

# TEMPLE ISAIAH

of Stony Brook, New York

Vol. 1, Issue 5 ☆ December 2022

## THE TEMPLE TIMES



### Rabbi Sidlofsky's Reflections

#### Giving Thanks for Miracles in Our Lives

After a marathon sprint of Jewish fall holy days, now well behind us, and Chanukkah still weeks away, we may feel another celebration is needed. As American Jews, we are fortunate to have Thanksgiving to fill this need. My favorite secular holiday, this annual tradition reminds us to appreciate all that we have. It is a message for all Americans — indeed all people — but is very meaningful for us as Jews in particular. We have an extra blessing, namely the ability, as a small minority in this country, to practice our religion in freedom, to whatever extent we choose.

As Jews, we can be grateful for many things, globally and locally. Locally, I am grateful for a number of members and professional staff who have shown great caring and support to our congregation and to me personally. The Temple relies heavily on the hard work of a few people, but especially on the goodwill

of those who not only work hard, but refrain from gossip and casting blame for issues that will only be resolved by a team effort; not by one or a few people. Let us show appreciation for what is done, rather than what we perceive is not done. Let us ask what we can do, not look to others to do for us. Only then will we encourage others to participate.

I also want to acknowledge our good fortune in being part of a supportive interfaith community. In a worrisome time of growing anti-Semitism and many other hateful words and actions, we are actively continuing to reach out to our friends and neighbors for collaboration. We recently have had successful holiday food and toy collections to help others during the upcoming Holy Day season. We had a very successful Mitzvah Day in our school, with class lessons, an amazing song session and projects led by Social Action volunteers and teachers. And we hosted a beautiful and meaningful interfaith Unity service to stand up to hatred. This service featured beautiful music, moving readings and my sermon about Abraham as a unifying role model for many faiths. My thanks to Iris Schiff and our Social Action committee for

their great work in coordinating many of these events. I am proud to partner with Iris to support these projects.

These are but some of the highlights of a busy and productive few months at Temple Isaiah. Most important, we are building back after the challenging period during the peak of COVID, and once again seeing activity and social connection in our building.

We are about to read in the Torah the portion called *Vayetzei*, where Jacob awakens from a dream and is inspired to declare, "God is in this place and I, I did not know it!" As we celebrated Thanksgiving, and soon Chanukkah, let us pause to appreciate all that God has given us — the miracles we see in our own lives and the life of our congregation. May we work together to overcome the challenges we face and move forward, climbing to new heights. God is in this place. It is our sacred duty, and our unique privilege, to open our hearts and sense this presence. May we be thankful for the opportunity to do so.

*Chag Urim Sameach, Happy Chanukkah!*

L'shalom,  
Rabbi Paul Sidlofsky



@TempleIsaiahSB



MEMBER UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM



facebook

# 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, December 2nd at 6:00 PM — Erev Shabbat service
- ✧ Saturday, December 3rd at 9:30 AM — Shabbat Torah Study (also December 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st)
- ✧ Sunday, December 4th at 9:30 AM — Sisterhood meeting
- ✧ Sunday, December 4th at 10:30 AM — Tanakh Study with Rabbi Karol (Zoom) (also December 11th and 18th)
- ✧ Monday, December 5th at 7:30 PM — Ritual Committee meeting
- ✧ Tuesday, December 6th at 7:00 PM — Sisterhood Schmooze
- ✧ Thursday, December 8th at 7:30 PM — Brotherhood Schmooze
- ✧ Friday, December 9th at 7:30 PM — Erev Shabbat service / CBC honors 21st century long-standing members
- ✧ Sunday, December 11th at 9:00 AM — Brotherhood meeting
- ✧ Monday, December 12th at 7:30 PM — Religious School Committee meeting
- ✧ Wednesday, December 14th at 7:00 PM — Membership CBC Committee meeting
- ✧ Friday, December 16th at 7:30 PM — Erev Shabbat service
- ✧ Sunday, December 18th / First Night of Chanukkah — 9:00 AM — Latke Bash and Sisterhood Booth
- ✧ Tuesday, December 20th at 1:00 PM — Book Group (Library)
- ✧ Wednesday, December 21st at 7:00 PM — Congregational meeting
- ✧ Thursday, December 22nd at 7:30 PM — Board meeting
- ✧ Friday, December 23rd at 7:30 PM — Erev Shabbat service / Menorah Lighting
- ✧ Sunday, December 25th — 8th Night of Chanukkah
- ✧ Friday, December 30th at 7:30 PM — Erev Shabbat service



## 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.

# A Message From Our President



HOWARD KANOWITZ

It was wonderful to reconnect with so many of you during our High Holy Days. We have continued to gather on many occasions since then. Our Sisterhood and Brotherhood help to bring us together, as do all our wonderful committees. You will read about their respective activities in this edition of our *Temple Times*.

TI Brotherhood's Comedy Night fundraiser was a great success! It seemed like everyone laughed and had a terrific time, and the event raised significant funds in support of our Temple, as well as a few other important charities.

We look forward to our Chanukkah Latke Bash, which will take place on December 18th.

I received positive feedback about the way in which Rabbi Paul and I conducted our congregational meeting. Although we did not have good news to share, the congregation remains united. I know that our smaller congregation will not just survive, it will thrive. I look forward to seeing you all at the congregational meeting on Wednesday, December 21st to vote on the budget and the slate of officers for 2023.

We all wish Rabbi Paul the best in his search for a new position. Temple Isaiah is grateful that he understands our financial situation and has made the very kind gesture to leave one year before the final year of his negotiated contract. He is helping Temple Isaiah to move on and showing that he has its welfare in mind.

As Chanukkah approaches, I am grateful that so many of you demonstrate that you love Temple Isaiah as much as I do, and I look forward to a wonderful future.

Howie Kanowitz  
President



@TempleIsaiahSB



MEMBER UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM



facebook



# 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.

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  
Judith Albano  
Claire Baer  
Paula & Craig Balaban  
Paula & Steve Bennett  
Cindy & Allan Braun  
Brooke & David Chesler  
Morisa & Gene Coman  
Eileen (z.l.) & Joseph Donnelly  
Doris Dvorken  
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 (z.l.) Katz  
Honey & Arnold Katz  
Joan & Jason Kitt  
Dreania & 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  
Gloria & Mark Snyder  
Phyllis Sterne  
Marge & Paul Weiser  
Diane & Steve Weitzman  
Maddie & Harvey Witman



# Temple Isaiah Committees & Clubs

## SCHMOOZING WITH SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood has been very busy this fall. We had a very good showing of sisterhood members on Social Action's Mitzvah Day, and we all were really impressed with all of Temple Isaiah's generous and caring religious school students. Thank you to students and families for your Mitzvot!

### **We're Back!!!**

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to sincerely thank every one of you who helped with our yard sale with generous donations of goods, muscles and time. We were deeply touched by the outpouring of help from so many members of our congregation.

The camaraderie during pizza night's sale setup was palpable! The yard sale is Sisterhood's biggest fund raiser. Your donations of new and gently used items not only help support our Temple community, but those less fortunate in our local area as well. Cheers to everyone!

Our Sisterhood Zoom Schmooze is Tuesday, December 6th at 7 PM. Check the weekly e-blast for the weblink and password. We'll be trading tales of Chanukkah traditions and planning for our Vintage Judaica Booth at the Latke Bash on December 18th.



### **Great News!!**

Temple Isaiah author Cynthia Braun has published her new book, *Organize for Cancer: How to Get Through Treatment and Recover Easier*. We will be hosting a Book Signing brunch Sunday morning January 8, 2023. Stay tuned! Details to come! Her book is available on Amazon <https://www.amazon.com/dp/0984574743>

Temple Isaiah Sisterhood wishes everyone a very Happy Chanukah and a healthy and prosperous 2023!

Very Sincerely Yours,  
Paula Bennett  
Pbennett1000@gmail.com  
and  
Carole Ann Gordon  
yescag18@gmail.com

Temple Isaiah Sisterhood  
Co-Presidents



## TI BOOK GROUP – READ ALL ABOUT IT!

The Temple Isaiah Book Group will meet on Tuesday, December 20th at 1:00 PM in the TI library. We will be discussing this month's book, *The Happiest Man on Earth, The Beautiful Life of a Holocaust Survivor*, by Eddie Jaku. This memoir is an incredibly inspiring tale of one man's experiences and the inimitable spirit that sustained him through those horrifying times.



@TempleIsaiahSB



MEMBER UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM



facebook



# Temple Isaiah Committees & Clubs

## SOCIAL ACTION ACTIONS

A picture is worth a thousand words! The best way to describe our successful and joyful Mitzvah Day is with photos of our students in Grades K-7 happy, smiling and actively engaged in acts of *tikkun olam*. Our Harvey Witman Religious School staff did a great job in their respective classrooms discussing the importance of the day and then working with their students on their hands-on Mitzvah projects. Thank you, Sarah Bloom for being our Mitzvah Day photographer!



Grades K-3 made dog biscuits for Save-A-Pet. Thank you, Social Action member Dreania LeVine for planning and implementing this popular project.



Grade 4 designed lovely Thanksgiving placemats which were inserted in food bags that were prepared by our 7th graders.



Grade 5 designed beautiful canvas bags for veterans at the VA facility. They also created cards with notes of appreciation to veterans.



Grade 6 students assembled and decorated their own Tzedakah boxes.



@TempleIsaiahSB



MEMBER UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM



facebook

# Temple Isaiah Committees & Clubs

## SOCIAL ACTION ACTIONS



Grade 7 assembled food bags for needy families.

Thank you to Sisterhood for helping our students with this great project.

All students: Food drive, clothing and toys for the holidays. Awesome generosity from our Temple Family.



Fr. Greg Rannazzisi of St. Gerard R.C. Church with Andrea Barbakoff and Iris Schiff when they delivered Thanksgiving food packaged by students on Mitzvah Day. St. Gerard's administrator, Jennifer, wrote, "We are truly blessed by your kindness!"

Social Action had a vision for an Interfaith Unity service. This special service was held on November 18th. Rabbi Paul selected perfect readings and delivered an extraordinary sermon. Kalix was amazing singing in both English and Hebrew. Her rendition of "Lean on Me" encouraging everyone to join in was thrilling and inspiring.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful Chanukkah!

Iris Schiff, Social Action Chairperson



# Temple Isaiah Meets the Candidates

## A PLACE TO BECOME AN EDUCATED VOTER

Did you know that we resurrected a decade-long biennial tradition at Temple Isaiah this year that had been shelved in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic?

We invited the two candidates for New York's 1st Congressional District to come introduce themselves to us on October 30 – and to answer our questions relating to the upcoming election. (By 'we' I mean Temple Board Vice President Jay Schoenfeld, who originally suggested this event, gained its approval, and has organized it every two years since.)

Whereas in a debate setting candidates often use the same 'boilerplate' responses, and we learn nothing new, our program format – meeting with each candidate separately – allows us to interact with them about issues that matter most to us. Follow up questions elicit answers that enable us to make an informed decision about who would best represent us in Congress.

Bridget Fleming (D-Noyack) spoke at 9 AM. She gave an impressive bio that included decades of public service: as an Assistant District Attorney working with U.S. Attorney Robert Morgenthau – while managing pro bono programs for the NYC Bar Association, elected to Southampton Town Council, and now a Suffolk County Legislator.

She heard comments that abortion should be viewed not only as a privacy issue, but also one of religious freedom. She would like to see a woman's right to choose codified into law. When asked about Biden's student debt forgiveness plan, she said she thought it went too far and ought to have been more carefully targeted. She revealed her law degree came from University of Virginia, not one of the 'top' law schools to which she had also been accepted, because UVA offered her a full scholarship – and that one needs to make pragmatic choices to avoid crushing debt – especially if a life of public service is your goal.

Nick LaLota (R-Amityville) began his talk at 10:15 AM, also emphasizing public service. An Annapolis grad, he served overseas and, after completing his service, returned home to Long Island where he earned a couple of other degrees. He's held leadership roles in local government, as Commissioner of the Suffolk County Board of Elections, and is currently Chief of Staff to the Suffolk County Legislature. He was recruited to be a candidate by the Republican Party when the incumbent announced he would not seek reelection.

He said he is a moderate who will be willing to work with anyone to get

things done, and will work to end gridlock in Congress. When asked if he would vote to continue the House investigation into the January 6 insurrection, he said he would, but that all violent protests must be investigated equally. The riots that began in May 2020 needed to be reviewed also – and the people responsible held accountable. When questioned about his views on abortion, he responded that the Supreme Court has decided that it is a States Rights issue. When pressed that it should really be an issue of religious freedom, since other faiths may not believe that life begins at birth, he diverted the discussion to the rights of the fetus – which he believes increase as the pregnancy continues – and the sanctity of human life.

Being in the room, attendees could appreciate the clear differences between the candidates and make informed decisions about who gets their vote. I hope you'll be in the room in 2024 when Congressman-elect LaLota and his opponent will be our invitees. It's worth your time.

Donna Newman



@TempleIsaiahSB



MEMBER UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM



facebook



# Temple Isaiah Committees & Clubs

## BREAKING NEWS FROM BROTHERHOOD

Temple Isaiah Brotherhood wishes everyone continued good health.

Brotherhood has been active this calendar year. We have been meeting in person at least once a month at the Temple since June. Back on August 31st Brotherhood hosted Jewish Jeopardy, a fun social event that was well attended with more than 40 people, including Temple members and friends. We have received a lot of positive feedback. This was the first of our game nights that we are planning to have throughout the upcoming year. The next Game night will be sometime in January. More details will be announced soon.

We continue to have our Brotherhood Schmooze on Zoom the second Thursday evening of every month, led by Steve Weitzman.

We held our annual Dinner in the Sukkah on October 13th. It was well attended. Although the weather didn't cooperate we were able to spend a few minutes in the Sukkah, learned a little about the meaning of Sukkot, and we each got to shake the Lulav. While we had our dinner we held our October Brotherhood Shmooze, in which we had some lively discussions about a few topics. Be on the lookout for Our Next Brotherhood Schmooze.

We brought back Comedy Night on November 19th. This was our first Comedy Night since January 2020. It was an exciting evening. The comedians were excellent and we all had a fun time. Kudos to Lance Kirshner for spearheading this successful fundraiser.

In December we will be binging back our Bernie Friend Latke Bash for the first time in 3 years. This will be part of the Chanukkah Happenings and will take place on Sunday morning, December 18th. We will be in the kitchen bright and early that morning peeling and cutting potatoes and onions in preparation for the latkes that we will be frying up for the greater Temple community. We are looking forward to seeing everyone that day.

Our next meeting will be December 11th in the Temple kitchen. We always serve bagels and lox! New members are always welcome.

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





TEMPLE  ISAIAH

## Experience *Chanukah Happenings* at the **Latke Bash!**

December 18th 9:00-11:00 a.m.



9:00-9:45 a.m. students in class

9:45-10 a.m. students, parents, community  
singalong in the Sanctuary.

10 a.m. fun games, olive oil tastings, Judaica sale, crafts, and  
**YUMMY LATKES** to eat. Knock Knock Give A Sock:collection

Something for Everyone!

For more information, contact Ellen Covino:

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

Sponsored by Brotherhood, Sisterhood,  
TI Parents' Association & Social Action



Temple Isaiah  
Of Stony Brook

Presents:



Friday, January 20, 2023

5:30 PM

Celebrate Shabbat with Rabbi Paul and  
Cantorial Student Kalix !

Music, Story, Shabbat Fun  
for Children Ages 0-6 and their families!

Fun craft!

Everyone Welcome!

Save the dates

February 10th

March 17th

April 21st

May 19th

Temple Isaiah, 1404 Stony Brook Road, Stony Brook, NY 11790

For questions, please call: (631) 751-8518



# BLOOD DRIVE

**DONATIONS SAVE LIVES**

**Smithtown Fire Department**  
**Monday, December 19, 2022**  
**2:30PM – 8:30PM**

**Meeting Room**  
**100 Elm Avenue, Smithtown**

**For Appointments:**  
**Scan the QR Code and Enter “06309”**  
**or visit [nybc.org/donate](https://nybc.org/donate)**



*Appointments are preferred however walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits.  
Please remember to eat, drink and bring your donor ID card or ID with name and photo.  
For full list of COVID-19 safety protocols, please visit [nybc.org/coronavirus](https://nybc.org/coronavirus).*



800.933.BLOOD • [nybc.org](https://nybc.org)



**#nybloodcenter**

# TEMPLE ISAIAH



Rabbi—Paul Sidlofsky  
Student Cantor Intern—Kalix Jacobson  
Temple President—Howard Kanowitz  
Administrator—Penny Gentile  
Sisterhood Co-Presidents—Paula Bennett  
and Carole Ann Gordon

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)