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INCLUSION

February is Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month, established in 2009 by the Jewish Special Education International Consortium.

See details under Events and in the Calendar

Co-Presidents:

Kathie Davis
Terry Joseph
Shelley Sherman

Rabbi: Jerry Blum



Planting Hope Together

This year, February arrives with the onset of Tu Bishvat and the tender buds of promise along with the ache of recent pain held side by side. Our hearts are still heavy after the shootings in Minneapolis, acts of

violence that shattered lives, frightened communities, and reminded us how fragile our shared sense of safety can be. And yet, alongside the grief, many of us witnessed something else; faith communities stepping into the streets together, clergy and lay leaders standing shoulder to shoulder, people of different traditions praying, protesting peacefully, comforting mourners, and insisting that despair will not have the final word.

Judaism does not ask us to turn away from brokenness. Rather, our Jewish tradition teaches us to face it honestly, and then to act. This month, as we mark Tu Bishvat, Rosh HaShanah La'llanot, The New Year of the Trees, we are given language and imagery that speak powerfully to this moment. Tu Bishvat is not only about celebrating trees as they are; it is about believing in what can still grow. It is about planting seeds even when the ground feels cold, even when the future is uncertain.

A beloved song of Tu Bishvat, HaShkedia Porachat—The Almond Tree Is Blooming, captures this spirit beautifully. The song opens with a scene of quiet wonder, “the almond tree is blooming, the golden sun is shining, birds announcing the arrival of the festival.” It reminds us that renewal often begins softly, almost imperceptibly. But then the second verse shifts in tone and urgency:

“The land is crying out
The time of planting has arrived
Each person shall take a tree
We'll stride out with spades.”

This is not a passive song. The land cries out, and we are called to respond. Each person must take a tree. Each of us must pick up a spade.

In moments like these, after violence and upheaval, it can be tempting to ask, what difference can one person make? Tu Bishvat answers clearly, planting is a collective act made up of individual choices. No single seed creates a forest, but without each seed, no forest can ever exist. The faith leaders and communities who came together in Minneapolis modeled this truth. They did not erase the pain, but they refused to let it stand alone. They planted seeds of solidarity, dignity, and hope in soil that had been scorched by violence.

This year, let us expand our understanding of what we plant. Yes, we plant trees to heal the earth, honoring our sacred responsibility as guardians of creation. But we must also plant seeds of peace, unity, justice, and hope, in our congregation, in our surrounding community, and in our nation. We plant them when we listen across differences, when we show up for one another in grief, when we speak out against hatred, and when we insist that every human being is created b'tzelem Elohim, in the image of God.

Hope, in Jewish tradition, is not naïve optimism. It is a disciplined, courageous action rooted in faith. As the prophet Jeremiah wrote to a broken people in exile, “Build houses and live in them, plant gardens and eat their fruit” (Jeremiah 29:5). The words of Jeremiah teach us that even in exile, and especially there, we are commanded to plant.

May this Tu Bishvat inspire us to take up our spades together. May we hear the land crying out, the streets crying out, and respond not with fear, but with faith. And may the seeds we plant now grow into a Sukkat Shalom, a canopy of peace and blessing for all people.

Rabbi Jerry



Each month I write a column which raises issues facing our country, our community, and Judaism. I invite conversations and responses with the tagline "Lets Talk".

This month I am varying the Presidents' message to address an issue that few of us want to talk about- how to assure that Temple Isaiah can stay alive and thrive.

It is no secret that the changed demographics in Great Neck have hit us and the other Reform synagogues hard. While we still offer programs, classes, Torah study, fun activities, fundraisers small and large, and all of the religious and holiday commemorations, it is getting more difficult to do so with so few people doing way too much to keep things going. The reality is that we need everyone's help. There are so many ways to contribute to the health and vigor of our

synagogue- we welcome any effort. Please join a committee, volunteer to help out at an event, or lend a hand however you are able.

Just as important: come to our array of events. They are inspiring, stimulating, fun and an opportunity to spend time with interesting and likeable people.

Please read the bulletin and weeklies and show up for activities you would enjoy.

Try Torah study which is open to everyone, no prior experience needed. Attend Lunch and Learn and Current Events and our Purim spiel and Tu B'shevat seder. I believe that you will be glad that you did. Being together keeps our community vital.

Mort Hans, Jean Lesser and I invite you to participate in a discussion group with topics to be raised by the participants themselves. We will be scheduling this in the near future, so get in touch if there's something on your mind.

Without all of you we are just a building - you make us a community.

Let's talk!

Shelley, Terry, and Kathie

**Our celebratory Gala Dinner honoring *Terry Joseph*,
will take place on THURSDAY, MAY 28TH, 2026
from 6pm - 11pm
at Leonard's Palazzo of Great Neck**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Hello from The Caring Committee

We hope that you are all well and safe after the snow and ice storm. Please be careful when you go out.

Have you chosen a buddy yet? Recently, I contacted my buddy who was not all right because of high blood pressure. Everything turned out well, fortunately, because it was monitored and all is fine, but the support

and attention we can give each other is valuable, too.

With our buddy system, you pick someone who you would like to have as a buddy and speak to him or her every day to make sure that you are both okay.

As our member population gets "younger" this contact is increasingly important. Please reach out to someone.

Kathie Davis

Fundraising Committee

Dear friends:

We are rolling into our season of important fundraisers. We build the momentum starting with the very fun Reverse Raffle, moving on to the important Auction and then the Journal & Gala Dinner honoring Terry Joseph.

Coming soon: Saturday, February 7th, 7 to 9pm THE REVERSE RAFFLE - A FUN ENTERTAINING FUNDRAISER, and you may walk away with A PRIZE OR CASH! PLEASE, RSVP and Send your Raffles to the office with a check. (of course, we also accept raffles and checks at the door). Remember, with 2 raffle tickets comes admission for one person. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE, MAYBE ON STAGE TOO!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR TALENT, SEND ME AN EMAIL and you're on stage; terrybhorton@gmail.com

Upcoming: THE AUCTION – Saturday, March 14th, 7 to 9:30pm!

A FUNDRAISER WHERE YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WALK HOME WITH A MULTITUDE OF GIFT CERTIFICATES, DINNERS, OR ITEMS, WHILE STILL CONTRIBUTING TO TEMPLE ISIAH. BE THERE!

We are looking for donations of new items, gift certificates to stores and restaurants, brunch, lunch, dinners at your home, tickets to just about anything, art, tours and more.

Please email or call me with donations! terrybhorton@gmail.com

Lastly, our Gala Dinner Journal, Saturday evening, May 28th, honoring our very special Terry Joseph!

Terry Birnbaum-Horton

Treasurer/Financial Secretary

Calling all Temple Members:

There are many ways you can make charitable donations to Temple Isaiah. For instance, try the Donate button on the top right of our website <https://templeisiahgn.org/> The instructions are there, it's easy, and there's no 3% fee, due to PayPal wanting to support charitable donations to all religious organizations (really!!). Or, use the usual methods: a check, Zelle (you'll need to call the office for details the first time you use this), or credit card (again, you'll have

to call the office to do this, and there is a 3% fee added).

In addition, for big donations, take advantage of the rules for making donations directly from your IRA or an inherited IRA, if you are making RMDs (Required Minimum Distributions). We're aging, so those of you who turn 73 this year, you can start doing this! You'll need to 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 or items like the auction or gala dinner.

Bill Hersh

Social Action Committee

As the domestic (and foreign) situation appears to deteriorate, it is important to remain hopeful that things can change for the better, sooner rather than later. Personal action that benefits someone else, or to society in general, can play a major role in bringing about that change, and it's an antidote to despair.

To that end, here are several suggestions for actions you might be interested in:

* Register for and attend a zoom policy forum on Wednesday, February 4 conducted by the Long Island Immigrant Justice Alliance at 7:00 PM. You must register in advance.

* For ways to help in Minnesota, visit standwithminnesota.com. There you will find information on mutual aid and material purchasing; crowdfunding campaigns; organizations providing direct support on the ground; organizations providing legal support and other funders providing emergency assistance.

* Attend a webinar on effectively protecting your neighborhoods from federal enforcement incursions. These webinars are held on zoom and often conducted by organizations such as the ACLU, Detention Watch Network (Communities Not Cages Campaign), Indivisible.org, RAC and others.

A Congregant Shares

I was telling a friend that I could spend an entire day in the house and by the end of the day feel like I've done nothing. However, I write a gratitude list every day and send it to a friend and she sends me hers. By the time I finish writing, I realize that I've had a full day, beginning with waking up early and spending an hour or two listening to different YouTube videos before I am ready to join the world of responsibility. Not just a full day, but a rich day with human contact on Zoom or on the telephone. I write down all the little things which are really not so little. I am grateful I can get in and out of the shower without help and I enjoy my shower and

* Volunteer for Island Harvest or the INN to help with growing the problem of food insecurity.

* Bring non-perishable food to the ongoing collection at Temple Isaiah.

Also, consider boycotting retailers that cooperate with or fund ICE: Home Depot, Dell, BP, AT&T, Delloite, Motorola, Spotify, Thomson/Reuters and ARCO. 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. Suozzi apologized because he heard our calls! 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

Persist and keep the faith!

I thank you, God, for that. All the things that I do for my well-being are things that I am responsible for, and I am grateful that I can live up to my responsibility of taking care of me. It's amazing, but by the time I finish my gratitude list which varies from day-to-day, I am aware that I've had a very full and very beautiful day. I started doing this about six months ago and it really has added to my life in a way I can't quite explain. All I can say is that it has become something. I really rely on it before I go to sleep at night and send it up to my friend. I guess if nothing else, by hitting send before I go to sleep I don't feel alone.

Barbara Feldman

IT'S TIME FOR

THE TEMPLE ISAIAH

R3V3RS3 RAFFL3 *

WITH "TALENT/NO TALENT" ENTERTAINMENT**

SATURDAY, February 7th, 7pm

MANY PRIZES - WINE - CHEESE AND OTHER REFRESHMENTS

*THE LAST RAFFLE PICKED IS THE GRAND PRIZE WINNER

Up to a Grand Prize of \$1000, if 100 Raffles Tickets are sold
Or Grand Prize 1/5 of Raffle Ticket sales up to \$1000

**Sign up in advance to be part of the entertainment- everyone can do something even if not classically considered talented.

terrybhorton@gmail.com

JOIN THE FUN with friends! SEND IN ALL YOUR RAFFLES ASAP
(4 Raffles will be sent to Temple members)

THOUGH IT'S MORE FUN WITH YOU THERE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO ATTEND TO WIN!

\$50 per raffle

Entrance fee \$36 per person

Entrance fee waived with the purchase of 2 raffle tickets – per person

NOTE: Did you receive a holiday gift you can't use? Remember it's the thought that counts - how about regifting it to the Temple for the auction?

terrybhorton@gmail.com

When Art, Culture and Politics Collide Fashion and Forbidden Style in the Holocaust

A Presentation by

Dr. Linda Burghardt

Scholar-in-Residence, Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center



Berlin in the early '30s was second only to Paris as the undisputed capital of the European fashion world, run by Jews and recognized the world over as a major center for style and innovation in the clothing trade. But Hitler had different ideas. With his swift, brutal takeover of all facets of life in Germany, the new Nazi culture not only stole the industry from the Jews, it forced its ideology onto the fashion of the day. Join us as we take a look at how concepts of fashion changed during this explosive period in history and the critical role it played in the Holocaust.

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026, 3:00 p.m.

Temple Isaiah of Great Neck, One Chelsea Place, office@templeisaiahgn.org



Dr. Linda Burghardt, the Scholar-in-Residence at the Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center, is a journalist and author from Great Neck, N.Y. She worked as a freelance reporter for *The New York Times* for 20 years and is the author of three non-fiction books. Her articles and essays have appeared in newspapers across the U.S. and overseas, most recently in the *Jerusalem Post* and the *Times of Israel*, and she has lectured to both national and international audiences. She holds a Ph.D. from LIU and is the daughter of Holocaust survivors from Vienna.

More February Events



Repro Shabbat **Friday, February 13th**

Repro Shabbat is an annual Shabbat celebration that honors the Jewish value of reproductive freedom. Individuals and communities across the world gather to celebrate Repro Shabbat and the Jewish traditions it honors. Join us in support of our common source and this essential freedom.



Lunch with Rabbi Blum **Tuesday, February 24th, 12:30pm**

at Cho-Sen Village on Middle Neck Road in Great Neck.

Please RSVP by [clicking here](#).



Disability Shabbat **Friday, February 27th**

The Torah encourages us to care deeply about accessibility and advocating for the rights of people with disabilities. Come and learn more.

Coming in March



Purim **Monday, March 2nd**

Time for Speil & celebration!

Art Lecture by Dennis Raverty **Sunday, March 8th, 3pm**

Subject matter to be announced.



BIRTHDAYS

Martin Secofsky.....February 6

William Hersh.....February 15

Carol Hersh.....February 22

Helman Brook.....February 17



ANNIVERSARIES

Sheila and Victor DeFazio.....February 9



Shirley Aubrey

Grandmother of David Aubrey (2/1)

Else Gluckauf

Aunt of Sylvia Jacobs (2/1)

Sylvia Jacobs

Father if Risa, Lloyd, & Laurie (2/1)

Sylvia Ehrenberg

Aunt of Pat Procton (2/3)

Eric Straus

Husband of Claire Straus (2/3)

Irwin Hersh

Father of Father of Bill (2/4)

Julius Abeles

Brother-in-law of Jean Lesser (2/6)

Mildred Auerbach

Cousin of Neil Auerbach (2/6)

Richard Schleifstein

Father of Scott Schleifstein (2/6)

Lawrence Branch

Brother of Suzanne Branch (2/7)

Louis Sissman

Father of Betty Sissman (2/7)

Fred Fein

Father of Stephen Fein (2/10)

Clara Lieber

Grandmother of David Aubrey (2/10)

Edward I. Marshak

Father of Martin Marshak (2/10)

Leonard Tosky

Father of Eric Tosky (2/10)

Philip Haber

Father of Diane Haber (2/12)

Jack M. Roth

Uncle of Mindy Israel (2/12)

Richard Davis

Husband of Kathie Davis (2/14)

Phyllis Ann Procton

Mother of Laurie Meyer (2/15)

Bernard Rosenberg

Father of Howard, Alice, Elaine, & William (2/15)

William Rosenberg

Grandfather of William Rosenberg (2/15)

Corinne Coe

Mother of Robert Coe (2/16)

Philip Epstein

Uncle of Irwin Epstein (2/17)

Ruth Federlein

Mother of Rachel Greenwald (2/17)

Adolph Fuchs

Father of Connie Maller (2/17)

Fannie Kornzweig

Mother of Marilyn Kornzweig (2/19)

Gussie Meltzer Quartin

Mother of Irene Lichtenstein (2/20)

Max Blum

Father of Rabbi Blum (2/21)

Douglas P. Null

Husband of Marcia Null (2/21)

Donald Arthur Packer

Father of Mindy Israel (2/21)

Alice Gordon

Mother of Robert Gordon (2/24)

Sara Epstein

Mother of Irwin Epstein (2/25)

Gertrude Kalish

Mother of Gary Goodfriend (2/26)

Isaac Menashe

Brother of Jack Menashe (2/26)

Bernard Birnbaum

Grandfather of Terry Birnbaum-Horton (2/28)

Morris Hamel

Grandfather of Denise Miller (2/28)

Bruno Levenbach

Uncle of William Rosenberg (2/28)

Hannah Tuchinsky

Grandmother of Belle Gayer (2/28)



General Donations

Helman & Judy Brook, Kathie Davis, Bill & Carol Hersh, Denise Miller & Steve Fein, Terry Birnbaum-Horton, Ruth Isaac, Shelley Sherman, Richard & Terry Joseph, Paula Newman in memory of Richard Solow

Suzanne Branch in memory of Richard Solow and Lawrence Branch

Harold Rubin in memory of Enid Rubin

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.



February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Shabbat Services Zoom only 7pm	7 Torah Study Zoom only 9:30am Reverse Raffle 7pm
8	9	10	11	12	13 Repro Shabbat in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	14 No Torah Study
15 Current Events with Helman & Judy Brook 3pm	16	17	18	19	20 Shabbat Services in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	21 Torah Study Zoom only 9:30am
22 Holocaust Fashion Presentation with Dr. Linda Burghardt 3pm	23	24 Lunch & Learn 12:30pm Cho-Sen	25	26	27 Disability Shabbat in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	28 Torah Study Temple & Zoom 9:30am



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Temple Isaiah of Great Neck

1 Chelsea Place, Great Neck, NY 11021

Office Hours:

Wednesdays & Fridays 11 - 2 PM

Call 516-487-5373 or email office@templeisaiahgn.org for confirmation.

Deadline for bulletin submissions: 20th of the month