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## **WHAT A CELEBRATION!**

Thanks to the wonderful turn-out for our annual Journal Dinner in honor of Shelley Sherman, our fundraising goals were met and surpassed, so together we revitalize our Temple Isaiah!

**Co-Presidents:**  
 Kathie Davis  
 Terry Joseph  
 Shelley Sherman

**Rabbi:** Jerry Blum



**A**s I begin my 9th year as your rabbi, I want to revisit something I wrote a few years ago and I talk about often. The subject matter is Shabbat, but I want to think about it in terms of rest.

Rest of body and soul  
but also resting our mind.  
Much has happened

in the world we live in and I am not sure we give our minds, and our souls, enough consideration when flipping the station or scrolling through our news feeds. We need to power down a little bit. We need to focus on things that make us smile or calm us, and so I thought repeating the lessons of our Torah and adding some wisdom to remind us to rejuvenate ourselves is in order.

Each week during our Shabbat evening service, there is a favorite prayer that we all love singing, and I think we might want to understand the meaning a little better. That prayer, of course, is the *V'shamru*, and we sing it with glee. This *t'filah* (prayer) comes directly from the Torah (Exodus 31:16-17) and says:

*(16) The Israelite people shall keep the sabbath, observing the sabbath throughout the ages as a covenant for all time: (17) it shall be a sign for all time between Me and the people of Israel. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day God ceased from work and was refreshed.*

The English translation is quite beautiful and tells us to observe the Shabbat as a covenant for all time, a *B'rit Olam*. Very fitting for a Shabbat evening, but there are some words that can be translated and understood differently. The last verse: "God ceased from work and was refreshed," can be understood in many different ways.

The words, *Shavat VaYi-nafash* – 'rested and was refreshed' seem straight forward, but the Hebrew itself can tell a different story. In Hebrew, a *nafash* is

also a soul or body. These words can be understood as 'rest and you will be re-souled,' or better yet, in an interpretation by Rabbi Asher Knight he reads it as, "be still and breathe again". What an amazing concept, be still and begin the process of breathing.

Rabbi Alan Lew suggests that "We've talked ourselves into believing that we can solve any problem, overcome any obstacle, if we just do more...if we just think about it long and hard enough, if we just try a little harder. We think that ceaseless work will define our success." But it ends up being the exact opposite, and we all need to *Shavat VaYi-nafash*, we all need to rest, renew and breathe deeply so that our bodies, minds and spirits can become revitalized.

In her article from *Tablet Magazine* called "Powering Down," social worker Jennifer Bleyer says that:

*Shabbat is like exercising. You avoid it. You groan about it. You think of a million other things you would rather do. Finally, you drag yourself to do it and you feel amazing. You vow that you will keep doing it over and over again and become a whole new super healthy glowing you. You approach Oprah-ish levels of inner calm and rejuvenation. And you may just feel so present that you forget about your plugged-in life altogether. It's a religious ritual that even an atheist can love.*

Bleyer suggests that we all need to rest, to rejuvenate ourselves, to breathe a little, and so, too, do I. This summer, besides some researching, writing and self-development, Arlyn and I will be taking time to be still and breathe, to engage in some self-care and powering-down. We'll be getting out of town for a little while and just spending time together *Shavat'ing* and *VaYinafash'ing*, and this is something that I would suggest for all. We all need a little break. But don't worry, I will be around working on the High Holy Days (yes, I did just say that), leading a Shabbat and Tisha B'Av service and planning other new and interesting programming at TI after this much needed respite.

Wishing everyone a restful, safe and healthy summer.

*Rabbi Jerry*





**A**s I write this I have in mind two events: first, our wonderful Journal dinner at which we were free to celebrate our Temple Isaiah community and our Jewish identities; and second, Juneteenth which was yesterday.

In my experience they are connected by a thread. While I experienced antisemitism growing up I also witnessed racism both in person and on television watching the terrifying sight of George Wallace barring Black students from entering the University of Alabama. Coming of age in the 60's there was also much to celebrate: the voting rights act, the civil rights act, and a population which was confronted with the reality that some people who had been cruelly disadvantaged ought to get a little extra help.

That awareness grew as I saw that other populations, based on gender, religion, national origin or sexual identity were also being disadvantaged. Efforts towards diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) were enforced to try to right that imbalance.

Today DEI is being vilified and eliminated in large and petty ways. History is being erased and rewritten. Ironically, there is more empathy for White men, historically the most advantaged, than for any other population.

This brings me to the importance of Judaism and Temple Isaiah's Social Action Committee.

To quote Yolanda Savage-Narva, vice president of Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) for The Union of Reform Judaism: "[Our] vision, mission and values call us to be present in this moment and support the work of diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. This is what it means to be Jewish and support those in our communities and beyond as they bring their true, authentic selves into our spaces."

So, consider joining the social action committee and participating in calls to action, to the extent that you can. These are ways to protect human rights and practice Jewish teachings.

*Shelley, Terry, and Kathie*

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

Email images to: [isaiahgn@yahoo.com](mailto:isaiahgn@yahoo.com).

### Summer Services.

Continuing our long tradition of lay-led summer services, here's the list of dates and leaders for July. All services will begin at 7 PM and will be both in person and on Zoom. Be sure to join us for these warm and intimate services.

**July 4, 2025** – Belle & Elliott Gayer

**July 11, 2025** – Jonathan Wagner

**July 18, 2025** – Paula Newman & Belle Gayer

**July 25, 2025** – David Aubrey (tentative)

### Fundraiser & Programs Committee

Many organizations call fundraising 'development'. The goal: to develop and implement ways to raise the supplemental funds needed to grow their mission and programs.

Fundraising is essential, some may say a necessary evil. It is difficult to ask often for financial support, but we do, and we must.

Yet, Fundraising; by other names, could be gatherings of friends, learning opportunities, or a moment to show

off a skill. We bake, we eat, we learn, we purchase, we honor, and we contribute by participating, helping and donating to our space and our community.

Fundraising has a purpose and getting there can be enjoyable and rewarding.

Do you have an idea that might bring us together and raise a little something at the same time? Maybe twists on past ideas? Baking, cooking, sales, games, music, learning? Let us know! Let us help!

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

### Social Action Committee

Quite frankly, the present state of affairs is disheartening to say the least and it is becoming more and more difficult not to be totally discouraged. However, we must not allow ourselves to sink into a state of inertia. We must, both as a group and as individuals continue the struggle to save our democracy.

The June 14 No Kings Rally was quite successful, despite the awful weather (again). Temple Isaiah was well represented at the rally held in Mineola, with at least ten of us attending. That's a remarkable number, given the size of our congregation. We rallied by the courthouse with over 2000 others, then marched to the county legislative building where we sang in solidarity and listened to a number of meaningful poems. All of us who attended came away feeling encouraged and more optimistic. Subsequent events have blunted those feelings, but as stated above, we must get our voices heard.

Please continue to call, write and email your elected representatives on whatever issues are of most concern to each of you. 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)

Check with [5calls.org](http://5calls.org) and choose whichever issues resonate with you. Use the scripts provided when you contact your representatives. It's easy and hopefully, effective.

Other upcoming events which you may be interested in participating are as follows:

Tuesday, July 1, 1-3 pm: "Our Huddled Masses Breathing Fear: A Long Island Interfaith on the Moral and Human Consequences of Mass Immigrant Deportation", Gloria Dei Lutheran Church: 22 East 18th Street, Huntington Station. Includes statement of interfaith leaders condemning the mass deportation of immigrants; prayers and reflections by interfaith leaders supporting immigrant neighbors; testimony from immigrants and advocates describing ICE terror; culminated with a march from the church to the site of recent ICE arrests.

Friday, July 4, 12-1:30 pm: ICE HAS NO PLACE ON LONG ISLAND, Park and Ride Exit 63 on LIE; Click [HERE](#) for more precise directions.

*Judy Brook and Denise Miller*

### The Caring Committee

The Caring Committee wants to support everyone in need, and encourage temple members to support each other. Towards that effort, please note:

- Marcia Null is having knee replacement surgery at Northwell on July 14th. Please call, text, or email her before her surgery. She would like this.

- Agi Adler is recuperating nicely at her daughter's home in Boston. She had fallen and had shoulder replacement surgery. Please text her. Her phone and cell phone numbers are also in the Member Directory.

Please call temple members to say hello and wish them well. We can all use a bit of cheer now.

*Kathie Davis*

### From the Treasurer/Financial Secretary

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. Also, consider adding your 360 Circle donation for \$360 to your IRA RMD.

*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 \_\_\_\_\_



Our First Summer Service  
Friday, July 4th, 7pm

A Celebration of Freedom!

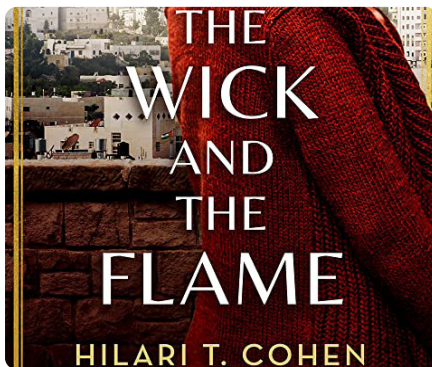




### Tisha B'Av

**Saturday, August 2nd, with Temple BethEl (details forthcoming)**

Join us for prayer and remembrance.



### Book Club

**Saturday, August 10th**

Still time to read!

## 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.



## July Celebrations & Rememberances



### ANNIVERSARIES

Richard & Terese Joseph.....July 3  
Jonathan Silver &  
Bella Bekker-Silver.....July 12



### BIRTHDAYS

Devon Shuriah.....July 5  
Marilyn Kornzweig.....July 9

Judy Brook.....July 17  
Denise Miller.....July 25

Ruth Isaac.....July 27  
Terese Joseph.....July 28



### Yahrzeits

**Bernard Goldenberg**  
Husband of Evelyn Goldenberg (7/2)

**Samuel Schwartz**  
Brother of Louis Schwartz (7/4)

**Jacob Tuchinsky**  
Grandfather of Belle Gayer (7/5)

**Ruth Wagner**  
Grandmother of Jonathan Wagner (7/5)

**Jack Neuman**  
Cousin of Kurt Kelman (7/6)

**Anna Eisenman**  
Mother of Bella Bekker-Silver (7/7)

**Muriel Salzman**  
Mother of Amy Gorman (7/7)

**Paula Smith**  
Cousin of Elliott Gayer (7/7)

**Alec Appleman**  
Great-uncle of David Aubrey (7/8)

**David Zane**  
Brother of Robert Zane (7/8)

**Al Loew**  
Uncle of Mindy Israel (7/9)

**Milton Tager**  
Uncle of Lloyd Perell (7/11)

**Matthew Rubenstein**  
Husband of Rita Rubenstein (7/12)

**Leon Beck**  
Father of Father of Meryl Menashe (7/13)

**Evelyn Israel**  
Mother of Howard Israel (7/13)

**Deborah Keck**  
Sister of Rabbi Jerry Blum (7/13)

**Joseph Melman**  
Brother-in-Law of Jean Lesser (7/13)

**James Munnelly**  
Stepfather of Brian Horton (7/14)

**Lechoslaw Oleksiej**  
Friend of the Gormans (7/16)

**Irene Elizabeth McTiernan**  
Mother of Gary McTiernan (7/17)

**Anthea Myslivecek**  
Close friend of Lloyd Perell (7/17)

**Edith Springer**  
Mother of Claude Springer (7/18)

**Kenneth Greenwald**  
Husband of Rachel Greenwald (7/21)

**Lewis Martin Gersman**  
Brother of Norman Gersman (7/24)

**Lewis Lofsky Smith**  
Husband of Beth Smith (7/24)

**Bernard Shiller**  
Father of Stephen Fein (7/25)

**Rachel Kirschner**  
Mother of Philip Kirschner (7/26)

**Edward Shapiro**  
Brother of Barbara Feldman (7/26)

**Jonathan Aubrey**  
Brother of David Aubrey (7/26)

**Kathrine Mayer**  
Mother of Alice Stein (7/29)

**Daisy Raynor**  
Mother of Linda Marshak (7/29)

**David Brook**  
Brother of Helman Brook (7/30)

**Sara Bennett**  
daughter of Saul and Joan Bennett (7/31)





### General Donations

**Paula Newman** in honor of Rabbi and Aryln's granddaughter;  
**and** in memory of Elaine Kaner.

**360 Circle** in honor of Rabbi Blum's granddaughter;  
**and** in honor of Terry Birbaum-Horton's success with this year's Journal Dinner.

**Ruth Isaac** with get well wishes for June Feldman.

### 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.

# July 2025

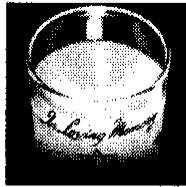
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Festive July 4th Shabbat Services In Temple and Zoom - 7pm	5 No Torah Study
6	7	8	9	10	11 Shabbat Services In Temple and Zoom - 7pm	12 No Torah Study
13	14	15	16	17	18 Shabbat Services In Temple and Zoom - 7pm	19 No Torah Study
20 Current Events with Helman & Judy Brook 3pm	21	22	23	24	25 Shabbat Services In Temple and Zoom - 7pm	26 No Torah Study
27	28	29	30	31		

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

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