

Vol. 3, Issue 3 🌣 February–March 2024

# THE TEMPLE TIMES Happy Purim



**Purim Spiel & Service and Purim Carnival** Saturday, March 23rd and Sunday, March 24th

Temple Isaiah, 1404 Stony Brook Rd, Stony Brook, NY 11790 • 631-751-8518

# **Temple Isaiah Upcoming Events**

# PRAYER, STUDY AND COMMUNITY

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

✡	Shabbat Services:		
	Friday, Feb. 2nd:	Erev Shabbat Service at 6:00 PM	
	Friday, Feb. 9th:	Erev Shabbat Service at 7:30 PM	
	Friday, Feb. 16th:	Tot Shabbat Sevice at 5:30 PM / Erev Shabbat Service at 7:30 PM	
	Friday, Feb. 23rd:	Erev Shabbat Service at 7:30 PM	
	Friday, March 1st:	Erev Shabbat Service at 6:00 PM	
	Saturday, March 2nd:	Shabbat Morning Service, 10:00 AM	
	Friday, March 8th:	Erev Shabbat Service at 7:30 PM	
	Friday, March 15th:	Tot Shabbat Sevice at 5:30 PM / Erev Shabbat Service at 7:30 PM	
	Friday, March 22nd:	Erev Shabbat Service at 7:30 PM	
	Friday, March 29th:	Erev Shabbat Sisterhood Led Service at 7:30 PM	
众	Holiday Services & Events:		
	Saturday, March 23rd:	Purim Megillah Sevice & Spiel at 6:30 рм	
	Sunday, March 24th:	Purim Carnival at 9:00 AM	
✡	Shabbat Torah Study with Rabbi Gray:		
Saturdays: Feb. 3rd, 10th, & 24th and March 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th			
✡	Tanakh Study with Rabbi Karol:		
	-	nd March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, & 31st	
✡	Adult Education – Introduction	to Judaism with Rabbi Gray:	
	Wednesdays: Feb. 7th (6:00 рм), 14th, 21st, & 28th and March 6th (6:00 рм), 13th, 20th, & 27th at 7:00 г		
众	Committee, School, Club, and Board Meetings & Events:		
	Saturday, Feb. 3rd:	PA Bingo at 6:00 PM	
	Sunday, Feb. 4th:	PA at 9:30 AM and Shabbat Singers at 11:00 AM	
	Wednesday, Feb. 7th:	Ritual Committee at 7:30 PM	
	Monday, Feb. 12th:	Religious School Committee at 7:30 PM	
	Tuesday, Feb. 13th:	Sisterhood Schmooze on Zoom at 7:30 PM	
	Saturday, Feb. 24th:	Brotherhood Comedy Night at 6:45 PM	
	Monday, Feb. 26th:	Board of Trustees at 7:30 PM	
	Tuesday, Feb. 27th:	Book Group at 1:00 рм	
	Wednesday, March 6th:	Ritual Committee at 7:30 PM	
	Sunday, March 10th:	РА at 9:30 ам	
	Tuesday, March 12th:	Sisterhood Schmooze on Zoom at 7:30 PM	
	Sunday, March 17th:	Brotherhood at 9:00 AM and Shabbat Singers at 11:00 AM	
	Monday, March 18th:	Board of Trustees at 7:30 PM	
	Tuesday, March 26th:	Book Group at 1:00 PM	



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# **Rabbi's Reflections**

### Rabbi Joshua Gray

### A Song for Everyone at Temple Isaiah

Shalom Temple Mishpachah!

I want to begin with a "todah rabah," or "thank you so much." Our family's first 6 months here have been full of so much love and light. We could not ask for a more warm and welcoming congregation to now call family. I am not only thrilled that we are sojourning together, but that our adventure has just begun! In Torah, we have entered into the Book of Exodus (Shemot), and as of the writing of this piece, we find ourselves on the precipice of the Yam Suf, or the "Sea of Reeds." We will soon cross this sea, and joyously ring out the words of Shirat ha-Yam, or the "Song of the Sea." Both Moses and Miriam led the people of Israel in song after overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles during the initial flight from harsh bondage in Egypt and the hardened heart of a Pharaoh.

As a people, we are still reeling from the horrific events of October 7th, and the large uptick in antisemitism and anti-Jewish hatred that continues to manifest in its wake. It can be easy to look at the proverbial sea that stands before us and feel overwhelmed with anxiety and fear. We can continue to find our way through the roughest of waters by coming together as a *kehilla kedosha* (a holy community). Our gathering directly following the attack was a prime example of how necessary the warmth of our congregation is. At the end of the day, life is better when we have one another. Our Temple serves as a *Beit T'filah* (House of Prayer) during our Shabbat and holiday services. Our Tu B'Shevat Seder was wonderful, and we are already looking to the jubilance that Purim will bring in March.

If you feel the *ruach* move you, I urge you to attend our newly-introduced Saturday morning Shabbat Services, occurring on the first Saturday of each month. Our next gathering, complete with Torah discussion, will be on February 3rd. We also function as a Beit Midrash (House of Study). We gather for Torah discussions every Saturday morning, and we currently meet on Wednesday nights for the beautifully-broad "Introduction to Judaism'' class. Finally, our Temple is ultimately a *Beit Knesset*, a house of gathering. Temple Isaiah is your home away from home; we gather together during times of joy, and also times of strain and sadness.

Some of our Great Sages wonder whether the Israelites began to sing once they had crossed the Sea of Reeds, or if they started the melody when they were still traveling through the unknown of miraculously parted waters. We often sing out in joy, but sometimes use song as a coping mechanism when we are unsure or stressed. Wherever you are on your journey, there is a song for you here at Temple. There are no wrong notes, and there is no improper time to let your voice ring out. Whether full of simcha or tzures, your tune is needed by all of us. Remember you are enough, and you are doing enough. The Babylonian Talmud tells us, "If you take on too much, you have taken on nothing" (Yoma 80a).

The winter months can certainly come with a sense of gloom for many, and I warmly invite you to become a part of the joy that is buzzing here at Temple Isaiah. Our Religious School is back in attendance, our Shabbatot are full of love and song, and our learning is rich and growing. I firmly believe that there is truly something for everyone here within our beautiful and warm congregation.

May we all be blessed to take on just enough; to cross the sea at our own pace, and to trust in the fact that God will be with us regardless. We at Temple Isaiah are here to journey with you. "...There is no way to get from here to there except by joining hands, marching together." It is then that we sing the Song of the Sea in unison.

L'Shalom, Rabbi Josh



# Sustaining Members & Friends of Temple Isaiah 2024

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 Paula & Craig Balaban Paula & Steve Bennett Brooke & David Chesler Pamela Feldman Barbara Fine Eileen & Rabbi Adam Fisher Essie & Mark Freilach Rose French Suzanne Gabrielsen Anita & Stewart Gaffan 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

Meghan & Rabbi Joshua Gray Barbara & Gary Kamen Howard Kanowitz Honey & Arnold Katz Donna & Stephen Karol Joan & Jason Kitt Cara & Peter Klein Carl Kravitz Dreania & Micheal LeVine Barbara Meyer Pat & Jeff Muhlrad 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 Myra & Alan Rosofsky Sue & Dean Rosenzweig Linda & David Rothbaum Dale & Marc Salzberg Iris & David Schiff Margaret & Jay Schoenfeld Sheila & David Silberhartz Gloria & Mark Snyder Irva & Saul Steinweis Diane & Steve Weitzman





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# Message From Our President

### HOWARD KANOWITZ

Dear Friends,

The year 2024 is off to a wonderful start! I wish you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year! I am entering my third year as President of Temple Isaiah, and I realize more and more what an honor it is to hold this position. I will always strive to keep our Temple moving forward to even greater achievements in all areas of our Community and Life.

We had our first Saturday morning Shabbat Torah service on Jan. 6th, with a Torah discussion. This service will be held on the first Saturday of every month following the 6PM Friday night service. Please join us and stay for bagels and a schmooze.

We held our Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Shabbat service on Friday, Jan. 12th. Reverend Lisa Williams from the Bethel AME Church of Setauket was our guest speaker. It was truly an enriching and spiritual experience for the many congregants who attended as well as for guests from the Bethel Church!

On Saturday, January 20th, our guests enjoyed a variety of Broadway

hits as performed by our talented members of all ages. This special night was directed by Meghan Gray, with accompaniment of Dan Fogel. A wonderful time was had by all.

Rabbi Josh has started his Adult Ed Class, "Introduction To Judaism" on Wednesday evenings. This class will run for another 15 weeks, covering a different topic each week.

On Saturday, February 24th we will come together to experience joy and laughter at our "Brotherhood Comedy Night!" Tickets are already available, and you can reach out to any Brotherhood member, or simply call the Temple office.

I am extremely fortunate to have had continuous contact with Rabbi Josh, and I hope to heighten our relationship even more. My relationship with all our members and staff has also been a wonderful source of enjoyment. The religious school is running smoothly. I want to thank Rabbi Josh and all our wonderful, talented and caring teachers.

We are all looking forward this year's Purim Spiel on Saturday evening, March 23rd, at 6:30PM. We will have our talented students and congregants performing under the skillful leadership of Musical Meg, Rabbi Josh, and Dan "the piano man" Fogel. This year's spiel is going to be fabulous! And Sunday, March 24th we are going to have the most incredible PURIM CARNIVAL that we have ever had. We will also have plenty of Hamantaschen!! Please join us and bring friends.

I hope you are all as excited as I am about the direction in which Temple Isaiah is heading and the events that we have already created! Stay tuned for a lot more to come!

Howie Kanowitz





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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 Gray before scheduling. Our sanctuary is available for funeral or memorial services.

# Temple Isaiah Committees & Clubs

## SOCIAL ACTION ACTIONS

Throughout the years Temple Isaiah's Social Action Committee has fostered tzedakah by creating opportunities for giving to those in need. We have collected food for Thanksgiving, winter coats for adults and children, care packages for Jewish soldiers, holiday toys for children, and more. We know that charity and giving is an important part of tzedakah, and our committee will continue to create these opportunities.

Maimonides is known to have said that giving anonymous donations to unknown recipients is the second highest form of tzedakah. What is the highest level? It is to give a gift, loan, or partnership that will help the recipient support himself.

Last month, through the organizations Abraham's Table and the Poor People's Campaign, I attended a conference entitled, "Don't Blame Poor People." The workshops were calls to action to address the structural causes of poverty in our region. Within the next month, I hope to learn specific actions we can take on such issues as racism in housing, inequities in health care, and more. Below is a prayer that was shared by Abraham's Table:

### A Prayer for Love

G-d, we pray for love, For the compassion to love our neighbors as ourselves. We pray for people and communities struggling with poverty, We pray for their children. We pray for people struggling to get out of debt, for young people who can't afford a college education. We pray for our leaders, We pray for our leaders, We pray for our economy – that it may be built on right relationships. We pray for an economy built on love.

Iris Schiff, Social Action Chairperson: idschiff@optonline.net



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## TI BOOK GROUP – READ ALL ABOUT IT!

The Temple Isaiah Book Discussion Group welcomes everyone to our February meeting, where we will be discussing *The Plot Against America* by Philip Roth.

All Temple members are welcome to participate and encouraged to bring a friend along to join in the lively facilitated discussions. The more perspectives present, the more intriguing the conversation.

Meeting: Tuesday, February 27h at 1:00 PM in the Rabbi Adam D. Fisher Library. If you have any questions please contact Carole-Ann Gordon at yescag18@gmail.com



## RITUAL COMMITTEE REQUEST

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 at administrator@templeisaiahsb.org or telephone the office at 631-751-8518.



## COMMENTS FROM THE CARING COMMITTEE

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.





### SCHMOOZING WITH SISTERHOOD

Happy Winter 2024 from Temple Isaiah Sisterhood!

We have been busy making plans for our 2024 Winter/Spring season. This season we will be focusing on strengthening our Sisterhood friendships. We welcome all Temple Isaiah women to join our Sisterhood and be a part of our friendly group of supportive women, with many talents and interests. To that end, we held our first off-site "Sisterhood Sunday Social" at Panera Bread in Port Jefferson Station on December 3rd. It was a successful, stress-free, messfree afternoon and we all had fun, so we will be adding offsite "Sunday Socials" to our regular calendar.

We met on zoom on Tuesday, January 9th to plan and organize our winter/spring events and activities. We are excited to announce our

"Create a Special Tri-Corner Cookie" activity for families at this year's Purim Carnival, where we will be donating a basket for PA's Basket Raffle.

### Save the date:

Our Sisterhood led Shabbat Service will be on Friday, March 29th at 7:30 рм.

Please join us for this lovely service. We will be having a special Oneg for this occasion and look forward to worshipping with everyone.

### Sisterhood Winter 2024 Schedule:

**Sunday Sisterhood Socials:** Sunday, February 25th, Tentative and location TBD.

Sisterhood Zoom Schmoozing: Tuesday, February 7th 7:30 PM. Tuesday, March 14th 7:30 рм.

#### **Coming in March:**

L' Dor v'Dor Jewish Baking Session: (Tentative, details to come) Sunday, March 3rd.

**Create Your Own Masterpiece Cookie** at the Purim Carnival: Sunday, March 24th.

#### Sisterhood Led Shabbat Service:

Friday, March 29th at 7:30 PM. There will be special melodies included in the service, and a special Oneg to follow.

Looking forward to seeing you and having a great 2024!

With Very Best Wishes, Paula Bennett pbennett1000@gmail.com







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# **Temple Isaiah Committees & Clubs**

### BREAKING BREAD WITH BROTHERHOOD

Brotherhood wishes everyone a safe and warm winter.

The Bernie Friend Latke Bash was held December 10th and Brotherhood, as always, was up bright and early cutting onions and potatoes and frying up the many Latkes for all to enjoy. We are proud of this annual Brotherhood tradition. The event was part of the Temple-wide Hanukkah celebration and we were happy to participate along with the Religious School, Parents Association, Sisterhood, and everyone in the greater Temple community.

Brotherhood is now selling Super Bowl boxes. Don't forget to get yours before the big game later this month.

### Join us for Comedy Night

Saturday, Feb. 24th at 7:45 PM.

If you haven't purchased a ticket or a table, please reach out to us at templeisaiahfundraiser@gmail. com. A portion of the funds raised will go toward stroke awareness and other charitable causes. We can't wait to laugh with everyone.

### Temple Isaiah's Purim Carnival

Sunday, March 24th at 9:00 AM. Once again, Brotherhood will be providing the Hamantaschen. We look forward to celebrating with everyone at this fun event.

#### Brotherhood Shabbat Service

will be taking place on Friday, April 19th. Come participate with us. Additional events are in the planning stages and details will be announced soon.

Brotherhood meets monthly in the Temple Kitchen. Bagels and Lox are always served. New members are always welcome. If you are interested in learning more about Temple Isaiah's Brotherhood and all the fun things we do, please contact me at jkitt29@aol.com

L'Shalom, Jason Kitt Brotherhood President









# SPARKLE AND SHINE SHABBAT

Shipy, Shippering, Sequers of my! Bring or wear some shipe

# February 2nd

# 6:00 pm Temple Isaiah of Stony Brook

True light never dies so long as we remember. Oneg spansored by the Preis family in honor of Gideon Ben Tgila, of blessed memory.





RSVPS are a must



# This Month in Jewish History FEBRUARY / MARCH



### FEBRUARY 5, 1840 (SYRIA)



Albert Einstein

A blood libel known as the "Damascas Affair" started with the disappearance of a Franciscan monk. A number of Jews were accused of ritual murder and arrested by authorities, including 2 who died under torture, and 63 children who were starved in an effort to extract confessions from their families. International pressure forced the charges to be dropped. The affair caused a resurgence of Zionist sentiment.

FEBRUARY 19, 1543 (ITALY)

The "House of Catechumens" was established by the Vatican for the purpose of converting Jews. Supported by taxes on the Jewish population, a Jew sent to the "house" would undergo 40 days of intense "instruction."

FEBRUARY 21, 1860 (UNITED STATES)

Uriah P. Levy was appointed Commodore of the U.S. Eastern Mediterranean fleet.

MARCH 4, 1820 (RUSSIA) Czar Alexander I prohibited Jews from employing Christian servants.

MARCH 15, 1945 (GERMANY) 15 year old Anne Frank died from typhus in Bergen-Belson concentration camp, weeks before its liberation.

### March 17, 1808 (France)

Napoleon issued the "Infamous Decree," which cancelled any debt owed to Jews by military personnel or women, abolished freedom of trade for Jews, and forbid Jews from settling in certain areas around the Rhine.

MARCH 28, 1932 (ERETZ ISRAEL) The first Maccabiah Games were held in Tel Aviv with Jewish athletes from 21 countries competing.

### JEWISH BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH:

- ☆ Betty Friedan, feminist/activist: 2/4/1921 ☆ Carole King, singer/songwriter: 2/9/1942
- ☆ Ariel Sharon, Israeli Prime Minister: 2/27/1928 ☆ Elizabeth Taylor, actress/philanthropist: 2/27/1932
- Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli Prime Minister: 3/1/1922 & Rebecca Gratz, educator/philanthropist: 3/4/1781
- 🌣 Lillian Wald, nurse/humanitarian: 3/10/1867 🌣 Albert Einstein, physicist/humanitarian: 3/14/1879
- ⇔ Billy Crystal, actor/comedian: 3/14/1947 
  ☆ Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Supreme Court Justice: 3/15/1933
- ☆ Harry Houdini, illusionist/escape artist: 3/24/1874 ☆ Maimonides, physician/philosopher: 3/30/1135



ELIZABETH TAYLOR



RUTH BADER GINDBERG

GK

Saturday February 24th! at 7:45 №

Comedy Night

of Stony Brook, New York

# Our Funniest Fund Raiser

Tim Krompier

John Ziegler

Maria Walsh

Saturday, February 24th Doors open at 6:45 PM – Show starts at 7:45 PM brought to you by Temple Isaiah Brotherhood

Guavanteed to Laugh!

featuring:

# TIM KROMPIER

EMPLE

Tim has headlined in comedy clubs, theaters, and showcases across the country.

## JOHN ZIEGLER

John is an award winning stand-up comedian. Look for his comedy special, "Getting My Affairs in Order."

## PLUS: SPECIAL GUESTS

# MC'D BY MARIA WALSH

Maria was voted naughtiest mom in Vegas!

# Tables of 8: \$360 (\$45 pp) or \$50 per individual BYOB (& Food!) Refreshments will be Served

For more information: Templeisaiahfundraiser@gmail.com Temple Isaiah 1404 Stony Brook Rd, Stony Brook, NY 11790 631-751-8518



In Support of Stroke Awareness and Other Charitable Causes



# Intro to Judaism 101 🌣

wednesdays at 7:00 PM with Rabbi Josh

# "THE JOYS OF A JEWISH JOURNEY"

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Interested in continuing your Jewish education? Conversion? Looking to reconnect with Judaism?

> Join Us for an 18 week journey beginning January 10th, 2024

A robust and immersive curriculum merged with discussion, active exploration and reflection. This course will be sure to deepen and enrich your connection to Judaism.

> For more information, or to register please contact administrator@templeisaiahsb.org

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Bring your used, outgrown, ugly sneakers to

# Temple Isaiah to be recycled!



Got questions? Click <u>here</u> to learn more about what you can donate or contact Ellen Covino at <u>ellenflaxmancovino@yahoo.com.</u>

# WINTER COAT DRIVE TEMPLE ISAIAH

# February

Last day drop off Sunday, February 25th!



# Give your gently used coats and other winter wear (scarves, mittens, gloves) some new life by donating them to kids and families in need. All coats and other outerwear will be donated to Suffolk Y JCC

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! Social Action Committee



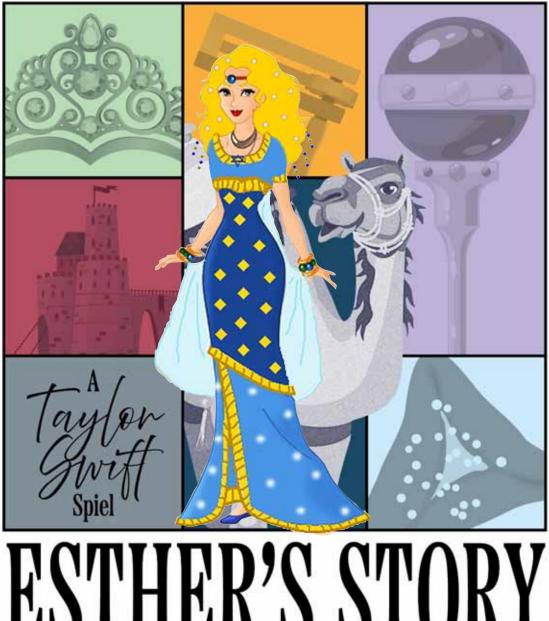




Honor a loved one's Yizkor Commemorate a special event: birthday, anniversary, new job simcha's of all sorts!



\$180



# ESTHER'S STORY (TAYLOR'S VERSION)

# Exciting News! Purim Spiel & Service Saturday, March 23rd

# **Purim Carnival**

Sunday, March 24th





Rabbi / Cantor / Principal—Joshua Gray Temple President—Howard Kanowitz Administrator—Penny Gentile Sisterhood President—Paula Bennett 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



