready for the holidays with your technology and a comfortable sacred space to get the most from the holiday services.*

Feel free to call or email me for any reason! Good news is always a reason! Something you can offer our community is always welcomed.

Remember to check the calendar or bulletin at the website and your emails for activities, programs and services.

Hope to see you or hear from you soon!

Sincerely, 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



Our Summer Services Continue on Zoom

We hope everyone has been enjoying the ability to join our virtual Friday night services. In a Temple Isaiah tradition, our summer services are led by our members (and clergy in a few cases.) Here are some helpful tips:

- Each week the link to joining the services will be sent out in an email to the entire congregation.
- When you sign on you will be muted (note icon of microphone on your square with a line through the microphone). Video will be off as well.
- The host will see your sign in and allow you to enter the service.
- If you need help with Zoom, call or email the office and someone will get back to assist you.

If you have followed these instructions correctly, you should only see on your screen the leader(s) 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.

August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Board Meeting, 7:30pm	5	6 Online To-rah Study, 7:30-8:30pm	7 Online Shabbat Services , 6:30pm led by Gail Gordon	8
9	10 Online Program with Richard Weiner, 3:30pm	11	12 Online Adult Ed, 7:30pm “Making Prayer Real”	13	14 Online Shabbat Services , 6:30pm led by Rabbi Blum	15
16	17	18	19	20 Online To-rah Study, 7:30-8:30pm	21 Online Shabbat Services , 6:30pm led by Belle & Elliott Gayer	22
23	24	25 Online Adult Ed, 7:30pm “Making Prayer Real”	26	27 Brotherhood Program: Putting Technique, 7:30pm	28 Online Shabbat Services , 6:30pm led by Cantor Friedlander	29
30	31					



Book Club News—September 10, 2020

Once a year, the Temple Isaiah Book Group deviates from its mandate to read books with a Jewish theme and reads something which is timely and challenging and reflects or inspires our Jewish values. This year we will be reading a contemporary memoir, *Heavy*, by Kiese Laymon. The Library has at least one copy and some online, but if you have a kindle it is available for 2.99!

Our Zoom discussion is scheduled for September 10th at 7:30 and although our name suggests that we are a group, everybody is welcome. I just ask you to RSVP to me, Shelley Sherman, at seeshell98@yahoo.com.

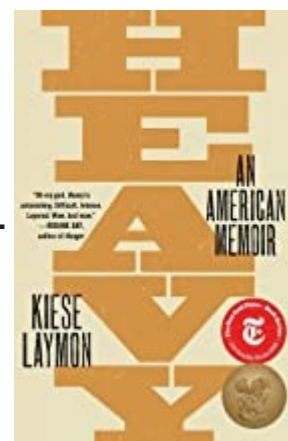
***Heavy* by Kiese Laymon**

In this powerful, provocative, and universally lauded memoir—winner of the Andrew Carnegie Medal and finalist for the Kirkus Prize—genre-bending essayist and novelist Kiese Laymon “provocatively meditates on his trauma growing up as a black man, and in turn crafts an essential polemic against American moral rot” (*Entertainment Weekly*).

Named a Best Book of 2018 by the New York Times, Publishers Weekly, NPR, B, The Washington Post (Nonfiction), and many more.

“*Heavy* is a gorgeous, gutting book that’s fueled by candor yet freighted with ambivalence. It’s full of devotion and betrayal, euphoria and anguish, tender embraces and rough abuse...the liberation on offer doesn’t feel light and unburdened; it feels heavy like the title, and heavy like the truth...Salvation would feel too weightless—as if [Laymon] could forget who he is and where he has been. This generous, searching book explores all the forces that can stop even the most buoyant hopes from ever leaving the ground.”

—*New York Times*



Special Program—Monday, August 10th at 3:30pm Richard Weiner on “Art & Jewish History”

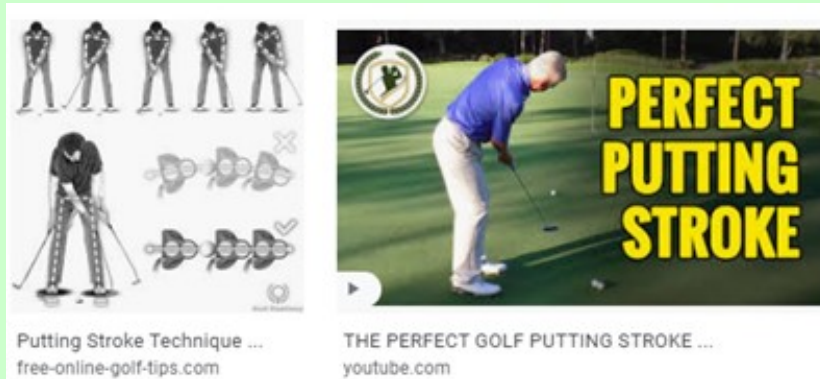


***Our esteemed member Richard Weiner
presents an afternoon Zoom program on
“Art & Jewish History.”***

***Come hear his enthusiasm and participate
in a discussion.
Come be with friends!***

(Links to be sent out later.)

PERFECT YOUR PUTTING TECHNIQUE WITH ERIC TOSKY



Zoom Session:
7:30pm, Thursday, August 27th
With YouTube Presentations by
Phil Mickelson & Cahill Golf School

Did you wash your paws?



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:

Stephan Grass, Husband of Meg and Father of Miriam

Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Judy & Helman Brook
Kathie Davis
Sheila & Victor DeFazio
June & Allan Feldman
Gail & Robert Gordon
Carol & Bill Hersh
Ruth Isaac
Terry & Richard Joseph
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
Judy Snow & Scott Schleifstein
Alisa & Martin Secofsky
Shelley Sherman
Arlene Soifer

Rachel & Benjamin Barouch, Mother & Father of

Albert Barouch
Herman, Marvin & Solomon Barouch,
Brothers of Albert Barouch
Albert Barouch
David Brook, Brother of Helman Brook
Judy & Helman Brook
Olga Gowryluk, Mother of June Feldman
June & Allan Feldman
Bernard Shiller, Father of Steve Fein
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
Kathryn Mayer, Mother of Jacqueline Ferguson
Jacqueline Ferguson, Mother of David Ferguson
Susie & David Ferguson
Ruth & Sam Weinstein, Mother & Father of Harriet Gellert
Sandra Verson, Sister of Harriet Gellert
Barry Weinstein, Brother of Harriet Gellert
Harriet Gellert

In Loving Memory of (cont'd):

David Kutcher, Husband of Blossom Kutcher
Erica Kutcher, Daughter of Blossom Kutcher
Blossom Kutcher
Leon Beck, Father of Meryl Menashe
Meryl & Jack Menashe
Celia Stone Goldbas, Mother of Jacqueline Neumann
Jacqueline Neumann
Ruth Koenig, Mother Alice Weiner
Alice & Richard Weiner
Kenneth Greenwald, Former Husband & Dear Friend of Rachel Greenwald and Father of Joshua, Daniel and Rebecca
Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Suzanne Branch
Judy & Helman Brook
Kathie Davis
Sheila & Victor DeFazio
June & Allan Feldman
Gail & Robert Gordon
Carol & Bill Hersh
Ruth Isaac
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
Judy Snow & Scott Schleifstein
Alisa & Martin Secofsky
Shelley Sherman
Edith Warshavsky, Mother of Steven Warshavsky
Clare & Steven Warshavsky

In Honor of:

Belle & Elliott Gayer
Marcelle Monasebian
Our Temple Isaiah Friends For Caring and Reaching Out
Evelyn & Richard Solow

ARZA:

Harriet Gellert
Carol & Bill Hersh
Mindy & Howard Israel
Alisa & Martin Secofsky

*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**



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: Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Rabbi: Jerry Blum
Cantor: Leslie Friedlander
Production: Cathy Reibstein