TEMPLE ISAIAH
Bulletin
NOVEMBER 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

TAG SALE!

Rabbi's Column

As I perused the calendar, I was reminded that we have entered the final months of the secular year. So much has happened in our Temple Isaiah community, throughout our country, and across our world. Over this past year, we have experienced losses that have left us grieving, moments that have challenged our spirits, and an ongoing political climate that can leave us, as a Jewish community, feeling anxious, frustrated, and uncertain about what tomorrow may bring. Sometimes it feels as though we cannot catch our breath before another headline demands our attention or another concern weighs upon our hearts. And then there is Israel, and that's a discussion for another day.

And yet, here we are in November, a month that invites us to pause, reflect, and give thanks. It is also a month in which we are called to exercise one of our most important civic responsibilities: the right to vote. I will not tell you for whom to vote, but I will encourage you, with all sincerity, to please get out and vote. Our democracy depends upon participation, people who care enough to make their voices heard and who understand that our choices help shape the world we leave to future generations. Voting is not simply a political act, it is an expression of our responsibility to one another and our communities.

On the Jewish calendar, we also welcome the month of Kislev, the month in which we celebrate Hanukkah. Although the festival is still a little way off, its central theme offers us something we need right now, nissim, miracles.

We all know the familiar story of the small flask of oil that was expected to burn for one night but miraculously lasted for eight. We spin our dreidels, light our hanukkiyot, and celebrate the triumph of hope over despair. But I find myself wondering, these days, when our lives are often filled with angst, and when the world feels so fractured, where do we find the miracles? What does it mean to believe in them when life does not always unfold as we hope?

Perhaps the answer begins with something very small.

In Jewish tradition, we engage in a beautiful morning gratitude ritual when we recite the Modeh Ani prayer, in which we offer thanks for the return of our souls upon awakening. Before the day's responsibilities begin, before we read the news or check our phones, we acknowledge the gift of another day. Reciting this short meditation is an act of faith, hope and gratitude.

This does not mean that gratitude erases grief or distress, nor we should overlook our pain, minimize our losses, or pretend that everything is well when it is not. Jewish tradition makes room for tears as surely as it makes room for celebration. Sometimes, the miracle is not that our pain or fear vanishes, but that we discover the strength to carry it, supported by family, friends, and our Temple Isaiah community.

In the same morning prayer section, we recite a list of blessings called nissim b'chol yom, the recounting of the daily miracles. Our sages encouraged us to recite one hundred blessings each day. I wonder whether, beyond fulfilling a religious obligation, they were teaching us a spiritual discipline: To take notice of the blessings that surround us and give thanks, in the moment.

These moments of gratitude do not solve every problem. But they do remind us that darkness is not the only thing that exists, even when darkness is what we see most clearly.

And towards the end of November, there is my favorite holiday of all time, Thanksgiving. It reminds us that gratitude is not reserved for a single day. Gratitude is a practice, a way of seeing the world without denying its difficulties. It asks us to hold two truths together: that there is much that troubles us, and that there is still much worth cherishing.

Perhaps this November, we can give ourselves the gift of three quiet minutes each day. Take a breath. Set aside the headlines and the demands of daily life. Think of one person, one experience, or one small moment for which you are grateful. Maybe even write it down. Over time, you may discover that these seemingly ordinary moments have created something extraordinary: a record of the goodness that continues to find its way into our lives.

As we move toward Hanukkah, may we remember that we do not have to wait for a spectacular miracle to experience wonder. Sometimes, the miracle is our capacity to begin again, to care for one another, to participate in shaping a more compassionate society, and to find light even when the path ahead is unclear.

May this month bring comfort to those who are grieving, strength to those who are struggling, courage to those who are fearful, and renewed hope to all of us. May we remember that we are not meant to navigate life's uncertainties alone. We have one another, our traditions, and the sacred opportunity to make a difference in the world around us.

And may we learn to recognize the miracles already among us, one blessing, one act of kindness, and one moment of gratitude at a time.

Rabbi Jerry

Co-President's Column

In my life I have served on the Boards, Executive Boards and as officers of three major Zionist organizations which were not offshoots of Israeli political parties. In each our goal was to support the people of Israel in a variety of ways but not to get involved in the politics of whichever was the duly elected government at the time. The rationale was if we wanted to help determine the actions of the country we should make Aliyah and vote. We took stands on issues but in a non-partisan way. For the most part this felt reasonable until of course it didn't.

Now Israelis-,Jews, Christians and Arabs are headed to the polls to elect a new government. By the time you read this the initial results will be in. Israel has a multi-party parliamentary system, with 38 different political parties contesting the legislative election for 120 seats in the Knesset. It is rare if even possible for any one party to gain a majority as any party with 3.5 % of the vote will get 4 representatives. Therefore a government can only be formed when one of the major parties can induce small parties to join them. This gives the tiny parties enormous power to bolster or bring down a government. In this case many of the small parties are ultra Orthodox or far right. In return for their support they get cabinet positions or other valuable posts. This is why the Netanyahu government took a sharp turn to the right many years ago and managed to stay in power.

Netanyahu, who has dominated Israeli politics for decades, offered the promise of a more religious Israel. His opponents portrayed the vote as the last chance to preserve liberal democracy and repair Israel's shattered image abroad

We won't know the actual make-up of the new or continuing government for weeks or longer, but we will have some insight into the mood of the nation.

Israelis who live abroad can't vote absentee so must return to Israel if they wish to vote.

Why am I writing about this? Because we are increasingly facing a world in which the lives and safety of Jews are being affected by the actions of the Jewish state. Maybe it is therefore necessary to voice our opinions.

P.S. For more details see: **https://www.nytimes.com/2026/10/29/world/middleeast/israel-election-results-netanyahu-eisenkot.html?campaign_id=60&emc=edit_na_20261029&instance_id=184363&nl=breaking-news&regi_id=22956253&segment_id=228914&user_id=7ad147d49335ab9af4507b9b664ed4e5**

All of us at Temple Isaiah are so saddened by the loss of our dear friend and longtime member, board member and former President Helman Brook. Helman's great intellect, humor and dedication to the synagogue were always inspiring. We will miss him and may his memory be a blessing.

The Presidium

Shelley, Terry, and Kathie

Caring Committee

Our temple members are truly caring and special. Reflecting about the wonderful luncheon honoring Carol and Bill Hersh, there was such a lovely atmosphere of caring and warmth. We are a Temple Isaiah family who are here for each other, in good times and in not so good times. I was speaking with Sheila DeFazio who misses us, just as we miss her. Please email, text, or call her. She would love to hear from you. She has moved to Denver.

Caring Committee members are always here for you.

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving

Kathie Davis

Social Action Committee

Hopefully by the time you read this, you will have voted, but just in case, VOTE and make sure your family and friends vote too.

We had another very successful postcard writing party where a group of us wrote an additional 200 cards urging citizens in California and North Carolina to get out and vote. A number of us have also been canvassing, text banking, phone banking and rallying for local candidates for the midterm elections.

Regardless of the outcome of the elections, we need to continue (step-up?) our advocacy and involvement.

As many of you may have noticed, our High Holiday Hatzilu food collection was a big success. Thank you to everyone who participated.

After the bazaar, we will recommence our ongoing food collection in the lobby. The need for food is also ongoing and unfortunately, growing more severe.

Denise Miller & Judy Brook

Treasurer/Financial Secretary

We are now at the end of month 5 of our fiscal year, and since we have always asked that your dues pledge be fulfilled by March (month 10 of our fiscal year), you should be about half paid up by now. Also, just two months to go for those charitable contributions to be taken. We have your pledges, so many thanks for that, and if you've forgotten to send in your Kol Nidre appeal donation, there is no expiration date for doing that.

For all donations, 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

Fundraising

We've all enjoyed another successful Temple Isaiah luncheon for two very deserving members and friends. We thank Bill and Carol for allowing us to honor their dedication and hard work for Temple Isaiah while navigating rewarding careers and family life.

We thank all who came to enjoy the wonderful lunch at LaBaraka and hear the accomplishments of Carol and Bill in their life and at Temple Isaiah.

Below, find information about more fun fundraisers: the Bazaar and the Bake Sale!

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE IN YOUR CALENDAR,

December 13th at 3:30pm

Auction in December .....One of our biggest fundraisers, and the fundraiser that keeps giving, as we use all our 'purchases' through the year, from gathering with friends for meals, to dinners out, and gift certificates for local stores, and more.

Please reach out to me with your offerings for our auction catalogue, for instance: dinners, lunches, brunches, dessert & coffee, cocktails at your home, gift certificates for local stores and restaurants, art, books, wine, baskets of food and/or wine, one of your talents from knitting, sewing, painting, museum tour and more!

Terry Birnbaum-Horton

Welcome, New Member ***Marcy Rosenfeld,*** to our Temple Isaiah Family

When Marcy was growing up, she and her family belonged to a temple on the South Shore. They observed the Jewish holidays, and she had a Bat Mitzvah there. Marcy first learned about Temple Isaiah at the Atria where she joined her mother for Temple Isaiah-led services eight years ago. That fall, they also went to High Holiday services in our sanctuary.

For some years, Marcy had been feeling a pull to reconnect to her faith. This past spring, Marcy started attending services at Temple Isaiah, where she experienced a sense of peace from both the services and the setting. She really enjoyed how the Rabbi conducted the services and thought that the members were very welcoming. She likes that Temple Isaiah is down-to-earth or, as her mother would say, haimish.

Marcy describes herself as a career changer. She started out in a business career but moved onto teaching in search of greater meaning and fulfillment. She taught English as a New Language (ENL) in the public schools for 21 years, primarily with kindergarteners and first graders. Now retired from full-time work, she misses the hugs from the little ones and reading them stories. She hopes to do part-time work related to ENL in the future.

SIncere thanks for the outpouring of love and support I've received from my temple family at Helman's death. It has brought me great comfort.

Judy Brook

November Event

Our Bazaar!

Hope you are all ready to help with the many tasks to get the Bazaar up (set-up) and running (sales work) and breakdown (clean-up).

As we know, it is a wonderful time to bond and have fun

(as well as get a lot of exercise, believe it or not).

It's also a fundraiser that brings in non-members to support Temple Isaiah.

COME HELP, especially when Terry Joseph calls you!

COME SHOP, because you never know when you will find a gem, useful gadget, or essential serving piece.

BRING YOUR FRIENDS

And SPREAD THE WORD

BAZAAR – NOVEMBER 6th, 8th AND 9th, 10:30 am to 5:30 pm

PLEASE CONTACT TERRY JOSEPH TO VOLUNTEER: 516-238-5981

November Events

Bake Sale Goodness

We bake, we share, we eat and it benefits Temple Isaiah.
Preview: Apple Cake, Apple Torte, Chocolate Chip Bundt Cake, Coffee Cake, Blueberry Chocolate Loaf, Chocolate Chip cookies.....Order forms coming soon. **Order by Monday, November 16th**, then pick-up baked goods at Temple Isaiah, Wednesday, November 26th! Contact: Amy Gorman – 718-372-6842 text or call, or gormanhoward@gmail.com

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

Second Class, Tuesdays, November 17th, 7:30pm via Zoom

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.

Current Events Convo
Sunday, November 22nd at 3:00 PM

With Scott Schliefstein and Judy Snow

Come help us solve the world's problems. With cookies, of course.

November Celebrations & Rememberances

BIRTHDAYS

Jack Menashe.....November 2
Rod Birnbaum.....November 8
Howard Gorman.....November 9
David Aubrey.....November 10
Linda Burghardt.....November 11
Bella Bekker-Silver.....November 14
Susan Drucker.....November 19
Lloyd Perell.....November 20
Michelle Birnbaum.....November 27

ANNIVERSARIES

Meryl & Jack Menashe.....November 9
Rabbi Jerry Blum & Arlyn Brenner Blum....Nov. 10

YAHRZEITS

Leo Levenbach
Grandfather of William Rosenberg (11/1)

Albert Moulin
Father of Edward Moulin (11/1)

Nathan Wolff
Father of Sylvia Gersman (11/1)

Ella Guttstadt
Mother of Leonie Goldfarb (11/2)

Barry Benton
Husband of Kit Benton (11/3)

Rose Fuchs
Mother of Connie Maller (11/3)

Lillian Gordon
Aunt of Robert Gordon (11/3)

Louis Nissim Levy
Father-in-law of Rona Levy (11/3)

Paul Waldman
Father of Lillian Scheibel (11/3)

Gary Gumpert
Partner of Susan Drucker (11/6)

James M.A. Pillet
Father of Rona Levy (11/6)

Rose Victorio DeFazio
Mother of VictorDeFazio (11/7)

Charles Braverman
Friend of Florence Levy (11/8)

Nathan Sherman
Father of Shelley Sherman (11/8)

Susan (Rubenstein) Weiss
Sister of Neil Rubenstein (11/9)

Alfred Bein
Uncle of William Rosenberg (11/13)

Shirley Jacobs
Grandmother of Jonathan Wagner (11/13)

Jennie Gayer
Grandmother of Elliott Gayer (11/15)

Solomon Isaacs
Grandfather Terry Birnbaum-Horton (11/15)

Anne Sabrin Rodin
Aunt of Robert Gordon (11/15)

Diane Loew
Great-aunt of Mindy Israel (11/16)

Esther Shapiro
Mother of Barbara Feldman (11/16)

Victor Aubrey
Grandfather of David Aubrey (11/17)

Robert Isaacs
Uncle of Terry Birnbaum-Horton (11/17)

Phyllis Trinin
Wife of Stanley Kirshenbaum (11/17)

Abraham Dechter
Grandfather of Irwin Epstein (11/19)

Alfred Guttstadt
Father of Leonie Goldfarb (11/19)

Goldie Cohen
Mother of Sheila DeFazio (11/21)

Leonard Kristal
Brother of Evelyn Solow (11/21)

Cissy Sherman
Aunt of Shelley Sherman (11/21)

Bertha Goldfarb
Mother of Norman Goldfarb (11/23)

Susan Bendor
Mother of Cathy & Jane Bendor (11/24)

Sally Lipsey
Mother of Carol Hersh (11/26)

Charles Maller
Father-in-law of Connie Maller (11/26)

Abraham Secofsky
Father of Martin Secofsky (11/26)

Golda Appleman
Great-grandmother of David Aubrey (11/27)

Ilonka Hans
Mother of Mortimer Hans (11/29)

Toby Rosenberg
Mother of Ruth isaac (11/29)

Anne Densky-Moran
Sister of Judith Densky (11/30)

Leon Lewis
Uncle of Willa Lewis (11/30)

Esther Schwartz
Mother of Louis Schwartz (11/30)

General Donations

Judy Brook, Kathie Davis, Bill & Carol Hersh, Denise Miller & Steve Fein, Terry Birnbaum-Horton, Ruth Isaac, Shelley Sherman, Richard & Terry Joseph, Paula Newman
Get well wishes for Shelley Sherman

Mazel Tov to Terry Birnbaum-Horton on her daughter's engagement

Suzanne Branch, Rona Levy, Cathy Reibstein in memory of Helman Brook

Terry Joseph, Denise Miller and Steve Fein, **Debbie Meyers** in honor of Kol Nidre

George Feld, Audrey Isaac & Michelle Iacolina, Terry &Richard Joseph, Ellen and Lenny Schaier in honor of Rabbi Jerry Blum

Peter Wayne in honor of Steve Fein's birthday

Harold Rubin in memory of Seymour 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.

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 **Bazaar** 10am-4pm **Shabbat Services** Zoom Only 7pm	7 **Torah Study** Zoom Only 9:30am
8 **Bazaar** 10am-4pm	9 **Bazaar** 10am-4pm	10	11	12	13 **Shabbat Services** in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	14 **Torah Study** Zoom Only 9:30am
15	16	17 **Rabbi's Class 2/2** 7:30pm Zoom	18	19	20 **Shabbat Services** in Temple and via Zoom - 7pm	21 **Hybrid Torah Study** in Temple and via Zoom - 9:30am
22 **Current Events** 3pm	23	24	25	26	27 **Shabbat Services** Zoom Only 7pm	28 **No Torah Study**
29	30					

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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