

# TEMPLE ISAIAH

of Stony Brook, New York

Vol. I, Issue I ☆ Feb. 2022

## THE TEMPLE TIMES



### Rabbi Sidlofsky's Reflections

Though we are not celebrating any annual Jewish holidays in February, we are, as always, observing Groundhog Day in this country, as well as in Canada. If like me, you are fans of the movie of this name starring Bill Murray, you may have felt that these past two years have, in some ways, been like reliving the same day over and over again. It has been challenging to be limited in what we can do, and to have to take many extra precautions in our daily lives. Most difficult was not being able to gather as a community.

I am pleased to say that at Temple Isaiah, we are now able to have many options for being together, in a safe, responsible way. While we have continued having many offerings over the past two years, we are looking to expand our activities again and also to do so in person:

☆ Our school has been holding in person classes since September and has had a great year so far, with much more to come. We will be planning fun Purim activities, in conjunction with our wonderful

Social Action Committee and Parent's Association (with hamentaschen, of course!), after a very successful Chanukkah program and assembly.

☆ Our services now have the option of both in person attendance (with plenty of room for all who want to come), as well as live stream viewing. Special occasions such as our recent Board Installation have been made even more meaningful by taking place in our sanctuary.

☆ B'nai Mitzvah are held once again in the sanctuary for all who choose, while holding a Zoom ceremony is still an option. We just held a 2023 B'nai Mitzvah orientation meeting and will soon be assigning dates for 2024 B'nai Mitzvah.

☆ I also look forward to our 6:00 family services, the first Shabbat evening of each month.

☆ We have had both indoor and outdoor special Shabbat day programs, including a wonderful walking tour of historic Setauket, followed by a picnic lunch; and an equally enjoyable round robin exploration of the Temple's history and facility.

☆ We are currently gearing up for the expansion of our Adult Ed. program.

☆ Our beautiful Rabbi Adam Fisher library is fully open and is visited regularly by our students, with the guidance of Carole-Ann Gordon, who also leads a monthly adult book club in the library. Congregants can visit the library 30 minutes before each Shabbat service.

☆ And we are currently exploring a return to in-person congregational Purim celebrations and a Passover seder.

The past two years has taught us that community is more than a building. But it has also reminded us of the value we place on being together with those we care about. At Temple Isaiah, we are an extended family and therefore enjoy each other's company and mutual support. I hope you will continue to look for ways to connect with us and let us know what you'd like to see and experience. And I look forward to being together in person on a more regular basis in the near future. We will continue to follow safety protocols, but will also explore ways to gather and connect to one another. We are very much open for business!

L'shalom,

Rabbi Paul Sidlofsky

# Temple Isaiah Upcoming Events

## PRAYER, STUDY AND COMMUNITY

Temple Isaiah is pleased to offer the following events. Please watch for details and invitation links:

- ✧ Friday, Feb 4th at 6:00 PM — Shabat Family Service
- ✧ Saturday, Feb 5th at 9:30 AM — Torah study with Rabbi Sidlofsky [Also Feb. 12th, 19th and 26th]
- ✧ Sunday, Feb 6th at 10:30 AM — Tanakh Study with Rabbi Karol [Also Feb. 13th]
- ✧ Wednesday, Feb 9th at 7:00 PM — Community Building Committee meeting
- ✧ Sunday, Feb 13th at 11:00 AM — Sisterhood Schmooze
- ✧ Tuesday, Feb 15th at 7:30 PM — Religious School Committee meeting
- ✧ Sunday, Feb 20th at 1:00 PM — Yad Vashem Webinar presented by Men of Reform Judaism
- ✧ Monday, Feb 21st at 7:30 PM — Ritual Committee meeting
- ✧ Wednesday, Feb 23rd at 7:00 PM — Adult Ed with Rabbi Fisher
- ✧ Monday, Feb 28th at 1:00 PM — Book Club Discussion
- ✧ Monday, Feb 28th at 7:00 PM — *Fiddler's Journey to the Big Screen* – Port Jeff. Documentary Series
- ✧ Monday, Feb 28th at 7:30 PM — Board of Trustees meeting



## ADULT EDUCATION

### Key Stories In Genesis

- ✧ Wed., Feb. 23rd: Creation Story ✧ Wed., March 2nd: Noah and the Flood
- ✧ Thurs., March 10th: The Call of Abraham ✧ Wed., March 16th: Hagar-Ishmael and Abraham-Isaac
- ✧ Zoom numbers: ID-9607105984 PW 618650

Enjoy this four-part series with Rabbi Emeritus Adam Fisher. The sessions will take place via Zoom on Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 PM. The course will not focus on the literal text or on the historical-scientific understanding, but the goal will be to see what the contemporary meaning of those stories might be. As such, discussion will be encouraged. Each participant should have a Bible. Rabbi Fisher prefers the Plaut edition used at services, but any edition is fine.



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# A Message From Our President



HOWARD KANOWITZ

Each of us has reasons for joining a temple. I joined Temple Isaiah in 1996 because it was important to me that my children, Jessie and Max, receive a Jewish education. Back in 2003 Jessie became a Bat Mitzvah with Rabbi Fisher, and in 2006 Max became a Bar Mitzvah with Rabbi Karol. The years have gone by quickly, and now I have been given the precious gift of two grandchildren, 3-year-old Henry and Sadie, who just turned one. I was a younger dad back when I joined Temple Isaiah, and now all these years later, I am a grandpa who has become President of our beautiful Temple! How did that happen?

Before becoming president, many of you knew me because for many years I was a busy general contractor, and I worked both inside and outside your homes. It is now my pleasure to use my skills in helping to assess and make recommendations for the upkeep of our building. (Actually, I'm pretty hands on in that department!) In some cases I got to know you through my mom, Betty Kanowitz, of blessed memory, because she was the quintessential Hadassah volunteer. In more recent times I joined the Shir Joy musicians and played the violin at Shabbat services. I look forward to the continuation of these joyful services in our sanctuary!

I think it's safe to say that if you do know me, you know that I am diligent and seek perfection in whatever I do. Having said that, I also try my best to please others. For the next two years I will work hard on behalf of our Temple. If we work together we will achieve many goals that will make us all feel proud and happy! I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at [howiemckan@aol.com](mailto:howiemckan@aol.com) or call or text me at (631) 804-3200.

L'shalom,

Howie Kanowitz



## POSTINGS FROM THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Parents' Association is excited to run our Passover Fundraiser again this year. Students will have the opportunity to sell Kosher for Passover treats and other items using both online accounts and paper order

forms, and Temple members can order through the online system. Items can be shipped directly to you or to the Temple for pick up. We are also planning *Mashloach Manot* for Purim. Keep your eye out for other

fun family friendly activities in the near future!

Ellen Covino  
[ellenflaxmancovino@yahoo.com](mailto:ellenflaxmancovino@yahoo.com)



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# Sustaining Members & Friends of Temple Isaiah 2022

Please help us to maintain Temple Isaiah as a house of worship, a house of learning, and a house of assembly by becoming a Sustaining Member in 2022.

It is here where you celebrate life-cycle events, and it is here where you will find consolation and

encouragement when you need it. It is only with your financial support that Temple Isaiah will be able to continue to provide education, worship services, and compassionate support for people who are experiencing loss, crisis, or illness. Won't you please perform the mitzvah of tzedakah at Temple

Isaiah? If you are able to make a contribution as a Sustaining Member, you will be providing revenue for regular as well as unforeseen expenses, and you will be helping us plan for future generations.

Please join our growing list of Sustaining Members!

Jamie & Dr. Hilton Adler

Ms. Judith Albano

Mrs. Claire Baer

Paula & Steve Bennett

Morisa & Gene Coman

Eileen & Joseph Donnelly

Mrs. Doris Dvorken

Mrs. Pamela Feldman

Eileen & Adam Fisher

Essie & Mark Freilach

Rose French

Suzanne Gabrielsen

Anita & Stewart Gaffan

Suzan & Alfred Goldhaber

Carole-An Gordon

Barbara & Gary Kamen

Howie Kanowitz

Donna & Stephen Karol

Bonnie & Steve Katz

Honey & Arnold Katz

Barbara Meyer

Donna & Lloyd Newman

Sarah & Ethan Pew

Myra & Alan Rosofsky

Iris & David Schiff

Margaret & Jay Schoenfeld

Phyllis Sterne

Diane & Steve Weitzman



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# Temple Isaiah Committees & Clubs

## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

*It is always the right time to do a good deed!*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

It was especially important to perform mitzvot during the pandemic! Although we could not gather, Temple Isaiah congregants made their way to Temple and dropped off many bags of food that were donated to the Harry Chapin Long Island Cares Organization in time for Thanksgiving. The following month our members purchased a number of

beautiful toys that were donated to the Lend A Hand organization, so they could be given to children in time for Hanukkah and Christmas. In January many winter coats were collected and brought to the JCC in Commack for distribution to families in need.

Purim is now right around the corner, (March 16-17th) and the holiday is always celebrated with the mitzvot of giving *misloach manot* and *matanot la-evyonim*.

During the time of revelry and fun our congregation remembers the lives of those who need our help. This will be yet another time to “do a good deed!”

We welcome your ideas for actions as well as advocacy. Please call or send an e-mail: [irisschiff18@gmail.com](mailto:irisschiff18@gmail.com) (631) 928-0971

Iris Schiff, chairperson  
Social Action Committee



## COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE (MEMBERSHIP)

Community Building Committee, previously known as Membership, enthusiastically met for the first time in January. We are eagerly working on programs and events that will address: recruitment,

orientation, engagement/integration and retention of members. We will also be pursuing various publicity venues to get the word out to the community about our Temple's programs and events. There is always

room for you to pull up a chair and join us at the Community Building table! Looking to hear from you at [yescag18@gmail.com](mailto:yescag18@gmail.com).

Carole-Ann Gordon



## GETTING TOGETHER WITH THE BOOK GROUP

Our Book Group happily continues to meet in our Library with all CDC precautions in place, including fresh air intake. Please come join us on Monday, February 28th at 1:00 PM to partake in a facilitated discussion

of Steve Ross's memoir *From Broken Glass*.

We invite you to join us and extend a warm welcome to our newest member, Terri Cohen.

Want to read ahead for March? The selection is *The Vixen* by Francine Prose.

Interested? Contact Carole-Ann at [yescag18@gmail.com](mailto:yescag18@gmail.com)



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# Temple Isaiah Committees & Clubs

## CARING COMMITTEE

*It was then that I carried you...*



TI's Caring Committee is now up and running! Our mission is to help you celebrate your simchas and provide support during difficult life events. We can connect with you through

phone calls and mailed cards, and can also provide referrals to outside resources when they're needed.

We can only do this work if we hear from the congregation. If you have good news to share (a birth, wedding, etc.), please let us know. If you or a family member are facing a serious illness or challenge, or you have experienced the loss of a loved one, please tell us. If you are feeling isolated and would just like an occasional phone call, we'll be there if you reach out. All you need to do

is email us at [ticaringcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:ticaringcommittee@gmail.com), call Sue Rosenzweig at 516-429-0620, or call the temple office at 631-751-8518. Our committee will always work to respect your privacy.

If you would like to volunteer, please reach out to us through any of the ways mentioned above. We'd love to have you join us!

Lastly, our thanks to congregant Essie Freilach for painting our beautiful, hopeful sunflower logo! Be well!



## SCHMOOZING WITH SISTERHOOD

Dear All,

We hope you are all warm and healthy during these complicated times. We are encouraged to see the omicron covid spike steadily decreasing in our area and look forward to getting together in person this coming spring at some point.

We will be having a Virtual Sisterhood Schmooze on Sunday, February 13th at 11AM on Zoom to reconnect and share our news. We will also be choosing a book for our end of year dinner and book celebration.

### ☆ L'Dor V'Dor Baking

Come Bake Challah with Us! Thursday March 24th we will be hosting a Zoom virtual challah bake at 7PM. Learn how to prepare and braid a mouthwatering home-made challah just in time for Shabbat. Ingredient list, recipe and preparation details will be posted online.

### ☆ Macaroon Mania!

Learn how to prepare home-made Macaroons on Sunday, April 10th on Zoom at 4PM. Make these easy to prepare cookies watch them miraculously disappear.

### ☆ Sisterhood Shabbat

Sisterhood Shabbat will be held in May. Date TBD, Stay tuned.

### ☆ Dinner and Celebration

Our end of year dinner and book celebration will be in June. Date TBD. All are welcome. We can't wait to see you!

With Very Best Wishes,  
Paula Bennett  
[pbennett1000@gmail.com](mailto:pbennett1000@gmail.com)  
and Eileen Donnelly  
[ebdonnel@optonline](mailto:ebdonnel@optonline)  
TI Sisterhood Co-Presidents



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# TEMPLE ISAIAH



Rabbi—Paul Sidlofsky  
Student Cantor Intern—Kalix Jacobson  
Temple President—Howard Kanowitz  
Administrator—Penny Gentile  
Sisterhood Co-Presidents—Paula Bennett  
& Eileen Donnelly

Brotherhood President—Jason Kitt  
Parents' Association Chair—Ellen Covino  
Rabbi Emeritus—Stephen A. Karol  
Rabbi Emeritus—Adam D. Fisher  
Cantor Emeritus—Michael F. Trachtenberg

## Beautification Fund

This fund exists to generate finances needed to renovate and beautify our synagogue.

Our wall sculpture provides the opportunity to commemorate your support for Temple Isaiah. Plaques of different sizes are available in the following categories:

**Contributor** ..... \$250 per year for 3 years  
**Sponsor** ..... \$500 per year for 3 years  
**Patron** ..... \$1000 per year for 3 years  
**Benefactor** ..... \$2500 per year for 3 years

To make a contribution, or if you have any questions, please call the office at 751-8518.

## Sunshine Funds

It's always the "right time" to make a contribution to your Temple, whether in honor of a living person or recent event, or in memory of someone special. Your donation can be added to your monthly invoice for easy book-keeping.

Minimum contribution is \$10

|                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| <b>Prayer Book:</b>           | \$45  |
| <b>Chumash:</b>               | \$60  |
| <b>Tree of Life Leaf:</b>     | \$118 |
| <b>Pew Plaque:</b>            | \$250 |
| <b>Memorial Board Plaque:</b> | \$360 |

Please call the office for more information regarding the above contributions.

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