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Time to clean up and celebrate
 the nights that are different
 from all other nights
 of the whole year!

Happy Passover, everyone!

Co-Presidents:
 Kathie Davis
 Terry Joseph
 Shelley Sherman

Rabbi: Jerry Blum



I can't believe that it's almost Pesach (Passover) and there is still so much to be done. The food prep, invitations, seating arrangements, deciding which songs to sing, which jokes to tell, and I'm only getting started. There's a ton of work and little time to do it. But I must tell you: I don't really mind because I love

Pesach and everything that goes with it, down to the last wine-stained tablecloth.

For me, Pesach is a state of mind. The holiday brings together traditions, family, friends, music and so many other things that all meld into one big pot of spiritual Matzoh ball soup that not only nourishes the body, but the soul too.

The Torah uses four names for Passover: It is called Chag HaMatzot, the Holiday of Matzot; Chag HaAviv, the Holiday of the Spring (or barely); Chag HaPesach, the Holiday of the Pass-Over, referencing the Paschal Lamb's blood smeared over the doors of the Israelites during the tenth plague; and, finally, Yom HaCherut, better known as Z'man Cherutenu, the Time of our Emancipation or Freedom. If you ask any Hebrew school kid, they'll tell you that Pesach is all about freedom. But what is freedom and what does it mean to be Jewish and to be free?

The average person will define freedom as the ability to do anything they want or having control over one's life. But, it's hard to feel in-control when the world is inhospitable. In the past few years, the Jewish community has been offered several disturbing examples of hatred against Jews. From the most recent acts of violence against Jewish students and faculty on our college campuses, to antisemitic attacks from both the right and the left. Are we as Jews able to choose a life of freedom and what does that freedom look like for us?

"Freedom means more than mere emancipation. It is primarily freedom of conscience, bound up with inner allegiance. The danger begins when freedom is thought to consist of the fact that 'I can act as I desire.' This definition not only overlooks the compulsions which often lie behind our desires; it reveals the tragic truth that freedom may develop within itself the seed of its own destruction." Abraham Joshua Heschel

In Jewish tradition we do not define freedom as just being able to do anything we want. Although the desire is often there, Jewish tradition has laws and statutes so that we can live a good and moral life, a life of conscience and allegiance, as Heschel says.

The V'Ahavta (the 2nd paragraph of the Sh'ma) tells us to teach our children the path of Torah every day. Within the Jewish Bible, there are statutes and regulations about how we are to interact with our friends, family and even enemies, how we are to treat the poor, downtrodden, and enslaved. We have rules about how to think about freedom, and what our obligations are to those who are not free. It is part of our cultural DNA to stand up for the underdogs in society, be they immigrants, or those who are falsely imprisoned and persecuted. It is also important to remind ourselves that we are not above the underdogs, or immune from persecution and harassment.

Living in America has made us often forget the fragility of freedom. We don't usually think of ourselves in jeopardy of losing our religious freedoms, and we don't typically look over our own shoulders fearing that someone may attack us for being Jewish.

In a couple of weeks, we will say the words, "Avadim Hayinu l'pharoh b'mitzrayim – We were slave to the Pharaoh in Egypt, and we are reminded that "had God not taken our ancestors out of Egypt, we, our children and our children's children would still be slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt. We are also told to retell the story of our slavery and ultimate freedom, and those who do that are considered praiseworthy.

The message of Pesach is to never forget that freedom can easily be lost. We must remember that somewhere in this world there is another Pharaoh waiting to enslave us or others. We, as a Jewish community, cannot allow this to happen again. As we are obligated to retell the ancient story of the Passover and our freedom from the bonds of slavery, so are we invited to stand up for those who are currently enslaved or oppressed. We do so because our freedom as a Jewish community is tied to the freedom of others.

I wish all a sweet and meaningful Pesach. And please join us for our "Second Night Seder" on Sunday, April 13th at Lake Success Jewish Center, where I will be joined by Rabbi Randy Sheinberg of Temple Tikvah (information is also in the Weekly). I can't wait to celebrate with you.

Rabbi Jerry



When I read that a very progressive Reform rabbi in Cincinnati, who has spoken out against the Netanyahu Government and in support of Palestinians, was disinvited to speak at a rally against neo-nazis and white supremacy because he was a Zionist, I was aghast. He was told by the organizers that his values do not align with the purpose of the rally. A Jewish leader doesn't belong at a rally against neo-nazis? Who better? This is the fruit of intersectionality which has increasingly excluded Jewish college students from various campus organizations, and Jewish organizations from various rallies and marches because they support the existence of Israel- not necessarily the policies of Israel- just its very right to exist.

Then I thought about what the word Zionism means to different people and how its meaning has been distorted and weaponized. To me, I view it at its most basic - the Jewish people have a right to a state in their

historic homeland. That doesn't mean I agree (I don't) with some administration's policies, just as I believe the US should exist although I abhor many of its policies.

I have been to Israel over 30 times and have seen the good, the bad and the ugly, but I live here in the U.S. and have seen far worse. Maybe we should talk more about this subject as a community, civilly and welcoming of all ideas.

But I am writing this somewhat unusual President's column prompted by the World Zionist elections which will continue until May 4th. A vote for Reform represents our movement and I urge us all to vote. A strong showing equates to influence, and because of Vote Reform and other progressive groups, liberal Jews have a voice. There are details on how to vote elsewhere in this newsletter and in each Temple Isaiah Weekly Announcement email throughout the month of April.

Your Presidium,

Shelley, Terry, and Kathie

Share your Simchas or Memories with us.

Email images to: isaiahgn@yahoo.com.

Help Us Improve Our Recordkeeping

When you send a check to the Temple, please use the Memo field to indicate what the check is for (dues, an event, etc.).

Moishe Templegoer
5785 Reform Road
Hebrew Hills, USA

DATE _____

PAY _____ \$ _____

MEMO 2025 Dues _____

Fundraiser & Programs Committee

Dear Friends,

Winter is over, spring, light and energy are being restored. The days feel longer in a good way. And yet even with the dark days of winter so much was going on at Temple Isaiah and I am sure in our personal lives.

This winter we had: Special holiday services, Rosh Chodesh, Purim Spiel, coffee with the Rabbi, Lunch with the Rabbi, Torah study, an Art Lecture (and hopefully more), Current Events, Book Group, Shabbat Across America, and the fundraiser 'Reverse Raffle'. We can't forget the festival celebrations either, Tu'b'shevat and Chanukah. Soon we will host more programs, activities, and opportunities to contribute and participate: art Lectures, books to read, bazaars to volunteers for, bake sales to bake for and buy from.

And **SAVE THE DATE** for one of the most important and most meaningful fundraisers: our **Journal Dinner, Sunday, June 8th** – location and Honoree to be announced shortly. This is an important event for our Temple Isaiah. We get to show our appreciation for an active participant, a friend, our family, who has contributed so much of themselves from time, money and participation. Our Honorees, our members, make our Temple a home. Plan on joining us, contributing to the Journal Fundraiser, and making our main Fundraiser a huge success! SEE YOU THERE!

Fundraiser & Programs Committee

Terry Birnbaum-Horton

Denise Miller

Carol Hersh

Social Action Committee

Our first meeting of our newly reconstituted Social Action Committee took place on March 6, 2025. At that time, we discussed which issues were most concerning to us. While quite a number of issues were raised, the one that stood out as most important to our values as Reform Jews, was the treatment of immigrants.

In addition, we outlined some specific actions each of us can take immediately on any issue of concern. Those take the form of phone calls, letters and emails to our elected representatives, both nationally and locally. Phone calls are recommended and they should be made regardless of the representative's party affiliation. Also, attendance at rallies or protests can be an effective action. All who are able, need to stand up and be counted.

There will be a **nation-wide Hands Off mass mobilization** taking place on **Saturday, April 5**. Locally, many different groups will be gathering on the sidewalk in front of the **County Courthouse, 262 Old Country Road, Mineola at 1:00**. (Plenty of parking behind and near the Courthouse) Separate but similar rallies will simultaneously be held in Bryant Park, NYC, Washington DC and around the country. All

who are so moved are urged to attend.

At our meeting it was suggested that anyone seeking more information on issues and organizations might try the **Substack app**, which includes many well informed people and organizations to follow, such as: Jessica Craven; Chop Wood, Carry Water; The Hubbell Report (Robert Hubbell); 5calls.org (provides scripts for phone calls); Indivisible; and Engage Long Island.

There are many others, as well, and we welcome suggestions concerning additional sources of information and actions.

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, April 3 at 2:00 at the Temple. We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your ideas for future collective actions. Please RSVP to the office or to Denise Miller or Judy Brook.

Co-chairs of Social Action Committee

Judy Brook

Denise Miller



Social Action Committee

Thursday, April 3rd, in Temple at 2pm

Let's come together to plan actions and strategies for helping out in this changing world. We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your ideas for future collective actions.



The Rabbi's Class: An Ethical Will Workshop

Wednesday, April 9th; Thursday, April 24th; and Monday, May 12th

A will doesn't have to be merely a set of instructions for your worldly possessions. Learn how to communicate your values, experiences, and life lessons to your family through these precious documents.



The Second Passover Seder

Lake Success Jewish Center, Sunday, April 13th, 6:30pm

To order a meal and reserve your seat at the seder table, **RSVP by April 2nd** to the LSJC office at 516-466-0569, ext 1, or email info@lakesuccessjc.org. You may also register online at <https://tinyurl.com/Passover5785>.



Yizkor

Ceremony at The Atria, Saturday, April 19th, 10:30am

The eighth day of Passover is Sunday, when you may light your own candles at home, but please join us to pray together the day before.

April Events, continued



Yom Hashoah Shabbat

Friday, April 25th, 7pm

Dedicated to remembering our losses during the Holocaust.

Honoring Friends and Family



Order An Engraved Plaque to Honor and Remember Your Loved One

It is deeply rooted in Jewish tradition to place in the sanctuary of the synagogue a plaque with the names of loved ones who have passed away. Once a plaque is dedicated, it becomes a permanent memorial. The Yahrtzeit lights will be illuminated on the yahrtzeits of your loved one's death and at Yizkor services throughout the year. The cost per plaque is \$700.

Your Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Name of Deceased: _____ Date of Death: _____

Relationship: _____

☐ I wish to reserve a space for use in the future to be grouped with currently ordered plaques. _____ (# of spaces)

Please return form and payment to Temple Isaiah. Please note that all credit card charges have a 3% administrative fee.

April Celebrations & Rememberances



ANNIVERSARIES

Robert & Louise Zane.....April 3



BIRTHDAYS

Judy Snow.....April 8
Suzanne Branch.....April 11

Louise Zane.....April 11
Jean Lesser.....April 14

Amy Gorman.....April 21



YAHRZEITS

Mac Gusler

Stepfather of Diana Kerievsky (4/2)

Max Kaplan

Father of Irma Kaplan (4/3)

Sadie Zelesky

Great-grandmother of Jonathan Wagner (4/5)

Marilyn Golden

Mother of Claudia Benton (4/6)

Elizabeth Blum

Grandmother of Cathy Bendor (4/8)

David Gorman

Father of Howard Gorman (4/8)

Shotaro Tsuruoka

Father of Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka (4/9)

Ellen Hermanson

Friend of Rabbi Bonnie Steinberg & Daniel Gensler (4/11)

Amy Isaacs

Cousin of Terry Birnbaum-Horton (4/11)

George Adler

Husband of Agi Adler (4/12)

Abraham Goldberg

Father of Leona Goldberg (4/12)

Marshall Burghardt

Father of David Burghardt (4/13)

Martha Levenbach Rosenberg

Wife of Bernard Rosenberg (4/17)

Julius Henry Sherman

Father of James Sherman (4/17)

Lillian Silver

Mother of Jonathan Silver (4/17)

Rose Augustine

Aunt of Willa Lewis (4/21)

Ernst Springer

Father of Claude Springer (4/22)

William Weinstein

Grandfather of Bonnie Steinberg (4/22)

Solomon Koss

Father of Nina Koss (4/23)

Sigmund Joseph Schwartz

Brother of Louis Schwartz (4/24)

Anna Rosenberg

Mother of Bernard Rosenberg (4/25)

Helen Zane

Mother of Robert Zane (4/25)

Carrie W. Clark

Aunt of Norman Gersman (4/28)

Edward Bellamy Gresser

Father of Fonille Naidamast (4/28)

Claire Lerner

Mother of Rona Levy (4/28)

Norma Jagendorf

Stepmother of Bill Hersh (4/29)

Alfred Abrevaya

Great-uncle of David Aubrey (4/30)



General Donations

Suzanne Branch in memory of Gary McTiernan

Kathie Davis in memory of Richard Davis

Barbara Feldman in memory of Lawrence Feldman

Carol & Bill Hersh in memory of Irwin Hersh, and in memory of Ira Unger

360 Circle (Kathie Davis, Terry Birnbaum-Horton, Bill Hersh, Ruth Isaac, Terry Joseph, Shelley Sherman)
Get Well wishes to June Feldman

Shelley Sherman in honor of Terry Birnbaum-Horton for the Women's Rosh Chodesh service

Barbara Feldman, Kiddish sponsor

Leslie Reider in memory of Bruce Reider

What is the World Zionist Congress (WZC)?

Elections for the 39th World Zionist Congress (WZC) are ongoing until May 4th, and North American Jews have a unique opportunity to make their voices heard by electing delegates to represent them at the Congress.

The WZC meets every five years to make decisions about policies and the allocation of a \$1 billion annual budget that affects Jews in the U.S., in Israel, and around the world. The number of voting delegates affects these decisions.

As Reform Jews, we have a collective responsibility to fight for justice, democracy, and human dignity. By voting in the WZC election, you can stand up for these values. Please join the tens of thousands of Jews around the U.S. who will VOTE REFORM, #3 on the ballot, to have a voice for a democratic, secure, and pluralistic Israel.

The Vote Reform slate will fight for democracy and security in Israel and against ultra-orthodox policies that seek to expand settlements and erase Reform Jews by rejecting conversions and questioning the authenticity of our Jewish identity.

Voting can be done online, or by written ballot. Learn more at zionistelection.org.



The Tax Man May Not Cometh

Anyone who's required to take a minimum annual distribution from their IRA can use that account to send a donation directly to the Temple for Temple Fundraisers including the auction, journal or dues and even the Kol Nidre appeal. Doing so saves you the taxes on the amount donated and satisfies that part of your required withdrawal. Your brokerage will have a form and/or call your broker to have the donation sent from your IRA account.

April 2025

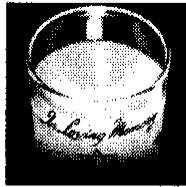
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Social Action Committee In Temple - 2pm	4 Shabbat Services In Temple and Zoom - 7pm	5 Torah Study Zoom only 9:30am
6	7	8	9 Rabbi's Class: Ethical Wills Workshop 1:30pm	10	11 Shabbat Services Zoom only 7pm	12 Erev Passover No Torah Study
13 Passover First day Second Seder Lake Success Jewish Center 6:30pm	14	15	16	17	18 Shabbat Services Zoom only 7pm	19 Yizkor Atria 10:30am No Torah Study
20	21	22	23	24 Rabbi's Class: Ethical Wills Workshop 1:30pm	25 Yom Hashoah Shabbat Services In Temple and Zoom - 7pm	26 Hybrid Torah Study Temple & Zoom 9:30am
27	28	29	30			

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Call 516-487-5373 or email isaiahgcn@yahoo.com for confirmation.

Deadline for bulletin submissions: 15th of the month