

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE OF TEMPLE ISAIAH



Another round of holidays is 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!!!!

Keep your eyes open for the BAKE SALE MENU emails.

Baked goods available for the following dates;

| | <u>Order Deadline</u> | <u>PICK-UP Date</u> |
|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Thanksgiving: | November 11th | November 23rd |
| Chanukkah/New Years: | December 4th | December 16 th |

**Order: Amy Gorman 516-829-6856 gormanhoward@gmail.com
 Terry Joseph 516-238-5981 zippyjo@yahoo.com**

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

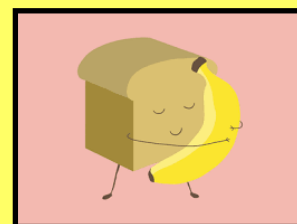
Look for the email with Menu - Place your orders early – before we run out!



***YUMMY CAKES
& PIES!***



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BREADS
& MORE!***

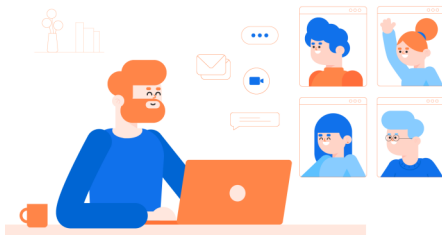


RABBI'S COLUMN

By Rabbi Jerry Blum



Well, here we are again, in the Hebrew month of Cheshvan and we made it through all the holidays with only a slight disdain for Zoom and a good dose of Temple time. Not so bad for a year that feels like every disaster movie we have ever seen, all rolled into one big event. We got to see our friends, albeit in a teeny box on a computer screen, we sang along with the cantor and even stayed awake for the rabbi's sermons (let's just keep that one to ourselves). All in all, during our Holy season we found some glimmers of hope, discovered some hidden blessings, realized that we are somewhat computer literate and felt how truly strong our "*kesher – our connection*" with our "*kehillah – community*" is. I call that resilience and believe it or not, it is what each and every one of us has, because of our Temple Isaiah of Great Neck support system.



With all this in mind, I just want to take a few minutes to tell you a little about what has been going on at Temple Isaiah of Great Neck, since the end of February of this year, and the beginning of this pandemic. As this saga began, Steve Warshavsky was coming to the end of his term as president and Terry Birnbaum Horton was beginning her tour of duty. We realized early that we had to make some difficult choices in order to make sure everyone stayed safe. We were quick to adopt online services and although

there were a few glitches (and still remain) we were for the most part happy that we were able to join together for services and learning opportunities. Little did we know, or even want to consider that we'd be holding our High Holy Day services online as well, but that we did. We also held lay-led services, and studied Torah and Jewish texts together, and of course we as a community, checked in, all the time. We streamed Passover Seders, and even participated in remote and socially distanced funerals. Without prior experience in production, we adjusted to this new virtual reality by working together to invent best practices for community building and inclusion in a digital world. We learned terms like "mute all" and "original sound," and even practiced defending our communities against "zoom-bombing"- none of which were covered in any of our prior life experience, and now during Cheshvan, we begin to look forward and look to refresh, rejuvenate

In the Hebrew month of *Elul* (this past August), Jews perform a *heshbon hanefesh*, an accounting of the soul, as we prepare for the Holy Days of Awe in *Tishrei*. With the holidays concluded, many of my clerical colleagues are performing a Heshbon Cheshvan, a personal accounting of our self-care as we find new ways to rejuvenate so that we as clergy may continue to care for our communities. We also encourage time for our own communities to participate in a period of Heshbon Cheshvan, so that we may better define a new vision for our synagogues and how to best move forward. The world has changed dramatically, and so have we as human beings and as a community. It is time now to find new ways to define who we are and what we stand for. I want to thank all who helped our Temple Isaiah family to stay strong over the last seven months and made our High Holy Days and Chaggim a most spiritual and inspiring experience.

Misheberach Avotenu v Imoteinu – May the one who blessed our ancestors, bless those who support Temple Isaiah of Great Neck in all her endeavors. May they all continue this holy work, and may the coming year bring us together for many more celebrations and most importantly, blessings.

Rabbi Jerry Blum

CANTOR'S COLUMN

A VIRTUAL GIFT FOR YOU



When the pandemic began to define our lives and we were forced to isolate from others, some people discovered creative ways to do what they loved to do despite the obstacles.

Ensemble singers faced a double whammy: not only could we not congregate, but singers are super spreaders, defined by the aerosol droplets that can travel at high speeds and far distances and cannot be fully contained by masks. It may sound gross but even worse, it prevents singers from doing what they love. Very quickly, seeing a niche, resourceful and artistic technicians taught themselves the art of producing virtual choirs.

Although the idea isn't new and has been around for several years, it has become a global phenomenon during the Covid-19 pandemic. Virtual choirs have allowed some singing communities to continue performing during this time of isolation and have also allowed singers across the world to perform together in a way no one had ever thought of doing before.

We all know, from using Zoom and other online platforms, that there is a slight sound delay, which is the reason we can't have live responsive readings at services when we're on Zoom. For singing together, which requires being closely in sync, online choirs just don't work.

Virtual choirs are incredibly complicated to produce, require enormous hours of work, intense listening on the part of each performer, and then require hours of post-production work, which is expensive. Each singer, in essence, is a soloist who makes an audio and a video track, which are then edited.

The American Conference of Cantors (ACC), which is the cantorial arm of the Union of Reform Judaism (URJ), created a virtual choir in the spring, which took four months to produce. As a proud member of the ACC, I participated in the making of *Stand Strong*, composed by Cantor Laurie Akers, along with nearly 100 of my colleagues, all cantors serving Reform congregations. I am delighted to share this musical gift with you.



Please click on the link: <https://www.accantors.org/members-american-conference-cantors-present-stand-strong> or cut and paste in your browser to hear and see our virtual performance.

Cantor Leslie Friedlander

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Terry Birnbaum-Horton



Dear friends,

Yes, the High Holy Days arrived and passed! After much planning and a lot of anxiety, we had our holidays. The reviews are in from those who gathered around their technology. Successful, pleasant, comfortable, warm, familiar are some words to describe the days.

Yes, we still missed physically seeing, touching, praying, singing and eating together, yet we adapted and enjoyed the holidays.... just a little differently. We even celebrated the festivals of Sukkot and Simchat Torah with happiness and fun...through a beautiful service and sukkah building.

And yes, during this New Year it seems, we have more to think about and more time to do so. Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur are a time of reflection and moving forward, thinking about our traditions rooted in our past and the possibilities for our future. We go from solemn to joyous, thoughtfulness to celebration.

It is time to move forward and consider what we want – what enriches our lives.

Temple Isaiah enriches our lives. It offers many different things to many of us, from spirituality to intellectual discovery and of course social connections. Let us at Temple Isaiah continue into the New Year with energy and continue to enrich each other's lives.

Sincerely,

**Terry Birnbaum-Horton
President**

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



November 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|--|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 Election Day  | 4 | 5 | 6 Online Shabbat Services, 6:30pm | 7 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am |
| 8 | 9 Engagement Series, 7:30pm "Kristallnacht" with Claude Springer | 10 | 11 Order Deadline for Thanksgiving Bake Sale  | 12 Book Group, 7:30pm | 13 Online Shabbat Services, 6:30pm | 14 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Engagement Series, 7:30pm "Hidden Anti-Semitism" with Howard Israel | 19 | 20 Online Shabbat Services, 6:30pm | 21 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Thanksgiving  | 27 Online Shabbat Services, 6:30pm | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | Save the Dates: Wednesday December 9th 4:00pm—"Was Rembrandt Jewish? Let's Discuss," with Richard Weiner Monday, December 14, 7:00pm—Food Tips & Techniques with Alisa Secofsky | | | | |

Judaism - Why Did We Need It Then and Why Do We Still Need It Now?

Guest Column by Belle Gayer

Judaism came at a time when people had some very basic rules and laws (Hammurabi's Codes), but they weren't nearly enough. People still very much did as they pleased, from sacrificing their own children and slaves, to tearing the limbs off of living animals piece by piece to eat them (no refrigeration and larger animals) or cooking a baby animal in its mother's milk to rape, or stealing and murdering for their own personal gain.

Judaism came along to give meaning and order to people's lives, to give a history to human existence and to create community, a sense of belonging, as well as greater purpose, along with an understanding that there exists a higher power, that the world wasn't such a lonely, painful, mean and small place, but that there were ethical and moral rules to live by, and a community to share that with, that there was more than just "me," "mine" and then everyone else's.

Not only does Judaism espouse an elevated ethical and moral standard, but it creates extended family - we as Ashkenazi Jews are indeed all cousins 14 times removed - and community with the world as well. Judaism says we are ALL family, we are all related, no matter what our color or religious or spiritual persuasion.

But one of the things I like the best about Judaism is how imperfect our forefathers were, which says to me that even those chosen to begin our journey were flawed, as we are ALL flawed, how we all share the Yetzer Ha Tov (good inclinations) and Yetzer Ha Ra (bad inclinations) and how we all must work hard to follow our Yetzer Ha Tov, that even Abraham, Moses and David sometimes allowed their Yetzer Ha Ra to prevail, so that we, too, can be forgiven our mistakes.

People didn't live very long way back when the Torah and the Tanach were written, and they suffered from terrible diseases with little medicine to help them, no running water or refrigeration or the amazing array of amenities and choices we share today, and I am certain it helped them to believe that if they were good, they would be rewarded, if not in this life then in the next.

But today, why do we need religion? We have lovely homes, money to spend on things we want, medicine to help us when we are ill, running water, refrigeration, and with modern communication methods, we can build community as we choose, yet many of us still follow our Judaic roots - why?

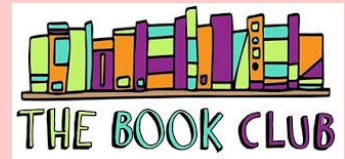
Some of why is tradition, family background, training and education, but much of it is because we cannot separate the culture from the religion, and we have grown up immersed in the culture. It is our community and our way of life, and we are rewarded when we practice it, both through our community and through our treatment of the world at large. Those ethical and moral guidelines, the ones in the Torah, still ring true thousands of years later. Love your neighbor, no, not only your neighbor, but the stranger as well, for we too were strangers in the land of Egypt. Cities of sanctuary. Treasure and treat the planet well for future generations. Behave ethically and morally and that is its own reward, and of course, community, belonging, which is essential to human happiness; all of these are reasons why we still need religion.

Oh, yes, and a belief that "I," "me" and "myself" dwarf before that higher power, God. That there is good reason to follow the moral and ethical rules the Torah has delineated, as well as the traditions that Jewish culture has inculcated in us, that there is joy and satisfaction in pursuing them, and in our community, as well as a deep respect for the future of our planet so that we can pass it on to our children and their children and not continue to decimate, abuse and destroy it.

That, to me, is why we still need Judaism in our lives and what Judaism is all about.

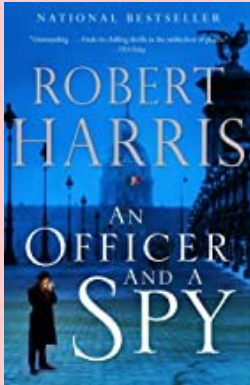
(Thanks to Belle for sharing her thoughts on Judaism.)

Book Club News—November 12, 2020



The Temple Isaiah Book group has chosen ***An Officer and a Spy*** for its next book discussion, to be held on Thursday, November 12.

An Officer and a Spy is a 2013 historical fiction thriller by the English writer and journalist Robert Harris. It tells the true story of French officer Georges Picquart from 1896-1906, as he struggles to expose the truth about the doctored evidence that sent Alfred Dreyfus to Devil's Island. Following are a few snippets of reviews,



Robert Harris, in his fine novel "An Officer and a Spy," lucidly retells the famous, bizarrely complicated and chilling story. NYT

Historical Trauma Makes For Thrilling Fiction In 'Officer And A Spy'. NPR

He has crafted a compelling narrative of state corruption and individual principle, and a memorable whistleblower whose stubborn call can still be heard more than a century later. The Guardian

Shelley Sherman

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.



Good news—Shakespeare is using this time to write “King Lear,” so we’ll have more stuff to binge soon.



Happy Thanksgiving!
Don't forget to order your
Baked Goods from Our Temple Bake Sale

LET'S ENGAGE!

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



***ART, MUSIC, SPIRITUALITY, FOOD, CONTROVERSY,
MEMORIES, CULTURE, FICTION, HOLIDAYS, LAW &
JUDAISM...light and heavy, fun and serious!***

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

**Most events are on Mondays or Wednesdays, afternoons at
4pm or evenings at 7:30pm**

A Sampling:

**NOVEMBER 9TH, Monday, 7:30P; Kristallnacht;
Recognizing the moment with Claude Springer: Memories,
Questions and More; let's discuss!**

**NOVEMBER 18TH, Wednesday, 7:30PM; "Is There Hidden
Anti-Semitism?" with Howard Israel**

**DECEMBER 9th, Wednesday, 4:000PM; "Was Rembrandt
Jewish (and more)?" Let's discuss with Richard Weiner**

**DECEMBER 14TH, Monday, 4PM; Cooking, Baking, Food
Tips & Techniques with Alisa Secofsky**

General Donations

In Loving Memory of:

Susan & Edgar Bendor, Parents of
Cathy Bendor
Cathy Bendor & Shelley Klein
Brian Horton, Husband of Terry Birnbaum-
Horton
Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Louis Brook, Father of Helman Brook
Judy & Helman Brook
Leona Marks, Mother of Kathie Davis
Kathie Davis
Amelia Gayer, Mother of Elliott Gayer
Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Judy & Helman Brook
Kathie Davis
June & Allan Feldman
Gail & Robert Gordon
Rachel Greenwald
Carol & Bill Hersh
Ruth Isaac
Terry & Richard Joseph
Rona Levy
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
Paula Newman
Shelley Sherman
Judy Snow & Scott Schleifstein
Alisa & Martin Secofsky
Bella Bekker-Silver & Jonathan Silver
Clare & Steven Warshavsky
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Ida Haber, Mother of Diane Haber
Diane Haber
Eugene Lustig, Father of Lia Hans
Lia & Mortimer Hans
Allen Walter Hessel, Husband of Renee Hessel
Renee Hessel
Herbert Rosenberg, Father of Ruth Isaac
Harvey Rosenberg, Brother of Ruth Isaac
Ruth Isaac
Edward Neumann, Son of Jacqueline Neuman
Jacqueline Neumann
Ilene & Sam Yoss, Parents of Marcia Null
Marcia Null

In Loving Memory of (Cont'd):

Isidor Alcalay, Father of Yvonne Roth
Peter Roth, Husband of Yvonne Roth
Yvonne Roth
Nathan Sherman, Father of Shelley Sherman
Shelley Sherman
Herman Kristal, Father of Evelyn Solow
Hyman Solow, Father of Richard Solow
Betty Tannen, Mother of Susan Welkis
Susan & Jerry Welkis

Kol Nidre:

Kit Benton
Terry Birnbaum-Horton
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Kathie Davis
Sheila & Victor DeFazio
Judith Densky
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Sonia & Bruce Funk
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Johanna Hurwitz
Ruth Isaac
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Marcia Null
Lloyd Perell
Alisa & Martin Secofsky
Bella Bekker-Silver & Jonathan Silver
Evelyn & Richard Solow
Jonathan Wagner
Clare & Steven Warshavsky
Ellen Winkler

Trees In Israel:

In Memory of Sherry Wolf
Mindy & Howard Israel

In Honor of:

The Birth of Natan Bader Vertie Diamond,
Grandson of Shelley Sherman
Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Suzanne Branch
Judy & Helman Brook
Kathie Davis
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
Speedy Recovery of Steve Fein
Suzanne Branch
The Clergy, Staff and Leadership of Temple
Isaiah for Wonderful High Holy Days
June & Allan Feldman
Speedy Recovery of Emma Isaac
Speedy Recovery of Khatti Karira
Speedy Recovery of Meryl Menashe
Ruth Isaac
Cantor Friedlander & Rabbi Blun for Their
Wonderful High Holy Day Services
Mindy & Howard Israel
The Birth of Janine Hannah Gayer Dorland,
Granddaughter of Belle & Elliott Gayer
Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Judy & Helman Brook
Kathie Davis
June & Allan Feldman
Gail & Robert Gordon
Carol & Bill Hersh
Terry & Richard Joseph
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Judy Snow & Scott Schleifstein
Alisa & Martin Secofsky
Shelley Sherman

21st Century Building Fund:

Judith Densky

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TEMPLE ISAIAH OF GREAT NECK

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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