

Look inside to find...

Rabbi's Column	p 2
Co-Presidents' Column	p 3
Letters from Committees	p 4
A Note from the Office	p 5
April Events	p 6 & 7
Celebrations & Yahrzeits	p 8
Donations	p 9
Recommended	p 10
Calendar	p 11



ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

May 1st

Don't forget to voice your reform
vote in the World Zionist Congress

Co-Presidents:

Kathie Davis
Terry Joseph
Shelley Sherman

Rabbi: Jerry Blum



I come to this writing with many memories of holidays past and the traditions that have fostered my personal feelings of belonging to a people and a community. As we gather at our seders and in our synagogues during the festivals of Pesach and Shavuot, we are reminded that Judaism is a tradition

rooted in memory. We are a people who remember, not for nostalgia's sake, but because memory is how we stay connected to our past, to one another, and to God.

We just celebrated Pesach, Z'man Cheruteinu, the Festival of Freedom, and the holiday begins with a powerful commandment, "Zachor et hayom hazeh asher yatzatem mi-Mitzrayim", "Remember this day, the day you left Egypt." We sit around the seder table, recounting the Exodus as if we ourselves were there, tasting the bitterness of slavery and the sweetness of liberation. In doing so, we are reminded of an ancient story, and our spiritual heritage as B'nai Yisrael. We remember that freedom is not given, but earned and protected through faith, responsibility, and as Rabbi Jonathan Sacks teaches, communal action.

As we count the days between Pesach and Shavuot, the 49 days of the Omer, we spiritually prepare ourselves to stand again at Sinai. Shavuot is the culmination of that journey, where memory becomes covenant. We remember the giving of the Torah, a moment when we, as a people, said "Na'aseh v'nishma", "we will do, and we will hear". In remembering the giving of the Law at Sinai, we reaffirm our commitment to a life of sacred purpose, guided by the wisdom of our tradition.

And nestled within these holidays is another, quieter but equally powerful ritual, Yizkor, the memorial service. Yizkor invites us to remember not only Jewish history, but personal history, those individuals whose lives shaped our own, and whose values and love live on in us. Whether it is a parent, a spouse, a sibling, a grandparent or even a friend, when we recite Yizkor, we give voice to grief, and also to gratitude. In remembering them, we honor their lives and draw strength from their legacy.

There is something profoundly moving about reciting

the Yizkor prayers during festivals. In moments of celebration, we pause to remember our losses. It's a reminder that joy and sorrow are not opposites, but rather they are companions. Real celebration acknowledges the fullness of our lives, including the absence of those we miss. Their memory deepens our appreciation for the present and connects us more deeply to our community, and for Yizkor, community is essential.

Yizkor is not recited in isolation. We gather as a congregation, each of us carrying our own memories, but sharing the same ancient words. We join together not just to mourn, but to affirm that those we have lost are still with us: in the stories we tell, the values we uphold, and the prayers we offer.

This season teaches us that memory is holy work. Just as we remember Yetziat Mitzrayim, the Exodus from Egypt, each year, so too must we remember those who brought us into this world, taught us right from wrong, and modeled the values that we live by; the teachers, parents, and loved ones who gave us strength, who guided us with their wisdom, and who showed us what it means to live a Jewish life of compassion, integrity, and resilience.

In a world that moves quickly, where so much is fleeting, Judaism urges us to slow down and remember. Not because the past is more important than the future, but because it is only by remembering that we can build a meaningful future. It is only through remembering that we can truly be free.

I say this to remind you that we have Yizkor services again on the first day of Shavuot which falls on Monday, June 2nd. We joined our friends at the Atria for Yizkor during Pesach and look forward to reciting these prayers again during the Shavuot festival. I know it is not always easy to add on an extra day at the temple, but I urge your presence as we remember our loved ones during Yizkor.

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



While many of us enjoy May because the promise of longer sunny days begins to be realized, for Temple Isaiah May is both an ending and a beginning. It is the last month of our fiscal year and it is when we have to reconcile our bookkeeping and convene our annual Congregational Meeting. It also means we have managed to stay together and intact for another year and are poised to begin our next one- our 59th!

We moved into our current building in September, 2008 and so this fall we will be beginning our Chai year- our 18th in a home of our own. We are grateful for all of the congregants we have and for those who have previously stepped through our doors, to celebrate, worship and sometimes mourn surrounded by a loving and welcoming community.

Our Congregational meeting will be on Wednesday evening, May 21st at 7:00pm and is an opportunity for each member unit to ask questions, make comments and to vote on important matters, including the slate of officers and the Budget for next year. We urge you all to attend and participate in this wonderful democratic process of decision making, and of course there will be refreshments. Please read this bulletin and make a note of the dates and events and join in when you are able.

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 2026 Dues _____

Fundraiser & Programs Committee

We are just a little over a month away from one of our most important Fundraisers! It is our time to recognize a member who means so much to our congregation, one who contributes in special ways. This year we had both a difficult choice and an easy choice. There is always more than one person to choose from in our congregation!

We chose **Shelley Sherman**, for all she has done and does for TI and the Jewish Community. Her resume is long, and the Journal & Journal Dinner will highlight all her accomplishments: from the many years working as a volunteer for Hadassah and other national Jewish organizations, to all the big and small initiatives and committees she has enhanced. During this year's Gala WE THANK HER FOR ALL SHE DOES.

Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee will hold its next meeting on Thursday, May 1 at 7:00 at the temple. We are encouraging more members of the synagogue to join us.

Our little temple was well-represented at the Saturday, April 19 Hands Off rally in Mineola. At least eight of us (including the rabbi) attended, toting our signs despite the very rainy weather. We joined with thousands of others who voiced their displeasure at the many injustices currently taking place in our country.

On Saturday, April 26 several of us participated in a Tesla Takedown rally on Northern Blvd. in Manhasset. The weather was great and there was a true sense of comradery among the attendees.

Caring Committee

The birds are chirping, the flowers are blooming, and spring is in the air.

It was so nice to see Evelyn and Richard Solow at the Passover Seder at Lake Success Jewish Center.

Please remember that as we honor Shelley for the contributions she makes: financially, physically, and spiritually, that YOU too, are supporting Temple Isaiah with your contribution to the Journal and by attending the Dinner.

In the coming months we look forward to:

The Book Group

The Art Series (continued from the fall)

Current Events

A mini-Bazaar

Terry Birnbaum-Horton, Denise Miller, and Carol Hersh

We plan on participating in future rallies and protests and would love to have others join us. Since many of these events are organized and/or learned about with very little lead time, we have been texting or emailing the relevant information to committee members. If you wish to receive our notifications, please contact the temple office, Denise Miller or Judy Brook.

Future actions by the committee will include letter and postcard writing as well as possible phone banking. In the meantime, you are encouraged to make phone calls to your representatives on any issues that are of concern to you.

Remember, action alleviates anxiety!

Judy Brook and Denise Miller

The Caring Committee members would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy spring. Please remember that we are here for you.

Kathie Davis



Spring is such a good time for freshening up!

Many of you have commented on the leaner, cleaner state of the Temple Isaiah office. I'd like to offer to clear some of the clutter from your homes too by inaugurating some digital options. Now you won't need to hunt for those bits of paper, figure out which ones to send back to the office, or wonder whether your current stamps will still be accepted by the post office.

Coming soon will be emails with links to intake forms and more options for digital payments. I'm creating forms for both the upcoming Journal Gala and the 2025-26 Temple Membership drives. Of course, mailings will also be sent for those of you who prefer them, so you have the option of how you'd like to reply.

In another effort to streamline, the temple is transitioning to a professional email address that matches the website address: office@templeisaiahgn.org in hopes that this will help congregants receive group email communications more regularly. The yahoo address is still operational, as this has been the primary email for so long.

The temple is also transitioning banks, from M&T to Chase, so congregants can quickly and safely transfer funds directly through Zelle. To learn the temple's Zelle User Name, please contact the office by email or phone for a call-back.

As with any spring freshening, things may look different until all of the new systems settle in. I hope these new options can make things easier for everyone.

Warm regards,

Debrah



Social Action Committee

Thursday, May 1st, in Temple at 7pm

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 Wills Workshop

Last class of three: Monday, May 12th, 7pm

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.



Coffee with the Rabbi

Tuesday, May 13th, 1:30pm

Ask your questions and debate your doubts over an informal cup of brew with friends.



Lunch & Learn

Tuesday, May 20th, Time & Place to be determined

Still chewing on that grisly detail from recent conversations about Judaism? Come for lunch and a good schmooze!

May Events, continued



Congregant's Annual Meeting **Wednesday, May 21st, 7pm**

Let's all talk towards determining our future and charting our way forward. We'll vote on officers and our budget.



Due Date for Journal Entries Honoring Shelley Sherman **Thursday, May 29th**

Share your thoughts with Shelley and the whole congregation; it's your contribution that makes the journal valuable. Please check you email and snail-mail for invitations and journal information.

Upcoming in June



Shavuot **Sunday, June 1st**

Details to follow...



Gala Dinner Honoring Shelley Sherman

Tuesday, June 10th, Il Toscano, 6:30pm
(Deadline for Journal Entries : Thursday, May 29th)

Watch those inboxes!



ANNIVERSARIES

Judy & Helman Brook.....May 3



BIRTHDAYS

Rabbi Jerry Blum.....May 7
Scott Schleifstein.....May 9
Kathie Davis.....May 12

Agi Adler.....May 17
Nina Koss.....May 20
Shelley Sherman.....May 23

David Burghardt.....May 24
Evelyn Solow.....May 24



Yahrzeits

Milton Zane

Father of Robert Zane (5/1)

Gerald Aubrey

Father of David Aubrey (5/2)

Sanford "Sandy" Feit

Close friend and mentor of Rabbi Blum (5/6)

Rose Buchbinder

Grandmother of Howard Israel (5/8)

David Quartin

Father of Irene Lichtenstein (5/9)

Ruth Gusler

Mother of Diana Kerievsky (5/10)

Jennie Maller

Mother of Al Maller (5/11)

Merrill Goldman

Partner of Barbara Feldman (5/12)

Irving Warshavsky

Father of Steven Warshavsky (5/12)

Martin Joel Feldman

Father of Alisa Secofsky (5/14)

Rachel Rose Epstein

Grandmother of Irwin Epstein (5/16)

Judy Ensler

Sister of Sheila DeFazio (5/19)

Rachel Goldberg

Mother of Leona Kirschner (5/19)

Beth Harwood-Lesser

Daughter-in-Law of Jean Lesser (5/19)

Bert Aubrey

Uncle of David Aubrey (5/20)

Ronald T Howard

Father of Victoria Wilmarth (5/20)

Lena Epstein

Mother of Pat Procton (5/21)

Stanley H. Beckerman

Husband of Ruth Beckerman (5/22)

Billy Gowryluk

Brother of June Feldman (5/22)

Pearl Tosky

Mother of Eric Tosky (5/22)

Beatrice Aubrey

Mother of David Aubrey (5/23)

Charles Kirschner

Father of Philip Kirschner (5/28)

Louis Borin

Husband of Muriel Borin (5/31)



General Donations

Evelyn & Richard Solow with gratitude and deep appreciation to a temple, congregation and Rabbi we love.

Bill Hersh for help with removal of chametz

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.

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.

May 2025

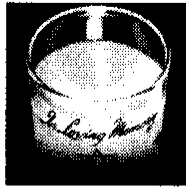
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Social Action Committee In Temple - 7pm	2 Shabbat Services In Temple and Zoom - 7pm	3 No Torah Study
4	5	6	7	8	9 Shabbat Services In Temple and Zoom - 7pm	10 Torah Study Zoom Only
11	12 Rabbi's Class: Ethical Wills Workshop 7pm	13 Coffee with the Rabbi 1:30pm	14	15	16 Shabbat Services In Temple and Zoom - 7pm	17 Hybrid Torah Study Temple & Zoom 9:30am
18 Current Events with Helman & Judy Brook 3pm	19	20 Lunch & Learn with the Rabbi	21 Congregant's Annual Meeting 7pm	22	23 Shabbat Services In Temple and Zoom - 7pm	24 No Torah Study
25	26	27	28	29 Journal Entries Due	30 Shabbat Services In Temple and Zoom - 7pm	31 Hybrid Torah Study Temple & Zoom 9:30am

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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