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January 2022

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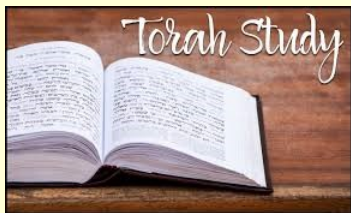
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**Sunday, January 9
 3:00pm**

**In-Person & Zoom
 Last presentation in
 the series**

**Jewish Masters of
 20th Century Art
 (See page 5)**



Torah Study

is on

Saturday mornings,
 January 8, 15, 22, & 29
 on Zoom at 9:30am

My Prayer for the New Year

By Rabbi Debra Smith

I am good at making resolutions, G-d, but I am not very good at keeping them.

There are so many things I would like to achieve, so many changes I would like to make.

I pray to You, G-d, for strength and for wisdom.

I want to live a meaningful life and discern my true path.

I want to understand why You have put me here.

Grant me insight, G-d.

Show me the person I have the potential to become.

Let me find my life's passion, G-d.

Teach me to resist temptation, to conquer self-destructive habits, to overcome selfishness and pettiness.

Guide me as I struggle to unbind the ropes that hold me back. Nurture me to fly free into your boundless Universe.

Help me grow in compassion for others, for myself, and to act with more mercy toward this aching fragile planet.

Give me the humility and the courage to repair relationships that pride has destroyed.

Show me how I can bring hope and healing into this world.

Gift me with good health, love, blessings, and peace in this New Year.

May 2022 bring new happiness, new goals, new achievements, and many new inspirations to your life. Wishing you much health, happiness, time spent with loved ones and a year ahead filled with many blessings.

Rabbi Blum

RABBI'S COLUMN

The other day I saw a meme online and it totally resonated with me. It showed a group of people peering around a corner holding a long stick that is slowly pushing open a door that has 2022 written on it. You could almost feel the apprehension and fear as they cautiously peek from around their hiding place, looking for what may be hidden just around the next corner. Not knowing if there is good news or bad, just uncertainty. Feel familiar?



Barely anyone I speak with these days feels any sort of confidence or even excitement about the new year. I hear mostly doubt, hesitation, and a yearning to go back to the “good old days” (of 2019?). Most are just trying to get past the feeling of whiplash we get from the good news/bad news feed on our TVs, computers or in our newspapers.

The more I think about the coming new year, the more I understand the passages we are currently reading in our Torah study group and will be reading in our annual Torah cycle very soon. It is the story of the Israelite nation just days after being freed from captivity in Egypt, still carrying their possessions on their backs and barely able to move forward without a sign from above or a word from Moses. God had taken this nation of ex-slaves out of Egypt and lead them on a long and winding path away from the Egyptians just so they would not encounter the warring Philistines. Pharaoh had once again changed his mind and began pursuing the Israelites with 5000 of his best troops, all in the finest variant of chariots and armed to the teeth. The newly redeemed slaves were wrought with fear as they heard about this new threat to their lives. They cried out to God and to Moses to do something, saying that they could have stayed back in the relative safety of their captivity rather than have to face the uncertainty of standing between a pursuing Egyptian threat and the rushing waters of the Sea of Reeds. The Israelites did not know which way to turn.

To me, this feels like Torah imitating life. Not days ago (or has it been weeks or even months), we had been freed from our captivity of fear after getting vaccinations and boosters. Having had word from above (is the CDC considered word from above?) that we are on the road back to some semblance of normalcy and having returned to our holy places, we are once again plunged back into the unknown by a new variant of the old Pharaoh (in this case, Covid) who keeps on pursuing us with a hardened heart and no consideration of anything we have been through. But something interesting happens within the verses of this Torah portion. As the Israelites were complaining and as Moses and the people were calling out to God, the Divine voice said “*Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward*” (Ex. 14:15). This was the voice from above telling the people (and Moses as well) to move forward, stay on point, keep to the plan, that God’s power will bear itself out and they will ultimately be saved from Pharaoh’s chariots. In the Torah’s case, all it took was for one brave soul to take the first step, then others followed, and although the Torah doesn’t give the name of the first person to walk into the sea, our midrash, the rabbinic tales of the Torah tell us that individual’s name was Nachshon ben (the son of) Amidav. But

(continued on page 3)

Rabbi's Message, continued

who was this Nachshon fellow? I don't even think his name matters, but surely his actions do. Nachshon was the rabbinic role-model for someone who moves forward, someone who sticks to the plan, someone who has faith and someone who has the courage to take the first step even in uncertain times.

If any of this sounds familiar, we just have to look at the last couple of years. We have spent a long time in the captivity of our homes, away from our extended families and friends, and though we stayed relatively safe within our captivity, we also yearned for the freedom to once again go outside and be with other people. Many of us did heed the words from above and got vaccinated, boosted and followed the scientist's recommendations. We were ready for our redemption, to be freed from the slavery of the of this plague, only to be thrust back into the whirlwind of uncertainty once again.

This story teaches us that at times in our lives, we must call upon our **"internal Nachshon"** to help us move beyond stormy days. We must find the faith and the courage to keep moving forward, even when it feels scary to do so. We must put one foot in front of the other and take that first step towards a better place, believing as our siddur says, "That there is no way to get from here to there except by joining hands, marching together" as our ancestors did at the Sea of Reeds.

Wishing you all a 2022 that is filled with many happy moments, health, blessings and a lot of love.

Rabbi Jerry



Donate to Temple Isaiah and save money at the same time? Tell me more!

If you're 70 ½ or older, you're required to take a minimum distribution from your IRA each year. Those funds will count as income and be subject to income tax.

But there is a tax-free exception you should know about.

You can make a charitable contribution directly from your IRA account to Temple Isaiah without the gifted funds counting as income or being taxed. Not only will you save on federal income tax, but you may save on state and local taxes as well.

Do something meaningful for Temple Isaiah while getting tax benefits!

Your financial institution will provide the necessary form. When you do this please let [Edith Goody](#) know that your IRA check will be coming.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact [William Hersh](#) at williamhhersh@gmail.com or 516-395-5164.

A Message From the President **Terry Birnbaum-Horton**



Participation! The common thread this past December; being part of something that benefits us all from friendship, discussion, and learning to supporting TI.

Did you participate?

We had one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, our annual auction. Of all we do, the auction is quite labor intensive and needs much participation to be a success. Many members, friends and local business contributed items to bid on and many helped put the event together. We appreciate and can't thank them enough.

Considering our uncertain times, trying to have our auction both in our building and online, and dealing with Covid-19, it had some glitches yet was a success. We had fun, contributed to TI, and look forward to enjoying the many meals, lessons, tours, and items we purchased. *We might even have a few more opportunities for those that missed out on the auction or were out-bid. Stay tuned.*

We had a mini-fundraiser too - our now annual bake sale. The first wave was in November and second wave in December. Talk about participating, we had a huge number of members and friends participate, from organizers, bakers, and purchasers!! Thanks to nearly professional bakers, the bake sale matched last years success. We again thank our generous bakers and those who purchased the delicious baked goods.

Our book group, graciously organized and lead by Shelley, had a perfect number in attendance to make for a lovely way to spend a late Sunday morning. Our discussions certainly enhance the meanings within the books we read and, as usual, we were not disappointed. Be on the lookout for the next good read.

The Rabbi's Lunch and Learn and evening Education Series rounded out the month with times to learn and have a conversation. Always enlightening, the Rabbi brings topics that expand our knowledge but also give us "food for thought."

Can we top the last couple of months? I'm not sure. I do know that we are thinking and planning and are open for new ideas, new volunteers and more participation!

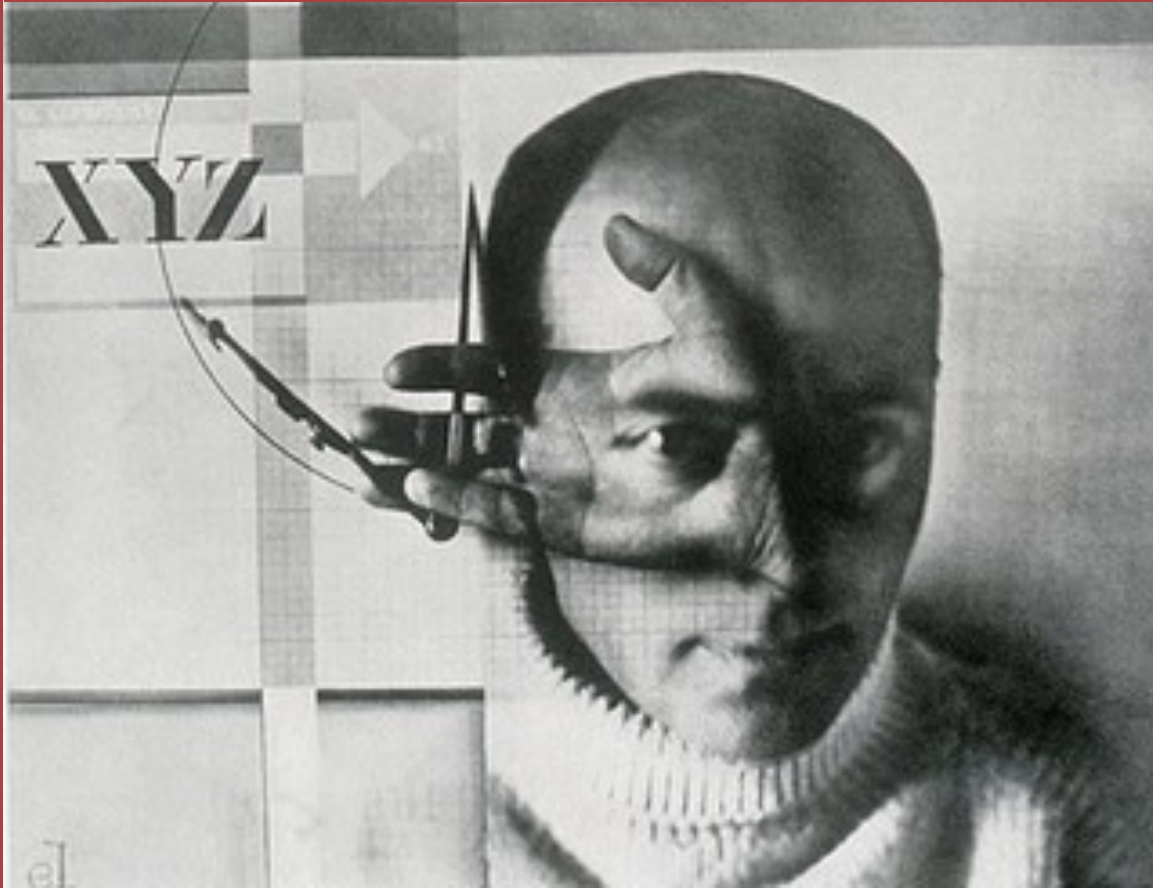
Keep warm, stay healthy,

Terry Birnbaum-Horton



TEMPLE ISAIAH, ONE CHELSEA PLACE,
GREAT NECK, NEW YORK, \$15 DONATION

El Lissitzky, *The Constructor* (self portrait), 1924



-with Dennis Raverty, Ph.D., Art Historian

Jewish Masters of 20th Century Art

Sunday, January 9 at 3:00pm in Person and Zoom

Lissitzky, Chagall and the Russian Revolution

Lissitzky and Chagall both rose to international prominence as a result of the Russian revolution, the only nation where modern art was the official art of the state. But the avant-garde was swept aside when Stalin rose to power and enforced his "Socialist Realism" policy on Russian artists, many of whom fled into exile.

Consider “Checking Out” the Temple Isaiah Book Discussions Shelley Sherman

In April of 2017, the Temple Isaiah Book Group was restarted after many years of hibernation. Although I use the word “group,” it is not something that you have to commit to always attend - you can just drop in when a book interests you or you have the time. I only ask that you let me know so that I can send any updates your way.

Jews are called the “People of the Book” for many reasons, among them that we like to read, discuss and write books. SOOO many books! At Temple Isaiah, we have seized upon this to expose ourselves to books about subjects or communities we might not even have known existed but have now read and discussed with excitement, interest and delight. We also read from multiple genres.

Throughout the year we read books that have some connection to Jews, Judaism, Jewish life, Jewish themes, etc. For example we have read books that take place in Argentina, Siberia, Shanghai, an island that used to exist in NYC, Middle Ages England, crypto Jews in New Mexico, Iran, the imagination of Phillip Roth and an upcoming selection from Suriname. The very first book we read was *Second Person Singular* which was about and written by an Israeli Arab.

Below is a list of the books we have read over the last 4 1/2 years, although if I missed any, I invite the participants to let me know! In the summer, we take a break from our exploration of Jewish books and select whatever is on our minds. The books marked with an asterisk on the list are the summer ones. The books in red are upcoming.

Lately we have been meeting on Zoom, which has worked well, although we hope to meet in person whenever it is safe. **Please contact me at seeshell98@yahoo.com if you have any questions.**

Once We Were Brothers
The Book of Separation
Just Mercy*
The Weight of Ink
The Betrayers
The Button Man
Inheritance
The Color of Love
To Kill a Mockingbird *
House on Endless Waters
Ministry of Special Cases
Barren Island
Disappearing earth*
The Yellow Bird Sings

Gateway to the Moon
A Boy in Winter
The Plot Against America
Waking Lions
The Song of Names
The Hare With the Amber Eyes
The World That We Knew
Heavy*
An Officer and a Spy
Second Person Singular
Memento Park
Shanghai Refuge
Concealed
On the Landing

Sons and Soldiers
When Sugar Was King



The Temple Isaiah Holiday Bake Sale was hugely successful because of the wonderful and talented bakers who were so generous with their time. We could not have done it without you.

We would like to acknowledge the following Temple Members, as well as family members of our Temple Members:



Laura Alves



Bella Bekker-Silver



Claudia Benton



Terry Birnbaum-Horton



Judy Brook



June Feldman



Edith Goody



Gail Gordon



Johanna Hurwitz



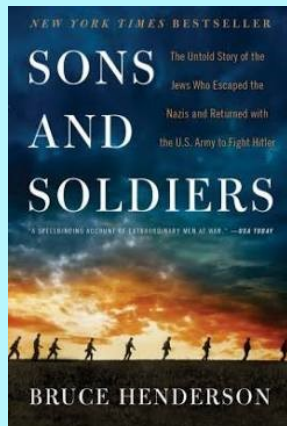
Nina Koss



Jean Lesser

*With Much Appreciation,
Terry Joseph and Amy Gorman
The Bake Sale Committee*

Temple Isaiah Book group's next discussion is Sunday January 30th at 11:30 by Zoom.



**Sons and Soldiers:
The Untold Story of the Jews Who Escaped the Nazis
and Returned with the U.S. Army to Fight Hitler
by Bruce Henderson**

The little-known saga of young German Jews, dubbed The Ritchie Boys, who fled Nazi Germany in the 1930s, came of age in America, and returned to Europe at enormous personal risk as members of the U.S. Army to play a key role in the Allied victory. Both readable and gripping, Mr. Henderson has crafted a book that highlights the contributions of these men to the war effort, the dangers and challenges they faced and their personal stories.

Watch information about the book on [YouTube](#) or a [60 Minutes interview](#) with 2 of the "Ritchie Boys."

Dear friends,

A quick note to remind you;

Jewish or Secular,
It's time to,
Reset, Recalculate, Redo,
For a Happy New Year!

Another time to take stock, a moment to readjust to the world as we know it. An opportunity to look for the light, the bright and happy around us. It's helpful that the days are getting lighter each day.

My wish to you, strive to feel lighter and brighter each day as well and may 2022 find us all happy and healthy.

Sincerely,

Terry Birnbaum-Horton
President



Bequests to Temple Isaiah

To leave a legacy for our Temple is both impressive and heartwarming, knowing that others can enjoy the gift you leave behind.

If you're not sure how to make a bequest, you can begin by writing out this sentence directing your attorney to modify your will:

"I hereby give, devise, and bequeath (a dollar amount, or all or a percentage of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate) to Temple Isaiah of Great Neck, now or formerly in the Village of Great Neck Plaza, 1 Chelsea Place, in the State of New York, for its general purposes."

For your reference our federal tax ID number is 11-2202208

For further information, contact Steve Fein who has generously volunteered to provide a free consultation on the topic. You can reach him at sfeinesq@gmail.com or at his office number, 718-261-1100

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 <i>Shabbat Services, 6:30pm</i>	8 <i>Torah Study & Service, 9:30am on Zoom</i>
9	10	11	12	13	14 <i>Shabbat Services, 6:30pm</i>	15 <i>Torah Study & Service, 9:30am on Zoom</i>
16	17 <i>MLK Day & Tu Bishvat</i> 	18 <i>Lunch & Learn 12pm on Zoom</i>	19	20	21 <i>Shabbat Services, 6:30pm</i>	22 <i>Torah Study & Service, 9:30am on Zoom</i>
23	24	25	26	27	28 <i>Shabbat Services, 6:30pm</i>	29 <i>Torah Study & Service, 9:30am on Zoom</i>
30 <i>Book Group 11:30am on Zoom</i> 	31					

Save the Date!!



Sunday, February 6 in the afternoon

Reverse Raffle and Variety Night Entertainment

★ Many Prizes ★ Many Winners ★

Information will be mailed out soon!

Virtual

**Lunch & Learn
with the Rabbi**

Tuesday, January 18th

12:00 Noon



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

Donations from December

General Donations

Irwin Epstein & Mary Morella
Ruth Isaac
Mona Bokat
Terry Birnbaum-Horton

In Honor of

Bingo & Pizza Night -
organizers and "worker bees"
Ruth Isaac

Auction Committee

Terry Birnbaum-Horton

In Memory of

Marsha Ritterband, Mother of Edith Goody
Cathy Reibstein
Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Kathie Davis
Allan & June Feldman
Helman & Judy Brook
Bill & Carol Hersh
Mindy & Howard Israel
Denise Miller & Steve Fein
Shelley Sherman

Yarzheits

Abraham Dechter, Grandfather of Irwin Epstein
Irwin Epstein & Mary Morella

Helen Miller, Mother of Rhoda Epstein
Rhoda & Michael Epstein

Jerome L. Kropp, Uncle of Willa Lewis
Rose Kropp, Grandmother of Willa Lewis
William Kropp, Grandfather of Willa Lewis
Willa Lewis & Edward Moulin

Toby Rosenberg, Mother of Ruth Isaac
Ruth Isaac

Eugene Lustig, Father of Lia Hans
Ilonka Hans, Mother of Mort Hans
Mort Hans

Abraham Berkowitz, Grandfather of Sheila
DeFazio
Louis Cohen, Father of Sheila DeFazio
Sheila & Victor DeFazio

Ann Densky-Moran, Sister of Judith Densky
Judith Densky

Tree of Life

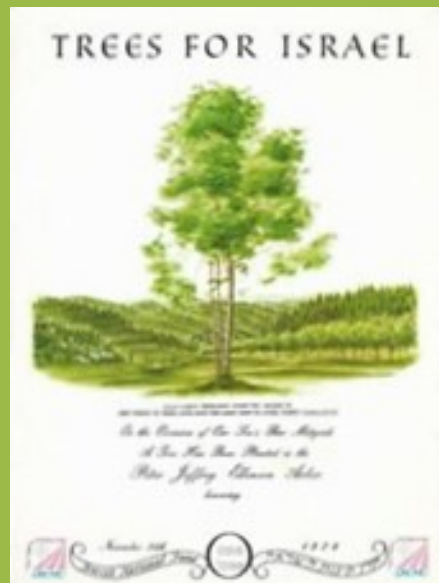
Anita Stein

Special Events

Chanuka Extravaganza
Allan & June Feldman

Kol Nidre Appeal

Ruth Isaac



**Did you know that
Trees for Israel
are available for purchase
in our office?**

**They are a great way to support
Temple Isaiah,
JNF, and Israel**

**Plus they are a beautiful way to
Show someone you care.**

RIVERSIDE- Nassau North Chapels

55 North Station Plaza
Great Neck, New York 11021
(516) 487-9600

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Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism

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

BULLETIN

President: Terry Birnbaum-Horton

Rabbi: Jerry Blum