

# TEMPLE ISAIAH

of Stony Brook, New York

Vol. 1, Issue 3 ☆ May 2022

## THE TEMPLE TIMES



*This article was recently published in our local newspapers, but was not seen by a lot of our members. Its message is meant to extend beyond the holy day season, so I am sharing it again with you. May we continue at all times to actively pursue redemption for everyone.*

### From Parting Seas to Building Bridges

There is a story in Jewish tradition that tells of the Israelites' reaction upon leaving Egypt. Upon crossing the Sea of Reeds (Red Sea) to freedom, and seeing Pharaoh's soldiers and horses drowning, the Israelites broke out in joyful songs of praise to God.

In a sense, such a reaction is understandable. After all, we read in the book of Exodus that the Israelites had been subjected to forced labor by the Egyptians for four hundred and thirty years. Their lives had been made miserable by their taskmasters, and little hope remained for their redemption. So of course they would be ecstatic with this sudden turn of events. Who could blame them? The parable could have ended there, but it doesn't. We read further that while the Israelites were celebrating, God chastised them, saying, "My children are drowning, and you sing praises?!"

Could such a message be any stronger

### Rabbi Sidlofsky's Reflections

or more meaningful? Could it contain a better reminder for us over three thousand years later, at this holy day season for so many, and a time of rebirth and renewal?

We are not so different from our ancestors millennia ago. We, too, rejoice in our achievements and successes, often disregarding their consequences and affect on others. We often delight — perhaps openly, perhaps secretly — in the failure of our "enemies", choosing to separate ourselves from them, rather than to build bridges of understanding and tolerance. Or, at least, we do not show any signs of support. We seem to forget that these people are God's children. We may forget that we are as well.

Passover, for Jews, is indeed a time of great rejoicing; a time to celebrate freedom and rebirth. Yet it is also a time for remembrance, a remembrance of the cost of such freedom for all involved; a reminder of the growing pains we have experienced.

At the seder, the festive meal of Passover, the story of the Exodus from Egypt is told with great ceremony and joy. And yet, during that time, we also reflect. Salt water is used to remember the tears of the Israelites during their time of bondage. Bitter herbs represent the physical and emotional pain experienced. And cups of wine, symbols of sweetness and joy, have ten drops

removed before drinking, in order to lessen our joy when recalling the ten plagues upon Egypt. In modern times, drops are also removed for different "plagues", such as war, disease, prejudice, pollution and crime.

If we are truly to understand the message of this festival for all people, we must broaden our perspective to look not only at our own good fortune, but also at the fortunes of others to whom we have a responsibility as human beings. We must reflect on our history — where we've come from — in order to truly appreciate where we are now. At the seder each year, Jews are reminded that in every generation, each person should look at oneself as if he or she personally had come out of Egypt. We are to see ourselves as experiencing the miracle of redemption; of safely crossing the Sea to dry land.

Now it is time to go a step further. Rather than relying on God's miracles, and then using them to escape from one another, let us create our own miracle — the miracle of building bridges to cross the raging seas of mistrust and prejudice that divide us. Many of God's children are still drowning, overwhelmed by the waters that engulf their lives. Only by working together can we save them. And only then will we have fully experienced redemption.

# Temple Isaiah Upcoming Events

## PRAYER, STUDY AND COMMUNITY

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

- ☆ Saturday, May 7th at 3:00 PM — Yom Ha'atzmaut Concert
- ☆ Monday, May 9th at 7:30 PM — Ritual Committee meeting
- ☆ Wednesday, May 11th at 7:00 PM — Community Building (Membership) Committee meeting
- ☆ Thursday, May 12th at 7:30 PM — Brotherhood Schmooze (Zoom)
- ☆ Friday, May 13th at 7:30 PM — Erev Shabbat Service with Confirmation
- ☆ Sunday, May 15th — Lag B'Omer Celebration
- ☆ Tuesday, May 15th — Religious School Community meeting
- ☆ Friday, May 20th — Brotherhood led service
- ☆ Monday, May 23rd — Board meeting
- ☆ Monday, May 30th — Memorial Day (office closed)

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- ☆ Marc & Jennifer, Piper and Reese Goldschmidt



## SIMCHAS & TZURES



Whether you have happy news (*simchas*) or sad news (*tzures*), we hope you will share it with us. Please let us know about births, engagements, weddings, and other happy occasions, as well as hospitalizations, sicknesses, or deaths. If you would like one of our rabbis to officiate at a funeral, please speak to Rabbi Sidlofsky before scheduling. Our sanctuary is available for funeral or memorial services.



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# A Message From Our President



HOWARD KANOWITZ

Temple Isaiah's special holiday events, along with the good works of our committees, Brotherhood, and Sisterhood, all make me feel happy and proud. Our Purim carnival, Purimspiel, Congregational Passover Seder, and special onegs all tell us that we have survived the Covid pandemic!

However, it is on a weekly basis, when I open the email of "Weekly Services and Announcements," and see the words, "Please join us for our in-person, family friendly service, everyone is welcome!", that I feel most grateful! I feel grateful knowing that our beautiful Reform

Temple on Stony Brook Road is there to welcome families and all who wish to attend.

I feel grateful that Temple Isaiah and its wonderful Rabbis and Cantors were there for when my daughter Jessie became a Bat Mitzvah and when my son Max became a Bar Mitzvah.

I know that many of you feel grateful that Temple Isaiah was here for your happy milestone events as well as for times of sadness when you needed solace or help. We now work to ensure that others will have the same opportunities. We take

pride in never turning anyone away, but that can happen only with your help. It is your dues, donations and Sustaining Membership donations that maintain Temple Isaiah and keep her standing strong on Stony Brook Road for future generations.

We want to see these words, "Please join us..." for many years to come!

I wish you and your loved ones a sweet and Happy Passover!

L'shalom,

Howie Kanowitz  
President



## 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 May 12th on Zoom. All are welcome.

We are bringing back our Scholarship contest for eligible high school seniors and currently enrolled undergraduate college students. Winners will be announced in May.

Brotherhood will be assisting the school with the end-of-year BBQ on

Sunday, May 15th. We will be providing food and grilling. Stop by and say hi and have something to eat. We are also having 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](mailto:jkitt29@aol.com)  
Mobile: 631-512-9217



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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 & Craig Balaban  
Paula & Steve Bennett  
Cindy & Allan Braun  
Brooke & David Chesler  
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  
Lina & Robert Gottesman  
Barbara & Gary Kamen  
Howie Kanowitz  
Randee Kanter & Pat Urquhart  
Donna & Stephen Karol  
Bonnie & Steve Katz  
Honey & Arnold Katz  
Dreannia & Micheal LeVine  
Cynthia & David Lippe  
Barbara Meyer  
Pat & Jeff Muhlrud

Jamie & Michael Nemirov  
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  
Maddie & Harvey Witman



## TI BOOK GROUP – READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Our Book Discussion selection for May is *The Book of V.* by Anna Solomon.  
We will meet on Monday, May 23rd at 1 PM.



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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!



## 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](mailto:yescag18@gmail.com) or  
631-928-8296



## POSTINGS FROM THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Parents' Association worked with the Religious School staff to host a Model Seder for the Religious School students in April. Rabbi Paul

led an engaging service, and the kids all had fun looking for the afikomen! We are looking forward to celebrating Lag BaOmer on the last day of school

in May. If you would like to help plan this event please reach out to Ellen Covino at:  
[ellenflaxmancovino@yahoo.com](mailto:ellenflaxmancovino@yahoo.com).



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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,

We are looking to have more in-person Sisterhood activities soon. Sisterhood has hosted some baking and schmooze get-togethers on Zoom. We made challah and macaroons; both were delicious! It was wonderful to visit.

Our Sisterhood led Shabbat Service will be held Friday April 29th at 7:30 PM. Please join us for this lovely service. We will be having a special Oneg for this occasion and we sincerely look forward to worshipping with everyone.

Sisterhood is disappointed to announce that we will not be having a spring indoor garage sale at this time. We have decided to postpone

until the fall due to concerns about covid. The recent up-tick in our local positivity rate, along with post-holiday incidence spikes, leads us to proceed conservatively. We hope to schedule an indoor yard sale in the fall.

### ☆ Sisterhood Shabbat

Friday, April 29th at 7:30 PM.

Sisterhood Led Shabbat Service. We are looking for Sisterhood volunteers to read portions and Torah.

### ☆ Dinner and Celebration

Wednesday, June 15th at 6 PM.

We have chosen a book for our end of year dinner and book celebration in June!

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  
and Eileen Donnelly  
ebdonnel@optonline  
TI Sisterhood Co-Presidents



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# TEMPLE ISAIAH

of Stony Brook, New York

Claire Baer has been a beloved member of Temple Isaiah for fifty years. She has served on the Temple Board and as our representative to the Three Village Inter-faith Committee. Always active in Temple affairs, she has been a generous donor and supporter of numerous causes.



A founding member of the local chapter of Hadassah, Claire has served the organization in many capacities, including President of its Suffolk Region. Claire has described herself as a "professional volunteer." We describe her as a lovely woman and an inspiration to us all.

## Be part of the Excitement as we Celebrate CLAIRE BAER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY!

Friday, June 17th at Temple Isaiah's 7:30 PM Service  
Festive Oneg to follow

Please join us in honoring Claire as she reaches this amazing milestone!  
Share your special memories, photos, and good wishes for Claire – we will be collecting these tributes in a beautiful memory book to be presented to her during the festivities.

Send your tribute to [Donna Newman@dswn@optonline.net](mailto:Donna.Newman@dswn@optonline.net) by May 31st.

Donor Category	Amount	Donor Category	Amount
Diamond Jubilee	\$1,800	Emerald Eminence	\$ 360
Golden Legacy	\$1,018	Sapphire Centennial	\$ 100
Ruby Renaissance	\$ 750	Amethyst Anniversary	\$ 36

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Category \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Please send donation to Temple Isaiah, 1404 Stony Brook Rd., Stony Brook, NY 11790  
or email [administrator@templeisaiahsb.org](mailto:administrator@templeisaiahsb.org) / 631-751-8518



# Honoring Claire Baer on Her 100th Birthday

## A BEAUTIFUL LIFE

Claire Baer was born to Ida and Jack Greenland in the Bronx on June 18, 1922. She grew up with her two older brothers not far from Yankee Stadium. In 1941 her family moved to Forest Hills, where she met her future husband, Paul Baer. After her mother had a dental visit with the young, handsome Dr. Baer, she insisted that her daughter needed to see him too! The two started dating and were part of a young professionals group at the Forest Hills Jewish Center. On Claire's birthday in 1950, the two were married and remained a happy and loving couple until Paul died shortly after their 62nd wedding anniversary.

Claire and Paul had one daughter, Ivy, who married her husband, Marc, at Temple Isaiah, with Rabbi Adam Fisher officiating.

Paul and Claire eventually left their native New York, living for a year in Tokyo while Paul was stationed at the Army Hospital during the Korean war. After several moves, including a year spent in California, they finally settled in Bethesda, Maryland, where Paul worked at the National Institutes of Health. In 1972 Paul accepted a position as the founding Chair of the Department of Periodontics at the Stony Brook

Dental School, and the two New Yorkers were finally back in their home state.

Once settled on Long Island, one of the first things that Claire and Paul did was to join Temple Isaiah, where they remain members today. Temple Isaiah was small and inviting and they liked the people they met. Even now, as Claire approaches her 100th birthday, she enjoys attending Shabbat services whenever she can.

Claire has never been one to be quiet. She soon became known to the congregation, and to Rabbi Adam Fisher. He asked Claire to represent the congregation on the Three Village Interfaith Committee. Claire served on the Temple Board as Treasurer and as a Trustee. Those who worked alongside her encountered a woman with great intelligence, ideas, energy and motivation.

Claire has always thought it was important to help Jewish youth connect to their religion and has been a proud supporter of the Joseph Karol Youth Scholarship Fund. She has given generously to many Temple Isaiah causes, and was especially excited to support the restoration of the Torah that was

saved during the Holocaust. Her daughter, son-in-law, granddaughters Leslie and Sara, and grandson-in-law joined her and the rest of the congregation when the Torah was dedicated.

Claire has visited Israel numerous times. One of her favorite trips was taken with Temple Isaiah when she was accompanied by her then teenage granddaughter, Leslie.

Looking for more avenues to aid the Jewish people and Jewish life, Claire decided to use her energy to support Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, and devoted her attention to Israel and the organization's research hospitals there. Claire is a founding member of the Sea-Port Chapter of Hadassah, served as President of its Suffolk Region, and was elected to the National Board. She has held numerous portfolios at Hadassah's National Office in Manhattan and used to describe herself as a "professional volunteer."

Claire's family, including her great grandson, Paul, will be joining her at Temple Isaiah as she celebrates her 100th birthday!



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# Temple Isaiah Committees & Clubs

## SOCIAL ACTION ACTIONS

The Temple Isaiah Social Action Committee worked to insure that in addition to groggers, costumes, and *mishloach manot* goody bags for Purim, our Religious School students had the opportunity to perform the mitzvah of *matanot l'evyonim* - giving to the poor or people in need. In addition, the cost of admission to the Purim celebration was one can of soup because "One CAN make a difference!" The cans were delivered to a local food pantry.

Religious School students also put together *mishloach manot* boxes for congregants who were ill, alone, or who have experienced a sad time. They received hamentaschen, soup, tea and chocolates along with warm greetings written by the students.

Barbara Meyer organized and helped the students do this project on the morning of the Purim celebration. Pam Kornhauser and her husband Sam made deliveries of Purim boxes to the homes of these congregants.

This was a wonderfully collaborative effort by our various committees. Our Parent Association, chaired by Ellen Covino, and The Caring Committee, led by Sue Rosenzweig, were supportive, enthusiastic and helpful. I'm hoping that our committees will continue to work together on future endeavors.

I am writing this article on the eve of our Passover Seder when we tell the story of how the Jewish people were liberated from slavery. As we relate

the story during these fractious times, we think of the people today who are being harshly mistreated and killed by today's Pharaoh. I pray that these innocent people, like the Jewish people throughout the centuries, will continue to persevere against all odds.

### **Please Donate:**

The World Union for Progressive Judaism has opened a Ukraine Crisis Relief Fund. Money will be spent on needy individuals and communities to ensure their safety and well-being. Donate to the WUPJ fund now.

Iris Schiff  
Chairperson, Social Action



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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)