



TEMPLE  
ISAIAH

# Bulletin

DECEMBER 2025

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

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## CHANUKAH

*Join us on the first night of our festival of faith in the light*

*for latkes and jelly donuts;*

*See details under Events and in the Calendar*

**Co-Presidents:**

Kathie Davis  
Terry Joseph  
Shelley Sherman

**Rabbi:** Jerry Blum



**M**any of us have heard the saying, “the darkest hour is just before the dawn,” which was attributed to English theologian Thomas Fuller back in 1650. We all understand the quote is not scientifically literal; it is a metaphor for the human experience

where challenges and despair are often at their most intense right before a solution or improvement appears. It is also a fitting metaphor when speaking of the Hebrew month of Kislev, the literally darkest month of the Jewish calendar year (right up there with December). When Hanukkah falls, the moon has been waning for a few days as its crescent becomes smaller and smaller, thus as we light our Hanukkiyot (the Hanukkah Menorahs), we are literally adding more light to our world. I can fully understand why the Sages urged us to add more light. They knew that the darkest moments in life need more light upon them, and who better to do that, than us?

I have often challenged us to become the light in this world, and most acutely in our own community. With that, I want to tell you about how this light can be kindled.

The other day, just 2 days before Thanksgiving, I and a few members of Temple Isaiah participated in a most extraordinary experience. It was an Interfaith Pre-Thanksgiving service that gathered spiritual leaders from six Houses of Worship. Each leader delivered passionate messages on the meaning of gratitude through ritual, prayer, poetry, homily and song, and each message brought light, warmth and inspiration into an already packed room. It was a cold and rainy (perhaps rainy was an understatement) night, and yet, the room was filled with music and friendship.

I tell this story because it was the first of many new projects we will be working on with Temple Tikvah (the event was held there) and the feedback was quite amazing. The camaraderie in the room was palpable and there was great excitement for us to learn, pray and just hang out together. No, this is not a merger, but rather a coming together of two like-minded Jewish communities that want to see a less divided Jewish community. Both Rabbi Scheinberg and I agree that sharing learning, prayer and social experiences would be great opportunities for both synagogues.

So how can we personally spread more light (and help)? By participating in events, services and learning opportunities. Oh, and by inviting others to join us. When you hear about new activities, please, check them out. Volunteer to help. Invite friends, neighbors and family, and show up!

This month, we will celebrate Hanukkah as a community once again with a Pot-Luck dinner, and other smaller celebrations. You will be informed of all the final dates and times, and I urge you to join along with friends and family.

One last thing: as many know, I will be out for some shoulder surgery (which has been put off a few times). I ask for your understanding and flexibility over the next few weeks, and if you can help out with services, that would be awesome as well. We may have to do a few extra zoom services, but we will make every effort to make sure you are all apprised of the schedules.

Wishing all a Chag Urim Sameach – A Joyous (and meaningful) Festival of Lights.

*Rabbi Jerry*



**P**erhaps this article needs a disclaimer that the views expressed are solely those of the author, but I somehow doubt that, but if you agree or disagree, lets talk!

In Newsday recently I read an article about a USPS mail carrier who encountered ICE agents detaining a man in Westhampton. She called out, "You can't do this," and demanded to see a warrant, but was ignored. The man, Spanish speaking (as was the mail carrier), was loaded into the police car. She impulsively opened the door and urged the man to flee which he did, although was shortly recaptured. She was, of course, arrested and charged with obstructing a federal proceeding. She asked the agents, "what

are you going to tell your children about what you do?"

I am deeply moved by her courage, for she clearly acted out of conscience and humanity. But, as I considered how she is almost certainly going to lose her government job, I thought about how different things would be if more people resisted. If more people had resisted in Germany and other places where fascism was taking root and growing, might they have changed things? To me, her act was also patriotic. She invoked the law and her image of America which was being broken by the agents.

We have a vibrant social action committee led by Judy Brook and Denise Miller, who post opportunities for resistance. Please consider joining when you are able, so we can raise our voices together against the trampling of our rights.

*"To be a free people is not a privilege. It is a right and a responsibility." Rabbi Josh Weinberg, ARZA*

*Shelley, Terry, and Kathie*

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

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

### The Caring Committee

We hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends and will have a very special holiday season ahead. We are here for you when you need us, in times of need and in good times. We are a Temple Isaiah family and care deeply for you.

*Kathie Davis*

### Bake Sale Committee

Temple Isaiah's Annual Bake Sale was a great success. Thanks to those who purchased delicious baked goodies and our talented and generous bakers who lovingly baked them: David Aubrey, Bella Bekker-Silver, Claudia Benton, Judy and Amy Brook, Elliott Gayer, Rachel Greenwald, Johanna Hurwitz, Nina Koss, Jean Lesser and Paula Newman.

*Terry Joseph and Amy Gorman*

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### Fundraising & Community Building

The bazaar was a family affair, with everybody pitching in.

It took us three weeks to set up, and yet, on the last day, in 3 hours our super efficient crew was able to break everything down! It took a few more days to put everything away, but the sanctuary was up and running the first day.

There are no words to express the gratitude and love I have for everyone who participated. Some of you gave up appointments, plans, games, etc. to be a part of the

bazaar effort. A big **thank you** to all who participated, to all who purchased and to the Living Church, our lovely tenants, for being extremely helpful in setting up and giving up their rental space at the Temple in order for us to be open to the public.

In case you want to know, we raised over \$6500!

*Terry Joseph*

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### Treasurer/Financial Secretary

Calling all Temple Members:

December 31 is approaching! Last chance to do your end-of-year charitable donation to Temple Isaiah! 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!

Once again, if you are making RMDs (Required Minimum Distribution) from an IRA or an inherited IRA, you can contact your brokerage and have them send us a check as a QCD (Qualified Charitable Donation), and

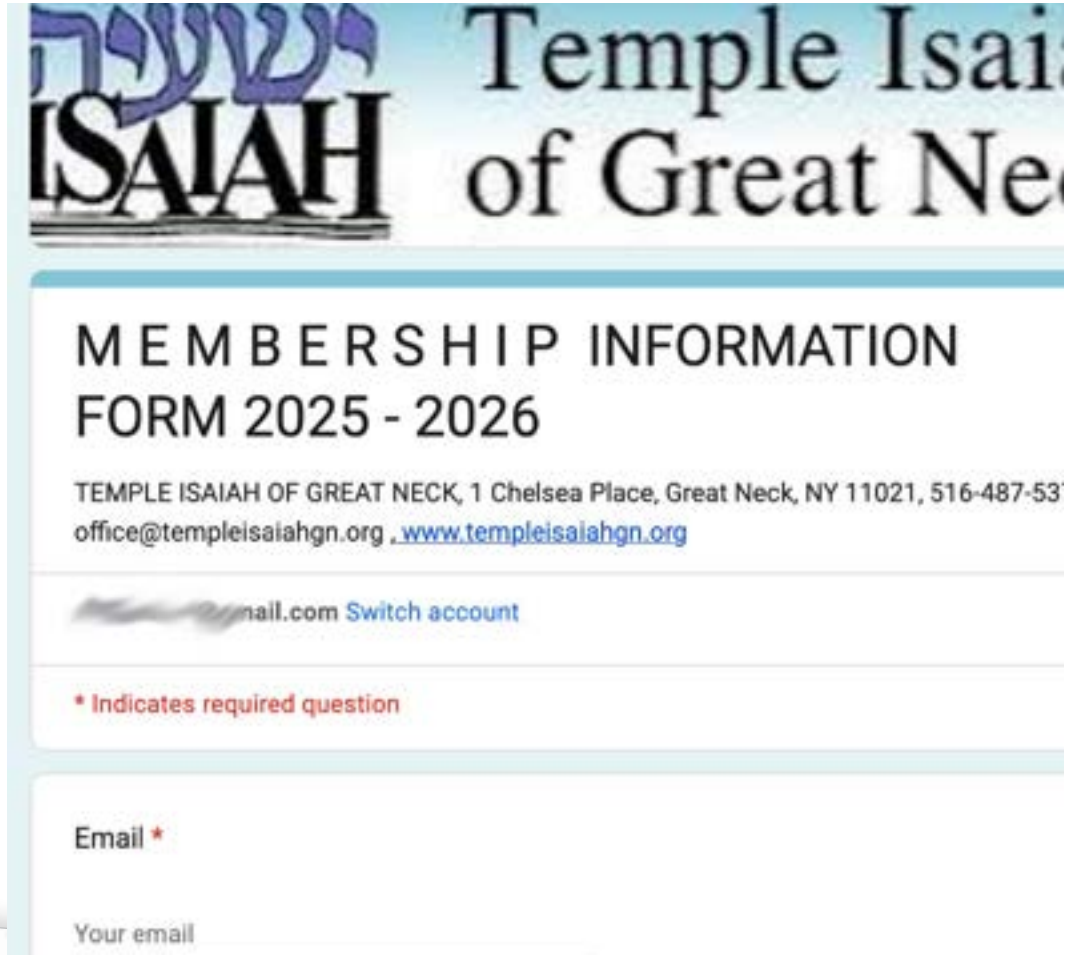
it is not taxable but still counts towards your RMD. It has to go directly from the broker to the Temple. Use it for your dues, recent items that perhaps were not already sent in (like your Kol Nidre Appeal contribution and the Volunteers Luncheon Oct. 19) – maybe share the tax savings with us and give more! Remember that brokerages get a lot of these requests in December so don't wait until the last minute.

*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.



**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION FORM 2025 - 2026**

TEMPLE ISIAIAH OF GREAT NECK, 1 Chelsea Place, Great Neck, NY 11021, 516-487-5300  
office@templeisaiiahgn.org , [www.templeisaiiahgn.org](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

### Social Action Committee

Remember to spend your money responsibly this holiday season. These days, there may be no greater power than to protest with your pocketbook.

As always, we can call, write and email our elected representatives on whatever issues are of most concern. 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.

Keep resisting and persisting.

*Judy Brook and Denise Miller*

*Co-chairs of Social Action Committee*



### **First Night of Chanukah Sunday, November 14, 5pm**

Join us for latkes and jelly donuts as we light the first candle together. Please contact Jonathan Wagner and watch the Weekly for details.



### **Potluck Chanukah Dinner Friday, December 19th, 6pm Service before dinner**

Do you love schmaltzy foods? We have a lot of good cooks, and we will have yummy Chanukah fair and a wonderful time together. Please call Marcia Null or Kathie Davis to let us know what you'll be bringing. We expect a full house.



### **Current Events with Judy & Helman Brook Sunday, December 28th at 3pm**

Gather your wits and share your wisdom as we consider what's unfolding in our world, the media coverage, and what it means for our lives.



## BIRTHDAYS

Mindy Israel.....December 4  
Barbara Feldman.....December 6  
Howard Gorman.....December 7



## Yahrzeits

### Goldie Cohen

Mother of Sheila DeFazio (12/1)

### Cissy Sherman

Aunt of Shelley Sherman (12/1)

### Harvey Malina Gusler

Brother of Diana Kerievsky (12/3)

### Susan Bendor

Mother of Cathy & Jane Bendor (12/4)

### Abraham Berkowitz

Grandfather of Sheila DeFazio (12/4)

### Charles Maller

Father of Al Maller (12/6)

### Erling Tholfsen

Father of Judy Brook (12/6)

### Golda Appleman

Great-Grandmother of David Aubrey (12/7)

### Ralph Jacobs

Father of Gail Gordon (12/8)

### Hulda Fibel Lesser

Mother-in-law of Jean Lesser (12/8)

### Ilonka Hans

Mother of Mortimer Hans (12/9)

### Toby Rosenberg

Mother of Ruth Isaac (12/9)

### Samuel H. Goldfarb

Father of Norman Goldfarb (12/13)

### Harry Tuchinsky

Father of Belle Gayer (12/13)

### Joseph Zelesky

Great-grandfather of Jonathan Wagner (12/17)

### Shirley Miller

Mother of Denise Miller (12/19)

### Emily Soifer

Daughter of Arlene Soifer (12/20)

### Louis Cohen

Father of Sheila DeFazio (12/21)

### Peter Alpert

Son of of Beatrice & Irving Alpert (12/22)

### Jack Hurwitz

Friend of Lloyd Perell (12/24)

### Harold Marks

Father of Katherine Davis (12/25)

### Rachel Alexander-Tholfsen

Mother of Judy Brook (12/26)

### Esther Causanschi

Mother of Golda Shapiro (12/26)

### Anna Rosenthal Brook

Mother of Helman Brook (12/30)

### Jerome L. Kropp

Uncle of Willa Lewis (12/30)

### Rose Kropp

Grandmother of Willa Lewis (12/30)

### William Kropp

Grandfather of Willa Lewis (12/30)



## General Donations

**Helman & Judy Brook, Kathie Davis, Carol & Bill Hersh, Denise Miller & Steve Fein, Terry Birnbaum-Horton, Ruth Isaac, Shelley Sherman, Terry & Richard Joseph** in honor of Meryl and Jack Menashe's 50th Wedding Anniversary;  
**and** in honor of Barbara Feldman on

the occasion of her 90th birthday.

**Helman & Judy Brook** in memory of Erling Tholfsen, Rachel Alexander-Tholfsen, Anna Rosenthal-Brook

**Barbara Feldman** in memory of Esther Shapiro

**Shelley Sherman** in memory of Lydia Sherman

**Howard and Mindy Israel, Barbara Feldman, and Lloyd Perell** to alleviate suffering in Jamaica

## 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.



# December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 <b>Shabbat Services</b> Zoom Only 7pm	6 <b>No Torah Study</b>
7	8	9	10	11	12 <b>Shabbat Services</b> in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	13 <b>Torah Study</b> In Temple and Zoom - 9:30am
14 <b>Erev Chanukah</b> Candle lighting 5pm	15	16	17	18	19 <b>Shabbat Services and Potluck Dinner</b> in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	20 <b>Torah Study</b> In Temple and Zoom - 9:30am
21	22	23	24	25	26 <b>Shabbat Services</b> in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	27 <b>Torah Study</b> In Temple and Zoom - 9:30am
28 <b>Current Events</b> with Helman & Judy Brook 3pm	29	30	31			



# RIVERSIDE- Nassau North Chapels

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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](mailto:office@templeisaiahgn.org) for confirmation.

**Deadline for bulletin submissions: 20th of the month**