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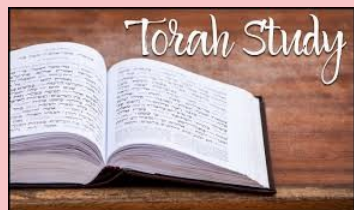
February 2022

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**KEEP  
 CALM  
 AND  
 REVERSE  
 RAFFLE**

See Page 4 for more info!



**Torah Study**

is on

Saturday mornings,  
 February 5, 19, & 26

Hello my friends,

We are now officially in the coldest part of winter yet ironically as I referenced in my New Year's greeting, it is getting lighter every day. So, a little not so good, a little bit good.



We also will be completing year 2, shortly, of the unimaginable crisis; for the world, our country, our congregation, our families and us as individuals. We have had small breaks from the tension brought to us by vaccines and boosters. We are anxiously looking for the light at the end of the tunnel repeatedly.

We have been trying our best at times to stay positive and at other times, we have just had enough of trying. Some of us have run out of steam and admire those around us who seem to be full of energy and motivation.

I was running out of that energy and motivation during these dark days. There was no 'one' solution, no words I could tell myself to turn the switch. There was no magic. The answers came slowly and with them, energy initiated by calling friends and having some place to go, such as Temple Isaiah, either on Zoom or in person.

So what can I suggest?

Call your friends!

Come to Shabbat Services, programs & events at Temple Isaiah!

Bundle up and take a walk!

Organize that kitchen junk drawer, closet or desk!

Start!!! Throwing out old ratty clothes, clothes that no longer fit. They give off negative vibes.

Fill a box with all that stuff that need to be loved by someone else now.

Lighten up & Throw out things that have come to the end of their usefulness.

(continued on page 3)



## RABBI'S COLUMN

It was a beautiful Shabbat morning, just a few weeks ago as the morning services were beginning at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas. Most of the participants were at home, watching the live-stream broadcast, and just a few members came to be there with their Rabbi as he led the congregation in the ancient words of the Sabbath morning liturgy. That morning, Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker, following the teachings of the Torah engaged in one of the most basic, yet integral mitzvot (commandments) in Judaism, the mitzvah of ***hachnasat orchim***, the commandment to welcome the stranger into our community, homes, and even synagogues. The Rabbi invited in a stranger to the synagogue who he thought needed some spiritual support. He offered this stranger some tea and began the service, only to hear the terrifying click of a pistol, made ready for violence.



Many of us sat glued to the news broadcasts for up to eleven hours, hoping and praying for a peaceful outcome to another attack on a Jewish institution. In the past years, there has been attack after attack, and this year is no different. Gratefully, Colleyville did not turn into a Pittsburgh, or Poway, and we gave thanks in prayer, song, and poetry, just as once again, the sanctity of our holy spaces was desecrated with the threat of violence against our Jewish community.

Monday morning, we were again reminded of the hate and rampant antisemitic rage that feels like it is overtaking our nation. We watched as white supremacists in Orlando, Florida spewed their vile words at passersby's. Their sickening and filth laden rhetoric hurled at all who stopped to look, even engaging in a fight with a motorist. In the same vicinity, there were Nazi flags and white-power banners attached to a local overpass, showing off their message of hate, using code-words for the Jews and what they will do to them.

I'd like to say that these are just small incidences, and they are few and far between, but as of the last few years, antisemitic hate crimes have increased three and four-fold, and it looks as if many of the perpetrators feel no shame in spouting their hate and racism. Rather, these bigots feel emboldened to do as they please, and seem to be begging for a fight. The hatred that we always knew was there, lying quietly below the surface has changed from polite slights at the country club to overt acts of violence and intimidation.

The other day I posted a meme on Facebook that resonated for me, especially after the incident at Colleyville. It spoke about each time one walks into a synagogue, or another Jewish institution. We take a moment to notice where the exits are, and good hiding places, just in case. We take note of where our family and friends are sitting and if they are close enough to those exits, and we carefully watch strangers to make sure, they're ok. We are fearful and that should not be our "normal." But what are we to do?

(continued on page 3)



### **President's Message, continued**

What gives you energy? What motivates you? What advice would you give yourself to get back in the groove? What would you do if you had the motivation and energy you desire? Would you get organized, start something new? Those with energy; What do you do with that energy?

Please ponder these questions! There will be a test or a forum where you might need them!

Sincerely,

*Terry Birnbaum-Horton*

Ps: There is always something to do or look forward to doing at Temple Isaiah! Lunch & Learn, Torah study, education series, book group discussion & miscellaneous social gatherings.

### **Rabbi's Message, continued**

The first thing we do is to educate ourselves. We reach out to members of other communities of faith and build educational alliances. Knowing the differences between belief systems is key to understanding others and getting past the hate and fear. The second thing is to reinforce our synagogue security and train for just these emergencies. Yes, I know, this is not what we became members of a synagogue for, but this training can become a lifeline in just such an incident. We also invite security consultants in to do an audit of our facility and make suggestions. There are grants from local and state agencies and the federal government, plus grants from the Jewish Federation and other Jewish organizations to help with these improvements. I am not saying this to scare us, I am saying this because we cannot hide our heads in the sand from this scourge.

To this end, I want to challenge our congregation to come together in strength and take up this cause. I suggest creating a temple security committee and team that will investigate training, and other measures that will give us at the very least, a leg up in the remote chance of anything happening. That said, I will be the first member of this committee and will participate in every level of training offered, and I ask those who are able, to please join.

I know that this is not the message anyone wanted to hear, yet I feel that we must meet these challenges from a standpoint of strength as opposed to ignoring these issues completely. I pray that we at Temple Isaiah, and the entire Jewish community will live in peace with our neighbors, but we must always be prepared for every possibility.

*Oseh shalom bimromav, Hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu, v'al kol Yisrael, v'al kol yosh'vei teivel, v'imru, Amen.*

*May the One who makes peace in the heavens, make peace for us, for Israel and for all who inhabit this earth and let us say, Amen.*

**Rabbi Jerry**



# REVERSE RAFFLE

## AND RANDOM REVELS

If you haven't sent in your raffle tickets...

**NOW IS THE TIME!!!**

For **only \$50**, you are entered for a chance to win the

**\$1000 Grand Prize**

In a Reverse Raffle, tickets are drawn one at a time until the last ticket, *the winning ticket*, is called. The suspense is palpable!

We've planned a special TI touch by giving out prizes as we wade through the tickets together.

*And it's all from the comfort of your own living room!*

**Can't attend? Have no fear!**

You're still eligible to win even if you are not present.

**Please return your tickets to the office no later than  
Wednesday, February 3 or call the office to be entered.**

**Zoom information will be emailed to participants the day of the event**



## **My Temple Isaiah Story – By Lloyd Perell**

*Following the lead of the Kol Nidre Appeal of our President, Terry Birnbaum-Horton, we want to continue hearing the variety of reasons people feel a strong emotional connection to our Temple.*

*We hope that hearing Member stories will inform, entertain and strengthen ties to our Temple Isaiah. Many thanks for **Lloyd Perell** who has contributed his Temple Isaiah Story.*

***This is anticipated to be a monthly column in the Bulletin.** If you are interested in sharing your Temple Isaiah Story, please call, Amy Gorman at (516) 829-6856 or e-mail her at [gormanhoward@gmail.com](mailto:gormanhoward@gmail.com).*



I grew up in Great Neck. My family was in the first wave of tenants in the newly-built Terrace Apartments in 1949. As I've often pointed out, we moved in before the toothbrush holders were cemented onto the bathroom walls.

Years later, when I married, I moved back to Great Neck. We were an early non-traditional family: a somewhat lapsed Jewish father with a nominally Christian wife and her ten-year-old son. Finding a rabbi to officiate at that marriage was no easy feat.

Two years later we had another son. Since neither of us had strong religious convictions or affiliations, we went the secular route with a Christmas tree and a menorah. I did take an environmental stand, though, and insisted on a live tree every year that I could plant.

Everything changed when our younger son came home from school one day and announced that he wanted to learn Hebrew and have a bar-mitzvah. This was clearly not a religious epiphany. It was more a case of "I'm the only kid in fourth grade who isn't going to Hebrew school; what's wrong with this picture?"

I was a Temple Beth-El bar-mitzvah boy, but I wasn't interested in going back in time, so we went looking for a temple where our non-traditional family would feel comfortable. A friend suggested Temple Isaiah. Despite growing up here and being back for fourteen years at that point, I had never heard of it. We gave it a test run one Friday evening; Cantor Barouch played the guitar and there was a cross over the bimah, so it was a perfect fit!

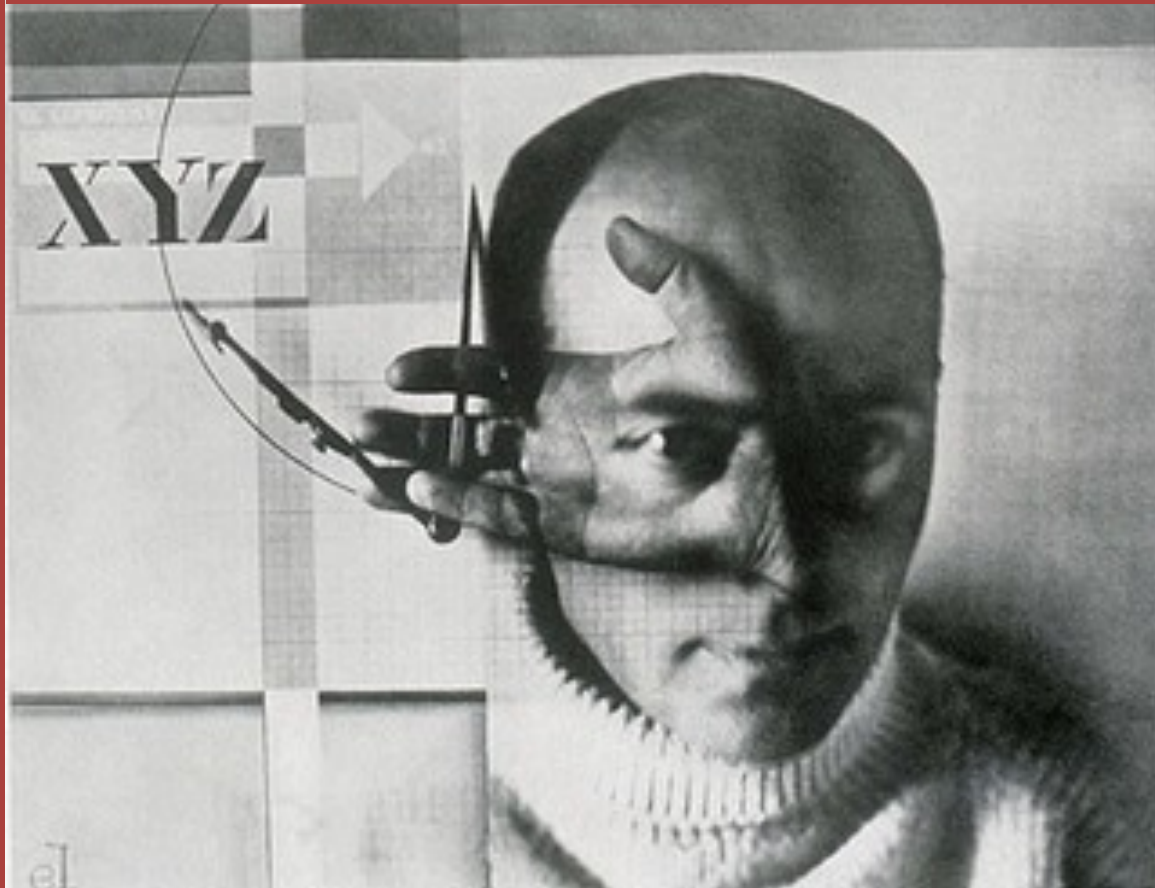
My son's bar-mitzvah was a highlight of my life. His non-Jewish mother was very supportive and by then had become very involved in the Temple, working in the office and preparing the Bulletin with Nat Silver.

I have a video of the bar-mitzvah but have never looked at it because I don't want anything to spoil the way I remember it. That was 28 years ago and I'm still here. Why? Because it's become a home for me and an anchor in my life. I like the people, I like the clergy and I like being part of it all. We made a good choice!



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

## 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.

★ Due to Covid, this event was postponed so that it could be offered in-person and on Zoom. Rescheduled date will be sent out via email. ★



# 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](mailto:sfeinesq@gmail.com) or at his office number, 718-261-1100

**Temple Isaiah Book Group**  
will meet for our next discussion on  
**Sunday, March 13th at 11:00am by Zoom.**

In an engrossing historical account, Cynthia McLeod takes her readers back to the 18th century (between 1765-1779) recapping the intriguing history of those rabid times through the eyes of two Jewish step sisters, Elza and Sarith, descendants of the settlers of 'New Jerusalem of the River', know today as Jodensavanne, the oldest Jewish settlement in Surinam, which boasts the first synagogue in the Western Hemisphere.

The Cost of Sugar is a frank exposé of life in the Dutch slave colony when sugar ruled as king – and the tragic toll it took on the lives of colonist and slaves alike.

Translated from the Dutch by Gerald R Mettam.

Zoom information provided via email the week of the event.





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

If you're 72 or older, you must start taking annual Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your Traditional IRA. Your first RMD must be taken by April 1 of the year following the year you reach age 72. Every year thereafter you must take an RMD by December 31. 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](mailto:williamhhersh@gmail.com) or 516-395-5164.

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## 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



## Planning for your Family's Future

Dear Friends,

Last week I decided to just bite the bullet, and visit Riverside North Nassau Funeral Chapel to arrange for a funeral, for me, even though I am well right now.

It was something that I had thought about once in a while, and I finally made an appointment to discuss what we all know is inevitable.

I am glad I did. It wasn't bad at all. In fact, we even got in a few laughs.

Plus I have wanted certain details inserted into the event which pleased me.

And, of course, my children will have less to cope with, during a traumatic period in their lives.

Did you know that because you belong to Temple Isaiah you are entitled to a 20% discount on the cost? I know that many in our congregation are not aware of this fact.

Of course I hope that my final visit to the funeral home is not around the corner, but while I may not be Frank Sinatra, I am glad I set the stage, "My Way!"

*June Feldman*

## **Adult B'nai Mitzvah Group**

It's never too late to become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Whatever reason you may have missed out in your youth, or even if you want to refresh your knowledge, Rabbi Blum will begin an Adult B'nai Mitzvah Group after Pesach. It's a wonderful way to reflect on the role that Judaism plays in your life today, as well as connect with others while participating in discussions moderated with insight from the Rabbi. No need to worry about being unprepared – all are welcome to grow and learn together!

An informational session will be scheduled around the end of March. Please call or email the office if you are interested in participating.





# February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Shabbat Services, 6:30pm	5 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am on Zoom
6  3pm on Zoom	7	8	9	10	11 Shabbat Services, 6:30pm	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Shabbat Services, 6:30pm	19 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am on Zoom
20	21 	22 Lunch & Learn 12pm on Zoom	23	24	25 Shabbat Services, 6:30pm	26 Torah Study & Service, 9:30am on Zoom
27	28	<p><i>"In the coldest February, as in every other month in every other year, the best thing to hold on to in this world is each other."</i></p> <p><i>— Linda Ellerbee</i></p>				



## Donations from January 2022

### General Donations

Suzanne Branch  
Allan & June Feldman  
Richard & Terry Joseph

### Clergy Discretionary Fund

Gerald Sosna

### Yarzheits

Lawrence Branch, Suzanne's Brother  
Suzanne Branch

Richard Davis, Kathie's Husband &  
Jennifer's Father  
Kathie Davis

Minnie Feldman, Allan's Mother  
Allan & June Feldman

Philip Friedman, Diane's Son  
Diane Haber

Seymour Levine, Michael's Father  
Michael & Kathleen Levine

Fred Fein, Steve's Father  
Denise Miller & Steve Fein

Max & Beatrice Butter, Sandra's Parents  
Sandra & Stuart Rabeck

Enid Rubin, Harold's Mother  
Harold Rubin

Richard M. Schleifstein, Sharon's Husband  
Sharon Schleifstein

Joseph Kristal, Evelyn's Brother  
Sophie Kristal, Evelyn's Mother  
Evelyn & Richard Solow

Leonard Tosky, Eric's Father  
William Ang, Sandia's Father  
Eric & Sandia Tosky

Sam Robert & Alma Berne, Sherry's Parents  
Benjamin & Ann Wallack, Paul's Parents  
Sherry & Paul Wallack

William Zimberg, Shelley's Father  
Shelley & Robert Willcox

### In Memory of

Marsha Ritterband, Mother of Edith Goody  
Amy & Howard Gorman

**virtual**

**Lunch & Learn  
with the Rabbi  
Tuesday, February 22nd  
12:00 Noon**



**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  
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## TEMPLE ISAIAH OF GREAT NECK

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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