

332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, CA 92262 • www.templeisaiahps.com •

MAY 2017 • Iyar-Sivan 5777

RABBI DAVID LAZAR



LGBTQ at Temple Isaiah & JCC Palm Springs

Sunday, May 7 - 4:00 PM



Rabbi Becky Silverstein

Education Director, Pasadena Jewish Temple,

"Transgender & Jewish: Bringing My Whole-Self to our Holy Tradition."

Join us as Rabbi Becky Silverstein combines an overview of transgender identity and language with Torah and his own life experience. Part-text study, part-conversation, part-Q&A, this promises to be an interesting and educational afternoon.

Rabbi Silverstein believes in the power of community, Torah, and silliness in transforming the world. He currently serves as the Education Director at Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center.

This is the last event this season for the Twice Blessed series made possible through the generosity of the Jewish Federation of the Desert.

Program will be in Temple Isaiah's Liberman Chapel, 332 West Alejo Rd, Palm Springs, and will be followed by a reception.

\$5 Members • \$10 Guests

RSVP online at www.templeisaiahps.com or call 760-325-2281.





❖ From the Executive Director - Part 1 Douglas Morton

There is so much happening at Temple Isaiah that I have separated my article into two messages this month! This first article is about the major changes that have taken place on the Temple Board.

As a result of the special congregational meeting on March 28th, which was very well attended by so many of you, the Board has voted to accept the generous gift from Harold Matzner which will cover our operational deficit for the current fiscal



year. We will use the upcoming months to first create two possible business plans, one for remaining in the current building and one for downsizing. We will also be implementing the plan to remain in the building, and will evaluate whether it is sufficiently successful for us to continue in our current facilities in the long term.

The events leading up to the gift and the decision to develop two plans made for a strong emotional climate at our Temple, resulting in some unfortunate confrontational behaviors. Sadly, that environment resulted in two resignations by Board officers. Three weeks ago, our Treasurer, Atma Wiseman, resigned her position. And, on April 30th, Ira Helf, President of the Board, decided to resign. It is unfortunate that these two valued Officers of the Board felt that they were being unjustly accused, and that they were no longer in a supportive environment which would allow them to do their jobs properly. We sincerely thank Ira and Atma for their efforts on behalf of Temple Isaiah and wish them well.

Vice President Christopher Spellman has stepped into the role of President, and we warmly welcome him to this challenging role. Christopher has been a member of our Board for two years. He is the founder and executive producer of Comic Con Palm Springs.







Christopher Spellman

(far left) Dr. Soo Borson (near left) Richard Jeffrey

The Board of Directors met on May 1st, and voted two other current Board

members to the Executive Committee. Dr. Soo Borson will serve as our Vice President, and Richard Jeffery will serve as our new Treasurer.

Soo Borson observed, "these are exciting and challenging times at Temple Isaiah and I am honored to serve the congregation as Vice President."

Richard Jeffery has a degree in accounting and has many years of accounting experience. He regularly assists as a volunteer in the Temple office.

Carol Fragen stays on Secretary of the Board, and the Board is rounded out by Shoshana Barer, Adam Gilbert,

Peter Gordon and Gary Miller (pictured below).











As we move forward with preparation on these plans I will do all I can to keep you informed.

One more bit of news: We have received a generous gift from a few members to paint our building! Once all the bids are received, reviewed and voted on by the Board we will give you more details.

Shalom,

Douglas





Café

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Beginning with the first Shabbat in June (June 2nd), through Rosh Hashanah, Friday night services will begin at 7:30 PM

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CAFÉ

Join us on Thursday, May 4th from 3-5 pm in the front lobby of Temple Isaiah, 332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs.

This is a monthly event for people in our community who are living with memory loss, their families, care givers and friends.

We meet the first Thursday of each month. Next café: Thursday, June 1st. Come! Have fun and make new friends!

No cost. RSVP helpful. Call 760-325-2281 or email to mail@templeisaiahps.com.

❖ From the Rabbi's Study Rabbi David Lazar



As we count down the days of the Omer until the Shavuot holiday, we are given the opportunity to consider the ageold Jewish concept of revelation. Regardless of what one personally believes as to what happened – or did not happen – historically at Sinai, we, like all peoples and cultures around the

world, have always asked ourselves how exactly we came to perceive, understand and accept the laws and customs we live by. Hence, there are many different accounts in Rabbinic literature, each reflecting a different philosophical approach and historical setting.

We find an interesting take on how this revelation might have happened in this passage found in the Babylonian Talmud (Shabbat, 88b):

Rabbi Yohanan said: What is meant by the verse, "The Lord gives the word" (Ps. 68:12) – Every single word that went forth from the Holy One was translated into seventy languages.

And so, according to Rabbi Yohanan, God, who presumably spoke Hebrew with Moses, was able to have those words understood in every language spoken on the Earth at that time. It seems that the rabbis of the Talmud relied upon this tradition to justify the oral translation of the Torah into the local vernacular during the public readings in the synagogue as was the practice in the first millennium of the common era.

As important as it was (and is) for us to preserve the use of Hebrew in our study and practice of Judaism, our tradition has always looked for ways to bridge the gap between the biblical text in its original language and those who no longer understood, let alone use, that ancient tongue.

Likewise, the rabbis of the Talmud (Sotah 33a) pointed out that almost all the prayers that continued to be practiced after the Temple was destroyed needed not be in Hebrew but in a dialect that was understood by all.

So why should we continue to use the Hebrew in our prayers and while reading from the Torah and Prophets? It seems to me that Hebrew is something that helps bind us together with Jews all over the world, regardless of the local Jewish languages that might have been spoken – e.g. Yiddish, Ladino, Judeo Arabic. It affords us a connection with the generations that have come before us for over 3,000 years and strengthens our connection with our sisters and brothers in the State of Israel.

It is for this reason that we have decided to introduce a new prayer book at Friday evening services. Mishkan T'filah is a recently published siddur that includes the Hebrew original, contemporary gender-sensitive translation and transliteration of each prayer. We would like to thank Barbara Platt who most generously made our initial purchase of these prayer-books possible. (See below).

Shavuot is also the time when we read the book of Ruth, the story of a young Moabite widow whose devotion to her mother-in-law eventually led to her full inclusion into Israelite society. While there is nothing in the biblical text itself that would indicate an official process or ceremony converting to our faith, this tale is often cited as the first instance of "a Jew by choice."

(Continued next page)

Introducing a new, user-friendly Shabbat Prayer Book

We are introducing a new prayer book for Shabbat services, "Mishkan T'filah," which has the unique feature of offering all prayers in Hebrew, English and transliterated.

It is our hope that from now on that everyone, regardless of ability to read Hebrew, will be better able to follow and sing along during the service.

We invite you to purchase prayer books in honor or memory of loved ones and friends.

Cost: \$48 apiece; call or email the office to order.





Boaz and Ruth, London, c1910, Gross Family Collection, Tel-Aviv

As Ruth was welcomed by the residents of ancient Bethlehem, so too, we will officially welcome those members of our Temple Isaiah community who have recently converted.

At Shavuot services on Wednesday, May 31st at 10:00 AM, we will call Ron, Kelsey, Kay and Rhonda up to the Torah. Please join us for the service and a festive Kiddush following.

Whether it is welcoming others or enabling as many as possible to join in the singing of prayers, I truly believe that it is through the ongoing improvement of our study,

prayer and social justice activities, that we may continue to grow both membership and involvement and maintain our sacred community, Temple Isaiah of Palm Springs.

Hag Shavuot Sameah!

Robbi David Lazar

Below: Yiddish translation of Bible, Amsterdam, 1679, Gross Family Collection, Tel-Aviv



❖ From the Executive Director - Part 2 Douglas Morton

If you were at the Passover Seder this year, you'll surely agree with me that our Rabbi, the service, the food and the wine were all incredible. I am already looking forward to next year!

Speaking of incredible, how about the lectures this past month? First, **Ira Helf** and **Larry Fechter** gave an interesting and informative lecture on Roosevelt and the Jews. Thank you, Ira and Larry! The well-attended lecture was wonderful. It is exciting when the lecture comes from our own.



Two nights later Twice Blessed welcomed **Jake Newsome** from the U.S. Memorial Holocaust Museum. Mr. Newsome spoke about what happened to the gays immediately following the war and how the nightmare for gays continued for many of them for years after the camps were liberated. Once again, the lecture was well attended, informative, and educational.

Join us Sunday, May 7 at 4:00 pm as we welcome **Rabbi Becky Silverstein** who will lecture on "Experience of a Transgendered Rabbi". He comes to us from Congregation B'nai Israel in Pasadena. It should be a fascinating afternoon and we hope that you will join us. Registration is available on our website templeisaiahps.com.

We thank the Jewish Federation of the Desert for cosponsoring our two Twice Blessed events.

A big thank you to **Rabbi Nick Behrmann** who has been sorting through books in our storage room and library to help make it more user friendly. If you are interested in working on this project give me a shout.

And, finally, mark your calendars now for our Shavuot programs. Shavuot eve is Tuesday, May 30th at 8:00 pm, and we will have a wine, cheese and study session with **Rabbi Lazar** who will lead us in examining the question "Does One Really Need to Convert to be Jewish?" Shavuot Services and Yizkor is the next morning, May 31, at 10:00 am.

Eileen Stern and her Jewish Film Festival committee is already planning next year's festival. Over a congratulatory glass of champagne at the home of committee members Roberta and Stephen Edelstein, Eileen's devoted crew came up with some exciting ideas to make next year's program even more spectacular. Eileen hopes to have the 2018 dates confirmed shortly so you can mark your calendars early!

Take note that from after Shavuot to Rosh Hashanah Friday night Kabbalat services will be at 7:30 pm. I look forward to seeing you often!

Shalom,

Douglas

If you are unwell, please notify the Temple Office - 760-325-2281 - or have someone call on your behalf, so that Rabbi Lazar can be in contact with you.

Mazel Tov to May celebrants **MAY BIRTHDAYS MAY ANNIVERSARIES** Beverly Bell Michael Kahn Larry Fechter & Tom Stansbury Bill & Gail Goff Kanter Robert Bergstein Dr. Edward Kroll Dr. Edward & Rita Kroll Dr. Soo Borson Susan Moses **David Cheifetz** Alan Moss Rob & CC Pennes Barry Dank Leon Ohana Harley & Caryl Rudofsky Jeff Dintzer Caryl Olins **Daniel Dintzer** Eric Ortner Eileen Eisenberg Larea Pettersen Adam Gilbert Cathy Pitts Steven Gorosh Steven Shuman Helen Gottschalk Larry Stahl Ralph Tash Raquel Harris Hilda Herman Bill Thom



Bernard Horwich

TEMPLE PHONE NUMBERS Main line: 760-325-2281

Staff can be reached via the main Temple number or by calling their direct lines:

Rabbi David Lazar 760-844-7308
Doug Morton, Executive Director 760-844-7307
Larea Pettersen, Ass't to Director 760-844-7306
Christopher Greene, Facilities 760-844-7309
24/7 Event RSVP Line 760-844-7305

Temple Isaiah's fabulous Summer Socials return in June. First event for 2017: Thursday, June 15 ● 5-7 PM at 360 Bistro (360 North Palm Canyon)!



FDR,
THE
JEWS
AND
THE
HOLOCAUST:
CONTEXT
AND
PERSPECTIVE:
IRA HELF
AND
LARRY
FECHTER







JAKE NEWSOME: LGBT PERSECUTION BY THE NAZI REGIME

Community Seder at Temple Isaiah the first night of Pesach April 10, 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May	2017	X 7 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Shavud	t		
	1 Temple office closed	2	3 3-4:15 pm ExploraTorah 6-8 pm 2BaJew	4 3-5 pm Dementia Friendly Café	5 6:30 pm Shabbat services	6 10 am Shabbat service
7 Temple office closed 4 pm Twice Blessed Event: Rabbi Becky Silverstein: "Transgender & Jewish"	8 Temple office closed	9	10 NO CLASSES TODAY	11	12 6:30 pm Shabbat services	13 10 am Shabbat service
14 Temple office closed	15 Temple office closed	16	17 3-4:15 pm <i>ExplozaTozah</i> 6-8 pm 2BaJew	18	19 6:30 pm Shabbat services	20 10 am Shabbat service
21 Temple office closed	22 Temple office closed	23	24 3-4:15 pm <i>ExplozaTozah</i> 6-8 pm 2BaJew	25	26 6:30 pm Shabbat services	27 10 am Shabbat service
28 Temple office closed	29 Temple office closed	8 pm Erev Shavuot Wine, cheese & study session	31 No classes Temple office closed 10 am Shavuot Services: Yiskor			



Friday, May 5 Shabbat Acharei-Kedoshim 6:51 pm
Friday, May 12 Shabbat Emor 6:56 pm
Friday, May 19 Shabbat Behar-Bechukotai 7:01 pm
Friday, May 26 Shabbat Bamidbar 7:06 pm
Tuesday, May 30 Erev Shavuot 7:09 pm
Wednesday, May 31 Second night Shavuot After 8:34 pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Too No						
				1 3-5 pm Dementia Friendly Café	2 7:30 pm Shabbat services	3 10 am Shabbat service
4 Temple office closed	5 Temple office closed	6	7 3-4:15 pm <i>ExplozaTozah</i> 6-8 pm 2BaJew	8	9 7:30 pm Shabbat services	10 10 am Shabbat service
11 Temple office closed	12 Temple office closed	13	14 NO CLASSES	15 5-7 pm SUMMER SOCIAL AT 360 BISTRO	16 7:30 pm Shabbat services	17 10 am Shabbat service
18 Temple office closed	19 Temple office closed	20	21 3-4:15 pm ExplozaTozah	22	23 7:30 pm Shabbat services	24 10 am Shabbat service
25 Temple office closed	26 Temple office closed	27	28 3-4:15 pm ExploraTorah	29	30 7:30 pm Shabbat services	

BEGINNING JUNE 2, THROUGH ROSH HASHANAH, FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICES WILL BEGIN AT 7:30 PM



CANDLELIGHTING TIMES:

Friday, June 2	Shabbat Naso	7:10 pm
Friday, June 9	Shabbat Baho\alotcho	7:14 pm
Friday, June 16	ShabbatShelach	7:17 pm
Friday, June 23	Shabbat Korach	7:19 pm
Friday, June 30	Shabbat Chukat	7:19 pm

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In Memory of: Yahrzeit Fund

Shirley Waterman in loving memory of her husband, Phillip Waterman

Shirley Waterman in loving memory of her aunt, Shirley Lew

Heddy Salerno in loving memory of her father, Henry Schulkind

Elaine Land-Dexter in loving memory of her mother, Mollie Grinstein

Mae Cohen in loving memory of her mother, Clara Honigman

Gerald Dorman in loving memory of his mother, Ruth Dorman

Linda Roberson and family in loving memory of her son, Mark Allen Roberson

Eileen Eisenberg in loving memory of her mother, Fern Naxon

Jonathan Friedman in loving memory of his parents

Sunny Schriver in loving memory of her father, Hyman Levitt

Lance Leener in loving memory of his mother, Dottie Fields

Norma Lovitz in loving memory of her father, Ahron Kaplan

Estelle Silberman in loving memory of her brother, Myron Schwartz

Portia Jacobs in loving memory of her mother, Ruth Abrams

Helene Holland in loving memory of her brother-in-law, Julian Holland

Sharon Moss in loving memory of her mother, Jeanette Kosbie

Matthew and Sara Simon in loving memory of Rabbi Ralph Simon

Myna Simkin in loving memory of her husband, Israel Simkin

Shelley Miller-Mantell in loving memory of her father-in-law, Sidney Mantell

Eileen Starkstein-Fine in loving memory of her husband, Mickey Fine

Charles Bolland in loving memory of Lorraine Brown

Rob Pennes in loving memory of his wife, Alice Pennes

General Contribution

Basil Bernstein

Nita Soref

Barbara Platt in honor of Christopher Greene

Sandie Ovesen in honor of Christopher Greene

Jay Frank in honor of Henry and Esther Frank

Phyllis Enet in honor of Christopher Greene

Phyllis Enet in honor of her birthday for the Oneg fund

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Harold Clumeck

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May 2017 Yahrzeits

* Names Inscribed on Memorial Board

Shabbat Services: Friday nights at 6:30 pm & Saturdays at 10:00 am. We will attempt to provide a morning minyan for a vahrzeit if given several days notice.

Week of May 7-13. Listed May 12/13

Albert Dexter *Maurice Dinnerstein *Allan Fierstein *Ide Goldstein *Charles P. Gould *Irving Hyman *Harold Julien Ann Kaplan *Devora Klocman *Lew Levy Victor Luckritz *Jack A. Lustman Abraham Lyman *Anna Lyons Andrea J. Michel *William Newdelman *Nat C. Rabin *Meyer Robinson *Joseph Rozen *Louis Shulak *Abe Schwartz *Charles R. Spats Hannah C. Weprin *Annetta Winnick Dr. Lilian R. Zucker

Week of May 14-20 Listed May 19/20

Josephine Borson *Olga Coren *Nathan Feistman Regina Goldberg *Ruth Gootgeld *Albert W. Holtzman *David Itkin Eli Meyers Frederick Schaefer *Esther B. Schwartz *Louis Silberman *Molly Sogolow *William Spitzer Freida Steinberger Mary Stern *Irwin Weiner

Week of May 21-27. Listed May 26/27

Robert Barton *Dora Beldner *Morris Brown *John Chernus *Hy Dorfman * Beverly Fisher *Jenny Frank Morey Horwitz *Abraham Jackson *Samuel Klein *Dvora E. Malamuth *Ephraim Malamuth *Stephen Platt *Gabriel A. Redstone Eva Salerno *Jean Sapper Minnie Schriver *Philip Short *Svlvia Silberman *William Sirott *Abraham Spalter *Harry Tarler *Kay Wilnite *Jonah Wolfson

Week of May 28-31 Listed June 2/3

*Morris L. Appleman *Emily R. Brown Judith G. Dixon *Julia Dubin *Louis Dubin *Mary Greenberg *Barbara Lubin Steve G. Morton Frieda Niedelson *Irving Ouziel *Harold M. Pastel *Leo Raffer *Ida Rozen Stanley Schriver Linda Schwartzman

> May their memories endure for a blessing.

MEMORIAL PLAQUES



Memorial plaques \$500 per plaque for Temple members and \$1000 for non-members. For more information please call the Temple office and speak with Doug Morton, Executive Director, at 760-844-7307 760-325-2281. extension 307.

Louis & Florence Kitsis JCC of Palm Springs

TEMPLE ISAIAH RABBI DAVID LAZAR

Dr. Joseph M. Hurwitz Jordan S. Ofseyer Sally Olins RABBIS EMERITUS

Douglas Morton Executive Director

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OFFICERS

Christopher Spellman, President Dr. Soo Borson Vice President Carol Fragen, Secretary Richard Jeffrey, Treasurer Gary Miller. Chairman of the Board

BOARD

Shoshana Barer Adam Gilbert Peter Gordon

Week of May 1-6 Listed May 5/6

*Maurice Adass *Reuben Album *Sadie Balaban Irving Borns *Sol H. Burns *Henry D. Cane Harry Cohen

*Eleanor A. Dennison *Samuel Elliott

*Anne D. Frank *George Gillman

*Philip Goldstein

*Felix Jacoves

Marsha Newman

*Ruth Nidetz William Pearlman Molla Pennes

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JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

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