

## Look inside to find...

Rabbi's Column p 2

Co-Presidents' Column p 3

Letters from Committees p 4-5

June Events p 6 & 7

Celebrations & Yahrzeits p 8

Donations p 9

Calendar p 10



## SHAVUOT CELEBRATION!

June 1st

See details below on the Events  
page and join the fun!

**Co-Presidents:**

Kathie Davis  
Terry Joseph  
Shelley Sherman

**Rabbi:** Jerry Blum



Counting (up) the days of the Omer (literally, an Israelite unit of dry measurement), we begin to feel the excitement rising as we get closer to Z'man Mattan Toratenu – the Time of the giving of our Torah, otherwise known as Shavuot. But Shavuot is a complex holy day according to the Jewish Bible and is known

by different names. Per the Torah text, it is not directly linked to an historical event such as Exodus or traveling in the Desert. There is no communal ritual attached to it, such as a seder or sitting in a Sukkah. There isn't even an exact date given for this holiday- again unlike Pesach and Sukkot. In Exodus 34:22, the holiday is in fact called Chag HaShavuot, the festival of weeks, but a little earlier in Exodus (23:16), the holiday is called Chag HaKatzir, or the Festival of the Harvest. To add to this confusion, in Numbers 28:26, the name becomes Chag HaBikurim, the Festival of the First Fruits. Then, to make it even more confounding, rabbis couldn't figure out when the holiday began, with different understandings of when one should begin counting the Omer. Yet, in my opinion, Shavuot, is the most important of the Shalosh Regalim – our three harvest holidays (Sukkot, Pesach and Shavuot) – but it is the least observed outside of the traditional Jewish communities. Why might that be?

With everything that is written about this holy day, what catches my attention is the concept of giving. As I pointed out above, one of Shavuot's names is "Z'man Mattan Toratenu – the Time of the Giving of the Torah" and it is clear that the Torah was meant to be a gift to the Israelite nation. But can there be giving without receiving? If the day commemorates the giving of the Torah, but our hearts are not open to receiving the essence of the Torah, is the Torah really a gift? Did the Jewish people really get the Torah, if many ignore the lessons of that Torah?

Maimonides said that when the Torah was given to Israel, the people gathered around Har Sinai – Mount Sinai, some around the base of the mount and some higher up, so they were actually closer to the top. Maimonides' suggests that, although some were closer to the top, thus closer to the actual giving of the Torah, each and every member of Klal Yisrael – The Community of Israel

received the same Torah equally and we are all the recipients of the blessings and the spirit of the law. We are all invited to accept that gift.

When one gives a gift, it is generally given with good intention and caring, and many of us feel good when we can give to others. When we receive a gift from someone else, we feel appreciated, and hopefully, we return that appreciation with genuine feelings of gratitude. When we take the gift and show our appreciation, we give a gift to the giver in the form of gratitude. We are able to accept the gift and the feelings behind it, thus allowing the giver and receiver to feel closer. This holds true in gift giving, and in relationships as well. It is common to our relationships between family and friends, and our relationship with God and Torah.

In the same sense, the giving of the Torah was a gift to the Israelite nation, and it is our part of the relationship with God to take into our hearts the essence and spirit of the Law. Yes, it's true that many of the laws are difficult to understand, and to even consider participating in, but there is the ethical and moral side, the "spirit of the law," that forms a guide to living our lives and to show we are truly created in the divine image.

By accepting the ethical values in the Torah into our lives and hearts, we make room for a possible relationship with God. This works with Torah, and in our daily lives. The more room we make to accept gifts from others and show gratitude, the deeper and more emotionally nourishing all our relationships can be, divine and human.

Remember to join us all on June 1st for "a mountain of Blintzes" with our Festival Committee at our temple beginning at 5:15 pm and then our annual Tikkun Leil Shavuot at Temple Tikva of New Hyde Park, beginning at 6:45 pm. There will be teaching by our local Reform Rabbis and a copious amount of goodies afterwards. Registration is needed for Temple Tikva (see Events).

I wish you all the blessing of an open heart and the gift of close and loving relationships. Chag Shavuot Sameach – Happy Shavuot. May this season of freedom and revelation be one of sacred remembrance for us all. May the memories of our loved ones be as a blessing, and may we carry their light with us as we move forward together in community, with open hearts and loving souls.

*Rabbi Jerry*





**W**elcome to our Temple Isaiah family. It's summer now and rather than take a vacation we are here for you and continue to offer special programs and events.

June 1st is Shavuot at 5:30 PM we will begin with a discussion of the Omer at the temple followed by delicious blintzes. Then we move on to Temple Tikvah in New Hyde Park for discussions with rabbis from several reform congregations. Of course, food will be offered.

Hear ye, hear ye, on June 10th we will be honoring Shelley Sherman at our journal dinner at Il Toscano Restaurant in Douglaston. As you know, Shelley is an outstanding leader at our small but mighty temple. We hope that you have submitted your ad for the

journal.

Please be sure to check your weekly updates about upcoming events. Summer services are again offered. Please sign up to lead a service at the temple or at your home. How special it will be to have a service at someone's home.

Membership letters will be going out. Please join us again. Write what committee you would like to be one, as we need everyone's participation. It is particularly rewarding to be involved in making things happen through helping out on a committee. Your help is important to us, and we welcome your ideas. You are all special, and we appreciate all that you do to help our temple get better and better.

Thank you.

*Shelley, Terry, and Kathie*

**Share your Simchas or Memories with us.**

Email images to: [isaiahgn@yahoo.com](mailto: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 2026 Dues \_\_\_\_\_

### Fundraiser & Programs Committee

We are days away from our Journal Dinner, Tuesday, June 10th, when we will honor our valued and invaluable member, Shelley Sherman. It is a special fundraiser and moment for us to recognize an outstanding member of our small chosen community, and we chose Shelley for her many contributions to the Temple Isaiah community.

Our Journal is our biggest fundraiser for Temple Isaiah;  
Our dinner is our time to be together for our Honoree;  
Our Temple provides the space for our community;  
Our honoree makes it the community.

Thank you all for your contributions big and small for this important event.

Thank you for supporting Temple Isaiah and Shelley, our Honoree.

*Terry Birnbaum-Horton, Denise Miller, and Carol Hersh*

---

### Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee is gearing up for the next big demonstration of our discontent on **Saturday, June 14**. There will be No Kings rallies taking place across the country on that date. We will be participating, as a group, in the one closest to us at 262 Old Country Rd. Mineola (Nassau County Courthouse) at 11:30. We will be organizing carpools for anyone wishing to attend. RSVP to Judy Brook if you plan to attend with your fellow congregants so that we can travel there as a group. We urge everyone who is concerned with one or more of the myriad issues facing the country at this time, to attend. Bring signs if you can. Also, they will be collecting non-perishable food for a food pantry, so bring that, as well.

Many of us attended the mass rally in April at the same location and despite the weather it was massive, fun and enriching. We want the next one to be bigger and better.

In the meantime, we are urging you to call your Congress people on any issue of importance to you. Scripts can be found by going to the website of **5calls.org** or by downloading the app. It is vital that we keep up the pressure to help influence our representatives to vote in ways that reflect our Jewish values. The contact information for our representatives is:

Sen. Charles Schumer 631-753-0978 (Melville)

518-431-4076 (Albany)

202-224-6542 (Washington D.C.)

[www.schumer.senate.gov](http://www.schumer.senate.gov)

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand 202-224-4451 (Washington)

212-688-6262 (Manhattan)

[www.gillibrand.senate.gov](http://www.gillibrand.senate.gov)

Rep. Thomas Suozzi 202-225-3335 (Washington)

718-631-0040 (Douglaston)

516-861-1070 (Glen Cove)

[suozzi.house.gov](http://suozzi.house.gov)

Also, an excellent site which lists actions such as phone or text banking, letter writing and other campaigns, nationwide, is [volunteerblue.org](http://volunteerblue.org). There you will see information which will allow you to participate in actions that might be influential in other parts of the country,

Your participation is vital and remember that action alleviates anxiety. Our next meeting will be held on Zoom on a date to be announced soon. We hope this will encourage more congregants to attend.

*Judy Brook and Denise Miller*

### The Caring Committee

There are times in our lives when we need and welcome helping hands. Like a family unit, a temple member is an individual as well as an integral part of our Temple Isaiah family. We are here to embrace,

support, and care for each of you in times of joy and in times of sadness, whether it be illness or a recent loss. Thank you to all the Caring Committee members for their hard work.

*Kathie Davis*

### From the Treasurer/Financial Secretary

Calling all Temple Members:

If you received a Statement as of 4/26/25 for funds owed (mostly for dues, but other miscellaneous charges that you forgot to pay) please transfer the balance through Zelle or send us a check! Thank you, those of you who have already squared your accounts. The fiscal year ended May 30, and we would love all members to have a \$0 balance by then.

The new fiscal year starts June 1, so please fill out and send in your dues pledge forms or use the electronic form, and start those payments soon.

Remember, if you are making RMDs (Required Minimum Distribution) from an IRA, you can contact your brokerage and have them send us a check as a QCD (Qualified Charitable Donation), and it is not taxable but still counts towards your RMD. It has to go directly from the broker to the Temple.

*Bill Hersh*

We're in a new fiscal year and that means we all need to send in our membership papers. If you haven't already done so, please submit your pledge form now or complete the electronic form online.  
Thanks!!

**IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION  
FROM YOUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

We're thrilled to have you join the Temple Isaiah family. As you review the membership categories below, remember that our founders mandated a voluntary dues system. While we provide recommended dues amounts based on our budget requirements, the recommendations are always subject to your self-evaluation, and your pledge is entirely confidential.

Please select from one of our membership categories below.

<input type="checkbox"/> First year "check us out" membership	\$ 995
<input type="checkbox"/> 35 and under Sustaining member	\$ 995
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining member	\$ 2500
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitzvah member*	\$ 3600
<input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah's Circle*	\$ 4500
<input type="checkbox"/> Torah member*	\$ 5400
<input type="checkbox"/> Gift from the heart pledge	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary ARZA dues: I would like to support ARZA and have enclosed \$50	

\*These categories entitle the member to a credit towards either the annual auction or dinner.  
Mitzvah member: \$250. Isaiah's Circle member: \$500. Torah member: \$1000.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## June Events

### Shavuot

**Sunday, June 1st** beginning at our Temple,  
**1 Chelsea Place, 5pm - 6:30pm**

We'll share a promised 'mountain' of blintzes and discuss the Omer: What is it? What's its importance? And When do we start counting?

Then the action moves to **Temple Tikvah, 3315 Hillside Avenue, New Hyde Park, NY, 6:45 - 10 pm** for a community Tikkun Leil Shavuot with Torah study.

Please note that registration is required by Temple Tikvah! [Click here to access Temple Tikvah's Registration Form.](#)



## Tikkun Leil Shavuot | Evening of Study

**Sunday, June 1, 2025 at 6:45pm**

Location: Temple Tikvah of New Hyde Park and virtually via ZOOM  
Meeting ID: 895 1748 6824 | Passcode: 411675

***Let's gather, study and eat dairy!***

This evening of study to celebrate receiving the Torah followed by dairy desserts.  
This event is FREE and open to the community but registration through our GOOGLE FORM is required.

### SPEAKER SCHEDULE

Welcome and Candlelighting 6.45-7pm

Session 1 – 7:00-7:15 Rabbi Megan Brumer, Temple Beth-El of Great Neck

Session 2 – 7:20-7:35 Rabbi Michael Churgel, North Country Reform Temple

Session 3 – 7:40-7:55 Rabbi Alysa Mendelson Graf, The Port Jewish Center

Session 4 – 8:00-8:15 Cantor Leslie Friedlander, Temple Tikvah

Session 5 – 8:20-8:35 Rabbi Brian Stoller, Temple Beth-El of Great Neck

Session 6 – 8:40-8:55 Rabbi Todd Chizner, Temple Judea of Manhasset

Session 7 – 9:00-9:15 Cantor Amelia Fox, North Country Reform Temple

Session 8 – 9:20-9:35 Rabbi Jerry Blum, Temple Isaiah of Great Neck

Session 9 – 9:40-9:55 Rabbi Randy Sheinberg, Temple Tikvah

Closing ritual – 9:55-10:00



### Yizkor

**Monday, June 2nd, 10:30AM**  
**The Atria, Cuttermill**

Join us as we remember and pray.



### Gala Dinner Honoring Shelley Sherman

**Tuesday, June 10th, 6:30pm**  
**Il Toscano, Douglaston**

There's still time to get a seat at the table and help make the event of the year a significant celebration!



### Social Action Committee coordinates attendance

#### Saturday, June 14, 11:30 am, No Kings Rally

262 Old Country Rd. Mineola (Nassau County Courthouse)

Show your concern for the changes being made without your voice by adding your body to the rally. Together our voices will be heard.



### Lunch & Learn

#### Tuesday, June 17th, Time & Place to be determined

Join us for lunch, discussion, and a good schmooze!

## The 360 Circle of Tzedakah

By contributing to the 360 Circle you assure that your best wishes will be shared with all congregants who are celebrating a simcha, healing, or sadly suffering a loss. A Temple card sent to a fellow member will wish a Mazal Tov on an important occasion, express a get well, or a condolence, and it will always include your name. You won't have to write a separate check each time you wish to share your support; one check will cover you for the whole year! Simply send a payment of \$360 to Temple Isaiah, earmarked for the 360 Circle, and your name will be included on all cards sent out to commemorate the life events of your fellow congregants.



## June Celebrations & Rememberances



### ANNIVERSARIES

Carol & Bill Hersh.....June 17

Judy Snow & Scott Schleifstein.....  
June 18

Amy & Howard Gorman.....June 25

Belle & Elliott Gayer.....June 30



### BIRTHDAYS

Richard Joseph.....June 1

Sheila DeFazio.....June 2

Stephen Fein.....June 29

Elliott Gayer.....June 29

Jonathan Silver.....June 30



### YAHRZEITS

#### Selma Dechter

Grandmother of Irwin Epstein (6/1)

#### Charles Shapiro

Father of Barbara Feldman (6/1)

#### Ralph Brody

Father of Linda Tsuruoka (6/2)

#### Haim Causanschi

Father of Golda Shapiro (6/2)

#### Jack P. Benjamin

Father of Alan Benjamin (6/3)

#### Betsy Guthrie

Friend of Willa Lewis (6/3)

#### Emma Borden

Mother of Patricia Gabay (6/5)

#### Max Federlein

Father of Rachel Greenwald (6/8)

#### Charles McTiernan

Uncle of Gary Branch (6/8)

#### Bernard Schapira

Brother-in-law of Kurt Kelman (6/10)

#### Harry Etman

Father of Sylvia Kelman (6/11)

#### Florence Schiller

Grandmother of Belle Gayer (6/11)

#### Isabelle Tropp-Gresser

Mother of Fonille Naidamast (6/11)

#### Philip Fried

Husband of Ruth B. Fried (6/12)

#### Elaine Kaner

Sister of Paula Newman (6/12)

#### Mercedes Moulin

Mother of Edward Moulin (6/12)

#### Morris Gabay

Father of Sima Auerbach (6/13)

#### Leo Garter

Father of Nina Pastor (6/14)

#### Jeffrey Sherman

Brother of Shelley Sherman (6/14)

#### Rubin Drucker

Father of Susan Drucker (6/15)

#### Stanley Kristal

Brother of Evelyn Solow (6/15)

#### Samuel Diamond

...Shelley Sherman (6/17)

#### Tom Raskin

Father of Micah Raskin (6/19)

#### Minnie Sissman

Mother of Betty Litsky (6/19)

#### Allen Jacobs

Grandfather of Jonathan (6/20)

#### Ruth Mandelbaum

Friend of Kathie Davis (6/24)

#### Jerome Weinberg

Father of Arlyn Brenner Blum (6/25)

#### Rena Levy

Mother of Joel Levy (6/25)

#### Esther Solow

Mother of Richard Solow (6/26)

#### Jim Hartman

Father of Megan Hartman-Brenner  
(6/27)

#### Samuel I. Schiller

Grandfather of Belle Gayer (6/27)

#### Gilbert Birnbaum

Father of Rod Birnbaum (6/28)

#### Harry Lewis

Father of Willa Lewis (6/28)

#### Anna Marshak

Mother of Martin Marshak (6/28)





### General Donations

Jean Lesser in honor of Rabbi Blum.  
David Mack in honor of Stephen Fein.

360 Circle in honor of Rabbi Blum's  
granddaughter.

Barbara Feldman in honor of Merrill  
Goldman and Charles Shapiro

### 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.

# June 2025

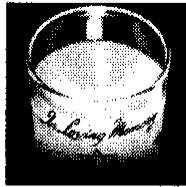
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <b>Shavuot</b> See details above	2 Yizkor at the Atria 10:30am <b>Journal Entries (Extended) Due</b>	3	4	5	6 <b>Shabbat Services</b> In Temple and Zoom - 7pm	7 <b>Torah Study</b> Zoom Only 9:30am
8	9	10 <b>Journal Dinner</b> 6:30pm	11	12	13 <b>Shabbat Services</b> In Temple and Zoom - 7pm	14 <b>Hybrid Torah Study</b> Temple & Zoom 9:30am <b>Social Action</b> No Kings Rally
15	16	17 <b>Lunch &amp; Learn</b> with the Rabbi	18	19	20 <b>Shabbat Services</b> In Temple and Zoom - 7pm	21 <b>Hybrid Torah Study</b> Temple & Zoom 9:30am
22 <b>Current Events</b> with Helman & Judy Brook 3pm	23	24	25	26	27 <b>Shabbat Services</b> In Temple and Zoom - 7pm	28 <b>No Torah Study</b>
29	30					

# RIVERSIDE- Nassau North Chapels

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

**PRE-NEED COUNSELING AVAILABLE**

**DAVID M. RUBIN**



For Generations  
A Symbol Of Jewish Tradition.

Continuing to maintain the high service standards of the Rosenthal, Grossberg and Alpert families.

Riverside Memorial Chapel is a participating member firm of The PRE Plan,<sup>™</sup>  
an FDIC insured fund for pre-paid funeral arrangements.



**Temple Isaiah of Great Neck**

1 Chelsea Place, Great Neck, NY 11021

**Office Hours:**

Wednesdays & Fridays 12 - 3 PM

Call 516-487-5373 or email [isaiahgcn@yahoo.com](mailto:isaiahgcn@yahoo.com) for confirmation.

**Deadline for bulletin submissions: 15th of the month**