

BRUACH

Our Preschool Garden – Gan Ilan – Grows!

When, with very short notice, the Contra Costa Jewish Community Center (CCJCC) closed its doors in mid-December, our Temple Isaiah community responded in many ways. Through efforts by our clergy and Early Childhood Education Director, Liz Kaufman, lines of communication were created to the JCC Board Leadership, JCC teachers and parents, and leadership from the Jewish Federation of the East Bay, all of whom stepped forward to ease the transition, especially for the preschool population.

It quickly became clear that our current, nearly-full Gan Ilan classes could only accommodate a few JCC students, but that by opening up a new three year-old classroom led by beloved JCC teacher Vanessa Lucero, we could welcome in many more families and their children. And so during winter break, many days were spent working to meet with parents, enroll students, and get our Gan Ilan classrooms ready for everyone's return in early January. Kudos and *kol hakavod* go to Liz, Vanessa, and all who helped them during the vacation.

Our Temple member and Temple treasurer, Tracy Ucuzoglu, also stepped up to help create a new arrangement between Temple Isaiah and the Contra Costa Jewish Day School (CCJDS), our partner on our campus. CCJDS could enroll the Developmental Kindergarten students from the JCC but did not have a spare classroom. Isaiah had a spare classroom. Thus a match was made allowing a new CCJDS Bridge Kindergarten class to form for 13 former JCC students. Thanks to Dean Goldfein, CCJDS' Head of School, and Meagan Van Zack, our Board Member, who worked with Temple Isaiah President Lisa Hirsch and created the lease agreement on our synagogue's behalf.

Come January, we were ready. Thanks to the ECE committee under the leadership of Cristina Wornick and Joanne Peterson, the new families and their children received a very warm welcome. Gan Ilan has nine new three year-olds and one new four year-old. The three year-olds have assumed their Arazim identity, and new and veteran teachers plan curriculum together and team teach. Our students all have more friends, more diversified programs, and a new teacher from whom to learn. Increased enrollment and the expanded need for extended care have given us the opportunity to offer new enrichment classes for our three year-olds.

"The new three year-olds integrated quickly into our program and are thriving. Thanks to all of the families and teachers who worked together over winter break; it was a very smooth transition for our new children," said Liz Kaufman.

We are still grieving for the loss of the JCC and hope for a brighter future in a new location one day. In the meantime, we feel grateful to have been able to help some JCC families find a new Jewish home in our loving Gan Ilan environment and Temple Isaiah's larger community.



photo by Michael Fox

Pre-school teacher Vanessa Lucero oversees students sculpting clay penguins and making snow igloos. Nine three year-olds and their teacher from the former JCC form a new Gan Ilan Arazim class that started in January.

TEMPLE ISAIAH

3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, CA 94549

Temple Isaiah's mission is to embody, enhance, and perpetuate our Jewish tradition by providing a welcoming spiritual home where the membership gathers to worship God, study Torah, engage in acts of Tikun Olam, participate in Jewish rituals and life cycle events, and experience the joy of being a part of a caring community.

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Website	www.temple-isaiah.org	

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Ruach is published monthly except in July by Temple Isaiah. Ruach is breath, wind, or spirit. It also means soul. May it be a breeze of fresh Jewish spirit arriving at your home.

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Neighbor to Neighbor Presents Interfaith Amigos

Join members of Temple Isaiah, the San Ramon Islamic Center (SRIC), and Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC) as we learn about each other's faiths. A small cohort from each faith has been meeting for almost a year. We are broadening our circle to include others who wish to deepen ties between our faith communities.

On **Saturday February 4**, at 4:30 p.m., in the sanctuary of Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC), the Interfaith Amigos will present the first of their two programs, entitled "Religion Gone Astray," openly addressing the usual taboos of interfaith dialogue in order to create a more authentic conversation. Known for their unique blend of spiritual wisdom and humor, Pastor Don Mackenzie, Rabbi Ted Falcon, and Imam Jamal Rahman will each share engaging stories, enriching insights, and experiences gained from their journeys of understanding

and healing. Their program will leave ample time for Q & A, so come prepared with inquisitive minds.

Then on **Sunday, February 5**, at 11:00 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall of LOPC, the Interfaith Amigos will present a distinctly different program entitled "Living into the Heart of Interfaith." Attendees will break into small groups for an interactive interfaith workshop considering and answering specific questions that the Amigos will pose for us from their own journeys. Whether or not you have read their book on *Religion Gone Astray*, this will undoubtedly prove to be an enlightening experience.

For those with young families, child care is available with advance notice for both programs; contact Kimberley Rogers at LOPC (kimberley@lopc.org/925-283-8722 Ext. 237). For further information, contact Terry Clark at terence.clark08@gmail.com.

It's 3AM: Where's Your Library?

On your electronic doorstep, that's where. According to Temple Librarian Val Morehouse, Temple Isaiah's *Joint Library Automation Project* with the Contra Costa Jewish Day School continues to develop. Currently CCJDS is beginning to convert their library collection into the Joint Online Library Catalog. The Temple Library has finished incorporating its 7,421 copies of books, videos, and compact discs in the Cantor Ted Cotler Library collection into the online catalog, thanks to the help of dedicated volunteers. The catalog is available both night and day via the Internet. So if you are a night owl and 3 a.m. Judaica searches are your thing, feel free to log in and search your topic, title, or favorite author. Not just avail-

able to congregants, the new online catalog can be searched from any clergy, staff, or educators terminal as well. Point your computer browser to <https://library.temple-isaiah.org>.

Here you'll find colorful book covers, book reviews by title, book awards won, chapter headings when available in *Title Peek*, and more. In addition, if you give yourself a login and password (don't forget them), you'll be able to place book reserves right from the convenience of your home while sitting in your pajamas. As CCJDS continues its conversion project, their holdings will become visible as well, although during this organizing stage, their holdings are not available for borrowing.

Val Morehouse, Librarian

Oneg Sponsors

- **December 2:** Jeffrey Segall and Annette Ellgaard, Joseph and Neela Paykel, David and Vivian Auslander, David and Melinda Krigel, F. William and Wendy Dorband
- **December 9:** Jeffrey and Valerie Kohn in honor of their son Max's bar mitzvah, Steve and Gayle Goldman, George and Lori Swift, Anna Lubarov, Victor and Laurie Ivry, Steve and Elaine Dathe, Bob and Margie Kaplan, Roy and Barbara Kaplan and Elise Trumbull
- **December 16:** Daniel and Carol Altwarg, Roxanne Gray, Steven and Sarah Blumenfeld, Stuart and Rachelle Okmin, Don Wayne and Helen Sokol, Howard and Sandra Sidorsky, and members of Anshei Isaiah
- **December 23:** Milford and Linda Waldroup, Betsy Bigelow, Guy and Francie Louie, Jeffrey Klurfeld, and Don and Robin Jones
- **December 30:** Benson and Ruth Joseph, James and Marla Simon, members of Havurah Tovah: Andrew Adler and Jo Cohen-Adler, Darryl and Linda Diamond, Paul and Chere Elsinga, Stewart and Bette Schuster, and Stuart and Kim Weinstein.

Study the Sacred Trilogy

Even as proponents of our monotheistic faith, the shapers of Jewish thought still found trilogies a way to define our self-understanding. During January, a large group of congregants studied with Rabbi Shanks the language of prayer and poetry around one of those trilogies: Creation-Redemption-Revelation. Prayer springs from belief that we are part of a larger reality. Our humanity is affirmed when contextualized in a universe that we can discover; and, in the words of Albert Einstein, the larger that world becomes, the more points of contact it has with the unknown, the not-yet known, or the Unknowable.

The language of faith is an element in other traditional trilogies: God-Torah-Israel, or People-Land-Faith. During February and March, I wish to study with you these other Jewish trilogies that speak to Judaism's nature. We will explore how such trilogies can enrich our understanding of who we are as Jews.

One virtue of Judaism is that, through the ages, it has retained flexibility. This does not mean Judaism wasn't principled or grounded in beliefs and principles of enduring value. Instead it meant Judaism has recognized that historical and geographic realities at any time impacted how we lived as Jews. Though the ele-

ments of the trilogies were of equal importance, often-times one of them would become dominant while the others offered the backdrop. Change in place, cultural environment, or political situation could move background to the front, with the new foreground gaining strength lent from the back of the Jewish stage.

Over time, Jews in the United States strove to be part of the religious mainstream. The notion of peoplehood (a word that my computer lexicon refuses to accept!) retreated into the background. Worried about double loyalty, early 20th century anti-Zionists declared proudly that "Cincinnati (where the Hebrew Union College was located) was our Jerusalem." But as the religious 'main street' becomes a 'mean street,' is that where we still belong? Is it time to see ourselves differently? How can we understand our need to stand with Israel, beyond politics, if we don't understand ourselves as part of a larger people? How can we "be" of a people that hosts those who would not recognize us as part of them? When faith becomes an opponent of reason, where should we stand?

Join us in studying this *Sacred Trilogy*, as we seek to expand our understanding of Judaism, and explore the possibilities of working again in our generation and the present cultural context. This four-session class will be held **February 12, 26, March 11 and 18** in the oneg room



Rabbi Roberto
Graetz

Rabbi Roberto Graetz

Thank you so much to the additional members who have generously donated to our Special Appeal from December 12, 2011 to January 6, 2012. Previous donors were listed in the January Ruach. We have now raised almost \$50,000. Help us end the year in the black by placing your own name on the list! – Lisa Hirsch President

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60th Anniversary Amphitheater Mosaic Project

In celebration of Temple Isaiah's 60th anniversary, you have a "hands-on" opportunity to leave *your* mark on our beautiful campus! Temple Isaiah artists Arlynn Bloom, Judy Feins, Joanne Lieberman, and Betty Rothaus have been working on the design of a beautiful mosaic to cover the back upper portion of the amphitheater outside the Talmud Torah Center. Inspired by the colorful artwork on our Torah mantels and the six days of creation, this project will add beauty to the area. While the vision comes from our wonderful artists, we need *you* to help execute the design. The completed mosaic will be revealed at the first Sha-Bar-B-Q of 2012 on Friday, June 1.

Mosaic Workshops for All Ages and Skill Levels

Participants will be given the tools and instruction necessary to complete a portion of the mosaic at one or more scheduled workshops. Mosaic creation is essentially "paint by numbers" using tile fragments, so this is a great activity for anyone 5 years and up (children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult). No previous art experience required! Everyone is welcome to participate: families, singles, couples, teens.

Workshop Dates:

- Sunday, February 26, 11:15 a.m.-1:15 p.m.
- Sunday, February 26, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 28, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Sunday, March 11 - Special workshop during Religious School for Religious School Omanut (Art Track) families
- Tuesday, March 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 11, 10:00a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Suggested donation: \$36 per person, \$54 per family

Donations cover the cost of the materials and fees for professional installation. Any donation amount is appreciated. Each participant will be recognized the evening of the reveal and in an ongoing way on the website. And, you will be able to see your beautiful work in our new permanent piece of art.

Questions? Email Susan Rideout rideout@sbcglobal.net. If you are interested in volunteering to help out during one of the workshops, please contact Susan.

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Stucco a little schmutzy?



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THE PURIM SPIEL!

Will we sing Lady Gaga? Michael Jackson?
Motown? '60's rock? Broadway?

COME JOIN THE FUN AND FIND OUT!

Rehearsals take place:

Wednesday, February 22, 7-9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 29, 7-9:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 4, 5-7:00 p.m.

Performance on

Wednesday, March 7, 6:30 p.m.

Questions? Email Cantor Korn at

cantor.korn@temple-isaiah.org



Welcome New Members

November 15, 2011 to January 17, 2012

**This space
left intentionally
Blank**

Yizkor Elohim

December 30, 2011

■ **Leon Rudnick**, father of Sandy Rudnick, father-in-law of Alexandra Morgan.

January 1, 2012

■ **Erwin Paul "Bud" Maron**, father of Steven (Susana) Maron, grandfather of Bianca, Mikaela and Rebecca Maron.

January 17, 2012

■ **Edith Schmidt**, mother of William (Gretchen) Schmidt and Ellen Greenblatt, grandmother of Aaron (Yael), Joshua (Vivian), Yisrael (Rivka) and Sarah, great grandmother of Abigail, Alexa, Tzivia, Moishe, Yosef, Yehuda, Nathan, & Noah.

January 20, 2012

■ **Diane Kaye**, sister of Philip Groman, sister-in-law of Hadele Groman, aunt of Eron, Jay, Nina and Hugh. In Maryland.



**SATURDAY, MARCH 10
TO SUNDAY, MARCH 18**

Temple Isaiah is a proud sponsor of the
French-Russian drama

Le Concert

Saturday, March 10, 7:00 pm,
CineArts in Pleasant Hill

www.eastbayjewishfilm.org

For a brochure, email the Jewish Federation at riva@jfed.org.



photo by Michael Fox

Rabbi Graetz with author Sue Fishkoff, who discussed her book Kosher Nation: Why More and More of America's Food Answers to a Higher Authority at Library Shabbat, January 13.

Cemetery Space Planning

Here is an update on Temple Isaiah's cemetery gardens at Oakmont Cemetery in Lafayette. We have two locations: the Garden of Tranquility and the Garden of Compassion III (the area at the top of the hill). Over the years, we have filled the Garden of Tranquility to the point where we have only one space available, and we have only 32 spaces available in the Garden of Compassion III.

While a number of congregants have chosen to purchase spaces in the new Gan Shalom Jewish cemetery in Briones, operated by Sinai Memorial Chapel, a number of congregants are still interested in spaces at Oakmont because family members and friends are interred there.

Accordingly, we have started to contact about 15 former members of Temple Isaiah who are owners of 35 spaces in the Garden of Tranquility to determine if they still intend to use those spaces, or if they would be willing to sell them back to become available to present members.

If you are interested in acquiring one of the few spaces available at the Garden of Compassion, or to be put on the wait list for spaces at The Garden of Tranquility, please contact Frank Winer, Cemetery Chair at 925-825-2182 or email frankwin5@aol.com and you will be contacted as soon as spaces become available.

Mazal Tov

- To **Melissa Palmer Gianotti**, on her marriage to Dustin Gianotti on October 1, 2011.
- To **Dave and Sandy Anderson** and **Nancy and Bill Brown**, on the birth of their granddaughter, Elliana Lucille Brown, born to Aaron and Robin Brown on December 30, 2011.
- To **Carol and Kenneth Ogren**, on the marriage of their daughter, Melanie Lee Ogren, to Jeffrey Andrew Roberts, on January 15, 2012.
- To **Rabbi Roberto and Evelyn Graetz**, on the engagement of their daughter, Sharon Graetz, to Adam Strater. They plan to marry on August 12, 2012.

Lunch & Learn Series: John Muir

Our lunchtime learning series continues on **Wednesday, March 7**, for a lecture entitled *Wilderness Prophet at Home in the Suburbs: John Muir's Life in Martinez with Daniel Prial, Park Ranger at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez*. John Muir was many things: inventor, immigrant, botanist, glaciologist, writer, co-founder of the Sierra Club, fruit rancher. But it was John Muir's love of nature, and the preservation of it, that we can thank him for today.

Lunch and Learn is \$10 for members, \$12 for non-members. For the yearly schedule and online registration, visit www.temple-isaiah.org/lunchandlearn.



Michael Fox, Jeanette Gross, David Bressler, Barbara Kaplan, Michele Holtz, Michael Liepman, Diana MaKieve (standing), Sue Adler-Bressler, Julie Bressler, Rabbi Alissa Forrest, and Shel Holtz (sitting) at the URJ Biennial last December in Washington, DC.

Eat, Pray, Learn: 3rd Shabbat

Community-Wide Sharing Event with Keshet Isaiah

Following the 6:30 Shabbat service on **Friday, February 17**, Rabbi Ruth Adar will speak on the Torah of Personal Finance during the Eat, Pray, Learn dinner.

No matter how much or how little we have to spend, all of us have to make choices about how we spend money. Jewish tradition offers us guidance in making ethical decisions about spending on clothing, housing, *tzedakah*, our children, saving, and investment. It also offers support in making ethical choices when our resources are limited. Rabbi Ruth Adar spent her final year of rabbinical school researching and writing her thesis, *Money and Menschlichkeit: A Jewish Ethics of Personal Finance*, because she hated feeling guilty and conflicted about financial decisions. She looks forward to sharing some of what she learned with you.

Mitzvah Day – May 6

Please mark your calendars on **Sunday, May 6**, for our 14th annual Mitzvah Day. The Social Action Committee welcomes Dean Burnick as new chair of the Mitzvah Day Committee. Volunteers are welcome for jobs large and small. Let Dean know if you are interested (dburnick@gmail.com), and watch for further announcements and more details in the March *Ruach*.

5th Annual Trivia Night

Sponsored by Kulanu and Anshei Isaiah

Surprise and impress your friends with your knowledge of obscure and irrelevant facts! Prove that you can actually remember things! And, best of all, raise funds to help support Temple Isaiah's Youth Programs - all at the 5th Annual Trivia Night - **Saturday, February 11, 6 - 9 p.m.**, at the Social Hall.

Pre-eminent Emcee Scott Danish is back to dish out a wide range of challenging questions, including some Temple Isaiah trivia (in honor of our 60th anniversary). Gather an ace team in advance (around eight people), or join one when you arrive. This event is for all Temple members and their guests. You do not have to be a genius... but it helps.

Cost is \$30 per adult, which includes a catered dinner and dessert. One bottle of wine is provided for each table; additional bottles will be available.

Childcare for potty-trained children (3 and up) is \$10 per child, and includes their dinner. All proceeds from Trivia Night benefit Temple Isaiah's Youth Programs. Questions? Contact David Weller at dwellers@me.com or Seth Moldoff at SMoldoff@comcast.net.

Our Connection to Women of Reform Judaism



*Barbara Kaplan
Women of Isaiah
Co-President*



*Gloria Schiller,
Women of Isaiah
Co-President*

Happy New Year to everyone. Women of Isaiah is now 400 members strong! Thank you to our Past Presidents' Membership Committee and to the Temple community for their support.

In December, our parent organization, Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ), held their biannual national assembly in Washington DC. WRJ, headquartered in New York, maintains a minimal paid support staff, and has eight districts including our Pacific district that extends from Alaska to El Paso. Although affiliation with WRJ is optional, WOI believes the benefits of membership outweigh the cost.

WRJ is our connection to Reform Jewish women across the globe, an exchange for program ideas, problem solving, social action projects, and valuable leadership training. WRJ provides speakers on topics relevant to sisterhoods every year. For example, our online gift shop came out of one of WRJ's meetings. In return, Diana Makieve presented the P'tach Libeynu program she spearheaded at this year's Assembly, winning a top service award. Other sisterhoods have contacted her about how to start such a program. For current programming information please go to www.openourhearts.net.

This year's WRJ assembly coincided with the Union for Reform Judaism's Biennial. We were addressed by President Obama, Cecile Richards, Chair of Planned Parenthood, Anat Hoffman from IRAC, Nancy Brinker, founder of the Susan G. Komen Foundation, outgoing URJ President Rabbi Eric Yoffee, and were introduced to incoming president

Rabbi Richard Jacobs. Plus, Shabbat services with about 4,000 worshippers, a lovely Shabbat dinner, and excellent Jewish musical presentations made for an exciting weekend. The next Assembly is in San Diego in 2013.

The Women of Isaiah look forward to an exciting 2012 including the Women's Torah Weekend (February 23-27). See article below for the event schedule.

*Barbara Kaplan and Gloria Schiller,
WOI Co-Presidents*

WOI Dessert Seder

Save the Date – **Monday, March 26**, at 6:45 pm when Women of Isaiah is hosting the annual Women's Intergenerational Dessert Seder.



Winter Nights volunteers serving turkey dinner.

photo by Michael Fox

Women's Torah Project

The Women's Torah, the first Torah in history to be created and embellished by an international community of women, and the first to be sewn together in community, will be the centerpiece of a week of study and celebration **February 22-29**. Scribes, artists and others associated with the creation of the Women's Torah will offer programs at several different venues during this groundbreaking Torah's week-long residence in the Bay Area. Temple Isaiah will host The Women's Torah Project on the following occasions:

Shabbat Service: Friday, February 24, 8 p.m.

Wendy Graff, Director of Kadima's Women's Torah Project, will describe the transformative process of coming together as a group to sew the Torah panels together and how bringing community to that simple and ancient task, profoundly changed personal relationships to Torah.

Religious School Workshop: Sunday, February 26

Religious School students will have the opportunity to view the Torah and learn about the Women's Torah Project.

WOI's Rosh Chodesh Adar: Monday, February 27, 7 p.m.

For the 90th anniversary of the first bat mitzvah, we will explore Jewish law regarding women and Torah, discuss the history and development of the bat mitzvah ceremony, and point to future directions in women's interpretations of Torah.

Isaiah members are also invited to this event:

Diablo Valley Hadassah with the Women's Torah Project: Thursday, February 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Contra Costa Jewish Day School

Join us for Torah viewing, discussion, and an art sale benefiting the Women's Torah Project. Rabbi Jane Litman, Project Director Wendy Graff, and Metal Artist Aimee Golant will be present to discuss the project.

For more information, visit www.temple-isaiah.org/women-isaiah/womens-torah-project/.

February 2012

Shevat — Adar I 5772

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 12pm Lunch and Learn Series 12pm Library Open (*til 6) 4pm Religious School 6:45pm Noar Night 7pm Choir Rehearsal (offsite)	2 8:30am Library Open (*til 1pm) 12pm Talmud Study	3 9:15am Ganeinu 5:45pm got Shabbat? Dinner 6:30pm Shabbat Family Service followed by Ice Cream Sandwich Oneg	4 Shabbat Shira 8:45am Torah Study 10:30am Shabbat Service (Bat Mitzvah: Natalie Lawton) 4:30pm Interfaith Amigos (at LOPC)
5 Religious School in Session 8:30am Library Open (*til 1pm) 9am Exploring Judaism 9am Interfaith Choral Celebration (at LOPC) 10:10am Beginning Hebrew 11am Interfaith Amigos (at LOPC) 11am Interfaith Choral Celebration (at LOPC)	6 6pm Political Earthquakes in the Middle East 7pm WOI Board Meeting	7 1pm Library Open (*til 6) 3pm CSA Pickup (*til 6:30) 4pm Religious School 6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting 7:15pm Al Anon	8 Tu B'Shevat 10:30am Jewish Book Group 12pm Library Open (*til 6) 4pm Religious School 6:45pm Noar Night 7pm ClixPix 7pm Choir Rehearsal	9 8:30am Library Open (*till 1pm) 12pm Talmud Study	10 9:15am Ganeinu 8pm Shabbat Service Honoring Members 20-29 Years & Interfaith Choral Celebration followed by Oneg	11 9:15am Torah Study 10:30am Shabbat Service 6:00pm Trivia Night
12 Religious School in Session 8:30am Library Open *till 1 9am Exploring Judaism 9am Brunch 'n Learn 10:10am Beginning Hebrew 11:15am Judaism's Sacred Trilogy w/Rabbi Graetz 12:50pm Kleztones Rehearsal 1:30pm Leading with a Jewish Heart 4pm L'Mazeltov	13 10:30am Women's Torah Study 7pm WOI Knitting & Handiwork	14 1pm Library Open (*til 6) 3pm CSA Pickup (*til 6:30) 4pm Religious School 7:15pm Al Anon 7:30pm Committee Night	15 12pm Library Open (*til 6) 4pm Religious School 6:45pm Noar Night 7:30pm Mizmor Band Rehearsal	16 12pm Talmud Study	17 Anachnu LA Trip 9:15am Ganeinu 6pm Happy 1/2 Hour Oneg 6:30pm 3rd Shabbat Service followed by Eat, Pray, Learn Dinner & Lecture	18 Anachnu LA Trip 9:15am Torah Study 10:30am Shabbat Service followed by Vegetarian Potluck
19 Anachnu LA Trip No Religious School/ Adult Ed	20 Anachnu LA Trip Office Closed: Presidents Day 7pm Sacred Chanting/ Healing Circle (offsite)	21 1pm Library Open (*til 6) 3pm CSA Pickup (*til 6:30) 7:15pm Al Anon 7:30pm Board Meeting	22 2pm Library Open (*til 6) 7pm Purimspiel Rehearsal	23 8:30am Library Open (*till 1pm) 12pm Talmud Study	24 9:15am Ganeinu 8pm Shabbat Service followed by Oneg	25 8:45am Torah Study 10:30am Shabbat Service (B'nai Mitzvah: Bradley Berkman & Koryna Boudinot)
26 Religious School in Session 8:30am Library Open (*til 1) 9am Exploring Judaism 10:10am Beginning Hebrew 11:15am Judaism's Sacred Trilogy w/Rabbi Graetz 11:15am Mosaic Workshop 12:50pm Kleztones Rehearsal 1:30pm Mosaic Workshop 1:30pm Leading with a Jewish Heart 4pm L'Mazeltov 4pm Rosh Hodesh: It's a girl thing!	27 5:30pm Cancer Support Group 7pm Anshei Isaiah Board Meeting 7pm P'tach Libeynu Support Group 7:30pm Rosh Chodesh Adar: Women's Torah Project	28 1pm Library Open (*til 6) 3pm CSA Pickup (*til 6:30) 4pm Religious School 6:30pm Mosaic Workshop 7:15pm Al Anon	29 8:15am WOI Hike 12pm Library Open (*til 6) 4pm Religious School 6:30pm Mosaic Workshop 6:45pm Noar Night 7pm Purimspiel Rehearsal			

Winter Nights volunteers serve dinner to over 30 guests.

photo by Michael Fox

Re-Imagining Hebrew Education



Rabbi Nicki Greninger, Education Director

Do you know Hebrew? If you ‘know’ Hebrew, does it mean you know the letters of the aleph-bet and can sound out words? Does it mean that you feel comfortable with modern, spoken Hebrew, or that you understand basic Jewish vocabulary in Hebrew (words like ‘shalom’ and ‘tzedakah’ or phrases like ‘tikun olam’ or ‘b’tzelem Elohim’)? Does it mean that you know most of the words of the prayers and can recite them with the community, even if you could not necessarily translate each word? There are many different goals of Hebrew education, and many different ways to learn Hebrew.

Our congregation has been invited to be part of a national effort called “The Hebrew Project” to re-imagine the goals and methods of teaching Hebrew in congregational religious schools. Members of The Hebrew Project have noted “One of the most vexing problems of congregational education is that preparing children for bar or bat mitzvah ... does not take into account children’s

developmental levels. Typically, nine year-olds with little to no Hebrew background study Hebrew prayers well beyond their reading and conceptual abilities in English. While congregations usually adapt their on-the-bimah requirements to the child, and while most thirteen year olds ‘do their parents proud,’ one wonders how many students are turned off because of a disconnect between children’s developmental abilities and interests and the normative Hebrew curriculum for grades 3-6 in most congregational schools.”

Many Jewish professionals feel that teaching Hebrew is one of the most challenging things in Jewish education, but there is a lack of clarity about our goals and methods.

As a result, we have convened a Hebrew Task Force at Temple Isaiah comprised of parents and teachers to redefine Hebrew education in our Religious School. Task Force members have been learning the basics of language acquisition, exploring challenges Hebrew teachers face in teaching in a part-time program, and possible goals to adopt for Hebrew education. In the coming months, they will research what kinds of Hebrew and other part-time language learning programs exist, which make the most sense for us, and how we can learn from and adapt their methods. They will also study our Temple community to find out what parents want for their children.

I eagerly anticipate the results of the Hebrew Task Force’s work, and I’m hopeful that our Hebrew education at Temple Isaiah will be transformed for the better in the months and years to come!

Judaism’s Sacred Trilogy Course

For centuries people have tried to define what is at the core of Judaism. In the pursuit of “the essence of Judaism,” many Jewish thinkers settled on the trilogy of people-land-faith. Firmly anchored in North American culture, Jews often have trouble connecting with some aspects of this trilogy. In this course, we will seek to understand how each of the elements functioned throughout history and explore the possibilities of them working again in our generation and present cultural context. Four Sessions: 2/12, 2/26, 3/11, 3/18; no class 2/19 and 3/3; 11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Oneg Room; Instructor: Rabbi Graetz

CCJDS Presents

Wednesday, February 22 at 7 pm
 Thursday, February 23, at 4:30 pm
 Friday, February 24, at 3:30 pm

Temple Isaiah Social Hall
 Ticket info and purchase:
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Rabbi and Evelyn Graetz for a wonderful trip to Argentina, from Steven Weinzimmer and Karen Maas

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Bruce Kaufman's special birthday, from Havurah Neshoma

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Rabbi Shanks, from Stan and Wendy Holcenberg, Penny Kermit
Rabbi Shanks and Andrew's bar mitzvah, from The Zucker Family
Rabbi Shanks for unveiling for Howard Weintraub, from Richard and Marsha Molling

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Tema L. Steele, from Deeni Schoenfeld

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Bob Goldstone, from Mel and Barbie Bacher, Diane and Jack Hecht, Bobbie and Norman Schoenfeld, Judy and Andy Weiss, Steven and Natalie Wolff

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Jermone Adler, from Susan Adler-Bressler and David Bressler
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Edward Bressler, from David Bressler and Susan Adler-Bressler

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In honor of:

Sandy Anderson and her work chairing winter nights up to 2010, from David Anderson

Joe and Lynn Halperin, from Carter Leinster and the Financial Team at Triad Financial Advisors

Marge Singer's 90th Birthday, from Sandy and David Anderson

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**SHABBAT
WORSHIP SERVICES**

Friday, February 3

5:45pm "got Shabbat" Dinner
6:30pm Family Shabbat Service
with Shira, Jr. Choir and
Kleztones, followed by Oneg

Saturday, February 4

8:45am Torah Study
10:30am Shabbat Morning Service
Natalie Lawton, Bat Mitzvah
Ex. 13:17-17:16, Beshallah

Friday, February 10

8:00pm Shabbat Service and
Interfaith Choral Celebration,
honoring members 20-29 years,
followed by Oneg

Saturday, February 11

9:15am Torah Study
10:30am Shabbat Morning Service
Ex. 18:1-20:26; Yitro

Friday, February 17

6:00pm Happy Half Hour
6:30pm 3rd Shabbat Service
followed by Lecture and Dinner

Saturday, February 18

9:15am Torah Study
10:30am Shabbat Morning Service
Ex. 21:1-24:18; Mishpatim

Friday, February 24

8:00pm Shabbat Service
followed by Oneg

Saturday, February 25

8:45am Torah Study
10:30am Shabbat Morning Service
Bradley Berkman and Koryna
Boudinot, B'nai Mitzvah
Ex. 25:1-27:19; Terumah

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The Blackhawk (Automotive) Museum in Danville

Cocktails, Dinner, Raffle, Live & Silent Auction, and more!

Dress in attire from your favorite decade.

\$100 per person before March 15, \$125 after

Including, for the first time ever, a tribute book with both business and membership directory!
Place an ad for your business or a tribute ad to congratulate the congregation on this 60th anniversary...Or both! This is an exciting opportunity to be creative.

Watch for your invitation coming soon in the mail!

Can't wait for the invitation? Tickets, tribute ads and more on sale at

www.temple-isaiah.org/60years

Temple Isaiah and Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church Present the

7th Annual Interfaith Choral Celebration

Shabbat Service at Temple Isaiah - Friday, February 10, 8:00 p.m.

Join us as the choirs of Temple Isaiah and Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church unite in song. We will also be honoring those who have been Temple Isaiah members for 20-29 years.

Morning Worship at LOPC - Sunday, February 5, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.