

WOW, Thank You!

During these challenging times, we are gratified by the response to our recent appeal letter and calls to you, our congregants and friends, to help support the synagogue we all love. It has been a year where our fundraisers were impacted negatively and we thank you for your contributions at this time.



We can't be in our beloved sanctuary for now yet we must support the building, our staff and clergy which are the glue that keep our members together. We look forward to being back in our Temple Isaiah home in 2021.

We are still gratefully accepting donations and wish to remind you that for any gift of 1,000 or more there will be a dollar-for-dollar match until January 31st.

With sincere thanks,
 Appeal Committee

Did you know that you can donate to Temple Isaiah and save money at the same time? At one time, the rule was that if you're 70 ½ or older, you're probably required to take a minimum distribution from your IRA each year. Usually those funds are included in income and subject to income tax. While the requirement has been waived for 2019 and 2020, it may not be waived for 2021, so check with your financial advisor for the latest rules.

But there is a tax-free exception you should know about even if you use a standard deduction.

You can make a charitable contribution **directly** from your IRA account to Temple Isaiah without the gifted funds counting as income or being taxed. You will not only save on federal income tax but may save on state and local taxes as well. And this satisfies your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)!

AND FOR A LIMITED TIME ANY GIFT OF \$1,000 OR MORE IN RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT APPEAL WILL BE MATCHED DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR!*

It is a wonderful way to do something meaningful for Temple Isaiah and reap tax benefits at the same time. **Your financial institution will provide the necessary form.** When you do this please let Cathy Reibstein know that your IRA check will be coming.

If you have questions please contact your accountant or financial advisor.

THIS IS TRULY A WIN-WIN!

RABBI'S COLUMN

By Rabbi Jerry Blum



A few years ago, I began my January message recounting a conversation I had with a colleague. We were commenting on how quickly time flew and that we could not believe that once again, we were at the end of the year, looking ahead to a new secular year. We asked, where did the time go? How is it that the year went by so quickly?

Ahh, if that could only be said for this past year. If we could look back and say, well that one sailed by so quickly, but of course, that would never be the way we would describe 2020. This past year (although beginning well enough) dragged on ever so slowly and presented us so many challenges, that many of us were counting the minutes until this year was over and we could move on. In a year that gave us a pandemic, a crumbling global economy, rampant racism and hatred, disinformation campaigns and in this country, an election that is still being contested, we long for and need a respite. We as a country need some comfort, responsible leadership and

time to heal.

I am reminded of the haftarah that is recited on the Shabbat following Tisha B'Av, the day when some fast and mourn the calamities that have befallen Jerusalem, and the Jewish people. The words are from the Prophet Isaiah who says:

Nachamu, nachamu ami – Be comforted, be comforted my people (Isaiah 40:1)

In the verses that follow, the prophet reminds us that the days of suffering are soon to be over and that the roads shall become level and the desert shall be cleared so that we may once again live as we used to.

As the new year begins, we see the hope and comfort that Isaiah speaks of. With the advent of the new vaccines, we can begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel. With new leadership in the White House, we hold onto the hope that our governing branches can find some common ground and work to help all the people, and not just red or blue people. With less "disinformation," we can once again begin to trust sources of news and advice and with responsible governance (we hope), we can begin to believe that for the most part, our leaders are interested in the people's wellbeing.



And before you say that I am being a little Pollyannaish, I do realize that I am speaking from a place deep inside of me that wants to believe that those who are in charge are always looking out for my best interests, but I do also understand the stark realities. Even though we live in one of the greatest nations in the world, there is much to be repaired. Isaiah reminds us in the ensuing haftarot of consolation, that the people have a responsibility as well. We are obligated to follow what is just and right for our people and our nation. In other words, healing, is a two-way street. We must do our part to make our nation strong. Isaiah points out that the relationship with God is not one sided but takes a concerted effort by the people to live in righteousness. Not only following the laws but living the "spirit" of the law as well. The prophet points out that thoughtless sacrifices in the Temple are not what God wants, but rather that one takes care of those in need and works to bring around change in the way we treat one another.

Yes, there is hope and renewal in our future, and yes, there are many challenges too. It is for us to choose how we will respond to these challenges. We can begin by speaking with and listening to those we disagree with and bringing about change in the way we treat those in need. It is our responsibility to repair what is broken in the law and in our leadership. It is for us to eschew the hate speech and find ways to mend the broken bridges that stretch across our nation, our communities and even our own families. We can insist that our representatives work to help our most vulnerable and that our children and those we come in contact with understand that hate is not the way.

I know that we are capable, and so too did the Prophet Isaiah. His words of comfort for the stricken city of Jerusalem are clear and speak clearly to our great nation now:

Uri, uri, livshi uzech Tzion – Awake, awake O Jerusalem, clothe yourself in splendor.....Hitna'ari mei'afar, kumi – Arise and shake off the dust (Isaiah 52:1 and 2)

It is time for us to arise, shake off the dust of this past year and move forward towards that light at the end of the tunnel.

Wishing you a healthy and happy 2021.

Rabbi Jerry

CANTOR'S COLUMN

By Cantor Leslie Friedlander

CONVERTING A CHALLENGE INTO A BLESSING

Ever since this past mid-March, we have opened every Shabbat evening service with the first verse of Psalm 133. Prior to Zooming together on Friday nights, we rotated opening hymns with a variety of Psalms and other musical selections, depending upon the time of year, events in the news, or simply whatever the mood called for.



It seems that since mid-March, we've been drawn to sing Psalm 133 every week: *Hineih mah tov u'mah na-im, shevet achim gam yachad, How good and pleasant it is that brothers and sisters dwell together.* The simple idea of being together is something we took for granted until ten months ago, and in our current world situation it is a blessing that would not have been possible even a few short years ago.

So very much about our Temple Isaiah life has changed since March. For some of us, the sheer sound of our praying has been the biggest difference, as our communal voices have been quieted. It may seem odd to think of how we are as a worship and learning community in terms of sound, but what we do together and how we express ourselves in unity can say more about us than what we believe.

While the pandemic is inspiring innovative ways to worship and be together as a community, we still ground ourselves with familiar words, the same time-honored liturgy that has always been an integral part of our service.

In an earlier bulletin article I wrote about virtual choirs and how technology has allowed those with exceptional equipment and musical tech savvy to produce multi-track choirs whose participants can span the world. I recently participated in a virtual choir with a few cantors, but mostly amateur singers. The composer-producer is a colleague and friend of mine, Cantor Erik Contzius, and I share this recording as a New Year blessing to all of us. This is one more wonderful setting of Psalm 133:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPxS_G97Qvg&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR0K0qd2aFWW8xpk5UZvoubOm4pibiutZ73LfkCpJA8RAD1DAANWiBTUSEE

May the new year inspire us to imagine even more ways to transform a challenge into a blessing!

Cantor Leslie Friedlander

**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!



January Engagement:

FINDING YOUR ROOTS, TEMPLE ISAIAH STYLE
Getting Started in Meeting Your Family, with Gail Gordon
Monday, January 25th at 7:30pm

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Terry Birnbaum-Horton



Happy 2021?

Happy 2021 – I know we all pray that the coming year sees many more bright and happy moments than 2020; a blooper of a year. Yet, contrary to popular opinion, last year was a happy year for some. *We looked for the silver lining wherever we could.*

We cooked, we baked. TI baked for others and others ate our baked goods. We ate outside with TI friends. Families suddenly too far to visit, got visits via Zoom. Babies were born, grandparents rejoiced. We took longer walks than ever before, one walk with our TI family, (another is planned in the spring). Children went off to college some remotely others on campus. Our children settled in new homes. We experimented in the kitchen! We might have even had a little more time for organizing. Some of us took classes online we never could or would have if we had to drive to them. We celebrated the festival of Chanukah outside with song, sufganiyot and hot chocolate. *New and different things happened!*

We cannot forget the tough times. There were definitely frustratingly lonely times. *In the end we hope that the painful times will be diminished in our memories as we move from winter to spring and vaccinations.*

This winter we can continue to look at the bright side of things. With the snow on the ground, we can do things on Zoom. We can have food delivered from markets and restaurants. No need to try and find a parking space on a snow filled street to get to TI. *We can be together remotely.*

SO, join us for our spiritual Shabbat Services – our academic Torah Study and Gather for a conversation at some of our fun and thoughtful programs... AND we cannot forget our always fun AUCTION coming up in February where our MC entertains and we come away with all sorts of wonderful items while contributing to our annual budget.

And lastly don't forget the moral of the 2020 story that we can carry over to 2021: It is a lesson from Chanukah; we won a battle against all odds and we had only so much oil yet more than we realized, as it may be said of 2020.

Happy New Year,

Terry Birnbaum-Horton

Dear friends,

A success can be measured in so many ways and the bake sale was no exception.

We had a bakery's worth of cakes and cookies, baked by our very own talented bakers.

Customers lined up to purchase and taste.

We mingled on the phone instead of in person.

We had warm moments at pick-up and delivery with friends.

We had some sweets to enjoy and,
we did it for each other & Temple Isaiah.


Thank you for your support.

Warmly,

The Bake Sale Co-Ordinators— Amy Gorman, Terry Joseph and
Terry Birnbaum-Horton



January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Online Shabbat Services, 6:30pm	2 No Torah Study
3	4	5 Board Meeting, 7:30pm	6	7	8 Online Shabbat Services, 6:30pm	9 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am
10	11	12 Brotherhood Program, 7:30pm Elan Carr Video	13	14	15 Online Shabbat Services, 6:30pm	16 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am
17	18	19	20	21	22 Online Shabbat Services, 6:30pm	23 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am
24	25 "Finding Your Roots" with Gail Gordon, 7:30pm	26	27	28	29 Online Shabbat Services, 6:30pm	30 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am Auction, 7:30pm
31	<div> <div> SAVE THE DATE: GOODS & SERVICES AUCTION SATURDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 20TH </div> <div>  </div> </div>					

A Garden Blooms at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center.

The renovation was completed Fall 2020. It includes an outdoor amphitheater surrounded by beautiful plantings assuring that it will be in bloom 12 months a year. 15 stanchions of quotes are incorporated to represent "Voices of the Holocaust".

The beginnings: In 1995, Welwyn Preserve was donated to Nassau County and the Pratt mansion on the grounds was rented for \$1.00 per year for the creation of a Holocaust Center. Alongside the mansion is a beautiful English Garden designed by Frederick Olmstead. In 1996, Director Irving Roth initiated the million pennies project to create funds for a Children's Memorial Garden. By the end of 1998, 1.2 million pennies were accumulated, each penny representing the life of a child. Pennies came from Nassau, Suffolk, Brooklyn, and Queens. The schools that contributed are now enshrined on the wall entering the garden. The garden was officially dedicated in 2003 as a living tribute to the 1.5 million children murdered in the Holocaust.

Over the years the garden fell into disrepair. A committee was formed to restore the garden. After a few years of hard work, a sub-committee was formed to include inscriptions. I was invited to join the committee. After much deliberating, it was decided that Holocaust era quotes would be sprinkled throughout the garden. I went searching for inscriptions that would honor the Holocaust and allow visitors to hear their voices. Voices that resonate from the ghettos, camps, forests, hiding places and the bystanders. It is the hope that the garden will become a place for reflection and contemplation and extend the lessons of the Holocaust beyond the museum walls.

**"We played, we laughed, we were loved.
We were ripped from the arms of our parents
And thrown into the fire.
We were nothing more than children.
Remember us, for we were the children
Whose dreams and lives were stolen away".
Barbara Sonek**

While touring, we want the voices of the Holocaust to reach you. Words from children, philosophers, victims, Jewish resistance and rescuers are incorporated. They call to us from the past and remind us of the fragility of freedom and the danger signs in society.

"It happened: therefore, it can happen again; this is the core of what I have to say. It can happen and can happen anywhere." Primo Levi



Meryl Menashe

Saturday, February 20th
Preview at 7:00pm; Auction at 7:30pm



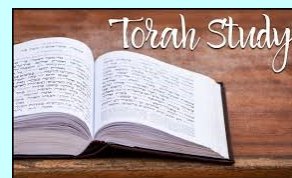
Virtual Goods & Services Auction



**Start thinking of items you can collect or donate:
Gift Certificates, Homemade Meals for Pickup or
Delivery, Wine...Be Creative!**

There's a spot at Torah Study waiting for you!

For many years I thought that I might enjoy Torah study but had a lot of excuses for not giving it a try. I was working, raising kids, busy on weekends, etc. But in truth I was really intimidated. I assumed that all of the participants had been attending for years, that they understood the process and were so advanced that I would feel self conscious and probably slow them down if I even thought I might have something to offer.



But when I retired I decided to attend and see what it was all about. In true Temple Isaiah fashion I was warmly greeted and encouraged to offer my thoughts. Rabbi Ted, my first leader, was a patient teacher and in very short order I was comfortable sharing my perspectives while learning from my friends. Now several years later I continue to attend every week and find it intellectually stimulating and often inspiring. Being part of a learning community adds warmth and meaning to the process. Especially now during the pandemic, it is one of the highlights of my week to gather with my fellow congregants and rabbi to delve into the ancient but so often topical readings.

We meet on Zoom, but it is very social and interactive. Please consider joining us on Saturday mornings and see for yourself how meaningful and even fun it can be. You don't have to commit to coming every week to enjoy it when you are available.

Every week Cathy sends the links for Friday night services and if you scroll down in that email the link for Torah study is included as well.

Hoping to see you at Torah study-
Shelley Sherman

Help to Fight Food Insecurity by Buying a Mask Chain

Temple Isaiah is embarking on a project to do our part in the fight against food insecurity. We are selling handmade mask chains, made by a Temple member, with all proceeds going toward the project. These chains will sell for \$15 each, and make for nice gifts, as well as being useful for everyone. Similar to eyeglass chains, they hold your facemask around your neck when not in use. Please make a contribution toward this worthy cause (whether you make a purchase or not).

Please contact the cochairs of this project, if you want to place an order, be on the committee or need more information.

Denise Miller - denibethesq@gmail.com
Rona Levy - ronalevy@yahoo.com
Terry Joseph - zippyjo99@yahoo.com



Temple Isaiah Brotherhood

is inviting all to a special Zoom program:

America's Fight Against Antisemitism

Join us at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday 12th January 2021 for a reprise of a presentation given by Elan S. Carr U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism to the 17th Congress of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists on December 6th.



Elan S. Carr
U.S. Special Envoy to
Monitor and Combat
Antisemitism

Elan S. Carr serves as the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. As Special Envoy, he advises the Secretary of State and is responsible for directing U.S. policies and projects aimed at countering anti-Semitism throughout the world. Prior to his appointment, Special Envoy Carr served as a Deputy District Attorney for Los Angeles County. As the son of Iraqi Jewish refugees who fled persecution in Iraq, Special Envoy Carr speaks Hebrew and the Iraqi dialect of Arabic. While in Iraq, he met with remnants of the Jewish community there and led Jewish services in the former presidential palace of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad. Special Envoy Carr was the international president of the Jewish fraternity Alpha Epsilon Pi, he served on the National Council of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), he was a voting member of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and he was a board member of Operation Gratitude. In the course of his work in the Jewish community, he has been a recognized leader in the fight against anti-Semitism on U.S. college campuses and around the world.

Temple Isaiah Brotherhood is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: America's Fight Antisemitism

Time: Jan 12, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3529193369?pwd=TEtSUDNpeXlUWEVHTGVPTUdmVWMvdz09>

Meeting ID: 352 919 3369

Passcode: 613

Telephone Dial In: 646-558-8656

General Donations

In Loving Memory of:

Anna Rosenthal Brook, Mother of Helman Brook
Erling Tholfson, Father of Judy Brook
Rachel Alexander-Tholfson, Mother of Judy Brook
Judy & Helman Brook
Abraham Berkowitz, Grandfather of Sheila DeFazio
Louis Cohen, Father of Sheila DeFazio
Sheila & Victor DeFazio
Anne Densky-Moran, Sister of Judith Densky
Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Judy & Helman Brook
Kathie Davis
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
June & Allan Feldman
Gail & Robert Gordon
Diane Haber
Carol & Bill Hersh
Mindy & Howard Israel
Alisa & Martin Secofsky
Shelley Sherman
Abraham Dechter, Grandfather of Irwin Epstein
Mary Morella & Irwin Epstein
Toby Rosenberg, Mother of Ruth Isaac
Ruth Isaac
Shirley Miller, Mother of Denise Miller
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
Jack Hurwitz, Dear Friend of Lloyd Perell
Lloyd Perell
Esther Causanschi, Mother of Golda Shapiro
Golda Shapiro
Lydia Sherman, Mother of Shelley Sherman
Shelley Sherman
Audrey Goldberg, Sister of Harriet Shindler
Harriet Shindler
Emily Soifer, Daughter of Arlene Soifer
Herman Soifer, Husband of Arlene Soifer
Arlene Soifer
William Ang, Father of Sandia Ang Tosky
Sandia & Eric Tosky

In Honor of:

The Election of Joseph Biden
Suzanne Branch
The Speedy Recovery of Jamal Shuriah
Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Judy & Helman Brook
Kathie Davis
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
June & Allan Feldman
Gail & Robert Gordon
Carol & Bill Hersh
Mindy & Howard Israel
Alisa & Martin Secofsky
Shelley Sherman
The Speedy Recovery of David Aubrey
Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Judy & Helman Brook
Kathie Davis
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
June & Allan Feldman
Gail & Robert Gordon
Rachel Greenwald
Carol & Bill Hersh
Mindy & Howard Israel
Alisa & Martin Secofsky
Shelley Sherman
Richard Weiner's Engagement Program
The Continued Good Health of Rabbi Blum
The Two Amigos, Lloyd & Martin
June & Allan Feldman
The Speedy Recoveries of Denise Miller & Steve Fein and AlisaSecofsky
Rachel Greenwald
Belle & Elliott Gayer for Their Chanukah Goodies
Lloyd Perell & Martin Secofsky
Ruth Isaac
The 90th Birthday of Cantor Emeritus Albert Barouch
Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Judy & Helman Brook
Kathie Davis
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
June & Allan Feldman
Gail & Robert Gordon
Carol & Bill Hersh
Mindy & Howard Israel
Alisa & Martin Secofsky
Shelley Sherman

In Honor of (cont'd):

The Speedy Recovery of Jonathan Wagner
Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Judy & Helman Brook
Kathie Davis
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
June & Allan Feldman
Gail & Robert Gordon
Carol & Bill Hersh
Mindy & Howard Israel
Alisa & Martin Secofsky
Shelley Sherman
General Donation in Honor of Temple Isaiah
Barbara Feldman
Nancy Jacobson
Reva & Robert Levy
The Temple Isaiah Bakers
Bella Bekker-Silver & Jonathan Silver
The Speedy Recovery of Steve Fein, Denise Miller & Alisa Secofsky
Willa Lewis & Edward Moulin

2020/2021 Appeal:

Michelle & Rod Birnbaum
Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Suzanne Branch
Judy & Helman Brook
Linda & David Burghardt
Kathie Davis
Rhoda & Michael Epstein
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
June & Allan Feldman
Terry & Richard Joseph
Carol & Bill Hersh
Ruth Isaac
David Mack
Meryl & Jack Menashe
Lloyd Perell
Alisa & Martin Secofsky
Shelley Sherman
Claude Springer
Alice & Richard Weiner

Food Insecurity Project (Mask Chains):

Barbara Feldman
Nina Koss
Marcia Null

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



SJJCC.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
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