



TEMPLE
ISAIAH

Bulletin

SEPTEMBER 2025

Office: 516-487-5373 | Email: office@templeisiahgn.org | Hours: Weds. & Fridays 12-3pm

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WELCOME 5786

The High Holy Days

Co-Presidents:

Kathie Davis
Terry Joseph
Shelley Sherman

Rabbi: Jerry Blum



Wasn't it just yesterday when we were getting ready for the summer vacation? Maybe a few days at the beach or in the country. And yet, each year when September rolls around I say to myself, where has the time gone? These past two months have flown by so quickly, and

it feels a little unnerving, to say the least.

Where has the time gone? I hear this all the time, especially when we are talking about our golden years. But this is also the existential question asked in the deepest recesses of our hearts during the *Yamim Noraim* – *The Days of Awe*. Where has the time gone?

Sheryl Sandberg, at the end of shloshim (the traditional 30-day mourning period) for her late husband, said that her friend, who is a rabbi, shared a short prayer that said, "please don't let me die while I am still alive." This is quite a shocking prayer (and personal statement), and I must tell you: it stopped me in my tracks. It forced me to ask myself, what can I learn about myself, my own resilience, and how can I communicate this to others around me? What is this experience of being alive?

The centerpiece of our High Holy Day service is the piyyut (Liturgical poem), "*Unetane Tokef*" – "*Let us speak of the great power of the day*". This poem voices the most central question of the High Holy Days, "what will this New Year bring to me"? There are many themes in this 4-part poem, but one that resonates with me is, *U'vashofar gadol Yitaka, v'kol d'mamah dakah yishamah* – *The great shofar will be sounded, and the still small voice will be heard*. I understand this to mean, the sound of the "Great Shofar" will spiritually awaken us, and we will hear our own minds more clearly. It will open our hearts and minds and allow us to reflect honestly, and thoughtfully on the past year. It is not to trigger guilt, nor is it there to scare us, but rather to allow ourselves the room to grow both emotionally and

spiritually. Perhaps to see our lives differently and to celebrate the blessings we have, and maybe we can be role models showing others how to live positively and be grateful for the time we have on this earth.

Just days ago, we began the Hebrew month of Elul, and it is a magical and profound month marked by the daily sounding of the Shofar. Those shrill sounds act as a spiritual alarm clock awakening us to the dawning of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur.

Elul is a month of self-examination and returning to a godly path. It begins the season of holiness and marks a time of renewal, encouraging us to cast away the old, perhaps toxic, self-images we may be hiding, and to embrace self-healing. Elul is also the month of S'lichot-Penitential Prayers for Forgiveness. It is a time when we ask for forgiveness from God and our loved ones, but it is also a time when we forgive, and just as we forgive our loved ones, so should we have "Rachmanut"-compassion for ourselves. Elul is a month when we recommit ourselves to relationships with the Divine, and with those who are most important in our lives.

Many who practice yoga set an intention, or focus for their practice, and ultimately for their day-to-day lives. In Jewish tradition, our intention is called *Kavannah* – also a focus or intention. *Kavannah* acts as a foundation of mindful awareness for our journey through this month of holiness. With *kavannah*, we begin to pay attention to "the important things in our lives", and we gain an understanding of the need for gratitude in our daily lives.

As we enter this sacred month of Elul, let us remember to cultivate a sense of gratitude and focus on the important things in life, because time is passing. May we release negativity and breathe in forgiveness, and may the "Great Shofar" awaken that inner "still small voice" so we may return to a space of wholeness, peace and love, and strive not to die while we are still alive.

I wish you and those you love, a *Shanah Tovah U'metukah* – *A good and sweet year*, and I look forward to seeing you in the temple as we usher in 5786.

Rabbi Jerry



Temple Isaiah was founded in 1967 in the aftermath of the Six Day War between Israel and Syria, Jordan, and Egypt, with the support of Saudi Arabia and other Arab neighbors.

The founders, who had lived through World War II and the Holocaust just 20 years earlier, were reminded that the Jewish people needed a home where they would be accepted and safe. So they celebrated the end of the war and the promise of the State of Israel. Temple Isaiah was always dedicated to progressive Judaism based on the code of ethics found in the Torah that insists, among other things, on the sanctity of life, the rejection of murder, and the demand not to bear false witness. The founders likely never foresaw the situation which now faces progressive Jews who

still believe that the Jewish people, like all others, deserve a state in their historic homeland.

Rabbi Josh Weinberg, the head of ARZA (the Zionist arm of the reform movement) asks: "...how do we remain faithful to this covenant when reality on the ground could feel like a betrayal of its core values? How do we approach the increasingly difficult conundrum of affirming Israel's right to exist, for Jews to be a free people in our Land, and separate the Zionist project and significance of a modern Jewish State from the current Israeli government that expresses little interest in ending the war, returning the hostages, and time and again acquiesces to the Haredi and ultra-nationalist parties all the while confronting the images of starvation, flattened homes in Gaza, and the rising death tolls among the innocent civilians?"

I believe, as does Rabbi Weinberg, that the answer isn't to abandon Zionism but to return it to its moral roots.

Shelley, Terry, and Kathie

Share your Simchas or Memories with us.

Email images to: isaiahgn@yahoo.com.

Let's Talk and Listen!

Some years ago a member created a discussion group known, at that time, as "The Ambivalence Group".

It originally sprang from questions about Jewish beliefs and practices, but grew to encompass broader existential topics. It met monthly and members could come when they were available, and raise any issues on their minds.

We are considering reviving a discussion group, if there is interest and the interested members can determine the parameters, including how often to meet. If you think you would enjoy this PLEASE respond to Shelley to indicate your interest. It will not obligate you to anything!

Social Action Committee

It is quite difficult to be upbeat given the current state of things lately, but we must remain committed to keep trying to better our world, staying true to the Jewish tradition of tikkun olam.

As our High Holy Days approach and we tend to look inward to examine ourselves, we must also look outward and examine our relationship to the world around us. What can we do to improve the plight of others, be they immigrants seeking a better life here or fleeing horrendous conditions in their native countries, those who lack food or housing or those suffering from loneliness or isolation?

There are many things we can do even now, when we might be experiencing a sense of despair. One that we can all participate in is our annual food collection for Hatzilu which will take place, as usual, during the High Holy Days. We have been quite generous in the past and are sure to continue that tradition.

To celebrate the true meaning of Labor Day we can attend the **Labor Day "Workers Over Billionaires" Rally-May Day Strong Rally on Monday, September 1 at 10:30 at the Nassau Legislative Building, 1500 Franklin Ave, Mineola.**

For those who might be interested, look into *Waymakers Virtual Mileage Challenge*, to benefit the Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights. Sign up online at: **Become a Fundraiser: Waymakers Virtual Mileage Challenge**. Also, for those who may be interested, check out: **Upcoming Activism Events Assemble Long Island.**

There is much that we can and should do to improve ourselves and the world. If you hear of an action, please spread the word among your fellow congregants, as it is difficult for one or two people to keep up with all the ongoing events.

And, again:

Mid-term elections are in November, so please make phone calls, write post-cards and letters, canvass door-to-door and send money to help elect representatives who actually represent our values, throughout the country.

Please continue to call, write and email our 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

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand 202-224-4451 (Washington)
212-688-6262 (Manhattan)
www.gillibrand.senate.gov

Rep. Thomas Suozzi 202-225-3335 (Washington)
718-631-0040 (Douglaston)
516-861-1070 (Glen Cove)
suozzi.house.gov

Check with 5calls.org and choose whichever issues resonate with you. Use the scripts provided when you contact your representatives. It's easy and, hopefully, effective.

Most importantly, don't give up. As long as we have our rights, let's assert them. Action alleviates anxiety.

Judy Brook and Denise Miller

Co-chairs of Social Action Committee

The Caring Committee

It is thrilling to announce that Terry Birnbaum Horton's father, Jules Birnbaum, just turned 92 and Terry held a barbecue to honor him. In addition, Marcia Null and Agi Adler are recuperating nicely and doing well. Agi

will return home after Labor Day, so do get in touch. This is good news all around!

Please let me know about any updates.

Kathie Davis

The Buddy Systems

Your friendly Presidium suggests two "new" ways for Temple Isaiah members to stay in touch:

Buddy System!

Some years ago we instituted a Buddy system in which members who lived alone agreed with another temple member to pair up and stay in close touch. We are reviving that program as our population of single members has grown. This is, of course, completely voluntary. However, we ask you to let us know if you are participating and who your partner will be so that

we will have another way to get information about your health and safety if we are unable to reach you directly for whatever reason.

Phone Chain!

Each Board Member has designated members to call when they are requested from time to time to activate the phone chain. So you will be reminded of upcoming events and any other important news. This will give you an opportunity to get to know your caller (if you don't already) and to be kept abreast of Temple events.

We hope these methods will help everyone.

Membership Committee

Temple Isaiah is offering **free** High Holy Day tickets this year. What a great opportunity to invite your family,

friends and neighbors to observe and celebrate the holidays, meet our warm, welcoming members and Rabbi, and see how special Temple Isaiah is.

Amy Gorman

Treasurer/Financial Secretary

Calling all Temple Members:

We will start sending monthly statements by email, to assist in paying minor charges (i.e. events) and to keep up with your dues payments. If you have questions about past due balances, please contact me (email is best: williamhhersh@gmail.com, and please note the h in the middle). You can pay by Zelle (you'll need to call the office for details the first time you use this) or send us a check! Thank you, those of you who have already squared your accounts.

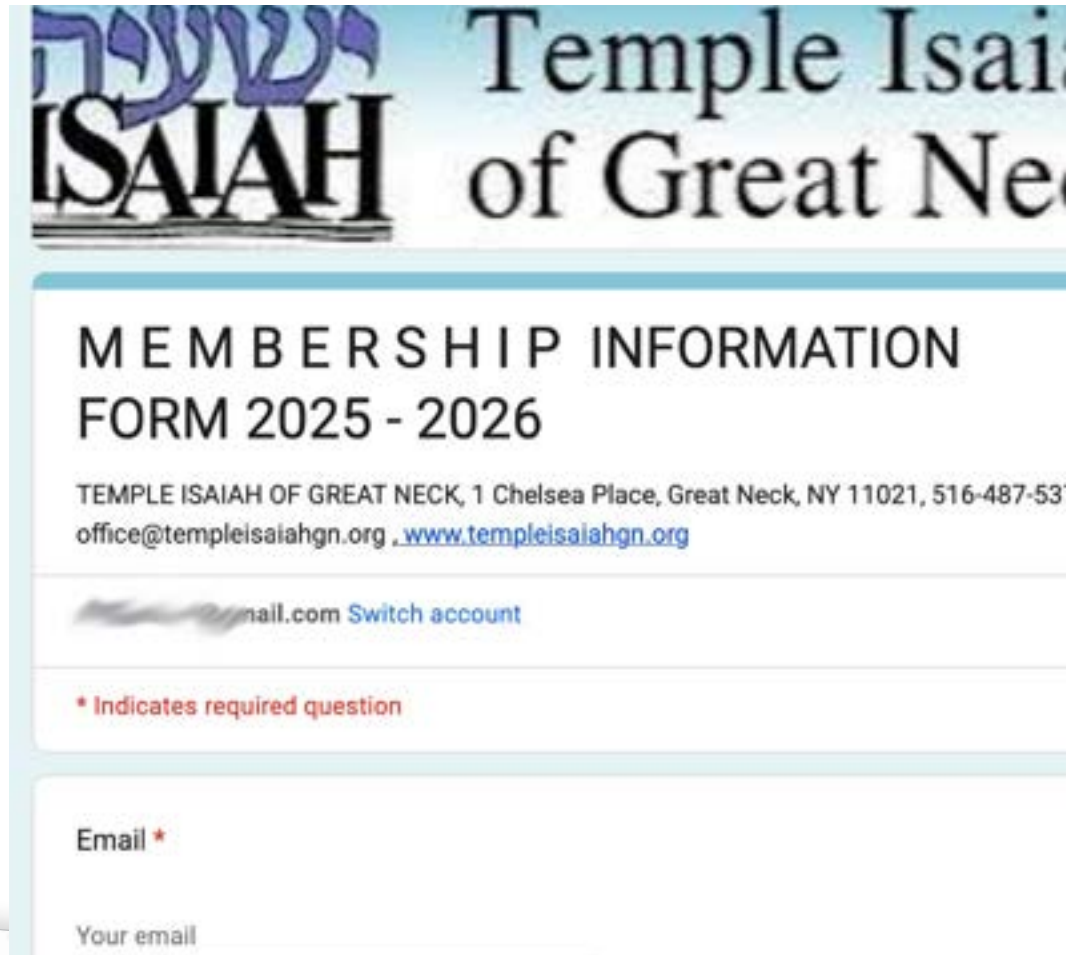
The new fiscal year started June 1, so please fill out and send in your dues pledge forms or use the electronic form, and start those payments soon. Some of you have made a dues payment without submitting a pledge form – please, please, send in or fill out the on-line form. Remember, if you are making 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

It's Pledge Time

If you haven't already done so, please submit your yellow pledge form now or **CLICK THE BLUE WORDS** below to **complete our new, easy electronic form online**.

Remember to hit **SUBMIT** when you're done and watch for the confirmation screen that your pledge has been received. If you don't see that screen, make sure you've answered all required questions.



Temple Isaiah of Great Neck

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION FORM 2025 - 2026

TEMPLE ISIAH OF GREAT NECK, 1 Chelsea Place, Great Neck, NY 11021, 516-487-5311
office@templeisaiiahgn.org , www.templeisaiiahgn.org

@mail.com [Switch account](#)

* Indicates required question

Email *

Your email



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 _____



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.

[CLICK THIS LINE OF TEXT TO ACCESS THE FORM AND ORDER A PLAQUE NOW](#)

Add Your Name to Our New Year's Card

Share the sweetness of 5786 and wish a Shanah Tovah to our Temple family by including your name(s) in our Temple's New Year's Card, painted by Nina Koss. For only \$36, your name(s) (or family name) will be listed as a congregational well-wisher. You may also purchase a box (or more) of 10 personalized cards to send to non-Temple friends and family at a cost of \$25 each.



[CLICK THIS LINE OF TEXT TO ACCESS THE FORM AND ADD YOUR NAME OR ORDER CARDS NOW](#)

and don't forget to hit SUBMIT and watch for the confirmation screen!

Would You Like To Usher During Services?

The High Holy Days services are always well attended, and as usher you can help things flow more smoothly. Please contact Terry Joseph if you'd like to contribute your time during these important days.

Would You Like to Make Additions To The Memorial Book?

Each year we revise the Memorial Book for the High Holy Days services. Please contact the office if you have names you would like to add or if you need to be reminded of whose names you're already listing.

High Holy Day Schedule 2025-5786

Selichot -Saturday, September 13th
Program: 8:00PM, Service: 9:15-10:00 PM
Followed by Collation

Erev Rosh Hashanah
Monday September 22nd – 7:30 PM

Rosh Hashanah: 1st Day
Tuesday, September 23rd
Morning Service: 10:00 AM
Schiller-Tuchinsky Collation Luncheon

Rosh Hashanah: 2nd Day
Wednesday, September 24th
Program: 10:30 AM
Tashlich: 12:30 – 1:30 PM
(Steppingstone Park)

Yom Kippur: Kol Nidre
Wednesday, October 1st – 7:30 PM

Yom Kippur: Day
Thursday, October 2nd
Morning Service: 10:00 AM
Discussion 1:15 – 2:30 PM
Meditation/Moment at Ark– 3:45 PM
Afternoon Service – 4:15 – 5:30 PM
Yizkor: 5:30 PM
N'ilah: 6:00 PM
Break-the-Fast: 7:00 PM
Sponsored by Denise Miller & Steve Fein

Erev Sukkot:
Monday, October 6th
Annual Sukkah Party and BBQ Dinner 6:00 PM
Shabbat and Erev Sukkot Services 7:00 PM
Sukkot: Morning Service
Tuesday, October 7th: 10:30 – 12:00 PM
Followed by Collation

Erev Simchat Torah
Monday, October 13th
Simchat Torah: Yizkor
Tuesday, October 14th, 10:30 AM
Atria Cuttermill

RSVPs are required for High Holiday Tickets, at no charge for guests or family members.

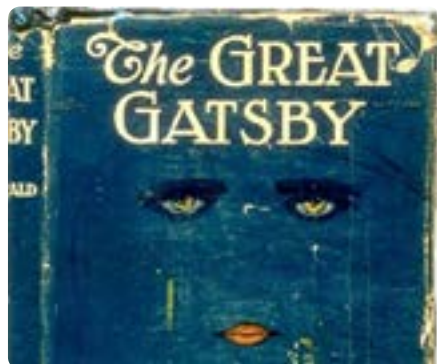
Please click the address to email office@templeisaiahgn.org

September Events



Conversational Spanish with Reva Levy **Beginning Thursday, September 4th, 10am**

continuing each Thursday through mid-November. Come and brush up on your Spanish conversational skills. \$10 per lesson. [PLEASE CLICK HERE TO RSVP FOR CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH.](#)



Book Group Honors a Centennial **Tuesday, September 9th, 7:30pm**

led by Kit Benton, we are joining the celebration for the 100th anniversary of the publication of *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, written while he lived in Great Neck, which he used as a model for West Egg. [PLEASE CLICK HERE TO RSVP for 'Gatsby.'](#)

Save the October Date!



Annual Volunteers' Luncheon **Sunday, October 19th, 12:30pm**

honoring two of our most stalwart volunteers. We will be acknowledging and thanking Paula Newman and Ruth Isaac for their years of service in so many ways. Invitations are in the mail; please respond promptly.



BIRTHDAYS

Claude Springer.....September 2
Terry Birnbaum-Horton....September 17
Rachel Greenwald.....September 21
Kit Benton.....September 30

SHLOSHIM

Marc Frader, Brother-in-law of
Carol and Bill Hersh



YAHRZEITS

Sophie Kaplan

Mother of Irma Leboff (9/1)

Sylvia Kelman

Wife of Kurt Kelman, mother of Ellen,
Mark & Steven Kelman (9/2)

Rita Wechsler

Wife of Morton Wechsler (9/2)

May Secofsky

Mother of Martin & Joan Secofsky (9/3)

Marjorie Finkelstein

Friend of Willa Lewis (9/4)

Meir O'Brien

Great-nephew of Paula Newman (9/4)

Shirl K Lewis

Mother of Willa Lewis (9/5)

Steven Richard Wachter

Cousin of Diana Kerievsky (9/5)

Betty Burghardt

Mother of David Burghardt (9/6)

Annie Jaraslawski

Grandmother of June Feldman (9/6)

Walter Levenbach

Uncle of William Rosenberg (9/6)

David Diamond

Husband of Shelley Sherman (9/7)

Arnold Jacobs

Uncle of Jonathan Wagner (9/8)

Philip Mayer, Jr.

Father of Jacqueline Ferguson (9/8)

Rita Loew Weissman

Mother of Jean Lesser (9/8)

Barnard Linden

Father of Michelle Birnbaum (9/9)

Benjamin Joseph

Father of Richard Joseph (9/10)

Nina Gabay

Mother of Sima Auerbach (9/11)

Norma Hersh

Mother of William Hersh (9/11)

John Lesser

Husband of Jean Lesser (9/11)

Bella Koss

Mother of Nina Koss (9/12)

John Moses Ferguson

Father of David Ferguson (9/13)

Frances Greenberg

Mother of Lorraine Weinberger (9/15)

Melita Isaacs

Mother of Patricia Isaacs (9/16)

Miriam Beck

Mother of Meryl Menashe (9/17)

Evelyn Slonim

Sister of Ruth Mandelbaum (9/17)

Elaine Birnbaum

Mother of Rod Birnbaum (9/22)

Gary Ramsey

Friend of Rabbi Jerry Blum (9/22)

Maxwell Marder

Husband of Harriet Marder (9/23)

Alvin Borden

Father of Patricia Gabay (9/25)

Edward Isaacs

Father of Patricia Isaacs (9/25)

Janet Linden

Mother of Michelle Birnbaum (9/25)

Bessie Hamel

Grandmother of Denise Miller (9/26)

Kurt Kelman

Husband of Sylvia Kelman, father of
Ellen, Mark & Steven Kelman (9/26)

Carol Manheim

Aunt of Amy Gorman (9/26)

Robert Bruce

Husband of Diane Haber (9/28)

Joseph Lieber

Grandfather of David Aubrey (9/28)

Roberto Torres

Father of Terry Joseph (9/28)

Michael Kahan

Friend of Willa Lewis & Edward Moulin
(9/30)

Celia Miller

Grandmother of Denise Miller (9/30)



General Donations

In honor of Jules Birnbaum for his 92nd birthday:

**Terry Birnbaum-Horton,
Kathie Davis, Carol & Bill Hersh,
Ruth Isaac, Terry Joseph, Denise
Miller & Steve Fein, Shelley Sherman**

Kathie Davis in memory of Leona Marks.

Shelley Sherman in memory of David Diamond

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.



September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Conversational Spanish in Temple 10am	5 Shabbat Services in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	6 No Torah Study
7	8	9 Book Group: The Great Gatsby 7:30pm	10	11 Conversational Spanish in Temple 10am	12 Shabbat Services in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	13 No Torah Study
14	15	16	17	18 Conversational Spanish in Temple 10am	19 Shabbat Services in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	20 No Torah Study
21	22 Erev Rosh Hashanah 7:30pm	23 Rosh Hashanah First Day 10am	24 Rosh Hashanah Second Day 10:30am	25 Conversational Spanish in Temple 10am	26 Shabbat Services in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	27 No Torah Study
28	29	30				



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Great Neck, New York 11021
(516) 487-9600

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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 office@templeisaiahgn.org for confirmation.

Deadline for bulletin submissions: 20th of the month