

Look inside to find...

Rabbi's Column	p 2
Co-Presidents' Column	p 3
Letters from Committees	p 4-5
March Events	p 6-8
Celebrations & Yahrzeits	p 9
Donations	p 10
Calendar	p 11



PURIM

Temple Isaiah is planning multiple events and celebrations
this month!

See details under Events and in the Calendar

Co-Presidents:

Kathie Davis
Terry Joseph
Shelley Sherman

Rabbi: Jerry Blum



This week as I looked at the Torah reading, I felt that familiar feeling, it's Shabbat Zachor... already. That means that Purim starts in about 5 minutes (I might be off on that number) and Pesach is about a month away.

Jewish time has a way of sneaking up on us, and our tradition, in its wisdom, gives us gentle signposts along the way. In the weeks leading

up to Pesach, we encounter the Arba Parshiyot—the Four Special Shabbatot. (Some count five, if we include Shabbat HaGadol.) These sacred markers prepare us spiritually for redemption long before we start cleaning the kitchen, and each of these Shabbatot carries a message. Together, they tell a story not only about ancient Israel, but about who we are today.

Shabbat Shekalim, which we celebrated just a short time ago, is the first. In the additional Torah reading, we hear about the half-shekel contribution each Israelite was asked to give for the upkeep of the Mishkan, and later the Temple. The Torah insists: "The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less." Everyone gave the same amount. The message is powerful. Community is built on shared responsibility. No one buys more ownership; no one is excluded for having less. We sustain Jewish life not only through financial support, but through presence, participation, and commitment. As Pesach approaches, Shabbat Shekalim reminds us that redemption is a communal project.

We are on the cusp of **Shabbat Zachor**, the Shabbat of Remembrance right before Purim. On this day, we are commanded to remember what Amalek did to us in the wilderness, attacking the Israelites from behind when they were weary and vulnerable. Memory in Judaism is never passive. To remember Amalek is to recognize that hatred exists in every generation. The figure of Haman in the Purim story is understood by tradition to be a descendant of Amalek, a stark reminder that the forces of cruelty and antisemitism reappear in new forms, as we can see right now in our nation and the global arena as well. When Jewish communities face rising antisemitism and global uncertainty, Shabbat Zachor feels painfully relevant. We are commanded to remember not to live in fear, but to live in awareness. Jewish memory is an act of moral clarity. We name evil, and we refuse to let it define us.

After Purim comes **Shabbat Parah**, centered on the mysterious ritual of the red heifer. Its ashes were used for purification after contact with death. While we no longer practice these ancient rites, the prophetic reading from Ezekiel speaks in language that still resonates: "I will sprinkle clean water upon you... and I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you." Shabbat Parah calls us to spiritual renewal and liberation, but first we must prepare ourselves inwardly. What needs cleansing in our own lives? Where do we seek a new heart? Pesach is not only about physical freedom; it is about transformation.

Then comes **Shabbat HaHodesh**, which announces the new month of Nisan. We read the stirring words: "This month shall be for you the beginning of the months." The Exodus story begins not with a miracle, but with time itself becoming sacred. The Jewish people are given the power to mark time, to declare renewal. Shabbat HaHodesh reminds us that redemption begins with possibility. A new month. A new chapter. A new chance.

Finally, on the Shabbat before Pesach, we observe **Shabbat HaGadol**, the Great Shabbat. Tradition teaches that just before the Exodus, the Israelites set aside the Paschal lamb in an act of quiet courage, preparing for what was to come. The haftarah ends with a promise from the prophet Malachi that Elijah will arrive before the "great and awesome day" of God. Shabbat HaGadol invites us to stand on the threshold of liminality. Something is about to change.

Taken together, these Shabbatot do more than warn us that Pesach is coming. They rehearse the core themes of our people: shared responsibility, moral memory, spiritual renewal, sacred time, and courageous hope. If you are not ready for Pesach yet, good. None of us ever feels entirely ready. That is part of the rhythm. The calendar is not here to induce anxiety; it is here to shape our consciousness.

The central mitzvah of Pesach is not cooking or cleaning. It is storytelling. We are commanded to retell the story of our liberation. The seder reminds us that, Avadim hayinu, we were slaves. In every generation, we must see ourselves as if we personally left Egypt. That is why we remember Amalek. That is why we renew our hearts, and that is why we sanctify time. Jewish survival has always depended on memory carried forward with purpose.

So as we stand at Shabbat Zachor, with Purim around the corner and Pesach not too far behind, let us resist panic and embrace perspective. We are part of a people that has marked time this way for thousands of years. We remember. We prepare. We tell the story again. And in the telling, we become free.

Rabbi Jerry



Reform Judaism has been known and often criticized for its focus on social justice. But we at Temple Isaiah know that expressing and living Jewish values are integral to practicing Judaism. At Temple Isaiah we take this commitment very seriously. This past month, for example, we commemorated Reproductive Freedom at a Shabbat service and are set to focus on Jewish Disability, Awareness, Acceptance and Inclusion month with a guest speaker. Of course, this past year has raised many challenges to the well-being of our wider community and so, following the Torah's most frequent directive to welcome the stranger, we have participated in advocacy and rallies to oppose the illegal and immoral actions of ICE. As I write this we are assembling a group of congregants to demonstrate against ICE's overreaching behavior in Nassau county and even in Great Neck, where a hardworking

father of 8 has not only been detained, but has been moved out of state so that his family (all citizens) cannot visit or contact him. He was nabbed at court when he dutifully appeared for a regular check in. Later in March, we will once again participate in NO KINGS DAY as Denise writes on behalf of the social action committee, below. Each of us can also participate by writing to our state legislators and Governor to pass and sign the NY4ALL bill which would prohibit ICE from entering Synagogues, schools and hospitals without judicial warrants, and much more.

We can be a light by acting - which feels better and is more effective than merely cursing the darkness. While we are at it we should write to our Congressional reps as set out below.

URGE CONGRESS TO PROTECT SYNAGOGUES AND SENSITIVE SPACES FROM IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

One year ago, President Trump rescinded a long-standing policy prohibiting immigration enforcement in houses of worship, schools, and hospitals. This policy change undermines the fundamental freedom of religion and the ability of immigrants to safely access education and medical care without fear of deportation.

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 weathered the blizzard, and now we hope that you are all safe and well. Please check up on each other and use the buddy system as you are our Temple Isaiah family members.

Wishing you good health. We are here for you.

Kathie Davis

Fundraising Committee

Reverse Raffle Review: Everyone gathered, noshed and participated. Richard Joseph's games were fun & funny to play, David's trivia questions were a big hit, and we can't forget the crossover talent & game of 'name that song' with great selections from Lloyd. How lucky are we to have some 'professional' talent in David Aubrey and Bill Hersh? David's singing was impressive and Bill blew us over with his saxophone performance. All in all, we have some very talented and smart members who showed up to play, participate and perform.

Thank you, for buying raffles to contribute to TI, and for participating the way you were able! And thanks to all who came out on the record-breaking frigid night! We made our own warmth!

AUCTION SAVE THE DATE: March 22nd, Sunday at 4pm.

Our next important fundraiser is the Auction. COME, NOSH & BID ON ALL THOSE THINGS YOU LOVE WHILE CONTRIBUTING TO OUR TEMPLE ISIAH! THERE WILL BE RAFFLE PRIZES TOO!

Bid on gifts certificates, cooked meals, baked goods, tickets to shows, tours, talents, wine and spirits. We still have time to accept donations of new items for bidding; In the mailing about the Auction there are raffles and information that will help with donations. EARLY RSVP: RETURN OF RAFFLES By March 18th with payment AND RECEIVE AN EXTRA RAFFLE.

Terry Birnbaum-Horton 516-978-7408

Terry Joseph, Shelley Sherman, Kathie Davis

Lloyd Perell, Denise Miller, Carol Hersh

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

Save the date for the next NO KINGS rally! On March 28 anxious, empathetic, and empowered citizens from coast to coast will be rallying to voice their extreme displeasure at the current state of affairs in our nation. Concerns include the "imperial presidency," immigration and ICE, and the preservation of important constitutional rights and separation of powers.

If any or all of these issues (or others) are important to you, it is vital that you make your views known by attending the rally. The Social Action Committee will again try to coordinate carpools to the event. As of this writing, we will be attending the rally in Mineola, which is scheduled to begin at 11:00 am. If you plan to attend, contact one of the chairpeople and let them know. See you all on Saturday, March 28.

On the subject of rallies, about ten of us from Temple Isaiah participated in an anti-ICE demonstration on February 21 on Northern Blvd. near Macy's (see photo below). There were at least 100 people gathered there and we received many more favorable honks from passing vehicles than at previous rallies. Hopefully, the momentum is building.

In the meantime, please check out groups such as Indivisible, Engage Long Island and NY-ACLU. Volunteer with local organizations that feed the hungry, help the unhoused, or protect immigrants.

TI at ICE OUT!

Temple Isaiah members were out in force at the ICE Out rally on February 21st.

Pictured: Rachel Greenwald, Helman and Judy Brook, Terry Joseph, Terry Birnbaum Horton, Denise Miller, Rona Levy, Ruth Isaac, Jean Lesser, Shelley Sherman

Photo by Robert Zimmerman, Democratic National Committee member, communications professional, and former candidate for Congress (who was a very good sport about taking the pictures)!

And don't forget to bring food contributions to our ongoing food collection in the lobby of Temple Isaiah.

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

Remember, action alleviates anxiety.

Judy Brook and Denise Miller, Co-chairs



African American Art

with Dennis Raverty, Ph.D.
Art Historian



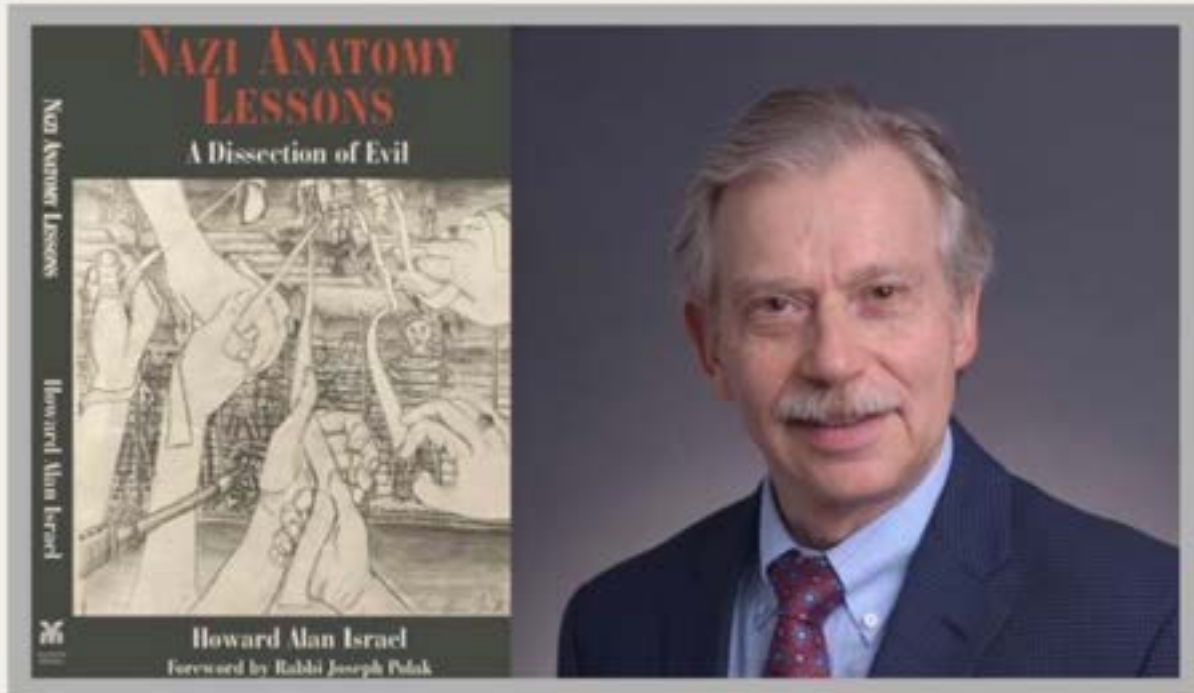
Aaron Douglas, *Song of the Towers*

THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND POSTWAR STRUGGLES

For many African American artists the depression provided employment through the Federal Art Programs of the Works Progress Administration (the W.P.A.) as teachers printmakers, craftspersons and muralists. After the Second World War, however, African American artists were once again faced with the lack of both civil rights and exhibition opportunities.

Sunday, March 8 at 3 PM
One Chelsea Place, Great Neck, New York

Lessons from a Nazi Anatomist: Why is this Relevant Today?



Join Dr. Howard Israel for a fascinating discussion on the Nazi origins of Pernkopf's anatomy atlas, emphasizing bioethical relevance today.

Thursday, March 19 from 7:00-8:00 pm
at the Main Library Large Multipurpose Room
Registration Required - Begins 2/27 at 10 am



Dr Howard Israel is a Professor of Clinical Surgery, Division of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Weill Cornell Medicine, a Diplomate of the American Board of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery and a member of the Holocaust Genocide Contemporary Bioethics Steering Committee at the Colorado University Center for Bioethics and Humanities. Dr Israel has authored over eighty manuscripts and chapters in the peer reviewed literature and has lectured nationally and internationally. He is author of the book, "Nazi Anatomy Lessons," which was published in January, 2026.

More March Events



Purim **Monday, March 2nd, 6:30pm**

Time for Speil & celebration!



Coffee with the Rabbi **Wednesday, March 18th, 3pm**

Bring your questions and let's talk..



Annual Goods and Services Auction **Sunday, March 22nd, 4pm**

Bid on gifts certificates, cooked meals, baked goods, tickets to shows, tours, talents, wine and spirits. We still have time to accept donations of new items for bidding.

Coming in April



Passover **Thursday, April 2nd**

Second night Seder with other synagogues.

March Celebrations & Rememberances



BIRTHDAYS

Marcia Null.....March 6

Alisa Secofsky.....March 6

Arlyn Brenner Blum.....March 11



ANNIVERSARIES

Martin & Linda Marshak.....March 22

Martin & Alisa Secofsky.....March 24



Yahrzeits

Frances Tuchinsky

Mother of Belle Gayer (3/1)

Sarah Alexander

Aunt of Judy Brook (3/2)

Alvin Graham

Father of Miriam & Barry (3/3)

Burton Schwartz

Brother of Rita Rubenstein (3/3)

Eric Straus

Husband of Claire Straus (3/3)

Harvey N. Spero

Father of Robert Spero (3/4)

Etta Birnbaum

Grandmother of Terry Birnbaum-Horton (3/6)

Bulla Mayer

Aunt of Rachel Greenwald (3/6)

Frances Marshall Nathenson

Mother of Jan Spero (3/7)

Ida Kerievsky

Mother of Bruce Kerievsky (3/9)

William Nusbaum

Father of Ruthe Klein (3/9)

Hortense Perell

Mother of Lloyd Perell (3/9)

Nathan B. Schneiderman

Father of Gerald Schneiderman (3/9)

Lawrence Feldman

Brother of Alisa Secofsky and Son of Barbara Feldman (3/11)

Herbert Mandelbaum

Husband of Ruth Mandelbaum (3/11)

Ethel Smith

Mother of Ruth Mandelbaum (3/11)

Harry Goldwater

Husband of Minnie Goldwater (3/12)

Lawrence Schwartz

Husband of Mindy Israel's Mother (3/12)

Jay Popkin

Brother of Carol Popkin (3/13)

Ellen Marks

Stepmother of Kathie Davis (3/14)

Frank Gayer

Father of Elliott Gayer (3/15)

Joel Dick

Spouse of Everett Kerner and Uncle of Lawrence Richards (3/17)

Rosemarie Lesser-Melman

Sister-in-law of Jean Lesser (3/17)

Marlene Baharlias

Sister-in-law of Ruth Isaac (3/18)

Edgar Bendor

Father of Cathy and Jane, Husband of Susan Bendor (3/18)

Abraham Gellman

Father of Yale Gellman (3/18)

Jerome Weissman

Father of Jean Lesser (3/18)

Florence Revit

Mother of Marti Resnick (3/19)

Rose Weiss (Weinberg)

Grandmother of Richard Joseph (3/19)

Myron (Mike) Coe

Father of Robert and L.P. Coe (3/20)

Alan Lichtenstein

Husband of Stephane Lee (3/20)

Carol Rubenstein

Daughter of Rita Rubenstein (3/21)

Bobbe Brody

Mother of Linda Tsuruoka (3/23)

Max Kaplan

Father of Irma Leboff (3/23)

Bruce Reider

Husband of Leslie Reider (3/24)

Sadie Zelesky

Great-grandmother of Jonathan Wagner (3/28)

Max Fein

Grandfather of Steve Fein (3/26)

Recha Fein

Grandmother of Steve Fein (3/26)

David Gorman

Father of Howard Gorman (3/28)

Gary McTiernan

Husband of Suzanne Branch (3/30)



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 honor of Linda Burghardt's wonderful presentation;

* in honor of Carol and Bill Hersh on the birth of their grandson

Kathie Davis in memory of Richard Davis

Ruth Isaac in memory of Joyce Miller

Meryl & Jack Menashe in memory of Isaac Menashe

Barbara Feldman in memory of Lawrence Stephen Feldman

Cathy Reibstein in memory of Richard Solow

Sharon Schleifstein in memory of Richard M. Schleifstein

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.



March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Purim 6:30pm	3	4	5	6 Shabbat Services in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	7 Torah Study Temple & Zoom 9:30am Free Concert 3pm
8 Art Lecture 3pm	9	10	11	12	13 Shabbat Services in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	14 Torah Study Zoom only 9:30am
15 Current Events with Helman & Judy Brook 3pm	16	17	18 Coffee with the Rabbi 3pm	19	20 Shabbat Services in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	21 Torah Study Zoom only 9:30am
22 Goods & Services Auction 4:pm	23	24	25	26	27 Shabbat Services in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	28 No Torah Study
29	30	31				



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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