

DECEMBER EVENTS AT TEMPLE ISALAH (Details inside)



Rabbi's Classes—December 3rd & 15th

Bake Sale—Orders in by December 4th

Engagement Series—December 9th and 14th

Chanukah At Isaiah—December 10th

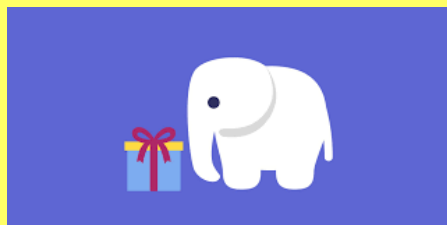


***Chanukah Begins on
December 10th and
Ends on December 18th***

White Elephant Sale—December 19th

Book Group—December 29th

And Save the Date for a January Auction!



RABBI'S COLUMN

By Rabbi Jerry Blum

Welcome to the happy (Hebrew) month of Kislev, although these days, happy does not always seem to describe our lives. With the nation going through changes on so many fronts, and the second phase (or is that third – I can't keep track) of Covid, there does not seem to be a lot of light out there to bring us guidance, nor warmth.



Kislev is the month we celebrate Hanukkah and as can be expected, our Rabbis of the Talmud were confused as to how we should celebrate. There was much discussion about the Hanukkiyah (the Hanukkah Menorah), how to light it, and what the light can be used for (yup, those Rabbis LOVED to peel back the onion), but what they really argued about is why we celebrate in the first place.

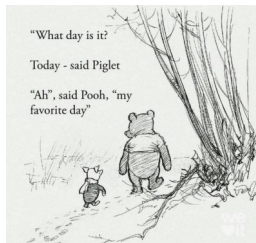
Anyone who is a student of Jewish history knows the Hanukkah story we tell our children (and lots of adults too) is just that, a children's tale. There was no miracle of the oil and we're not really sure where the eight days comes from (some suspect it is a substitute for a Sukkot that was missed while the Maccabees were fighting). The real Hanukkah story is mostly about civil war waged between different sects of the Jewish population who were backed by the various Selucid armies. Apparently, these warring factions could not agree as to how the government should be run. Sounds kinda familiar? Coming back to present times, add on economic issues and a Covid pandemic part two (or is that three), and many of us might feel the same way we did back in March or April, alone, sad, anxious and in need of some healing, but how?

A while ago, I told a story about Winnie the Pooh and the healing powers of "just being there" for family, friends and loved ones.

It occurred to Pooh and Piglet that they hadn't heard from Eeyore for several days, so they put on their hats and coats and trotted across the Hundred Acre Wood to Eeyore's stick house. Inside the house was Eeyore.

"Hello Eeyore," said Pooh.

"Hello Pooh. Hello Piglet," said Eeyore, in a Glum Sounding Voice.



"We just thought we'd check in on you," said Piglet, "because we hadn't heard from you, and so we wanted to know if you were okay."

Eeyore was silent for a moment. "Am I okay?" he asked, eventually. "Well, I don't know, to be honest. Are any of us really okay? That's what I ask myself. All I can tell you, Pooh and Piglet, is that right now I feel really rather Sad, and Alone, and Not Much Fun To Be Around At All. Which is why I haven't bothered you. Because you wouldn't want to waste your time hanging out with someone who is Sad, and Alone, and Not Much Fun To Be Around At All, would you now."

Pooh looked and Piglet, and Piglet looked at Pooh, and they both sat down, one on either side of Eeyore in his stick house.

Eeyore looked at them in surprise. "What are you doing?"

"We're sitting here with you," said Pooh, "because we are your friends. And true friends don't care if someone is feeling Sad, or Alone, or Not Much Fun To Be Around At All. True friends are there for you anyway. And so here we are."

"Oh," said Eeyore. "Oh." And the three of them sat there in silence, and while Pooh and Piglet said nothing at all; somehow, almost imperceptibly, Eeyore started to feel a very tiny little bit better.

Because Pooh and Piglet were There. No more; no less.

Our Talmudic Sages' understood the need for healing in times of strife. Their prescription for times like this is to seek out the miracles in our lives, and to heal our issues in the most basic and life affirming way, by bringing light into our lives and being together, very much the same way as we do every Shabbat (even if we are on Zoom). Each time we reach out to others, we bring a little light into their lives, and that light shines back on us, just by being there.

On Hanukkah, we display our Hanukkiyot in our windows to make the statement that we will not be brought down by hate and fear. That we will find hope by shining a light in the darkness and finding a way to support each other in our community. We stay strong by "just being there" for our family, friends and especially, our Temple Isaiah family, and we bring the warmth of light by joining together in prayer, learning, social times, music, and friendship.

Wishing you and all those you love, a Chag Hanukkah Sameach, a Happy Hanukkah.

Rabbi Jerry

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Terry Birnbaum-Horton



What is the Remedy For These Times? Take a Guess! Temple Isaiah of course!

We are all fatigued: Pandemic fatigue, Zoom fatigue, Loneliness, Missing Meals Out, Missing Hugs from Friends and Family.

We're plain old tired!

The negatives are reassembling in our minds and gut again. Fear of our NY situation getting worse, is real. Tired of staring at a screen? What is the remedy for this fatigue, this deep sadness and pain? Is it more Zoom?

The Answer: Community is the remedy!

The Community is here at Temple Isaiah! Zoom is evolving. We're trying new things; more conversation & discussions, things to makes us laugh.

A little bit of this and a little bit of that.

Study with us,
Read with us,
Discuss with us,
Learn with us,
Laugh with us,
Take Walks with us,
Worship & pray with us!



Bring us your fresh and innovative ideas and of course your talents! Membership, fundraising, discussions, lectures, entertainment; help us think outside the walls of our temple!

See you at our next discussion, adult education, social event and/or Shabbat and Holiday services.

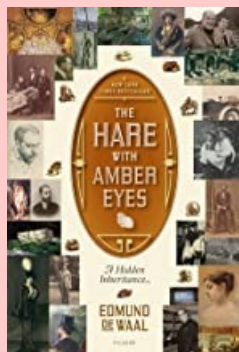
Sincerely,
Terry Birnbaum-Horton

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Board Meeting, 7:30pm	2	3 Rabbi Course, 7:30pm	4 Online Shabbat Services, 6:30pm BakeSale Orders Due 	5 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am
6	7	8	9 Engagement Series: "Was Rembrandt Jewish?" with Richard Weiner, 4:00pm	10 Chanukah 1st Night at Temple Isaiah 6PM 	11 Online Shabbat Services, 6:30pm	12 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am
13	14 Engagement Series, "Food Tips & Tricks" with Guest Chef, 7:30pm	15 Rabbi Course, 7:30pm	16 BakeSale Order Pickups 	17 Last Night Of Chanukah 	18 Online Shabbat Services, 6:30pm	19 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am White Elephant "Sale" 7:30pm
20	21	22	23	24	25 Online Shabbat Services, 6:30pm	26
27	28	29 Book Club, 7:30pm	30	31 		



Book Club News—December 29th



Our next book is non fiction—*The Hare with the Amber Eyes* by Edmund De Waal. It tells the story of a wealthy banking family on a par with the Rothschilds who were decimated by the holocaust but who left behind a priceless collection of Netsuke—tiny Japanese wood and ivory carvings.

The author is the 5th generation to inherit the collection and it prompted him to research his fascinating family history.



This is a very well reviewed book and continues our journey into lesser known stories with Jewish themes.

Discussion will be led by Kit Benton.

Bake Sale—Round Two!



Chanukah, Christmas & New Year's are heading our way! It's time to indulge and the Temple Isaiah Bakers are going to help you make it happen. Whether a gift to others or something to enjoy with your coffee...friends are at the ready to bake.

Better than the Bakery!!!!

Baked goods available for the following dates:

Order Deadline
December 4th

PICK-UP
December 16th

Order:

Amy Gorman 516-829-6856 gormanhoward@gmail.com
Terry Joseph 516-238-5981 zippyjo99@yahoo.com

ORDER NOW...FOR FAMILY OR FRIENDS...OR FREEZE FOR LATER

HOMEMADE: Assorted Cookies, Assorted Cakes, Pumpkin & Banana Bread Loafs, Lemon Squares, and more!!!



**We will gather outside
to recite the blessings
and light the Menorah**

Masks are Mandatory

**Social Distancing
will be observed**

**An Outdoor
Celebration
at Temple Isaiah
Thursday,
December 10th
at 6 P.M.**

***RSVP to reserve
your Sufganiyot
(Jelly Donuts) and
Hot Chocolate***

**To Reserve, email:
isaiahfestivalcommittee@gmail.com**

**RAIN/SNOW DATES:
Saturday, December 12th or
Thursday December 17th
at 6 p.m.**

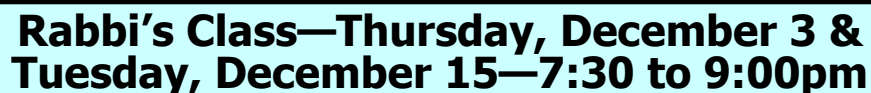


JOIN US ON ZOOM FOR A SERIES OF ENGAGEMENTS, AFTERNOONS & EVENINGS, COVERING:

DATES & TIMES Will BE IN THE CALENDAR and confirmed with emails. *NOW JUST LOOK OUT FOR THE TOPICS.*

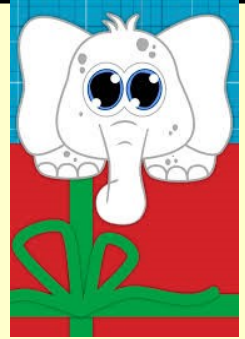
December Discussions:

DECEMBER 14TH, Monday, 7:30PM; Cooking, Baking, Food Tips & Techniques with Guest Chef to be Announced



Please join Rabbi Blum and special guest, Rabbi Lisa Sacks for a two-part introduction to this engaging and relevant area of Jewish life. Rabbi Sacks serves as the Director of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning at Bet Torah in Mt Kisco, NY. She has led Mussar groups for many years and received training as a facilitator at The Mussar Institute (in addition to being Rabbi Jerry Blum's chevruta at AJR!).

Saturday December 19th, 7:30pm White Elephant Sale



Come for the Comedy!

Come for the Fun!

Come to Bid on silly stuff and the White
Elephants from your friends' attics!

Trivia, Give-Aways & More!

Looking for collectibles, prized possessions, questionable
objets d'arts and those "treasures" you inherited over the
years.

[Practice for the real auction coming in January]



RSVP to the Temple Office
or June Feldman 516-993-1180
June.feldman@gmail.com
or Terry Joseph 516-238-5981
zippyjo99@yahoo.com

Admission is free, but bring a crazy, silly, fun or special
item to auction off :)

*Keep Your Eyes Peeled—We're working on a
Virtual Auction and hope to hold it in January!*



General Donations

In Loving Memory of:

Susan Bendor, Mother of Jane and Cathy Bendor
 Jane Bendor & Brian Graham
 Amelia Gayer, Mother of Elliott Gayer
 Suzanne Branch
 Rose Victorio DeFazio, Mother of Victor DeFazio
 Goldie Cohen, Mother of Sheila DeFazio
 Sheila & Victor DeFazio
 Esther Shapiro, Mother of Barbara Feldman
 Barbara Feldman
 Diane Loew, Great Aunt of Mindy Israel
 Mindy & Howard Israel
 Rose Fuchs, Mother of Connie Maller
 Charles Maller, Father of Abraham Maller
 Connie Maller
 Herbert Rabeck, Father of Stuart Rabeck
 Sandra & Stuart Rabeck
 Abraham Secofsky, Father of Joan and Martin Secofsky
 Joan Secofsky & Herbert Kwasnik
 Lydia Sherman, Mother of Shelley Sherman
 Shelley Sherman
 Leonard Kristal, Brother of Evelyn Solow
 Evelyn & Richard Solow
 Henry Weiner, Father of Richard Weiner
 Alice & Richard Weiner
 Michael Tannen, Father of Susan Welkis
 Susan & Jerry Welkis
 Hannah Zimberg, Mother of Shelley Willcox
 Shelley & Robert Willcox

In Honor of:

The Birth of Natan Bader Vertie Diamond,
 Grandson of Shelley Sherman
 The Birth of Janine Hannah Gayer Dorland,
 Granddaughter of Belle & Elliott Gayer
 Rachel Greenwald
 The Speedy Recovery of Steve Fein
 Terry Birnbaum-Horton
 Judy & Helman Brook
 Kathie Davis
 June & Allan Feldman
 Gail & Robert Gordon
 Carol & Bill Hersh
 Mindy & Howard Israel
 Alisa & Martin Secofsky
 Shelley Sherman
 The Speedy Recovery of Alisa Secofsky
 Terry Birnbaum-Horton
 Judy & Helman Brook
 Kathie Davis
 June & Allan Feldman
 Gail & Robert Gordon
 Carol & Bill Hersh
 Mindy & Howard Israel
 Denise Miller & Steve Fein
 Shelley Sherman



Bequests to Temple Isaiah

It's both impressive and heartwarming—leaving a legacy to our temple for your favorite program or general funding.

You can begin by writing out this sentence directing your attorney to modify your will:

“I hereby give, devise, and bequeath _____ (a dollar amount, or all or a percentage of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate) to Temple Isaiah of Great Neck, now or formerly in the Village of Great Neck Plaza, 1 Chelsea Place, in the State of New York, for its general purposes.”
[Our federal tax ID number is 11-2202208]

For further information, contact the office—we'll be happy to help—or contact Steve Fein, who has generously volunteered to provide a free consultation on the topic.



UJA-Federation of New York's

Partners in Caring

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

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TEMPLE ISAIAH OF GREAT NECK

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Great Neck, NY 11021

templeisaiahgn.org
isaiahgn@yahoo.com
Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism

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

BULLETIN

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