

THE TEMPLE TIMES



From Parting Seas to Building Bridges

There is a story in the Jewish tradition that tells of the Israelites' reaction when 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 or more meaningful? Could it contain a better reminder for

Rabbi Sidlofsky's Reflections

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 a time of great rejoicing; a time to celebrate freedom and rebirth. Yet it is also a time for remembrance of the cost of such freedom for all involved; a reminder of the growth we have experienced. At our seders the story of the Exodus from Egypt is told with great ceremony and joy. And yet, we also reflect. Salt water is used to remember the tears of the Israelites during their 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, to lessen our joy when recalling the plagues upon Egypt. In modern times, drops are also removed for other "plagues", such as war, disease, and prejudice.

If we are truly to understand the message of this festival, we must broaden our perspective to look not only at our 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 truly to 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 further. Rather than relying on God's miracles, let us create our own miracle, building bridges to cross the 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:

☆ Erev Shabbat Services:

Friday, April 28th:	Brotherhood led Service at 7:30 PM
Friday, May 5th:	Service at 6:00 PM
Friday, May 12th:	Service Honoring Student Cantor Intern Kalix Jacobson at 7:30 PM
Friday, May 19th:	Tot Shabbat at 5:30 рм, Service and Confirmation at 7:30 рм
Friday, May 26tht:	Shavuot Yizkor Service at 7:30 PM

☆ Holiday Services:

Thursday, May 25th: Shavuot Supp

Shavuot Supper, Study, and Service at 6:00 PM

Shabbat Torah Study with Rabbi Sidlofsky:

Saturdays: May 6th, 20th, & 27th at 9:30 AM / April 29th & May 13th at 8:30 AM

x Tanakh Study with Rabbi Karol:

Sundays, April 30th / May 14th & 21st at 10:30 AM on Zoom

$\Leftrightarrow\,$ Committee, Club, and Board Meetings & Events:

Wednesday, April 26th:	Men of Reform Judaism at 7:00 PM
Saturday, April 29th:	Sisterhood set-up & Pizza at 7:00 PM
Sunday, April 30th:	Sisterhood Spring Yard Sale at 1:00 PM
Monday, May 1st:	Sisterhood Bag Day & Clean-up at 10:00 AM
Monday, May 1st:	Ritual Committee at 7:30 PM
Wednesday, May 10th:	Membership CBC Committee at 7:30 PM
Thursday, May 11th:	Brotherhood Schmooze at 7:30 PM on Zoom
Monday, May 15th:	Religious School Committee at 7:30 PM on Zoom
Tuesday, May 16th:	Book Group at 1:00 рм
Sunday, May 21st:	Brotherhood at 9:00 AM
Sunday, May 21st:	End of School Year BBQ
Monday, May 22nd:	Board of Trustees at 7:30 PM
Tuesday, May 23rd:	Brookhaven Democrats at 7:00 PM



A Message From Our President

Howard Kanowitz

It is with great pleasure and with so much pride that I write this article for our Temple Times.

Temple Isaiah has blossomed right along with Passover and this beautiful spring season. We have been rejuvenated by all the wonderful happenings at our Temple! Our second night of Passover seder was conducted by Student Cantor Kalix Jacobson, who will be ordained as a Cantor on May 7th. (Mazel tov, Kalix) We thank Kalix for inspiring us with such a beautiful voice. The Seder was perfection, and the 50 people who attended expressed wishes for this to be an annual Temple tradition. We will make that happen.

The Rabbi Search Committee has brought us Rabbi Joshua Gray, an extraordinary spiritual leader, who along with his wife, Meghan, and son, Cameron (8) and daughter, Lena (3) will join our Temple family on July 1st. Rabbi Josh will inspire us at services while also serving as Cantor with his beautiful, classically trained voice. Stay tuned for Meet and Greet gatherings because Rabbi Josh and Meghan are ready and eager to get to know us and to be a part of our lives. We thank the Rabbi Search Committee under the leadership of Donna Newman and Marge Weiser for its many, many hours of hard work.

We are proud to welcome the Nanume Korean Church as our Sunday afternoon tenant. Temple Isaiah values our relationships with all faith communities and we are happy to give people of faith a place to gather and hold services. I had the pleasure of attending their first service in our social hall and was enriched by the experience. Our social hall was filled with love, companionship and joy.

I am also proud to report that we are continuing our relationship with FREE and have signed a lease that will extend to 2025. We are so fortunate to have this organization and its

people, who perform such good work renting a building on our property.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank all the congregants who make Temple Isaiah such a special and wonderful place. Sisterhood and Brotherhood and all our standing committees bring us together by sponsoring social activities and participating in acts of Tikkun Olam. And the funds they raise help keep our Temple solvent. We hope that more of our congregants will want to experience the satisfaction of lending their talent and energy to the good work being done here. You will be greeted warmly by all.

Very importantly, we should all recognize that Penny is a committee of one and does the work of many. She will be the guide at Rabbi Josh's side, and I know you'll all join me in saying a sincere, "Thank you, Penny, for all you do and all you are!"

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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.





EXCITING NEWS FROM THE RABBI SEARCH COMMITTEE!

If you were unable to attend the Special Congregational Meeting on April 20th, you missed one of the BEST moments in Temple Isaiah's history. By a unanimous vote, congregants approved a three year contract for our incoming spiritual leader. Rabbi Joshua Gray will officially begin his role on July 1, 2023, but he is already a beloved member of the Temple Isaiah family, as is his wife, Meghan, and their two children: Cameron and Lena.

Rabbi Josh (as he likes to be called) will serve as both our Rabbi and our Cantor. His classically trained voice is perfectly suited for a cantorial soloist. He has led services in both roles for Shabbat services at Temple Beth El in Glens Falls, NY, and for the High Holy Days last year at Temple Beth Shalom in Monticello, NY, where they immediately signed him for a repeat engagement in 2023. (We know they will be sad to hear that he will be at Temple Isaiah for the High Holy Days this year but, at the same time, they will be happy that he found a welcoming new home.)

Rabbi Josh prepared for the rabbinate while working as a mental health professional. As Director of Support Services at the Warren-Washington Association for Mental Health in Hudson Falls, NY, he was respon-



sible for overseeing a staff of more than twenty employees. He received his training from the Rabbinical Seminary International in New York City, earning *semicha* in June, 2021 (a diploma awarded by seminaries upon successful completion of program). Rabbi Josh has since been honing his skills as an independent rabbi.

After he read the Temple Isaiah opening posted online, he was one of the first applicants to respond. He was the first candidate interviewed by the search committee. And after a one-hour Zoom session, every member of the committee had formed the same impression. This young man embodied every single thing we were looking for; our conversation was so comfortable we felt an instant rapport. In the email messages that ensued, he wrote he was happy the connection he felt had been reciprocated. We started using the Yiddish word bashert (meant to be or predestined by God) for It truly felt like "divine intervention."

Rabbi Josh looks forward to meeting our Temple Isaiah congregants and getting to know each one of us. Watch for information in the weekly e-blasts to announce when he will next be in town.

L'Shalom,

Donna Newman and Marge Weiser Rabbi Search Committee Co-Chairs



@TempleIsaiahSB W MEMBER UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM





The Board of Trustees of Temple Isaiah is pleased to welcome our new spiritual leader, Rabbi Joshua Gray, along with his wife Meghan and their two children, Cameron and Lena. Rabbi Josh will be joining our Temple Isaiah family on July 1, 2023, and will serve as both our rabbi and cantor.

Rabbi Josh is a warm, insightful, compassionate, and enthusiastic leader, who is committed to the preservation and well-being of the Jewish people. It will be his task to lead our congregation into a bright future, engaging our youth and growing our membership. Rabbi Josh earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Penn State University, while graduating summa cum laude. He earned *Semicha* (Ordination) through the Rabbinical Seminary International, and is a member of the Rabbinical Fellowship of America.

of Stony Brook, New York

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Rabbi Josh also comes with an extensive background in mental health and counseling. He believes that our spiritual well-being is directly related to our emotional and physical health, and that we must nurture the *nefesh* (soul) to maintain or find our way back to wellness.

With a background as a professional performer, Rabbi Josh brings a highly creative approach to his rabbinate. "When I sing the Jewish liturgy, I feel as if I am using my creative gifts in the most meaningful way possible. When reading the siddur, my creative background helps me to see and interpret the text in myriad ways that keep the words fresh, vibrant, and profound."

But Rabbi Josh isn't necessarily the most talented member of the family. His wife Meghan is a classically trained vocalist who often sings harmony with her husband.

Welcome to our TI family! Introducing Rabbi Joshua Gray, Meghan, Cameron, and Lena!



Sustaining Members & Friends of Temple Isaiah 2023

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 lifecycle events, and it is here where you will find consolation and

> Jamie & Dr. Hilton Adler Judith Albano Paula & Craig Balaban Paula & Steve Bennett Shari & Alan Countess Ellen & Christopher Covino Pamela Feldman Barbara & Jerry Fine Eileen & Adam Fisher Essie & Mark Freilach Rose French Suzanne Gabrielsen Anita & Stewart Gaffan Susan & Fred Goldhaber

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

Tina Dunayer & Harold Guberman Carole-Ann Gordon Nancy Goroff Barbara & Gary Kamen Howard Kanowitz Pat Urquhart & Randee Kanter Donna & Stephen Karol Bonnie Katz Honey & Arnold Katz Joan & Jason Kitt Carl Kravitz Bernice Kornfield-Premisler Dreannia & Micheal LeVine Barbara Meyer 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:

Donna & Lloyd Newman Theo Pavlides Myra & Alan Rosofsky Sue & Dean Rosenzweig Linda & Brad Rothbaum Iris & David Schiff Margaret & Jay Schoenfeld Sheila & David Silberhartz Elisa Frank & George Sterman Irva & Saul Steinweis Phyllis Sterne Marge & Paul Weiser Diane & Steve Weitzman







Social Action Actions

It has been my honor to represent Temple Isaiah at Abraham's Table this past year, and to work with Jews, Christians and Muslims to plan events and to discuss ideas to "create a spirit of common heritage, peace and cooperation" on Long Island.

Many of the ideas for our interfaith services, including our Shabbat service honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., came from ZOOM discussions, shared articles, flyers, and events held by those at "The Table." Working in solidarity with the shared goals of bringing about constructive change and respecting the dignity of people of every religion gives me hope for our diverse Long Island. Our dialogue is honest and sometimes solemn, but we also respect and feel the joy of each other's holiday celebrations. In the future I hope to bring more ideas from Abraham's Table to Temple Isaiah.

Perhaps you received a *Mishloach Manot* gift for Purim. Approximately a dozen congregants received the surprise gift delivered by Social Action committee members. We want people to know that even if they are not able to make it to Temple, or simply if they need some cheer, they are in our thoughts. The phone calls and notes of appreciation encourage us to surprise a few more people on Rosh Hashanah and Passover as well. If you know of someone who could use a treat such as this, please let us know.

We will have a special PRIDE SHABBAT service on June 9th. It's a 7:30 PM service, so we encourage families to attend.

Don't plan your fall getaway the weekend of November 5th, when we will be celebrating our first Mitzvah Day with Rabbi Joshua Gray, his wife Meghan, and their children Cameron and Lena.

Iris Schiff Social Action Chairperson



RITUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

In accordance with Temple Isaiah's practice of keeping the Misheberach list current we will be updating the list quarterly. Should you wish to keep or add your loved ones' names to the list, please email the Temple office administrator@templeisaiahsb.org or telephone the office at 631-751-8518.



TI BOOK GROUP - READ ALL ABOUT IT!

The Temple Isaiah Book Group will meet on Tuesday, May 16th at 1:00 PM in the TI library. We will be discussing this month's book, *The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem*, by Sarit Yishai-Levi. New members welcome! RSVP to Carole-Ann Gordon at yescag18@gmail.com.

Schmoozing with Sisterhood

Our Sisterhood-led Shabbat Service was held Friday, March 24th. We would like to thank all of our Sisterhood participants, Rabbi Paul, and Kalix for helping create a beautiful service. We especially thank Brotherhood for sponsoring the lovely Oneg, complete with setup and cleanup for this occasion, allowing us to concentrate on the service. We look forward to reciprocating for the Brotherhood led service April 28th.

We will be having our Spring yard sale this year beginning with setup and pizza on Saturday, April 29th at 7_{PM}. Our sale will begin on April 30th at 1_{PM} and end on Monday, May 1st with Bag Day and clean up. This is a very important fundraiser for us, and we need volunteers to make it a success.

We are renaming our end of year dinner and book celebration in memory of Eileen Donnelly who, as you know, contributed so much to Temple Isaiah and to Sisterhood. She especially loved this event! Our 1st annual Eileen Donnelly Dinner and Book Discussion will be held on Wednesday, June 7th at 6PM. The book we have chosen for this occasion is: *The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles. Enjoy a delicious dinner and lively book discussion with your Sisterhood friends. (Dinner is complimentary for 5782 paid Sisterhood members and \$18pp for non-SH members and guests). Details to come soon.

We cannot wait to see you!

With Very Best Wishes,

Paula Bennett Pbennett1000@gmail.com and Carole-Ann Gordon yescag18@gmail.com

Co-Presidents Temple Isaiah Sisterhood







Our TI Caring Committee is now up and running. Our mission is to help 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 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, call Sue Rosenzweig at 516-429-0620, or call the temple office at 631-751-8518. Our committee will always respect your privacy.

If you would like to volunteer, please reach out to us. We'd love to have you join us.





Breaking Bread with Brotherhood

Brotherhood has been busy in 2023. We held our 2nd Jeopardy Game night Saturday, February 4th at 7PM in the Social Hall. A fun time was had by all. Our next Jeopardy Game night event is in the planning stages and more info will be announced soon.

Brotherhood was happy to contribute to the Purim Carnival on March 5th. We brought back the bounce house for for all to enjoy and provided Hamantaschen for everyone at the carnival, as well as the Oneg after the Purim services.

We are continuing to have the Brotherhood Torah Study (Schmooze) on the 2nd Thursday evening of every month, led by Steve Weitzman. TI Brotherhood is hosting the April Men of Reform Judaism (MRJ) Meeting on April 26th at 7:00PM in the Social Hall. MRJ is an association of Temple Brotherhood groups from Reformed Temples across Long Island. Our own Jay Schoenfeld is currently the MRJ Long Island Chapter President. Rabbi Karol will be making a presentation about Bob Dylan at the meeting.

Brotherhood Shabbat is planned for April 28th. Thank you to Sisterhood for sponsoring the Oneg for our service. Brotherhood gladly sponsored Sisterhood's Shabbat in March.

The Brotherhood Scholarship is available to all eligible HS Seniors or current College Students. All applications must be submitted by May 1st.

Brotherhood will be cooking hamburgers and hot dogs for the End of the School Year BBQ on May 21st. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Brotherhood meets regularly and our next meeting will be Sunday, June 11th in the Temple Kitchen. We serve bagels and lox. New members are always welcome.

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



PARENTS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Parents' Association hosted a very successful Bingo Night and worked with other committees to create a Purim Carnival for the books! Thank you to all who came and played, ate sweet treats and participated in our Basket Raffle.

Students were able to enjoy a new experience this year at a Chocolate Seder and were encouraged to bring a friend.

On the Gray's recent visit to Temple Isaiah we organized a Poyt Luck dinner for RS families to welcome Rabbi Josh, Meghan, Cam, and Lena to our TI family. A rollicking good time was had by all!

We are looking forward to the End of Year BBQ and have started planning events to keep students connected over the summer and for next year. If you are interested in helping the PA please contact me at ellenflaxmancovino@yahoo.com.

L'Shalom,

Ellen Covino ellenflaxmancovino@yahoo.com (she, her, hers)



EREV SHAVUOT – Thursday, May 25th 2023 "Supper, Study & Service"

6 PM DINNER

Join us for a traditional Erev Shavuot Dinner "Bagels, cream cheeses, tuna and egg salad," Cheesecake and Ice Cream for dessert (non-dairy options available for those who need it). \$10/person RSVP required by Monday, May 22nd to Penny: administrator@templeisaiahsb.org



6:45 PM STUDY

We will study together on a topic related to Shavuot (details to follow).

7:30 PM SERVICE

Join Rabbi Paul and Cantorial Student Kalix for a brief service featuring the music and liturgy for Erev Shavuot.

I/We would like to attend the Shavuot "Supper, Study & Service"

Name (s) ______ cell phone: ______

Email: _____

Number attending @ \$10/person: _____ Total amount enclosed: _____

SHAVUOT Festival Service w/Yizkor Friday, May 26th at 7:30 pm

Shavuot Festival Service with Yizkor (we read aloud the names of all those who died from last year at Shavuot to this year).

TEMPLE ISAIAH'S Spring Indoor Yard Sale

Volunteers Needed!

Clean your home of gently used or new unwanted stuff and Help Sisterhood Help Our Temple *and Help People's Needs*

DROP OFF: SATURDAY APRIL 29TH 7-9 PM {*with Pizza for Helpers*}

DROP OFF: SUNDAY APRIL 30TH 9 AM-12 PM

SALE BEGINS FOR THE PUBLIC

SUNDAY APRIL 30TH 1:00-3:30 PM

BAG DAY

MONDAY MAY 1ST 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

CLEAN UP MONDAY 1:00 PM UNTIL DONE

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO VOLUNTEER CONTACT:

PAULA BENNETT OR CAROLE-ANN GORDON PBENNETT1000@GMAIL.COM OR YESCAG18@GMAIL.COM





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of Stony Brook

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TEMPLE PISAIAH



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

Prayer Book:	\$45
Chumash:	\$60
Tree of Life Leaf:	\$118
Pew Plaque:	\$250
Memorial Board Plaque:	\$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 ☆ administrator@TempleIsaiahsb.org



