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SHAVUOT

Co-Presidents:

Kathie Davis
Terry Joseph
Shelley Sherman

Rabbi: Jerry Blum

...And the Temple Isaiah of Great Neck Journal Gala.

See details under Events and in the Calendar.



As we move through these weeks of spring, we find ourselves approaching the midpoint of **Sefirat HaOmer**, the counting of the Omer. Each evening, we mark another day, on an intentional journey that spans 49 days, carrying us from the physical liberation of Pesach to the spiritual revelation

of Shavuot, **Z'man Matan Torateinu**, the time of the giving of our Torah.

At first glance, counting can feel like a simple, even mundane act. But our Jewish tradition invites us to see it differently. The counting of the Omer is not merely about marking time, rather, it is about elevating it. Each day becomes an opportunity for reflection, for mindfulness, for growth. In a world that often rushes us forward, the Omer asks us to slow down and notice who we are today, and who do we want to become tomorrow?

In this way, counting the Omer can be understood as an act of transcendence. We are not just moving through time; we are meant to be transformed by it. The journey from Egypt to the land promised by God to our ancestors was not only geographical for the Israelite nation, but it was also deeply spiritual. Having left behind the narrowness of oppression in Egypt, the Israelites needed time to grow into a people ready to receive Torah. So too, we are given these 49 days as a sacred framework to stretch ourselves, to expand our hearts, our minds, and our commitments.

Growth rarely happens without effort. It asks something of us. It calls us to step beyond what is comfortable and familiar, to learn something new, to deepen our understanding, or to take on a challenge that may initially feel daunting. The Omer reminds us that transformation is not instantaneous; it is built day by day, step by step.

In this spirit, I want to take a moment to acknowledge Scott Schleifstein, who has truly embodied the concept of stretching oneself during this season. With sincerity and dedication,

Scott has committed himself to growing in his knowledge of Jewish tradition and practice. His willingness to learn, to ask questions, and to step into new roles is both inspiring and deeply meaningful.

In the past month or so, Scott has taken on the responsibility of leading services at the Atria. This is no small task. It requires not only study and preparation, but also the courage to stand before others, to guide them in prayer, and to continue learning in a very public and intentional way. Scott's journey reflects the **ikar**, the very essence of the Omer: a commitment to growth, to learning, and to becoming more deeply connected to our tradition.

His example invites each of us to consider where might we stretch ourselves in these remaining days? What might we learn? How might we grow?

As we continue this sacred counting, we also look ahead with anticipation to Shavuot, when we will once again symbolically stand at Sinai together. One of the most beautiful traditions of this holiday is **Tikkun Leil Shavuot**, a night dedicated to study, reflection, and community which we have done together with many of the other local Reform synagogues in our area.

This year, we are excited to join with our neighboring Reform congregations for a shared **Tikkun Leil Shavuot** experience. It will take place at **North Country Reform Temple**, located at 86 Crescent Beach Road in Glen Cove, on Thursday evening, May 21, beginning at 6:45 pm. More information will be forthcoming, but for now, please mark your calendars.

This gathering is a wonderful opportunity not only to learn, but to connect with Torah, with other local Reform synagogues, and with the spirit of growth that defines this season. Just as we count each day of the Omer together, so too we come together to celebrate the culmination of that journey.

May these remaining days of the Omer be filled with meaning, growth, and possibility. And may we arrive at Shavuot ready to receive, once again, the gift of Torah.

Rabbi Jerry



Dear Temple Isaiah family,

On June 3rd we will be holding our Annual Congregational Meeting (the Proposed Slate is on page 5, below).

This is the opportunity for us all to ask questions and participate in conversations about our present and future status as a congregation. We will also vote on a slate of officers and board members, and on our budget for the coming year which begins on June 1st.

if you wish to raise topics to address, please forward them to the Presidium members. We will be sending an agenda and more specific information shortly. This is your synagogue and we urge you to attend this meeting and have your voices and votes heard.

There is also information below about our Gala Journal dinner honoring the inimitable Terry Joseph. Please consider reaching out to your professional vendors to place ads. Your accountant, lawyer, insurance agent, fitness center, and various doctors might be interested in placing ads or greetings in our journal. Remember, if you bring in ads totaling \$500 or more you can attend the Gala at no additional charge.

We hope you will note any events in the Temple Isaiah calendar that interest you and add them to your calendar right away. All year long we offer a varied array of classes, speakers, social and holiday events, and more (not to mention services!). We would love to see you all at as many as you are able.

Happy Spring,

Shelley, Terry, and Kathie

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Congregational Meeting

Wednesday, June 3rd, 7pm

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

Summer will soon be here.. Please enjoy every day with hope and optimism in spite of the world situation. If you think you are watching too much tv news, stop and limit how much is good for you. Watch an entertaining program instead. Or chat and laugh with a friend. Please rely on the buddy system and check on someone on a

daily basis to show each other we care.

Also, summer services are coming in July and August. We need volunteers to fill these spots on Friday at our Shabbat services. Please contact me if you'd like to be a lay-leader.

Warmly, *Kathie Davis*

Fundraising Committee

Dear friends,

Come dressed to the 'nines' for a true Gala as we celebrate Terry Joseph and all she does for Temple Isaiah.

Our Gala Dinner is the big social event of the year and our Journal our biggest and last fundraiser of the year before we head into the quiet days of summer.

This year, not only are we honoring an outstanding member, but a special couple, Terry and Richard Joseph will be renewing their vows, celebrating 54 years of marriage.

For over 30+ years Terry has selflessly dedicated her time, some say her life, to help run Temple Isaiah and

raise funds. Terry creatively handles the tiny essential details that may go unnoticed, the results of which are a smooth-running organization. I would be remiss if I did not mention the fantastically successful and hugely difficult bazaar, to name a big one, that Terry organizes and runs.

Let's support Terry's efforts and a place we call our 2nd home, Temple Isaiah.

We look forward to seeing you (at 6pm on May 28th, at Leonard's Palazzo in Great Neck) as well as your contribution congratulating Terry in the Journal (before the deadline on May 11th).

Sincerely,

Terry Birnbaum-Horton

Treasurer/Financial Secretary

Our fiscal year ends on May 31, so we depend on everyone to be done paying your dues pledges by then. 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

P.S. from Amy Gorman: Please watch for next year's (2026-27) Membership information coming your way soon!



Social Action Committee

All we can say is there is more and more of the same. We must continue our efforts to make our elected representatives aware of our concerns, be they the war with Iran, violations of our constitutional rights, immigration, health care or corruption. Please write, call or email your representatives with your pleasure or displeasure with the state of our nation. Also, if there is a particular candidate running in a primary or later for election in November, get involved in their campaigns.

Additionally, consider volunteering your time to the many organizations dealing with the issues that are important to you. Unfortunately, none of these issues have gone away, although some may have receded to the background, while new issues grab the spotlight. However difficult it may be to keep our focus, it is imperative that we do.

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

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

Proposed Slate – Temple Isaiah Board of Trustees 2026-2027

To be voted upon at the annual Congregational Meeting, June 3rd, 7pm

Executive Committee

Presidium: Kathie Davis
Terry Joseph
Shelley Sherman

Vice President Fundraising: Terry Birnbaum-Horton

Vice President Programming: Lloyd Perell

Vice President Membership: Amy Gorman

Vice President Social Action: Denise Miller

Treasurer/Financial Secretary: Bill Hersh

Recording Secretary: Linda Burghardt

Trustees

Steve Fein
Rona Levy
Rachel Greenwald
Ruth Isaac
Judy Snow

Martin Secofsky
Paula Newman
Jean Lesser
Marcia Null
Scott Schleifstein

Jonathan Wagner



WEBINAR

The Jewish Life of Pablo Picasso: An Untold Story

Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 1:00 PM
Presented by
Dr. Linda Burghardt, Scholar-in-Residence



I would like to personally invite you to a webinar I will be presenting for the Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center on **Wednesday, May 6, at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom**. The program is entitled: "The Jewish Life of Pablo Picasso: An Untold Story," and I would be delighted if you would be able to attend.

Despite Picasso's immense fame, few people know that he was profoundly nurtured by his Jewish lovers, friends, colleagues and patrons, and that he developed a deep sense of Jewish values that shaped his worldview and guided his paintbrush. He supported Zionist causes and openly fought injustice and antisemitism through his artwork, once even declaring "My painting is Jewish painting." Join us on Wednesday, May 6, as we explore the untold story of

this legendary genius and the critical Jewish influences that catapulted him to the pinnacle of the 20th century art world.

The webinar is free of charge, but registration is required. You can sign up at hmtcli.org/events or just click the web address below on **Wednesday, May 6, at 1:00 p.m.**:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_isyEehoaQ4uCujAOTYDLtw

We hope to see you there. Please join us!

Best regards,

Linda Burghardt



Rabbi Jerry's class, with Rabbi Sheinberg
Final Thursday, May 14th, at 7:30 pm, location TBD

The Book of Samuel: Politics, Intrigue and Drama

We continue with a critical reading of important sections from the Book of Samuel that bring to light the human and the political sides of some of our greatest leaders and Kings.



Current Events Conversation
Sunday, May 17th, 3pm

Let's keep talking to help each other make sense of what's happening in our world and its representation in the media.



Tikkun Leil Shavuot
Thursday, May 21st, 6:45pm

at North Country Reform Temple, 86 Crescent Beach Road in Glen Cove.



Our Annual Journal Gala, this year in honor of Terry Joseph
Thursday, May 28th, 6pm

at Leonard's Palazzo of Great Neck; all Journal entries due May 11th.

May Celebrations & Rememberances



BIRTHDAYS

Rabbi Jerry Blum.....May 7
Scott Schleifstein.....May 9

Kathie Davis.....May 12
Nina Koss.....May 20

Shelley Sherman.....May 23
David Burghardt.....May 24



ANNIVERSARIES

Helman & Judy Brook.....May 3

YAHRZEITS

Irving Warshavsky
Father of Steven Warshavsky (5/1)

Bert Aubrey
Uncle of David Aubrey (5/9)

Ruth Gusler
Mother of Diana Kerievsky (5/10)

Leonard Wagner
Grandfather of Jonathan Wagner (5/11)

Beatrice Aubrey
Mother of David Aubrey (5/12)

Merrill Goldman
Partner of Barbara Feldman (5/12)

Martin Joel Feldman
Father of Alisa Secofsky (5/14)

Rachel Rose Epstein
Grandmother of Irwin Epstein (5/16)

Judy Ensler
Sister of Sheila DeFazio (5/19)

Rachel Goldberg
Mother of Leona Kirschner (5/19)

Beth Harwood-Lesser
Daughter-in-Law of Jean Lesser (5/19)

John McTiernan
Father of Gary McTiernan (5/19)

Ronald T. Howard
Father of Victoria Wilmarth (5/20)

Selma Dechter
Grandmother of Irwin Epstein (5/21)

Lena Epstein
Mother of Pat Procton (5/21)

Stanley H. Beckerman
Husband of Ruth Beckerman (5/22)

Billy Gowryluk
Brother of June Feldman (5/22)

Pearl Tosky
Mother of Eric Tosky (5/22)

Emma Borden
Mother of Patricia Gabay (5/25)

Nissim Menashe
Father of Jack Menashe (5/26)

Charles Kirschner
Father of Philip Kirschner (5/28)

Louis Borin
Husband of Muriel Borin (5/31)

Florence Schiller
Grandmother of Belle Gayer (5/31)



General Donations

Tree of Life Refuah shleima for David Aubrey

Tree of Life Refuah shleima for Linda Burghardt

Barbara Feldman in memory of Merrill Goldman

Nina Koss in memory of Sol Koss

Bill Hersh and Jonathan Wagner for assistance with chametz donation

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.



May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Shabbat Seivces in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	2 Torah Study Zoom only 9:30am
3	4	5	6	7	8 Shabbat Seivces in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	9 Torah Study Zoom only 9:30am
10	11 Gala Journal Entry Deadline	12	13	14 Rabbi's Class 3/3 7:30pm	15 Shabbat Services in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	16 Torah Study Zoom only 9:30am
17 Current Events with Helman & Judy Brook 3pm	18	19	20	21 Tikkun Leil Shavuot North Country Reform Temple 6:45pm	22 Shabbat Services in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	23 No Torah Study
24 31	25	26	27	28 Annual Gala Leonard's Pala- zzo 6 -11pm	29	30 Torah Study In Temple and via Zoom 9:30am



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1 Chelsea Place, Great Neck, NY 11021

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