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It's almost Purim!
(Let's make some noise!)
Hooray, Queen Esther!

Co-Presidents:
Kathie Davis
Terry Joseph
Shelley Sherman

Rabbi: Jerry Blum

SHABBAT SERVICES ALERT
6:30 PM ONLY UNTIL MARCH 14
We change the clocks March 9th



As of this writing, the new Hebrew month of Adar is just days away. The Babylonian Talmud tells us in tractate Ta'anit 29a *"MiShe'nichnas Adar, marbim b'simchah – When one enters into (the Hebrew month of) Adar, they shall increase their joy"*. But let's face it, it's really tough to be happy for many in the Jewish community these days. There are

still about 60 hostages trapped in Gaza, and many believe that half are no longer alive. Israel is under constant attack by terrorists, and antisemitism is on the rise throughout the world, including in our United States. Our country, where the concept of religious freedom is sacrosanct and the safety within that sacredness is a central component of the American way of life. The awareness of these sad circumstances added to our daily stressors makes it almost too much to bear. Yet, here we are, with Adar upon us, and the world (and our lives) feels so fragile. What do we need to feel a glimmer of hope?

Perhaps we need a hero/shero who can teach us that we are able to stand up to evil and hardship. In a matter of days, we will read Megillat Esther – The Scroll of Esther which comes replete with a couple of sheroes (and a hero as well). One shero was very visible and was one hidden, until it was time for her to be seen and heard!

We begin the Megillah with King Achashverosh in mid celebration. He has thrown a party in his own honor, and he gets, as Mel Brooks would say, "Farschnikered" (drunk) with his buddies. He calls on his wife, the beautiful Vashti, to attend the party in [just] her crown, and she refuses. After this refusal came a royal decree that Vashti was never to appear before the king again and that all her riches would be given to someone more worthy. Within that decree, the king also commanded all the kingdom's wives to treat their husbands with respect. In a strange turn of events, chapter 2 tells us that the king, after he recovers from the party, remembers his wife, and Rashi teaches that he became sad and was remorseful. He realizes that he made a mistake, but as the king, he cannot go back on his decree. Vashti stood up to evil degradation in a very clear and visible fashion, yet remained outcast.

This chapter then tells us about Esther, who hides her true identity and becomes the king's next wife. When it comes her time, she too, along with her uncle Mordechai, stands heroically against another degrading evil. Mordechai has saved the king from an assassination attempt, and stands up against Haman, who is attempting to eradicate the Jews from the Persian empire. Esther assures that Mordechai is praised and reveals her Jewishness to the king, thereby foiling Haman's plan. The Jewish community fights back against the hoards of people set to rid the country of our ancestors, and the day is saved, even if for just that moment.

In our Passover seder, we recite the verse *"Ela sheb'chol dor vador, om'dim aleinu l'chaloteinu" – In every generation, they rise up to destroy us"*, but God's teaching (the Torah) will deliver us. However, we must be God's partner in this deliverance. We must channel our inner heroism to stand up against evil, by joining together and making our voices heard, in our communities, our countries, and throughout the world.

Yes, I know, it's not easy being a hero these days (or any days) but notice who the heroes and heroines were in the Bible. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks wrote:

"What is beautiful about the Torah is that it shows the heroes and heroines of our people's past not as epitomes of perfection but as human beings – great, to be sure, but always human – wrestling with God and finding Him wrestling with us."

As our Torah teaches, we don't have to be perfect, ideal role models to be a hero. We just have to be regular folk who feel in our heart of hearts that we must take the moral high ground. Maybe that's why we are called B'nai Yisrael, literally, the Children who wrestle with God. And, as God wrestlers, doing good deeds, looking after the underdogs, and repairing this world is our path. So, as we bring in the month of Adar, it may be difficult to be happy, yet perhaps it is time for us, like the Esthers, Vashtis and Mordechais who came before us, to join forces against evil doers. Through perseverance and bravery we can be *"transformed from sorrow to gladness, and from mourning into a day of joy"* (Esther 9:22)

May we all have a joyful Adar and Purim. Join us for some Purim High-Jinx on Thursday, March 13th, when we will attempt to dazzle you with Purim Joy! Don't forget your costumes.... we won't! ;)

Rabbi Jerry



This seems like an apt time to be reminded that the Torah commands us to be a light unto the nations. To me, this has always meant to try to make choices that add to the wellbeing of our communities, our country and the world.

Temple Isaiah has had a long history of community service and advocacy, but when the pandemic hit many of our activities were interrupted. And as our numbers have decreased, our ability to find members who aren't already swamped with other Temple responsibilities has also decreased.

Let's recommit to actions that will enable the good, by establishing a new Social Action Committee to help guide us. Our activities don't have to be limited to those chosen by committee members. We encourage everyone to suggest and help design worthwhile responses to causes that call for our involvement.

One example- the emphatic and frequent directive in the Torah to welcome the stranger, and to treat them fairly and with dignity. We can consider ways to help the strangers amongst us who are afraid to go to work or send their children to school. Please contact us if you would like to join the committee.

This month, like most at Temple Isaiah, is full of interesting and fun activities.

Please read through this bulletin for the descriptions and dates and join us.

Your Presidium,

Shelley, Terry, and Kathie

And a Reminder from the Caring Committee:

When you need a helping hand, the Caring Committee is here for you. We are here for you to help with your concerns and also to share in your simchas. A friendly voice is always helpful, especially one with a smile. Included is kindness, which is so needed now. If you know someone who would like a call, please let Kathie Davis, chairperson of the Caring Committee, know either by phone or email.

We are here, and we care about all of you.

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

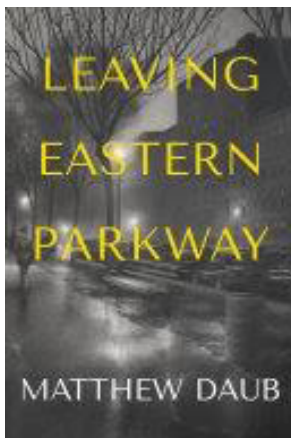
2025 Dues



29th Annual Shabbat Across America

Friday, March 7th, 6pm, with dinner following

Hundreds of synagogues across the continent will take part in an historic national Jewish event to celebrate what unifies all Jews — Shabbat! Everyone is invited... singles, couples, families — all ages. Dinner will follow the early service and requires an RSVP.



Book Group at Paula's house

Sunday, March 9th, time TBD

Reading: "Leaving Eastern Parkway" by Matthew Daub

Brooklyn's Hasidic community of Lubavitchers is turned upside down when family tragedy strikes and everyday life changes forever in the life of Zev Altshul. He is first placed into the care of the closed and close-knit community where he grew up, but soon realizes he can't stay.



Coffee with the Rabbi

Monday, March 10th, at 1:30pm

Have you ever wanted to ask your rabbi anything about our traditions or practices? Come join Rabbi Jerry for coffee and schmoozing. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP to the office so we can prepare.



Erev Purim

Thursday, March 13th, 7pm

Let's read the Megillah and celebrate the wily Queen Esther!

March Events, continued



Current Events with Helman & Judy Brook **Sunday, March 23rd, 3pm**

Delve into current events, discuss how they're represented in the media and how they affect us.



Lunch and Learn with the Rabbi **Tuesday, March 25th, time and location TBD**

Discuss Judaism over a nutritious, informal, friendly meal.

**REVERSE
RAFFLE**

Reverse Raffle **Saturday, March 29th, 7pm**

Prizes galore, so save the date!

April Look Ahead



Second Passover Seder **Saturday, April 13th, time TBD**

Haggadahs, wine, matzoh, wine, maror, wine, plagues, wine. Join us!



ANNIVERSARIES

Linda & Martin Marshak.....March 22
Alisa & Martin Secofsky.....March 24
Evelyn & Richard Solow.....March 29



BIRTHDAYS

Marcia Null.....March 6
Alisa Secofsky.....March 6
Arlyn Brenner Blum.....March 11
Belle Gayer.....March 22



Yahrzeits

Max Blum

Father of Rabbi Jerry Blum (3/4)

Donald Arthur Packer

Father of Mindy Israel (3/4)

Etta Birnbaum

Grandmother of Terry Birnbaum-Horton (3/6)

Hortense Perell

Mother of Lloyd Perell (3/9)

Lawrence Feldman

Brother of Alisa Secofsky and
Son of Barbara Feldman (3/11)

Frances Tuchinsky

Mother of Belle Gayer (3/12)

Sarah Alexander

Aunt of Judy Brook (3/13)

Manny Friedman

Uncle of Elliott Gayer (3/13)

Ellen Marks

Step-mother of Kathie Davis (3/14)

Rosemarie Lesser-Melman

Sister-in-law of Jean Lesser (3/17)

Bulla Mayer

Aunt of Rachel Greenwald (3/17)

Marlene Baharlias

Sister-in-law of Ruth Isaac (3/18)

Jerome Weissman

Father of Jean Lesser (3/18)

Rose Weiss (Weinberg)

Grandmother of Richard Joseph (3/19)

Lawrence Schwartz

Step-father of Mindy Israel (3/23)

Max Fein

Grandfather of Steve Fein (3/26)

Recha Fein

Grandmother of Steve Fein (3/26)

Frank Gayer

Father of Elliott Gayer (3/26)

Larry Smith

Uncle of Elliott Gayer (3/28)

Gary McTiernan

Husband of Suzanne Branch (3/30)

February Donations



General Donations

Diane Haber, in memory of
Philip Haber and Philip Friedman

Sharon Schleifstein in memory of
Richard M. Schleifstein

Marcia Null in memory of
Douglas P. Null

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 Yahrzeit lights will be illuminated on the yahrzeits 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.



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.

March 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|-----|------------------------------------|--|---|
| | | | | | | 1 Torah Study In Temple and Zoom - 9:30am |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Shabbat Across America In Temple and Zoom - 6:00pm Dinner - 7:30pm | 8 Torah Study Zoom only 9:30am |
| 9 Book Group at Paula's | 10 Coffee with the Rabbi 1:30pm | 11 | 12 | 13 Erev Purim 7pm | 14 Shabbat Services In Temple and Zoom - 7pm | 15 No Torah Study |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Shabbat Services In Temple and Zoom - 7pm | 22 Torah Study Zoom only 9:30am |
| 23 Current Events with Helman & Judy Brook 3pm | 24 | 25 Lunch & Learn with the Rabbi | 26 | 27 | 28 Shabbat Services In Temple and Zoom - 7pm | 29 Torah Study In Temple and Zoom - 9:30am 7pm Reverse Raffle - 7pm |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

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Office Hours:

Wednesdays & Fridays 12 - 3 PM

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

Deadline for bulletin submissions: 15th of the month