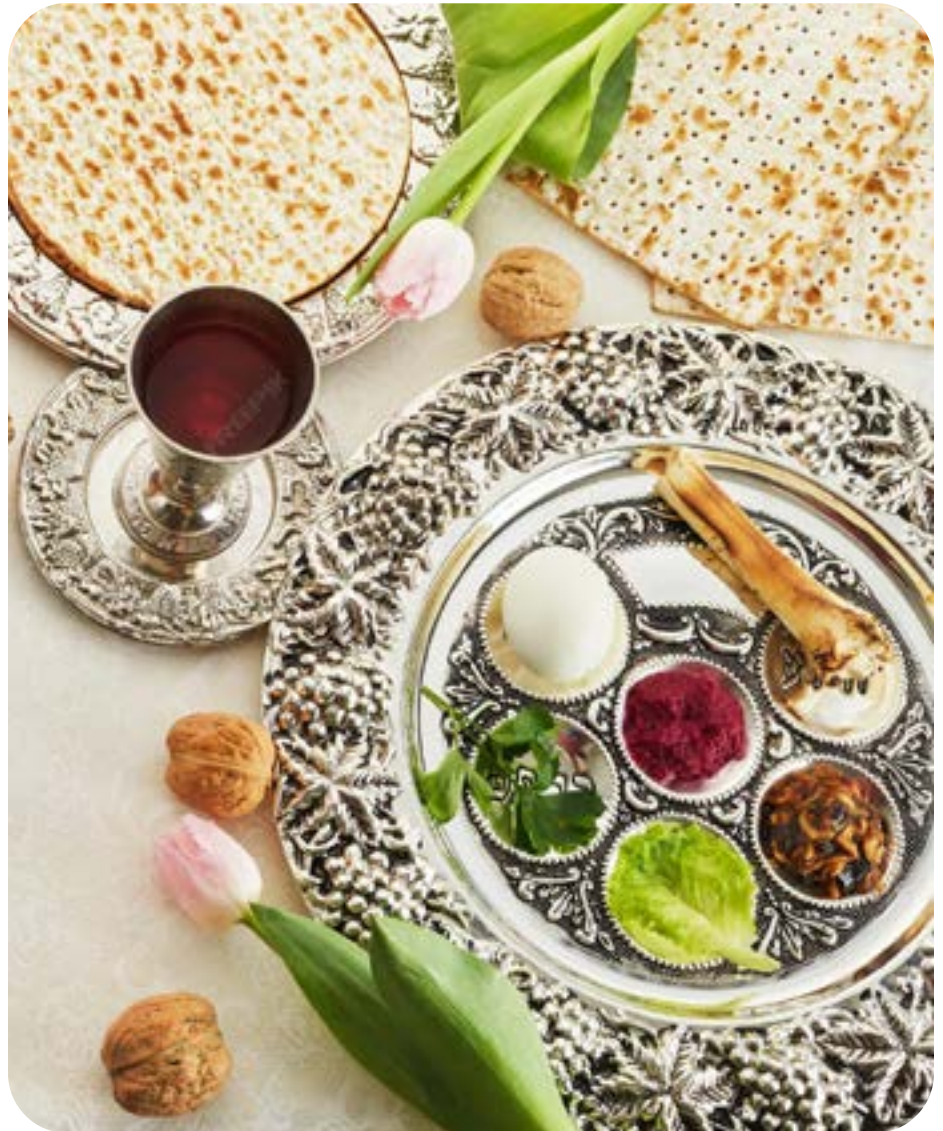


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PASSOVER

Join us for the Second Seder and a community Yizkor.

See details under Events and in the Calendar.

Co-Presidents:

Kathie Davis
Terry Joseph
Shelley Sherman

Rabbi: Jerry Blum



In just a few hours from now, many of us will be ushering in one of the most celebrated and beloved holidays in the Jewish calendar, Pesach (Passover). For many, it is a time of celebrating with family, reading from the Haggadah, having the children (of all ages) recite the 4 questions, and eating foods that inspire memories of generations past, and time spent with loved ones.

The story of the Exodus is retold, and we sing songs of triumph reminding us of God's presence in our lives. One of my favorite sections, the Magid (the Retelling) begins with the words *Ha Lachma Anyah, This is the bread of affliction that our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt* and brings us back to a moment in history when the future of B'nai Yisrael, the Children of Israel looked bleak. This opening paragraph begins with narrowness yet ends with the words "*This year we are here; next year we will be in the Land of Israel. This year we are slaves; next year we shall be free people*". This message of hope is carried throughout the telling of our story of redemption.

The end of this section reveals one of my favorite piyyutim (liturgical poems) in the entire Haggadah, the words of V'hi Sheamda Lavoteinu v'lanu, Uniting our ancestors and us, it is a prayer of absolute faith. The words are simple, reminding us of our shared Jewish heritage. It says:

"It is this [covenant] that has stood by our ancestors and us. For not just one has risen up against us to destroy us, but in every generation, they rise up against us to destroy us; but the Holy One, Who is to be Praised, delivers us from their hand."

The piyyut refers to the promise God made to Abraham saying the Jewish people would survive exile and persecution. It emphasizes that persecution is not isolated to one time and is a recurring theme from which God delivers them. These verses also serve as an anthem of resilience and hope against adversity and in the past few years has become a popular modern song, often associated with Jewish unity [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhXBaYsAO8Q>].

I love these verses, yet as we approach Pesach this year, many of us find ourselves carrying a heavier emotional burden than usual. The words of our tradition remain the same, but the world around us feels different, more fragile, more uncertain, more exposed and for many, this piyyut's promise does not land with the same comfort it once did. "*In every generation they rise against us to destroy us...*" These are not abstract words. They feel uncomfortably close to our lived reality.

Acts of antisemitism and hatred against Israel have increased. The ADL reports that following a 140% surge in 2023, antisemitic incidents in the U.S. rose by another 5% in 2024. From 2021 to 2024, the incidents of antisemitic hate have increased over 340%. American Jewish Committee's "State of Antisemitism in America 2025 Report"[1] notes that the vast majority of American Jews feel less safe due to violent antisemitic incidents in America in 2025. Most American Jews believe that, since October 7, 2023, antisemitism has increased in the United States and that Jews are less secure than the previous year.

When the piyyut continues, "*...and the Holy One saves us from their hands,*" we may find ourselves wondering, what does that mean right now? Where is that sense of protection, of redemption, in a moment that feels so unsettled?

Perhaps one way to approach *Vehi She'amda* this year is to recognize that it was never meant to be a naïve or triumphant statement of certainty. It is, at its core, a fragile declaration, spoken not from a place of safety, but from within vulnerability itself. The Haggadah does not ask us to deny danger. It names it plainly. And then, it places alongside it an insistence on continuity by retelling the story again and again.

Jewish hope has never been about predicting that everything will turn out well, rather, it is rooted in memory. At the Seder, we do not say, "All will be good." We say, "This is our story." Through exile, persecution, and fear, the Jewish people have endured. Not untouched, not unscarred, but still here. In that sense, *Vehi She'amda* states boldly that the Jewish story continues. That redemption is ongoing, partial, and often difficult to recognize as it unfolds.

So what might we do as we approach this Pesach?

This year, let us recite *Vehi She'amda* not as a reflection of how we feel, but as a spiritual practice, and an act of defiance. We can lean more deeply into community. The Seder itself is designed as a shared experience, reminding us that we are not meant to carry these fears alone. We must gather around the Seder table, to tell the story, to sing these words even if our voices tremble. This is not hypocrisy. This is courage.

As a Jewish community, we do not wait to feel hopeful in order to act. We act in ways that sustain hope, even when it feels distant.

Pesach reminds us that even in the narrowest places, something within us insists on the possibility of moving forward. May we find strength in one another, in our tradition, and in the quiet, persistent hope that has sustained our people across generations.

Chag Pesach Sameach.

Rabbi Jerry

[1] <https://www.ajc.org/AntisemitismReport2025/InsightsandAnalysis>



This is the season when we celebrate our freedom from oppression and renew our commitment to help each other.

By the time you read this article, you will have participated in or heard about the No Kings Protest on March 28th. We are living in a failing, unconstitutional democracy, and we all must do everything we can to preserve our freedoms and rights. It is a scary time, but we will not be scared. We will plow ahead to preserve our precious democracy.

On a much lighter and happier note, within our community we are preserving our tradition with our upcoming gala on May 28th at Leonard's

Palazzo of Great Neck. We will honor Terry and Richard Joseph who will renew (yes, renew!) their wedding vows. This is such exciting news for us. Our gala will be elegant and flowing with good food and wine. Everyone, please, please save the date and plan to attend. It's through our participation within this community that we renew our commitment to each other.

Of course, another way to express our commitment to freedom and renewal is to join together for the Passover second night seder which will take place at Lake Success Jewish Center on April 2nd at 6:30 PM. We look forward to seeing you there.

Chag Sameach to you, our Temple Isaiah family.

Shelley, Terry, and Kathie

Our celebratory Journal and Gala Dinner honoring *Terry Joseph*,

**will take place on THURSDAY, MAY 28TH, 2026
at Leonard's Palazzo of Great Neck from 6pm - 11pm**

**How do we warm-up for this event?
WE MARK THE DATE IN OUR CALENDARS;
WE BEGIN WRITING OUR JOURNAL APPRECIATIONS FOR TERRY;
WE PLAN WHAT WE WILL WEAR (or is that only me?)**

Hello from The Caring Committee

The Caring Committee members are always here for you, our Temple Isaiah family. We will do what you need, in good times and in troublesome times. Please remember the buddy system, where you speak with

someone daily. It is very rewarding and appreciated and helps make you both feel special, especially when we might feel vulnerable. Please call me if you need our help, or to just chat.

Kathie Davis

Fundraising Committee

Our Auction was a Success!

I am ecstatic to report the bidding and ultimate success of our Auction! We had fun and all benefited. Thank you everyone involved in getting us there. It is incredible to me how few we are and how dedicated and strong we are too, as repeated many times by many people.

A word was used during the event that struck a chord with me, and the word was 'warm' (& warmth) to describe the Auction and the environment of TI. Perfect.

Thanks again to all who planned, prepared, secured items, set-up, administered, bid and purchased for the Auction, as well as those who broke-down and cleaned-up after.

Why do we fundraise? Obviously, we fundraise to support Temple Isaiah, to meet our budget and maybe have some extras!

We also Fundraise to show our commitment, for a purpose and to stay connected. We are committed to each other and to what TI does for our community.

As a community, through our fundraising we stay together and connected with a purpose.

Thank you to everyone who participates by giving of your money, time, and/or energy for all our activities; programs, events, education and spiritual opportunities.

Terry Birnbaum-Horton

Treasurer/Financial Secretary

Our fiscal year ends in two months (May 31, 2026), so we depend on everyone to be done paying your dues pledges by then. In fact, we ask that you be done by March. So, if you've been holding off and have gotten an email with your outstanding balance, please send a check, or pay by Zelle or PayPal (see last month's bulletin), or a QCD (Qualified Charitable Donation) from your IRA direct to Temple Isaiah - again, see last month's bulletin, which you can always find on the Temple web site at <https://templeisaiahgn.org/bulletin/>.

Just a small further note if you are thinking of making a payment from your IRA: the new tax law passed last

year by Congress raises the SALT deduction cap - state and local income taxes, from \$10,000 to \$40,000, so many of you may find you can now once again deduct your charitable donations in full if you are itemizing your deductions (rather than using the standard deduction). This means you won't actually need the QCD approach to minimize taxes. Do remember, however (as yours truly just discovered), if you used the QCD to pay Temple Isaiah, you have to subtract that amount from the statement we send you of your donations - otherwise, it would be double-dipping since the charitable donation comes from your IRA, not from your bank account.

Bill Hersh

Social Action Committee

As the news becomes more and more troubling on so many different fronts, there are more and more reasons to loudly and publicly voice our displeasure.

After the March 28 rally and before the next one, which will inevitably have to happen, we should all continue to write, email and telephone our elected representatives. They need to know, in no uncertain terms, exactly what you think on whatever issues are of importance to you.

During the upcoming Passover holiday our thoughts will be even more focused on the issue of immigration, on welcoming the stranger. Please volunteer with, or contribute financially to, organizations whose work it is to make life better for those who have chosen to live in our country. The New York Immigration Committee, Make the Road and the ACLU are some organizations to consider. And, as we enjoy our seder feasts, remember to bring food to the synagogue for our ongoing food collection and contribute to organizations which feed those in need.

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

TI at NO KINGS!

Temple Isaiah was well represented at the No Kings Rally on March 28th in Mineola.

We joined thousands of others on Long Island and across the country in loudly voicing our objections to the demise of democracy presently occurring in our nation.

Our efforts are gaining momentum. Please join us next time!



Elijah Always Comes to Our Seders

As children growing up in New Jersey, my sisters and I would always open the front door at the point in our Seder when we welcomed in strangers (none ever came) and, later in the Seder, Elijah. A glass of wine was poured for Elijah, and at some point one of my sisters or I would announce that must Elijah have come because the wine was gone! We all watched carefully but never caught my father in the act - or at least I have no memory of it (and there's no way my mother would have done it). Irwin Hersh would never have let a perfectly good glass of wine go untouched, and I am my father's son. The tradition has continued in our home to this day, and my daughters finally caught me (as they would say: one of the great days of their lives). Now of course anyone is allowed to do the deed, with the next generation here to watch us.



It never occurred to me that this family tradition was not exactly universal. For some reason, a few years ago, probably in April, I asked a few people after Friday night services what they do with Elijah's cup. I am pretty sure Steve Fein and Scott (only one Scott in the temple) were part of the group, and they said, nope, they just poured out the cup. I then checked in with my cousins, and they said, no, my father's brother did not do this. I'm quite sure my grandparents did not, so I will give all the credit to Irwin Hersh (it would be his 103rd birthday today, so an appropriate day to record this tale), and invite anyone who wants to, to start their own family tradition!

Bill Hersh



Judith Snow.....April 8

Suzanne Branch.....April 11

Amy Gorman.....April 21

Jean Lesser.....April 14



Marcia Springer

Wife of Claude Springer (4/1)

Mac Gusler

Stepfather of Diana Kerievsky (4/2)

Shotaro Tsuruoka

Father of Rabbi Ted Tsuruoka (4/9)

Amy Isaacs

Cousin of Terry Birnbaum-Horton (4/11)

Abraham Goldberg

Father of Leona Kirschner (4/12)

Marshall Burghardt

Father of David Burghardt (4/13)

Harry Shapiro

Father of Jules Shapiro (4/14)

Martha Levenbach Rosenberg

Mother of Howard, Alice Moss, Elaine-Wolf & William (4/17)

Julius Henry Sherman

Father of Father of James (4/17)

Lillian Silver

Mother of Jonathan Silver (4/17)

Alfred Abrevaya

Great-uncle of David Aubrey (4/19)

Gerald Aubrey

Father of David Aubrey (4/21)

Rose Augustine

Aunt of Willa Lewis (4/21)

Ernst Springer

Father of Claude Springer (4/22)

Solomon Koss

Father of Nina Koss (4/23)

Sanford "Sandy" Feit

Friend and mentor of Rabbi Blum (4/25)

Isadore Edward Goldbas

Father of Jacqueline Neumann (4/25)

Anna Rosenberg

Grandmother of William Rosenberg (4/25)

Rose Buchbinder

Grandmother of Howard Israel (4/27)

Carrie W. Clark

Sister of Sylvia and Aunt of Norman Gersman (4/28)

Edward Bellamy Gresser

Father of Fonille Naidamast (4/28)

Claire Lerner

Mother of Rona Levy (4/28)

David Quartin

Father of Irene Lichtenstein (4/28)

Norma Jagendorf

Stepmother of William Hersh (4/29)

Jennie Maller

Mother of Al Maller (4/30)



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 Rona Levy's new Granddaughter;

* in memory of Seth Tabor, Marcia Null's son

* Refuah shleima for Shelley Sherman

Tree of Life in memory of Seth Tabor, Marcia Null's son

Tree of Life Refuah shleima for Shelley Sherman

Suzanne Branch in memory of Gary McTiernan

Kathie Davis in memory Seth Tabor
Irwin Epstein & Mary Morella in mem-

ory of Israel, Sara, and Philip Epstein

Barbara Feldman in honor of Kiddushim

Carol & Bill Hersh in memory of Irwin Hersh and Ira Unger

Jacqueline Neumann in memory of Isadore Edward Goldbas

Bill Hersh to enable the continuation of Temple Isaiah's communication platforms.

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.



April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Second Seder Lake Success Jewish Center 6:30pm	3 Shabbat Services Zoom only 7pm	4 Torah Study Zoom only 9:30am
5	6	7	8 Yizkor 10:30am Atria Cuttermill	9	10 Shabbat Sevices in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	11 No Torah Study
12	13	14	15	16	17 Shabbat Services in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	18 Torah Study Zoom only 9:30am
19 Current Events with Helman & Judy Brook 3pm	20	21	22	23 Rabbi's Class 1/3 7:30:pm	24 Shabbat Services in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	25 Torah Study In Temple and via Zoom 9:30am
26	27	28	29	30 Rabbi's Class 2/3 7:30:pm		



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Office Hours:

Tuesdays & Fridays 12-2:30 PM

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

Deadline for bulletin submissions: 20th of the month