

# TEMPLE ISAIAH

of Stony Brook, New York

Vol. 1, Issue 2 ☆ March – April 2022

## THE TEMPLE TIMES



### Rabbi Sidlofsky's Reflections

#### Purim's Reminder of Our Need for Congregational Affiliation and Involvement

It is hard to believe that a book of the Bible does not mention God, but that is the case with the book of Esther that we read on Purim. In fact, later additions intentionally were made to versions of the book that primarily emphasized God's role in the story of the Jews' rescue from annihilation. It was such a blatant omission, the author's thought, that they went overboard to show their belief that God was always involved, though not initially mentioned.

Whether or not God played a direct role in the events – or, for that matter, whether or not the events have any historical basis – the debate raises some important questions which pertain to our Jewish beliefs and practices today.

Often I hear people have avoided joining a congregation because

they are not religious. I have two responses to that. First, being religious is not what we often think it is. Many think the definition of "religious" is being extremely traditional when it comes to ritual practice. Actually, it has to do with one's perspective on life itself. Regardless of level of observance, being religious means having a sense of awe and wonder regarding the world. It is something we admire in children, that we often lose as adults. Nonetheless, I think most, if not all, adults have the capacity to appreciate the world from a spiritual, religious perspective, and thus benefit from the joy, gratitude and humility that ensues.

Second, even if we accept the traditional definition of "religious", the fact is that many people do not join a congregation because of ritual involvement. I am not saying that this aspect of Temple life isn't important. Yet for many, there are other needs that are greater. Thankfully, at Temple Isaiah, there are multiple entryways into Jewish life. Some may enjoy services; others are inspired through education, social interaction, social action, interfaith

activities, cultural offerings like music, art and food, and, of course, a feeling of belonging. There are other valid reasons for joining as well. All this is to say, whether in the Purim story or in the complexities of life today, that we as Jews can and should affiliate for various reasons. Yes, a Temple needs to offer traditional elements, but we also need to realize that not everyone will need each aspect – and they may need others. Similarly, we all bring different views of God's role – or perceived lack of role – in our lives and in the lives of Jews and humanity. Whatever our perspective, however, we have a place in our community and an important role to play, with thoughts and skills to contribute.

This is what makes a Reform congregation – and Temple Isaiah in particular – so special. We combine respect for tradition with openness to change and new ideas, thereby creating a beautiful mosaic which we hope will attract and welcome all who join or visit us. May we remain truly blessed by the variety and beauty in our community.

*Continued on Page 4*



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# 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, March 18th at 7:00 PM — Erev Shabbat Service / Megillah Reading & Purim Sphiel
- ✧ Saturday, March 19th at 9:30 AM — Torah study with Rabbi Sidlofsky [Also March 26th, April 2nd, April 9th]
- ✧ Sunday, March 20th at 10:30 AM — Tanakh Study with Rabbi Karol [Also March 27th, April 3rd, April 10th]
- ✧ Monday, March 21st at 7:30 PM — Board meeting (Zoom)
- ✧ Friday, March 25th at 7:30 PM — Erev Shabbat Service
- ✧ Monday, March 28th at 1:00 PM — Book Group (Library)
- ✧ Monday, March 28th at 7:30 PM — Ritual Committee meeting
- ✧ Tuesday, March 29th at 7:30 PM — Adult Ed: Rabbi Sidlofsky – Making Your Seder Greater [Also April 5th]
- ✧ Friday, April 1st at 6:00 PM — Erev Shabbat Service
- ✧ Sunday, April 3rd at 1:00 PM — Adult Ed: Rabbi Karol Book Discussion and Signing
- ✧ Friday, April 8th at 7:30 PM — Erev Shabbat Service
- ✧ Wednesday, April 13th at 7:00 PM — Membership Committee meeting
- ✧ Friday, April 15th at 5:30 PM — Congregational Seder
- ✧ Saturday, April 16th at 10:00 PM — Passover Morning Service

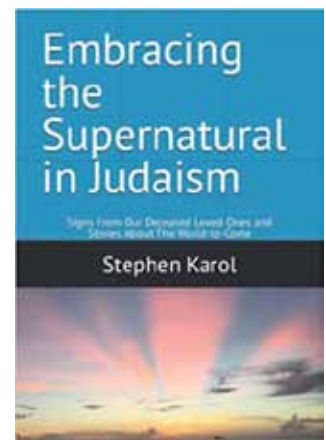
## ADULT EDUCATION

### Making Your Seder Greater: An Exploration of the Haggadah's History and Contents

- ✧ Tuesdays, March 29th and April 5th at 7:30 PM
- ✧ Rabbi Sidlofsky

### Embracing the Supernatural in Judaism, Signs From Our Deceased Loved Ones and Stories About The World-to-Come

- ✧ Sunday, April 3rd at 1:00 PM
- ✧ Rabbi Karol will discuss his new book and offer insights into this fascinating topic. The book reviews Jewish texts through the ages regarding various attitudes about the afterlife. Also included are 75 testimonials in which people share their experiences with feeling the sense of presence of a deceased loved one. A book signing will follow.



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# A Message From Our President



HOWARD KANOWITZ

I consider that one of the perks of being Temple President is meeting and getting to know many of our congregants. I have taken advantage of my role as ex officio member of Temple Isaiah committees and have attended several committee meetings. Together with our Board of Trustees these committees and Brotherhood and Sisterhood are helping us “reconnect,” and are working full steam ahead to achieve our goals associated with education, community, worship, and social action.

On February 18th many of us enjoyed gathering at the oneg shabbat following the Friday evening service. It’s hard to describe the emotions we experienced at being together to once again recite kiddush, share pieces of challah following the motzi and leisurely schmoozing. I look forward to these onegs from now on, and I look forward to

meeting and greeting more and more of you. My goal is that eventually congregants will want to share simchas with us and will sponsor our onegs.

Our Religious School teachers, together with our Parents’ Association, are organizing a Purim Carnival for our students which will be held on Sunday, March 13th. This year there will also be a social action element added to the day with students bringing cans of food and older students preparing *mishloach manot* packages for homebound congregants. Parents do not need to miss out on the carnival fun because it will be live-streamed for all to enjoy! On March 18th we will have a family shabbat service combined with “Seus-Shan Purim Schpiel” and reading of the Megillah. Cantor Kalix assures us that a good time will be had by all.

Our Adult Ed program is officially back with Rabbi Fisher beginning the first of his four part series, “Key Stories in Genesis.” We have an exciting line-up of instructors and topics coming in the near future.

When we think of spring, we think of Passover. This year we will hold a community seder at 5:30 PM on April 15th. I hope to be reading the Haggadah along with many of you!

As you can see, our committees are actively engaged, and in many cases working together to make our Temple inviting and vibrant. I am feeling both excited and lucky to be president of this wonderful Temple!

L’shalom,

Howie Kanowitz



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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  
Barbara & Jerry Fine  
Eileen & Adam Fisher  
Essie & Mark Freilach  
Rose French  
Suzanne Gabrielsen

Anita & Stewart Gaffan  
Suzan & Alfred Goldhaber  
Carole-An Gordon  
Barbara & Gary Kamen  
Howie Kanowitz  
Randee Kanter & Pat Urquhart  
Donna & Stephen Karol  
Bonnie & Steve Katz  
Honey & Arnold Katz  
Dreannia & Micheal LeVine  
Barbara Meyer  
Donna & Lloyd Newman  
Theo Pavlides

Sarah & Ethan Pew  
Alisa & Bill Rosati  
Amy & Mort Rosen  
Myra & Alan Rosofsky  
Linda & Brad Rothbaum  
Iris & David Schiff  
Margaret & Jay Schoenfeld  
Wendy & Paul Sidlofsky  
Phyllis Sterne  
Marge & Paul Weiser  
Diane & Steve Weitzman



## RABBI SIDLOFSKY'S REFLECTIONS (CONTINUED)

Wendy, Ben and I wish you a Chag Purim Sameach – a joyous Purim! Celebrate with us through live stream at our Religious School Purim costume parade, megillah reading, singing and a class skit (all are welcome!) at 9:35 AM on Sunday,

March 13th (part of the full morning of Purim activities for our students, including a Social Action class project and a carnival); and come to our Megillah reading and spiel, combined with our Shabbat service, beginning at 7:00 PM on Friday,

March 18th. Costumes are encouraged for all ages!

L'Shalom,  
Rabbi Paul Sidlofsky



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# Temple Isaiah Committees & Clubs

## COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE (MEMBERSHIP)

### ARE YOU INTERESTED?

- ☆ Teen Community Service Opportunities at Temple Isaiah
- ☆ Evening Nonfiction Book Discussion Group

- ☆ Experiencing Jewish Meditation
- ☆ Toddler Activity and Story Happenings

We are ready, all we need is YOU!

For all information contact  
Carole-Ann Gordon  
yescag18@gmail.com or  
631-928-8296



## BREAKING NEWS FROM BROTHERHOOD

Temple Isaiah Brotherhood wishes everyone continued good health and to stay safe during this time.

Brotherhood is continuing discussions on what kind of events we can safely have as things begin to open up. We continue to have the Brotherhood Torah Study (Schmooze) on the 2nd Thursday of every month led by Steve Weitzman. The next one is

scheduled for March 10th on Zoom. All are welcome.

We are bringing back our Scholarship contest for eligible high school seniors. Information will be forthcoming. Brotherhood will also be purchasing Hamantaschen to be given out to the students and staff at the Purim Carnival on March 13th. We will also provide Hamantaschen

for the Oneg after the Purim Schpeil on March 18th. We are planning to have a Brotherhood led Shabbat Service on May 20th. We look forward to announcing other events once plans are finalized.

Jason Kitt - Brotherhood President  
Contact: jkitt29@aol.com  
Mobile: 631-512-9217



## POSTINGS FROM THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Parents' Association was able to help make Purim special this year by creating *Mishloach Manot* for students, assisting with the Purim Celebration during Religious School, and partnering with the Social

Action Committee to make *matanot l'evyonim* for those in need.

Do you have an idea for a fun family activity at the Temple? We want to plan a bingo night soon, I need a point person for this activity. Please

contact Ellen Covino at ellenflaxman.covino@yahoo.com to share your ideas and help make the Temple a place full of light and laughter for your entire family.



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# TI Brotherhood College Scholarship

## \$500 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FOR 2022

### Requirements:

- ✧ Applicant must be a high school senior or matriculated college student who has been accepted to a 2 or 4 year college or university.
- ✧ Applicant must be an active member of Temple Isaiah.
- ✧ Applicant must write an essay, not to exceed 500 words, on the following subject:

*To the best of your ability, explain how your experience at Temple Isaiah has helped shape you as a person with regard to community service, dedication to Judaism and the temple, and how you will translate these feelings to your experience in college.*

Please do not put your name on the essay. Attach your essay to this form. Return your application and essay to the temple office or email to Rhjlij@optonline.net no later than May 1, 2022. No applications will be accepted after this date.

Scholarship Chair: Roger Jonas (631) 235-3115



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# Temple Isaiah Committees & Clubs

## SCHMOOZING WITH SISTERHOOD

Dear All,

Spring is finally in our sights, and we are looking forward to Purim, Passover and our Sisterhood led Shabbat service. We will be having our end of year dinner and book celebration. We are reminding everyone that all the activities Sisterhood sponsors are open to all Temple Isaiah members whether you are a member of Sisterhood or not.

One of the best loved ways to celebrate Jewish life is through Jewish food. Probably everyone of you has wonderful memories of grandmother's holiday table and treats. Learn how to carry on these culinary traditions, with TI Sisterhood *L'Dor V'Dor* Baking sessions.

### ☆ *L'Dor V'Dor* Baking

Thursday March 24th on Zoom: Come Bake Challah with Us!

Sisterhood will be hosting a Zoom virtual challah bake at 7pm. Learn how to prepare and braid a mouth-watering home-made challah just in time for Shabbat. We will be using

a recipe by Tori Avey. <https://toriavey.com/how-to/challah-bread-part-1-the-blessing-and-the-dough/#recipe>

Here is the ingredient and supply list to get organized ahead of time:

Ingredients: Warm water, Sugar, Baker's yeast, All-purpose flour, 3 egg yolks, 1 whole egg, honey, vegetable oil (olive, avocado oil, or corn oil), salt

Supplies: Very large bowl, measuring cup, whisk or wooden spoon, baking sheet, pastry brush, kitchen towel, plastic wrap, parchment paper or foil.

### ☆ Macaroon Mania!

Sunday April 10th at 4 PM on Zoom: Let's Bake Home-made Passover Macaroons! Learn how to prepare and bake macaroons for your Passover Seder. Recipe and Zoom link will be posted soon.

### ☆ Sisterhood Shabbat

Friday April 29th: Sisterhood Led Shabbat Service. We are looking for

Sisterhood volunteers to read portions and Torah.

### ☆ Dinner and Celebration

We have chosen a book for our end of year dinner and book celebration in June! (Date TBD).

Title: *Dancing in the Mosque: An Afghan Mother's Letter to Her Son*

Author: Homeira Qaderi

Blurb: An exquisite and inspiring memoir about one mother's unimaginable choice in the face of oppression and abuse in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

Kudos: "People Book of the Week & a Kirkus Best Nonfiction of the Year 2020".

We cannot 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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Friday, April 15th at 5:30 PM  
Temple Isaiah Congregational

# Passover Seder

Rabbi Sidlofsky will lead us through the family Haggadah & lead us in song as we journey through our celebration of Passover.

The cost of this family seder dinner is:  
\$50 for congregants, \$60 for non-congregants  
& \$40 for children (10 and under)

Dinner includes: appetizer, soup, chicken, brisket and or vegetarian option, three sides, wine, soda, dessert, & coffee. (catered by Zans) A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to Mazon.

Seating is by reservation only. Reservations must be received, with payment, by Wed., April 6th. Phone reservations for congregants can also be made by calling the Temple office at 751-8518; your payment can be added to your monthly statement.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Children: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be seated with: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Temple Isaiah Committees & Clubs



YOM HASHOAH SERVICE  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27TH AT 7 PM



Join us for a moving service of remembrance. We will gather to light the candles in honor of those who suffered, those who died, and those who survived the Holocaust. We will read from Rabbi Fisher's collection of stories, anecdotes and prayers.



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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.

Temple Isaiah ☆ 1404 Stony Brook Road, Stony Brook, N.Y. 11790  
(631) 751-8518 ☆ [www.tisbny.org](http://www.tisbny.org) ☆ [administrator@TempleIsaiahsb.org](mailto:administrator@TempleIsaiahsb.org)