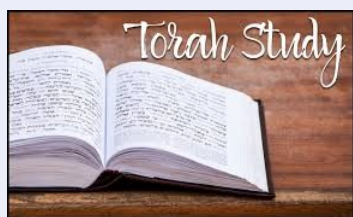


Office - 516-487-5373, email: isaiahgn@yahoo.com

March 2022

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Torah Study

is on
Saturday mornings,
March 5, 12, & 26
on Zoom at 9:30am

We're Going for It!!



We're on the look out for thespians, singers, dancers, jokesters, pranksters.....OK, we'll take anyone who can read!!!!!!

We are looking for anyone who wants to join our merry cast of Purim revelers as we present this year's

Purim Spiel

March 16th, at 7pm

**Live @ the Temple Isaiah Playhouse
(And by playhouse we mean our sanctuary)**

Let Rabbi Blum know if you want to be part of our merry crew by emailing him at: rabbi.jerry.isaiahgn@gmail.com by Thursday, March 10th.

There will be only one rehearsal, which will make it even more fun!!!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

My themes are repetitive or a broken record for those of us that remember 'vinyl records.' I have been told that repetition improves our memories and helps form habits; for me it may be just the act of remembering at all, a reminder. As an athlete I/we call repetition "practice, practice, practice" and it becomes muscle memory and even more enjoyable. We can always learn and do better and get better and have fun doing it.

My words, to my fellow TI congregants, are always be involved by participating and volunteering. Start small and with the things you like, and repeat; with practice you'll do great and have some fun.

We have much to offer at TI, much to share with each other from our talents to our company. To continue with all we offer, I urge you to make a new habit - come more often. Volunteer, we all can use a little help, you don't need to do it all... unless you want to. When you get that call from a committee member, consider participating or volunteering.

Good with technology? Audiovisual? Come help a presenter!!

Websites anyone?

Read a good book? Lead a book group discussion.

Like to cook? Organize a potluck.

Is Organizing a talent? Help plan an event or help with a 'closet'??

What do you like?

Where is your hidden talent?

Email or call me?

Make it a habit – check out the calendar - I hope to see you at one of our many events/programs/services/engagements!

Before I forget; Did I tell you we're having a bazaar in April? A great time for us to bring 'donations' in from outside our congregation. A Great time for you to help make it happen with tons of volunteer jobs, from set up, to sale days, to breakdown. A wonderful opportunity to donate gently used or even new treasures and find some gems for yourself!

Lastly, unwind from your hectic week at Shabbat services, now meeting in the sanctuary. A time to say hello in person. Out of town or under the weather, sign in on Zoom/streaming and rest your mind.

I look forward to seeing you!!

Terry Birnbaum-Horton



RABBI'S COLUMN

Just this past Shabbat we celebrated the first of the four special Shabbatot (Shabbat Sh'kalim – the Sabbath of shekels) prior to Pesach (Passover), meaning that we have about 45 days until the first seder. (Did you just panic?) Yes, that's right, it's *that* soon; but never fear, because there is so much that happens before we take a bite of that first yummy morsel of matzah. (You don't seem excited.)

Don't worry... we have plenty of time before we celebrate the exodus from Egypt, because we have to celebrate the Hebrew month of Adar (actually Adar II - you guessed it, it's a Jewish leap year and we add an extra month). As the Talmud says "*MiShe'nichnas Adar, marbim b'simchah* – *When one enters into (the Hebrew month of) Adar, they shall increase their joy*". Adar is truly a month of joy, and the centerpiece of this month is **Purim**, the holiday that celebrates the victory of good over evil as played out in the capital city of Shushan in the time of King Achashveros. Our main characters were Mordechai, and his niece Esther (Haddasah in Hebrew) who saved the Jewish population from annihilation at the hands of the sinister Haman (boooooo!).



The story of Purim is of course the (silly) textbook definition of a Jewish holiday; they tried to kill us, we won, and we “Nosh on Hamentaschen” (or, we eat). But something is missing in the mix. Did you notice? The story of this miraculous victory over the forces of evil is missing ... God! As a matter of fact, Megillat Esther is one of two books in the entire Jewish Bible that does not mention God explicitly (extra credit if you can tell me the other book). “**Hester panim**” or “**the concealed face [of God]**” is central to the theme, but in reality, God is not all that concealed in the story. In the case of Purim, *hester panim* is intimated by the name of our heroine, Esther. The Babylonian Talmud tractate Hullin 139B states, “From where does the Torah bring the name Esther? From the verse ‘But I [God] will surely conceal my face [*“haster astir panai”*] on that day for all of the ill that they have done—for they turned to other gods. (Deuteronomy 31:18).” The name Esther is interpreted as an extension of the phrase for a “concealed God [**astir/Esther**].”

The story of Esther is about how our heroine “conceals” her identity in order to save her Jewish community and the Biblical commentator Ibn Ezra wrote that the story of the Jews in Shushan and their perils were brought on because of how the Jews assimilated into the non-Jewish community, thus hiding their identity and ultimately forgetting their heritage, and all it took was someone who wanted to destroy the Jews. Haman (boooooo) was the creator of the plot against the Jews and in the end of our story, Esther came out of hiding, persuading the king to save the Jews and, of course, his Jewish Wife Esther. (Or was that Haddasah?)

Christine Hayes, the Sterling Professor of Religious Studies in Classical Judaica at Yale University sees Esther through a different lens. She contrasts the Book of Esther with apocalyptic writings and the Book of Daniel in particular. Both Esther and Daniel depict an existential threat to the Jewish people, but while Daniel commands the Jews to wait faithfully for God to

Continued on page 4

Rabbi's Column, continued

resolve the crisis, in Esther the crisis is resolved entirely through human action and national solidarity. God is not mentioned, and Esther is portrayed as assimilated into the Persian culture, and Jewish identity in the book is an ethnic category rather than a religious one.

Today, we have another reenactment of a similar existential struggle between good and evil. Enter our present-day global crisis and the Ukrainian conflict. What we have is a secular Jewish Leader of the Ukraine who is fully assimilated into Ukrainian culture and who is attacked as a Nazi by a megalomaniacal leader (Haman, only spelled Putin) who, in an act of linguistic sleight of hand, stated that he was going to “De-Nazify” the Ukraine (not too antisemitic). We are once again presented with a nation (this time lead by a Jewish man) who did not count on God (nor anyone else) to resolve a crisis. Rather, like Esther, Volodymyr Zelenskyy is working to resolve the conflict by action as opposed to waiting for God (or more realistically, NATO) to produce a miracle.

But friends, this is the same old story as Megillat Esther in an updated form. There is still a Haman (a crazed aggressor) who wants to annihilate a people and one Jewish Leader (coincidence?) who can bring his people together to fight against tyranny. Will he be successful? I, and many millions of people hope and pray that he will, as we all hope for a miracle, but this time as in the days of Esther, we will not wait for Divine intervention. This time **we will become God's partner** and do what is necessary to stop a tyrannical leader in his tracks by action and belief that good can trump (pun intended) evil. But this cannot be done alone. We must all help out. We must all contribute, and we must all make our voices heard by demanding our leaders support a free Ukraine and put an end to the maniacal rantings of an evil leader. For if we don't stop it there, who knows where else this may happen?

As it turns out, the story of Esther and Mordechai may be somewhat of a midrash (a textual interpretation of a Biblical story) that gets us to understand that even though God does not always seem present, **we have the gift of godliness within us**. All we have to do is to channel our inner Esther or Mordechai and we can again partner with God, taking a stand against hatred, and making real change in this world.

As we celebrate Purim this year, let us believe in our own inner strength, and our inner godliness and let us together bring around a time of peace for our nation, for the people of the Ukraine and for our global community, ***“v'al kol yoshvei teivel” and for all who inhabit this earth***, and may we all become ***“marbim b'simchah – spreaders of joy through the land”***.

Rabbi Jerry

If you want to help via a contribution, please check out the resources on page 5.



ADULT EDUCATION

Dear Temple Isaiah of Great Neck Family and Friends,

Please join Rabbi Blum as he presents a three-part zoom series **“Symbols of our Judaism: exploring what it means to be Jewish in this day and age”**.

Dates:

Wednesday, March 23rd, 7:30 pm

Thursday, April 7th, 7:30 pm

Wednesday, April 20th, 7:30 pm

**Each session will stand on its own, but we encourage you to join all three.*



Save the Dates

Passover: Friday, April 15 - Friday, April 22, 2022

Yom HaShoah: Wednesday, April 27 - Thursday, April 28

Adult Education, part 2: Thursday, April 7 at 7:30pm on Zoom

Adult Education part 3: Wednesday, April 20 at 7:30pm on Zoom

Temple Isaiah Bazaar: April, date TBA

A few ways to contribute to our Ukrainian Brethren

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, also known as the **JDC**, a Jewish relief organization based in New York City is providing food, medicine, and other emergency support in Ukraine as well as delivering urgent and lifesaving care to Jewish seniors and families.

[Donate to JDC | Ukraine Emergency](#)

The **World Union** for Progressive Judaism has launched a Ukraine Crisis Fund to help support the Jewish communities in Ukraine to ensure their safety and well-being.

[World Union Launches Ukraine Crisis Fund | World Union for Progressive Judaism \(wupj.org\)](#)

UJA, or United Jewish Appeal, have approved an emergency grant of up to \$3 million to support the Jewish communities of Ukraine. To donate to this cause, visit their page [UJA Crisis Response Donation » UJA-Federation of New York \(ujafedny.org\)](#).



NY Project Hope
Coping with COVID

NY Project Hope Crisis Counselors understand what you are going through. Talking with a crisis counselor is always free, confidential, and anonymous, allowing you to talk freely about the issues that are affecting you. We will help you navigate these unusual times and take some of the burden off of your shoulders.

Project Hope Crisis Counselors will help you with anything from economic hardships to behavioral health issues. We understand there are a whole range of emotions you might be feeling and we will work through it. A Crisis Counselor will give you self-help tips and come up with a plan for you to be your own advocate. We have a multitude of resources available to you and would love to be the shoulder you lean on.

After all, New Yorkers are in this together. If you need to talk or have any questions, please reach out to Andrea Silverstein at Asilverstein@nhcc.us or call 917-476-3196. You can also visit the website at <https://nyprojecthope.org> or call the Emotional Support Helpline 844-863-9314.



855-818-HOPE (4673)
WWW.NHCC.US

Free, anonymous & confidential

A program of the NYS Office of Mental Health
Funded by FEMA

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

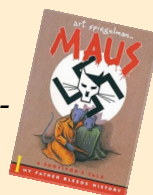
In an engrossing historical account, Cynthia McLeod takes her readers back to the 18th century (between 1765-1779) recapping the intriguing history of those rabid times through the eyes of two Jewish step sisters, Elza and Sarith, descendants of the settlers of 'New Jerusalem of the River', know today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

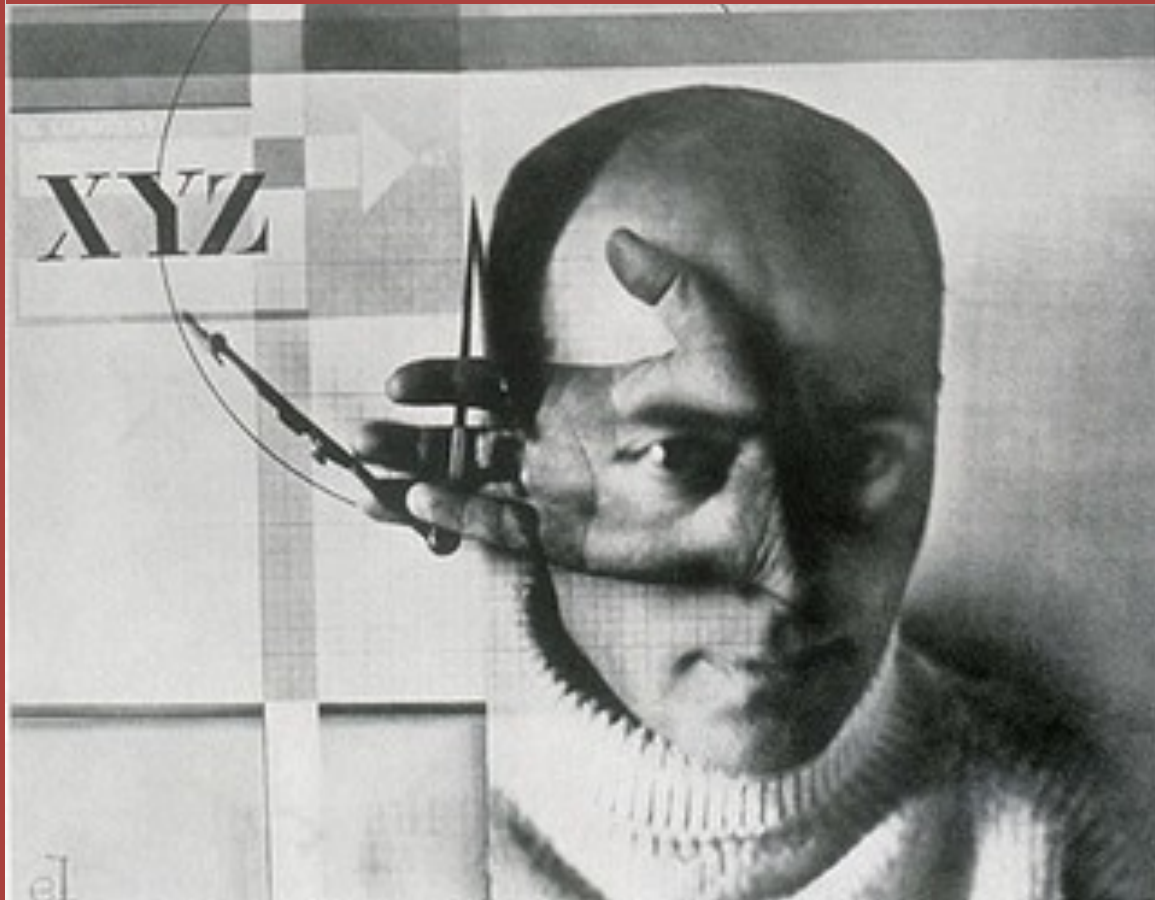
Zoom information provided via email the week of the event.

The next book to be discussed in Book Group is the graphic novel MAUS, both because it is worthwhile and to make a statement about reading books banned by repressive school boards and other entities.



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, March 20th at 3:00pm

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.

Donate to Temple Isaiah and save money at the same time?

Tell me more!

If you're 70 1/2 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.

Virtual

**Lunch & Learn
with the Rabbi
Tuesday, March 29nd
12:00 Noon**



Interested in an Adult B'nei Mitzvah Class?

Let's begin this Spring!

Please [email](#) the Rabbi at:
rabbi.jerry.isaiahgn@gmail.com
For information about the class

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

My Temple Isaiah Story – By Judy Snow

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 **Judy Snow** who has happily contributed her Temple Isaiah Story for this month.*

This is now 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.*



When I was growing up in Great Neck in the seventies, my older brother was a Bar Mitzvah at Temple Isaiah in the old location and we used to attend High Holiday services as a family. In the eighties when I was in high school, I was in a confirmation class with Rabbi Judith Lewis with Isaiah. I went away to college, returned for graduate school, met my husband in NYC and lived in the city for a few years before we moved back to Great Neck when I started working for the Great Neck Library.

About ten years ago there was a community fair at one of the Library branches, and a group from Temple Isaiah was there. At that time, my husband and I were unaffiliated, but I began thinking about getting involved Jewishly again. My sister-in-law had recently converted from Christianity to Judaism, and was getting involved in her Temple in Glen Cove. The friendly faces from Temple Isaiah led us to check it out again. We had actually attended some services and Torah Study with Rabbi Ted over the years since moving back to Great Neck while the Temple was still at the old location.

Finding the Temple Isaiah family in their new home was an amazing and wonderful experience. We didn't realize how much we were missing, and how great it was to be a part of such a warm and intelligent community. Our Jewish learning and connectedness grew, and we have happily been a part of this small and vibrant Temple since then. From informal and fun Shabbat dinners and parties to structured services and classes, the Temple offers so much with a very personal touch.





Want to add a little “extra-something” to your Purim baskets this year?

Add a gift card!



By purchasing a gift card to any of the places below, and so many more, you can help support Temple Isaiah while being the best gift giver around!



There are gift cards for:



- ♦ Grocery Stores
- ♦ Gas & Auto
- ♦ Prepaid Credit Cards
- ♦ Dining
- ♦ Online & Catalog Shopping
- ♦ Department Stores
- ♦ Travel
- ♦ Home Improvement
- and so much more!



Contact the office at isaiahgn@yahoo.com or 516-487-5373 to learn more.

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

Celebrations & Remembrances

March Birthdays

March 5: Sandia Tosky
March 6: Marcia Null
Richard Roth
Alisa Secofsky
March 11: Arlyn Brenner Blum
March 16: Elliot Katz
March 22: Belle Gayer
March 23: Lori Katz

March Anniversaries

March 22: Linda & Marty Marshak (52nd)
March 24: Alisa & Marty Secofsky (31st)
March 29: Evelyn & Richard Solow (63rd)

March Yahrzeits

March 1/Adar-I 28: Larry Smith, Elliot Gayer's Uncle
March 6: Etta Birnbaum, Terry Birnbaum-Horton's Grandmother
March 9: Hortense Perell, Lloyd Perell's Mother
March 11: Lawrence Feldman, Barbara Felman's Son and Alisa Secofsky's Brother
March 14: Ellen Marks, Kathie Davis' Stepmother
March 16/Adar-II 13: Manny Friedman, Elliott Gayer's Uncle
March 17: Rosemarie Lesser-Melman, Jean Lesser's Sister-in-Law
March 18: Marlene Baharlias, Ruth Isaac's Sister-in-Law
March 18: Jerome Weissman, Jean Lesser's Father
March 19: Rose Weinberg, Richard Joseph's Grandmother
March 26: Max Fein, Steve Fein's Grandfather
March 26: Recha Fein, Steve Fein's Grandmother
March 27: Rabbi Theodore Tsuruoka, Husband of Linda Tsuruoka, Father of
Jeff Tsuruoka, and Amy Paymer
March 30: Gary McTiernan, Suzanne Branch's Husband



Marcia Null with her grandsons,
Bar-Mitzvah Boy Logan and brother Noah Kates

*Share your
Simchas or Memories
with us.*

*Email images to
isaiahgn@yahoo.com.*

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 <i>Shabbat Services, 6:30pm</i>	5 <i>Torah Study & Service, 9:30am on Zoom</i>
6	7	8	9	10	11 <i>Shabbat Services, 6:30pm</i>	12 <i>Torah Study & Service, 9:30am on Zoom</i>
13 Book Club on Zoom, 11am 	14	15	16  <i>Purim Spiel 7pm</i>	17 	18 <i>Shabbat Services, 6:30pm</i>	19
20 Jewish Masters of 20th Century Art, 3pm 	21	22	23 <i>Adult Education, Part 1 7pm on Zoom</i>	24	25 <i>Shabbat Services, 6:30pm</i>	26 <i>Torah Study & Service, 9:30am on Zoom</i>
27	28	29 <i>Lunch & Learn, 12pm on Zoom</i>	30	31		

Donations from February

Tzedaka Fund

Diana Turrisi

General Donation

Richard & Terese Joseph

Martin & Linda Marshak

Jonathan Silver & Bella Bekker-Silver

Micki Victor

Sherry & Paul Wallack

For a Speedy Recovery

Evelyn Solow

Terry Birnbaum-Horton

Judy & Helman Brook

Kathie Davis

June & Allen Feldman

Gail & Robert Gordon

Carol & Bill Hersh

Mindy & Howard Israel

Denise Miller & Steve Fein

Shelley Sherman

Yarzheits

Edgar Bendor, Jane Bendor's Father

Jane Bendor & Brian Graham

Lawrence Branch

Suzanne Branch

Fred & Hilda Feuerberg, Linda Burghardt's parents

Linda & David Burghardt

Lawrence Schwartz, Husband of Helene (Mindy Israel's Mother)

Dr. Howard & Mindy Israel

Philip Haber, Diane Haber's Son

Diane Haber

Irwin Hersh, Bill Hersh's Father

William & Carol Hersh

Isaac Menashe, Jack Menashe's Brother

Jack & Meryl Menashe

Fred Fein, Steve's Father

Stephen Fein & Denise Miller

Douglas Null, Marcia's Husband

Marcia Null

Mary Rosner, Harriet Shindler's Mother

Harriet Shindler

Sophie Kristal, Evelyn's Mother

Evelyn & Richard Solow

Leonard Tosky, Eric's Father

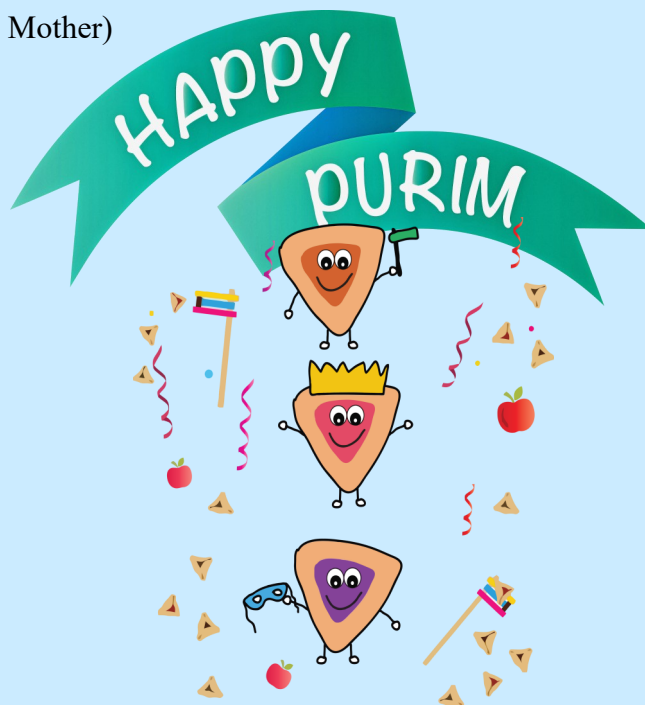
Eric & Sandia Tosky

Passover is only a little more than
a month away.

Do you have any
favorite recipes
you'd like to share?

Does your family have
unique traditions
others might enjoy?

Send submissions to
Edith at isaiahgn@yahoo.com



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templeisaiahgn.org
isaiahgn@yahoo.com
Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism

***Deadline for submissions
15th of the Month***

BULLETIN

President: Terry Birnbaum-Horton
Rabbi: Jerry Blum