



חג שמח פסח Happy Pesach!

PESACH SERVICES:
Tuesday, April 11 • 10:00 am
Monday, April 17 • 10:00 am Yiskor

❖ From Our President's Desk

Ira Helf



On March 28th, there was a special meeting of the congregation at Temple Isaiah. We gathered to discuss the market response to our real estate property which began in December 2016. In the three months since the listing, we received many inquiries and two offers. One offer was received from a member of the congregation. The other from an outside religious organization. The meeting was the opportunity for the congregation to voice its opinion. No binding action had been taken by the Board to this point. The congregation needed to first review the information (which would be presented by the Real Estate Committee) and then provide a vote to advise the Board.

In the weeks and days preceding the meeting, unofficial sources began a series of speculations and accusations using letters, broadcast and narrowcast media to raise the emotional tone of the situation. It is unfortunate that the information they planted in the media was false. The people who knew the truth were bound by confidentiality agreements with the bidders, and their personal integrity, so that they could not publicly dispute the false information at that time.

At the meeting, however, the Real Estate Committee and the Board of Trustees were able to tell all. Presenting the truth to the entire congregation was a great relief. This however did not prevent a few people from continuing their harangue of unsupported and unnecessarily disrespectful accusations, bringing the meeting into moments of near-chaos.

We did manage to get done what we needed to do. This was possible because we were able to focus on a last-minute generous donation from Harold Matzner. Just an hour before the meeting, Mr. Matzner offered to cover our operating deficit for the fiscal year ending June 2017. With this gift, we will be able to remain in our building for another year.

In the advisory vote taken at the meeting, the congregation agreed to accept the gift with much gratitude. We recognize that this gives us an opportunity to work on our options, and postpone for a year what could be a difficult decision.

However, it's more complicated than that. The feelings expressed at the meeting suggest that a portion of the membership would like to remain in the current building for the long-term, despite its being too large for our current needs and too expensive for our current revenue. While one could question whether this is a rationally optimal choice, there is no doubt that the emotion behind it is genuine.

A number of members pointed out that because of our financial circumstances, Temple Isaiah has fallen behind in the maintenance and repair of the building, and its appearance has suffered. Among those members who prefer to remain in this large building, there is now an interest in cosmetic and functional repairs, including having the building painted, installing a new roof, and re-surfacing

the parking area. While these improvements are needed, we must be careful how we spend the small amount of money remaining. The Board will need to evaluate whether these improvements provide any financial benefit that offsets their costs. Even with the generous gift from Harold Matzner, we still need to be judicious in our use of funds.

We all know that we face a challenging few years ahead. I hope that the members who felt so comfortable expressing their accusations and suggested solutions at the meeting will feel equally comfortable in stepping-up-to-the-plate to provide the funding and work effort required to implement those suggested solutions. Ideas are a dime-a-dozen. The real mettle is in the work and implementation.

Ira J. Helf, President

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CAFÉ



Join us on Thursday, April 6th from 3-5 pm in the front lobby of Temple Isaiah, 332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs.

This is a monthly event for people in our community who are living with memory loss, their families, care givers and friends.

We meet the first Thursday of each month. Come! Have fun and make new friends! No cost. RSVP helpful. Call 760-325-2281 or email to mail@templeisiahps.com.



TEMPLE PHONE NUMBERS

Main line: 760-325-2281

Staff can be reached via the main Temple number or by calling their direct lines:

Rabbi David Lazar	760-844-7308
Doug Morton, Executive Director	760-844-7307
Larea Pettersen, Ass't to Director	760-844-7306
Christopher Greene, Facilities	760-844-7309
24/7 Event RSVP Line	760-844-7305

If you are unwell, please notify the Temple Office - 760-325-2281 - or have someone call on your behalf, so that Rabbi Lazar can be in contact with you.

❖ From the Rabbi's Study

Rabbi David Lazar



Traditionally, this coming Shabbat, known as Shabbat Hagadol, is a time of preparation for the Passover Seder. For centuries it has provided the rabbi with an opportunity to address the community on the various aspects of the upcoming holiday.

As is the case with many of our customs and phrases, the name "Shabbat Hagadol" has a number of explanations. I will mention just three that might help us all prepare for our Seder events coming up in just a few days:

Miracles - As far as I can tell from the sources, the earliest explanation of Shabbat Hagadol is found in a number of sources attributed to Rashi, Rabbi Shlomo Yitzhaki (11th century, France and Germany). Rashi thinks that that the word "Hagadol" refers to the "great miracle" that occurred during the first Pessah celebration in Egypt. The Israelites took for themselves lambs for the sacrifice which were considered an abomination by the Egyptians, and because they did not rise up and kill the Israelites, this was considered by the rabbis a "great" miracle, hence the name "the Shabbat of a great thing."

Coming of age - According to Rabbi David Abudraham (14th century, Spain), quoting Ibn Yarhi (12th century, Provence), another reason for the name "Shabbat Hagadol" is that this particular Shabbat was when the Children of Israel first came under the yoke of the commandments, *tachat ol hamitzvot*. Just as a bat/bar mitzvah, is at that point called an adult, "*gadol/g'dolah*" so too, the Israelites were to be called "*gadol*" from this point on.

Lengthy sermons - And finally, Rabbi Tzidkiyah bar Avraham Harofe (13th century, France and Germany) explains that because the rabbi's sermon is so long on this particular Shabbat, it seems like a "*yom gadol*" a very long day!

Each of these three reasons points us in a particular direction:

Miracles - While the 10 plagues and the parting of the Reed Sea are told in such a way that we all immediately realize that these are in no way natural events. They are unique and fantastic. They are, well, miraculous! But one often realizes that an event is a miracle only from a distance. As the 20th century Israeli poet Yehudah Amichai (*Nissim, Sha'at Hahesed*, p. 96) put it:

From afar, everything looks like a miracle
But close up, even a miracle doesn't look
that way
Even one who passed through the Reed
Sea at the splitting of the sea
Saw only the sweaty back
Of the one whom he was behind
And the movement of heavy thighs

And at the most, with a quick glance to the
side
Fish of all colors within the wall of water
Like in a sea aquarium from behind the
walls of glass...

So, I wonder, are we seeing the miracles of our lives, in which we stand, sit and lie?

What are the miracles in our lives for which we must give thanks this Pessah, from which narrow places have we emerged, from what kind of slavery have we been set free? Who are the miracles that we will see around our Seder table among our children, our parents, our grandchildren, our grandparents, and our friends?

Coming of age - We spend lots of time entertaining the children around the Seder table, or at least that is what we are supposed to be doing. But as we all know from the Haggadah, each of us has at least a bit of little child in us, both for better and for worse. We delight in eating, and even in making the *haroset*, we enjoy singing the four questions together, we even play hide and seek with the *matzo*, constantly uncovering and covering them. But we also are sometimes a bit childish in our stubborn refusal to sing, or even listen to, a new melody, that was not done in our own family's home. We suddenly get very strict, often unreasonably so, about our standard of kashrut, in ways that might keep us from eating, or even sitting at the same table as our friends and family members.

What might we be doing to grow up in some ways without losing some of the naiveté and innocence that enable us to enjoy the Seder each year? What might we begin to do this Pessah? What new obligations might we decide to take upon ourselves in our dealings with the community, with other human beings, with God and with ourselves, things that will have us "coming of age" in a particularly Jewish way?

Lengthy sermons - I admit that sometimes I go on for too long and I

want you to know that I'm working on that. But don't we all have a tendency to go on a bit?

And in fact, our Seders often are too long. Some insist on reading each and every word of a text that was never meant to be more than a book of suggestions to help perform the mitzvah of "*v'higadeta l'vincha*" - telling the story of the Exodus to our children. Or perhaps it's just that they seem too long. In either case, the Seder is an opportunity to innovate and to be creative, to engage not only the young people around the table, but also each and every one of us who sit together at this joyous occasion.

May this be a Pessah celebration that moves all of us towards these and many other goals in our quest for freedom, not only for ourselves, but for all human beings.

Hag Pessah Sameah!



Woodcut of rabbi preaching on Shabbat Hagadol, Book of Jewish Customs, Amsterdam, 1723, Gross Family Collection, Tel-Aviv

Rabbi David Lazar

❖ From the Executive Director Douglas Morton

Wow! What wonderful movies at this year's Jewish Film Festival! I enjoyed all of them but the shorts were so much fun! From our opening event at the Temple on Sunday – highlighted by the conversation with Jack Adler and his son regarding the making of "Surviving Skokie" – to our closing event with the Palm Springs Gay Men's Chorus' performance following "Who's Gonna Love Me Now?" our Film Festival was spectacular. Thanks to Eileen Stern and the entire crew for such a great job. The film festival is getting bigger and better each year, thanks to Eileen, the committee, our sponsors, contributors and attendees! I hope that everyone got to see at least a couple of films and is already planning to attend "Palm Springs Jewish Film Festival V" next year!



is any one common denominator between all of us, it is that we truly, genuinely care.

This month we will also observe Yom HaShoah. In addition to the Jewish Federation's Community Observance of Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance) on Sunday, April 23rd at 3:00 pm at the Helene Galen Auditorium at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, we have two very special events here at Temple Isaiah which I urge you to attend. On Tuesday, April 25 at 7 PM Ira Helf and Larry Fechter will speak about "FDR, the Jews & the Holocaust: Context & Perspective." Two days later, on Thursday, April 27 at 7 PM, we are bringing in a speaker under the auspices of Twice Blessed, with the support of the Jewish Federation of the Desert. Jake Newsome of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum will speak on "Persecution of Gay Men & Lesbians by the Nazi Regime."

Looking ahead to the first week in May, Twice Blessed is bringing in Rabbi Becky on Sunday, May 7th at 4:00 PM. Rabbi Silverstein will speak on "Transgender and Jewish."

Each of these three events is only \$5 for Temple members and \$10 for non-members. Registration is available online at www.templeisaiaphs.com or by calling us at the office. There are flyers on all three lectures elsewhere in this issue of Chai Lights. Be sure to check them out.

ExploraTorah continues to have outstanding attendance each Wednesday afternoon from 3-4:15 PM, as the class slowly studies the torah together with Rabbi Lazar. Each week stands on its own, so if this sounds intriguing, I encourage you to give it a try!

I look forward to seeing you at the Seder, services and at our many activities coming up in the next few weeks.

Chag Sameach!

Douglas

2017 JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

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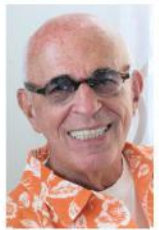
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Can you believe it's time to relive our journey from Egypt to freedom! With almost 100 people signed up for our Community Seder on the first night of Pesach, and still a few days to go, I am confident that the Seder will be a huge success. I look forward to seeing you there, and if you are at home with loved ones and/or friends, I wish you Chag Sameach / Happy Pesach!



It strikes me that the story of the exodus and our temple family getting together for Pesach is especially pertinent this year, as our congregation prepares to move into the future with our Temple. Whatever we decide and wherever we end up, we have faith that we'll all arrive safely as one community. If there

ברוכה הבאה

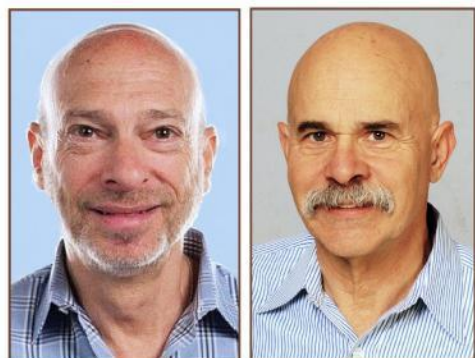
Welcome & Mazel Tov
to

Rhonda Rockwell
on the occasion of her
conversion to Judaism.



Temple Isaiah presents TWO programs in observance of
Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2017 • 7 PM



**“FDR, the Jews &
the Holocaust:
Context & Perspective”**

Co-presenters: Ira Helf & Larry Fechter

Program held in the Liberman Chapel,
followed by social reception.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017 • 7 PM



Twice Blessed
LGBTQ at Temple Isaiah & JCC
Palm Springs



**“Persecution of
Gay Men & Lesbians
by the Nazi Regime”**

Jake Newsome of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC

Program held in the Temple Isaiah Warsaw Ballroom, followed by social reception.

TEMPLE ISAIAH, 332 WEST ALEJO ROAD, PALM SPRINGS, CA 92262

Each lecture: \$5 Members • \$10 Guests.

RSVP online at www.templeisaiahps.com or call 760-325-2281.



Twice Blessed programs are supported by
a grant from the Jewish Federation of the Desert.



Laurie Gross Shaeffer Shares Her Extraordinary Artistry at “Judaism for the 21st Century” Lecture



Left: Judaic Textile Artist Laurie Gross Shaeffer with Rabbi David Lazar 3-5-17. Right: “Miriam and the Women;” Below left: “Covenant of the Rainbow;” Bottom right: “Seven Days of Creation.”



PURIM WAS GREAT FUN!

Our Temple Isaiah Family certainly knows how to put on a terrific Potluck Supper! Thanks to the members of TIWA, Temple Isaiah Women’s Auxiliary, the event was beautiful planned and organized to perfection! Everyone brought delicious, fabulous food. Shoshana’s champagne punch made the evening sparkle. The raffle was a success. Simply put, the evening was absolutely wonderful! THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU to everyone who worked so hard to make the evening special ... and to everyone who attended and made this a “freilach” time together!



Rabbi Lazar reading the Megillah, with boos and greggers when Haman’s name was read!



Professor Shaul Magid was the fourth speaker of this year’s new series, *Judaism in the 21st Century*, speaking April 2nd on “Why Should Progressive Jews be Interested in Hasidism?” Challenging and fascinating in his presentation, he spoke of the influences of Martin Buber, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Arthur Green and Zalman Schachter-Shalomi on how contemporary Judaism is perceived and practiced.

Twice Blessed

LGBTQ at Temple Isaiah & JCC
Palm Springs

Sunday, May 7 - 4:00 PM

Rabbi Becky Silverstein

Education Director,
Pasadena Jewish Temple,

**"Transgender & Jewish:
Bringing My Whole-Self
to our Holy Tradition."**



Rabbi Becky Silverstein will discuss his process of defining his gender identity, why he hasn't chosen to change his name, why it is important for him to marry a Jewish woman and the replacement text he has chosen for the daily blessing thanking God 'for not creating me a woman.' In addition to serving as Education Director at Pasadena Jewish Temple, Rabbi Silverstein serves on the boards of Keshet, The Jewish Studio Project, and SVARA.

Program will be in Temple Isaiah's Warsaw Ballroom (lower level),
332 West Alejo Road, Palm Springs, and will be followed by a social reception.

\$5 Members • \$10 Guests

RSVP online at www.templeisaiahps.com or call 760-325-2281.

Twice Blessed programs are supported by a grant from the
Jewish Federation of the Desert.



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Executive Director

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תכשיט האדמה

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April 2017</h1>						1 10 am Shabbat service
2  Temple office closed 4 pm Judaism for 21 st C. Lecture: Prof. Shaul Magid	3 Temple office closed	4  Deadline to RSVP for Temple Community Seder	5 3-4:15 pm <i>Exploze Torah</i> 6-8 pm 2BaJew	6 3-5 pm Dementia Friendly Café 	7 6:30 pm Shabbat services	8 10 am Shabbat service
9 Temple office closed	10 Erev Pesach First Seder 6 pm Temple Community Seder	11 Temple office closed 10 am Pesach services	12 No classes Temple office closed PESACH	13 PESACH	14 6:30 pm Shabbat services PESACH	15 10 am Shabbat service PESACH
16 Temple office closed PESACH	17 Temple office closed PESACH 10 am Pesach services Yiskor	18 Temple office closed PESACH	19 3-4:15 pm <i>Exploze Torah</i> 6-8 pm 2BaJew	20	21 6:30 pm Shabbat services	22 10 am Shabbat service
23 Temple office closed	24 Temple office closed	25 7 pm Holocaust lecture: Ira Helf & Larry Fechter: "FDR, the Jews & the Holocaust: Context and Perspective"  	26 3-4:15 pm <i>Exploze Torah</i> 6-8 pm 2BaJew	27 7 pm Twice Blessed lecture: Jake Newsome: "Persecution of Gay Men and Lesbians by the Nazi Regime" 	28 6:30 pm Shabbat services	29 10 am Shabbat service
30 Temple office closed						



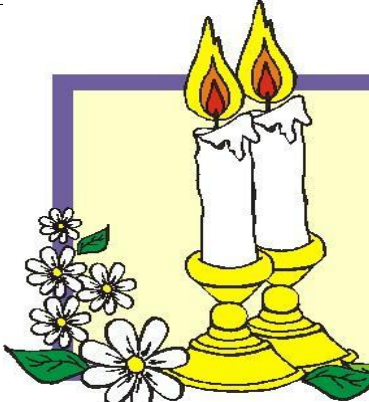
CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES:

Friday April 7
 Monday, April 10
 Tuesday, April 11
 Friday, April 14
 Sunday, April 16
 Friday, April 21
 Friday, April 28

Shabbat Tzav
 Pesach: First Seder
 Pesach: Second Seder
 Shabbat Pesach
 7th day Pesach
 Shabbat Shmini
 Shabbat Tazriah-Metzora

6:29 pm
 6:32 pm
 After 7:57 pm
 6:35 pm
 6:35 pm
 6:40 pm
 6:45 pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May 2017</h1> 						
	1 Temple office closed	2	3 3-4:15 pm <i>Exploza Tzarah</i> 6-8 pm 2BaJew	4 3-5 pm Dementia Friendly Café 	5 6:30 pm Shabbat services	6 10 am Shabbat service
7 Temple office closed  4 pm Twice Blessed Event: Rabbi Becky Silverstein: "Transgender & Jewish"	8 Temple office closed	9	10 3-4:15 pm <i>Exploza Tzarah</i> 6-8 pm 2BaJew	11	12 6:30 pm Shabbat services	13 10 am Shabbat service
14 Temple office closed	15 Temple office closed	16	17 3-4:15 pm <i>Exploza Tzarah</i> 6-8 pm 2BaJew	18	19 6:30 pm Shabbat services	20 10 am Shabbat service
21 Temple office closed	22 Temple office closed	23	24 3-4:15 pm <i>Exploza Tzarah</i> 6-8 pm 2BaJew	25	26 6:30 pm Shabbat services	27 10 am Shabbat service
28 Temple office closed	29 Temple office closed	30 8 pm Erev Shavuot	31 No classes Temple office closed 10 am Shavuot Services: Yiskor			



CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

Friday, May 5	Shabbat Acharei-Kedoshim	6:51 pm
Friday, May 12	Shabbat Emor	6:56 pm
Friday, May 19	Shabbat Behar-Bechukotai	7:01 pm
Friday, May 26	Shabbat Bamidbar	7:06 pm
Tuesday, May 30	Erev Shavuot	7:09 pm
Wednesday, May 31	Second night Shavuot	After 8:34 pm

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2017



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It's a wrap!

Thank you all for making the 4th Annual
Palm Springs Jewish Film Festival such a success!

We hope you enjoyed the movies! We had fun bringing them to you! Together we laughed, we cried, we discussed and we listened. Your support made it possible. We are very grateful. See you next year at the 5th Annual Palm Springs Jewish Film Festival.

The Palm Springs Jewish Film Festival Committee



← Opening
event



Closing event with
PS Gay Men's Chorus →

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Jewish Federation of the Desert
COMMUNITY YOM HASHOAH/HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE
SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017 • 3:00 PM

Helene Galen Auditorium ~ Annenberg Center for Health Sciences
 Eisenhower Medical Center, Rancho Mirage, CA

Keynote Speaker: Mitch Braff, Jewish Partisan Education Foundation



Mazel Tov April celebrants!

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Pearl White in honor of Rabbi Sally Olins

Esther Lott in honor of Rabbi Sally Olins

Paulette and Bernard Horwich in honor of Elaine Frank's 100th birthday

Douglas Morton in honor of Ira Helf

Douglas Morton in honor of Shoshana Barer

Pearl White in honor of Eileen Stern's birthday

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April 2017 Yahrzeits

** Names Inscribed on Memorial Board*

Shabbat Services: Friday nights at 6:30 pm & Saturdays at 10:00 am. We will attempt to provide a morning minyan for a yahrzeit if given several days notice.



April 1 Yahrzeits Listed March 31

*Shirley Cohen
*Moishe Y. Levin
Miriam G. Rubenstein
Malka Silverberg
*Reba Spector

April 2-8 Yahrzeits Listed April 7

Beverly Baum
*Samuel Beck
*Annie Bolter
*Dr. Seymour Brown
*Seymour Buschsbaum
*Howard H. Cohn
*Edward G. Cole
*Israel Einbinder
*Lillian Faulkner
Betty Fraenkel
*Herman J. Geller
*Cantor Samuel Greenberg
David Haimoff
*Nettie Halbreich
Clara Honigman
*Carl Israelson

Bertha Kroll
Philip Moses
Fern Naxon
*Sol Neishuler
*Winnie Orr
*Mary Rabinowitz
*Gloria Robinson
*Joseph Ross
*Florence Rothbardt
*Johanna Schiresohn
Israel Simkin
Rabbi Ralph Simon
*Anna Waldman
*David Zucker

April 9-16 Yahrzeits Listed April 15

*Sam Avedon
*Samuel Barsky
*Lillian Conner
*Mary Einbinder
*Anna Feltenstein
*Henry Frank
*Louis Garfield
*Annette Ginsberg
*Clara Goldstein
Marvin Henzel
*Molly Israelson
Ed Kanter
*Rae Kates
*Howard Kochman
Seymour Lazar
*Esther A. Lerman
*Abe L. Levin
*Lillian Levine
Sidney Mantell
*Abe Patterson
*Dr. Alfred Piser
*Fannie Rosenbaum
*Gussie Rosenberg
*Yetta Rosener
*Morris Rubin
Celia Rutenberg
*Leopold Schiresohn
Helene B. Seidenfeld
Ellis N. Shafon
*Mollie Sirott
*Sam Stayman
*Isobel Thal
*Morris Udell
May Vangrove

Philip Waterman
*Hortense Weiss
*Sara Bat Yeckeskel

Yahrzeits April 16-22 Listed April 21

*Murray Abel
*Abe Becker
*Millie Chapman
*Dr. Benjamin Feldman
Dottie Fields
Lew Freedman
*Hon. William Friedman
Ben Greenblatt
Sidney Grinker
*Jeanne Grossman
*Jerry Jacobs
Sidney Kading
Frank Kaminsky
*Ben Kaner
*Jeanette Kosbie
Joseph Lehman
Hyman Levitt
*Robert Ostertag
*Ruth A. Redstone
*Marilyn Robinson
*Louis Staff
*Elisa D. Tash
Robert Vinson
*Richard B. Wasserman

April 23-29 Yahrzeits Listed April 28

*Ruth Abrams
*Shirley Abrams
*Rose Adass
*Phillip Barr
*Esther H. Barsky
*Samuel S. Becker
Philip Bell
*Jules Blum
*Leo Blum
*William Brown
Reuben Cappe
*Arthur Frank
*Albert Hedler
*Esther Held
Julian Holland
*Risa D. Kalfuss
Gussie Leiner

*Esther Lercher
*Leon P. Lewis
*Gerson C. Maiman
*Selma G. Mandinach
*Helen F. Osterman
Dieter Popper
Elly Popper
Friedl Popper
Steffen Popper
*Samuel Siegel
*Jack Slomann
Cecilia Spellman
Sherwin Tash
*Taylor Family
William Volk
*Herman Waldman
*Harry Zaidler
Rabbi John J. Zucker

April 30 Yahrzeits Listed May 5

*Edward A. Allen
Joseph Crane
*Mickey Fine
*Abraham Harmatz
Myron Schwartz

*May their memories
endure for a blessing.*

MEMORIAL PLAQUES



Memorial plaques are \$500 per plaque for Temple members and \$1000 for non-members. For more information please call the Temple office and speak with Doug Morton, Executive Director, at 760-844-7307 or 760-325-2281, extension 307.



Louis & Florence Kitsis
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
TEMPLE ISAIAH
332 West Alejo Road
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