TEMPLE ISAIAH
Temple Isaiah of Great Neck

TEMPLE ISAIAH Bulletin

OCTOBER 2026

Office: 516-487-5373 | **Email:** office@templeisaiahgn.org | **Hours:** Tues. & Fridays 12-2:30pm

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Co-Presidents:
Kathie Davis
Terry Joseph
Shelley Sherman

Rabbi: Jerry Blum

SIMCHAT TORAH, 5787

Rabbi's Column

As I peered out my window hoping to see just a touch of blue sky after all the heavy winds and torrents of rain, I was gifted with a dark horizon and a light mist. When I went out to do some errands before my day started (I can't believe how many meetings there were today), the rain wasn't enough to open my umbrella, but certainly enough to cover my rain jacket with a light coating of precipitation that slowly dripped onto my glasses and had me wishing I had opened the darn umbrella.

And then I remembered my own words from Yom Kippur morning: **When the world seems like nothing is going right, we need to stop and notice**. And then, say a *b'rachah*—a blessing. We need to begin our day with gratitude and engage in the concept of ***hakarat hatov***, literally, "recognizing the good." Something can be as ordinary as an apple—or a Nor'easter—but when we say a blessing, we change our relationship with the ordinary. The object of the blessing takes on a sense of holiness. We begin to recognize the Divine in the small acts and ordinary objects of our lives.

There is a beautiful blessing recited when we experience a heavy windstorm: *Baruch Atah Hashem, Elokeinu Melech Haolam, Osei Ma'asei V'reishit*—Blessed are You, Adonai, Sovereign of the Universe, who continually engages in the act of creation. Much changed during the storm we experienced, but did we stop to notice the good? Did we express gratitude for the first responders who worked to keep us safe and informed? Did we notice that hospitals still needed to be staffed, that people traveled to work to make sure food was available, and that so many worked to keep our power grid functioning? There are blessings even closer to home.

This past week, almost as soon as Yom Kippur ended, members of our community stepped up and began this new year with mitzvah in their hearts and actions. Jonathan and Scott, with help from Devon and one of his buddies, put up our sukkah despite the threat of a powerful storm. Our tradition tells us that if it is dangerous, we do not have to build a sukkah. Yet their commitment to the mitzvah—and to Temple Isaiah—made sure our sukkah was ready for us to pray, sit, and share a bite together.

And then, this past Friday, a large group gathered for dinner, graciously provided by Shelley. In the words of the Torah, "*V'achalta, V'savata, u'Veirachta*"—we ate, we were satisfied, and we blessed in gratitude. Suddenly an evening that might have been simply people sitting together over pizza became something more: a moment of holiness created through our relationships with one another. Martin Buber often taught that God lives in our most meaningful relationships. I could feel that Divine presence at our Shabbat and Erev Sukkot celebration.

For me, this past year has been life-changing on so many levels, physically, spiritually, and within my family. I have been afforded so many blessings, even blessings that have emerged from difficult moments. So, I want to take this opportunity to practice *hakarat hatov*. I also apologize if I forgot someone.

First, thank you to our amazing Ritual Committee, Ruth and Paula, who wrangled all the aliyot, made sure people were honored, and stepped in when last-minute changes arose. You put in many hours of work and helped make this another sweet and stressless High Holy Day season. Shelley, Terry Joseph, and Kathie have once again led our Temple community through another year, taking on roles that were not necessarily in the Temple President's manual, stepping up and covering for one another without hesitation. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to our TI family, especially in times like these. Many thanks to Terry Birnbaum-Horton, Lloyd, Bill, Scott, Jonathan, Denise and Steve, Amy and Howie, David, David Spiro—our guest Jonah reader—Paula, and Arlyn, who delivered thought-provoking Divrei Torah. Special thanks to Debrah and Devon, who make sure our little Temple runs like the well-oiled machine that it is—even when we have a small ceiling mishap in the middle of Yom Kippur services. There are not enough words to thank you for the hours you devote to this community.

I am also eternally grateful for my **bimah partners**, who helped communicate the sweetness, beauty, and solemnity of our High Holy Days and made worship meaningful for so many of us. Thank you to our new Music Director, **Erez Aviram**, for his masterful accompaniment and insights, and for helping shape our worship into such a meaningful experience. I was so happy to welcome our cellist, **Iona Batchelder**, back for her fourth year. She once again brought the haunting melody of Kol Nidre to life and began our Yom Kippur service with beauty and spirituality. Thank you to our amazing cantorial soloist, **Estie Spike-Neaman**. The joy Estie brought to our bimah and to our t'filah was palpable. I also want to thank our Rabbinic Intern, **Talia Werber**. Her Torah insights and spoken words were moving, and we look forward to learning from her again.

And finally, thank you to everyone who joined us for services, sat at the door, welcomed visitors, introduced them to fellow worshipers, and to everyone who came to pray in the Temple or watched and sang along from home. **This kehillah is made up of people who are the lifeline of Temple Isaiah of Great Neck, and for that, I am eternally grateful**. Lastly, I am so grateful for Arlyn, my *Eishet Chayil*, my wife, my life partner, and the coolest gramAr ever. I am thankful for her understanding and patience with me over these many years. You are a lifesaver, my best friend, and the best mom and gramAr anyone could have.

May we continue to stop, notice, and recognize the blessings that surround us, even when the sky is dark, the rain is falling, and we have forgotten to bring our umbrellas.

Chag Sameach,

Rabbi Jerry

Co-President's Column

As another year of High Holiday services have almost concluded we would like to thank everyone who took part in creating very special and meaningful High Holidays 5787- Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services.

Thank you to Rabbi Blum for your hard work in creating inspiring and thought provoking sermons and in assembling and leading such an outstanding team. We know it took many hours of practice to achieve such seamless services. Our thanks and appreciation are extended to Cantorial Soloist Estie, Musical Director Erez and Rabbinical Intern Talia. There was a synergy among all of you which resonated throughout the Services.

Thank you to the Ritual Committee Chairs– Ruth Isaac and Paula Newman for assigning and managing our members' Aliyot, readings and rituals, even with so many last minute changes.You did a stellar job in assuring that so many congregants had the opportunity to participate.

Thank you to the Technology Team – Rabbi Blum, Bill Hersh, Lloyd Perell and Scott Schleifstein. We literally could not have shared our beautiful services with those at home without your expertise and assistance.

Thank you to Terry Birnbaum-Horton for providing the gorgeous arrays of flowers throughout our High Holiday Season which embellished our Temple Home.

We thank our current and past presidents for sponsoring a collation following Rosh Hashanah services to assure the beginning of a sweet new year. We hope everybody enjoyed it

Thank you to Denise Miller and Steve Fein for continuing the tradition of providing the delicious clementines to break the fast.

Thank you to Devon Shuriah for always being there to make sure everything ran smoothly and looked neat and festive.

Thank you to Debrah for the many hours of administrative back and forth and making sure everything presented perfectly.

And we also want to thank Jonathan Wagner for leading the team to erect and decorate our Sukkah along with Scott Schleifstein and Devon Shuriah. Please come and enjoy a meal there.

Thanks to Co-President Shelley for sponsoring our pizza-in-the-hut Sukkot dinner.

And most importantly we want to thank you, our congregants and guests for attending and participating in all of the services and for your commitment to Temple Isaiah which is celebrating our 18th year in a home of our own and over 50 years in existence. We gratefully express our appreciation for your friendship and partnership in the longevity and stability of our Temple Isaiah community.

The Presidium

Shelley, Terry, and Kathie

Letters from Our Community

Caring Committee

We are a Temple Isaiah family, and we care for each other deeply. We are always here for you, rain or shine.

In regards to caring, I would like to mention our luncheon on October 25th honoring Carol and Bill Hersh who exemplify caring, hard work, and going above and beyond for the good of the temple.You have received your invitations, so please answer promptly and try not to give the minimum amount but reach up and go toward the maximum amount. This will make you feel good.

Warmly, Kathie Davis

Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in our very successful postcard writing party on September 24th. Eight of us wrote and addressed 200 postcards urging people in Texas and North Carolina to vote this November. The warmth and camaraderie in the room was palpable.

As a reminder to all, there will be another "No Kings" rally on October 17th. The exact time and location is yet to be determined, although Great Neck or Mineola are in the running. We will notify everyone of the details when it is decided. Please save the date and participate.

Our annual High Holiday food drive for Hatzilu is still ongoing. Please bring nonperishable food (K or U) to the temple for us to deliver to Hatzilu. Thank you in advance to Jonathan Wagner, our official Hatzilu schlepper. If you prefer to write a check, please do so and forward it to the temple. We will get it to Hatzilu. Thank you to everyone for your participation.

Denise Miller & Judy Brook

Treasurer/Financial Secretary

Most but not all members have sent in their pledges, most have made a first payment, and many have made complete payments. So this month's message is please send in your pledge if you haven't already. For those of you on a monthly payment schedule, we look forward to that. And we will still accept all your Kol Nidre appeal donations, following the Rabbi's inaugural appeal this year!

When you start your payments, you may use Zelle (call the office for the ID the first time you use this), send a check, or use the donation link on the website (top right hand corner) and pay by credit card without any 3% fee added on - just ***please*** tell us what the payment is for by emailing the office at office@templeisaiahgn.org. If you are paying by a donation of stock, it is critical that you notify the office and me so the stock can be sold as soon as it is in our account.

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). It is not taxable but still counts towards your RMD - and again, let the office know what the check is for. It has to go directly from the broker to the Temple. For those of you with large deductions (like property taxes and all your charitable donations), the QCD may not be as useful as it was before last year's tax bill, so you may find you can skip this method.

Bill Hersh

The Ritual Committee

Rejoices with congregants in the sukkah for a blessed 5787!

Bake Sale Time is Coming

Get your recipes out and fire up the ovens, Temple Isaiah Bakers! It's time to volunteer those wonderful baking skills! Amy will be contacting you soon.

Bazaar Planning has Begun
November 6th, 8th & 9th

Please donate items for the Bazaar/Tag Sale during the last two weeks in October.

Reply to your Invitations!

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Consider an additional level of giving to
Honor Carol and Bill
while supporting Temple Isaiah

Your gift will be matched dollar for dollar,
up to a cap of $5,000

Chaver Donor	$50
Shalom Donor	$100
Mitzvah Donor	$250
Includes lunch for 1 person	
Chai Donor	$360
Includes lunch for 2 people	
Tzedakah Donor	$500
Includes lunch for 2 people	
Chesed Donor	$1000
Includes lunch for 4 people and a 2 dollar for 1 dollar match!	

All donor names will be included
in the program

October Events

Erev Simchat Torah, Friday, October 2nd with Temple Beth El

Simchat Torah: Yizkor, Saturday, October 3rd, 10:30AM, Atria Cuttermill

(The Return of the) Current Events Convo
Sunday, October 18th at 3:00 PM

The world continues to be in turmoil. Come help us figure it all out. Scott Schliefstein and Judy Snow will chair the discussion, taking over from Helman and Judy after their many years of making this such a rewarding event..

Class with the Rabbi: The Akeidah: An In-Depth Look at One of the Most Difficult Narratives in the Torah

Two Tuesdays, October 20th & 27th, time TBD

The story of the Binding of Isaac has confounded and brought deep discomfort to our greatest Torah commentators and students of Torah. We will study the text in its clearest form and then discuss the human side of this story. There is no knowledge of Hebrew needed and although the Rabbi would love for everyone to join for both sessions, each class will stand on its own.

Luncheon for Carol and Bill Hersh
Sunday, October 25th at 12:30 PM

We are grateful to have congregants like the Hershs who have contributed so much energy and skill to Temple Isaiah. Your generous contribution will be matched dollar for dollar, for a total of $5000. Watch your mailbox for the invitations.

October Celebrations & Rememberances

BIRTHDAYS

Diane Haber.....October 4

Jonathan Wagner.....October 26

YAHRZEITS

Norman Miller
Father of Denise Miller (10/1)

Larry Sharpe
Friend of Mindy & Howard Israel (10/1)

Herman Kristal
Father of Evelyn Solow (10/3)

Harvey Rosenberg
Brother of Ruth Isaac (10/3)

Hyman Solow
Father-in-law of Evelyn Solow (10/6)

Henry Gluckauf
Uncle of Sylvia Jacobs (10/7)

Abraham Kerievsky
Father of Bruce Kerievsky (10/8)

Maria Abrevaya
Great-aunt of David Aubrey (10/9)

Georgi Michele
Friend of Lloyd Perell (10/9)

Charles Silver
Uncle of Jonathan Silver (10/9)

Herman Soifer
Husband of Arlene Soifer (10/9)

Edward Leonard Neumann
Son of Jacqueline Neumann (10/10)

Isaac Epstein
Father of Pat Epstein (10/15)

Anna Levenbach
Grandmother of William Rosenberg (10/15)

Marjorie Blum
Mother of Erica Blum (10/18)

Jeff Crane
Father-in-Law of Brian Joseph (10/19)

Eugene Lustig
Father-in-law of Mortimer Hans (10/19)

Edith Auerbach
Mother of Neil Auerbach (10/20)

Ronald Lane
Brother-in-law of Neil Auerbach (10/20)

Lillian Mines Motz
Sister of Saul Mines (10/20)

Ilene Yoss
Mother of Marcia Null (10/22)

Sam Yoss
Father of Marcia Null (10/22)

Ida Haber
Mother of Diane Haber (10/23)

Sheila Weinberg
Mother of Arlyn Brenner Blum (10/23)

Brian Horton
Husband of Terry Birnbaum-Horton (10/25)

Siema Miller
Great-aunt of David Aubrey (10/25)

Allen Walter Hessel
Brother-in-law of Linda & Martin Marshak (10/26)

Monserrate Torres
Mother of Terese Joseph (10/27)

Seymour Rubin
Father of Harold Rubin (10/29)

Harry Nathenson
Father of Jan Spero (10/31)

September Donations

General Donations

In honor of Kol Nidre:

Michelle and Rod Birnbaum, Carol and Bill Hersh, Aimee Perets, Shelley Sherman, Anonymous

Memorial Plaques:

Terry Birnbaum-Horton

Judy & Helman Brook in memory of Louis Brook

Carol & Bill Hersh in memory of Marc Frader and Norma Hersh

Larry Waldman in honor of Steve Fein's bday

Ruth Isaac in honor of Reb Jerry

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.

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 **Shabbat Services** Temple Beth El 7pm	3 **Yizkor** Atria Cuttermill 10:30am **Shemini Atzeret**
4 **Simchat Torah**	5	6	7	8	9 **Shabbat Services** in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	10 **Hybrid Torah Study** in Temple and via Zoom - 9:30am
11	12	13	14	15	16 **Shabbat Services** in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	17 **Torah Study** Zoom only 9:30am
18 **Current Events** 3pm	19	20 **Rabbi's Class 1/2** Time TBD	21	22	23 **Shabbat Services** in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	24 **Torah Study** Zoom only 9:30am
25 **Luncheon** La Baraka 12:30pm	26	27 **Rabbi's Class 2/2** Time TBD	28	29	30 **Shabbat Services** in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	31 **Torah Study** Zoom only 9:30am

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Fall 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