

Temple Isaiah Shape Our Future

Future Vision Brainstorm

Deepen, embrace and expand our connection to Judaism through Jewish culture and history	Votes
Continue offering Shabbat services in a welcoming way in a multi generational way that is welcoming to all. Bat/bar mitzvah services should be a true community event, less of a show. Encourage bar/bat mitzvahs to be more focused on the milestone and social action than fancy celebrations.	17
Bring in historians and/or authors to share information and facilitate conversations around Jewish history.	14
Continue to bring in outside professionals like Larry Hoffman, Daniel Matt and Nancy Katz.	9
A group to help navigate the “grieving “ process, giving a person ideas to help get through the process.	9
Clergy member briefly describes the history/background of a prayer or song said or sung during the Shabbat service. But not every service. Maybe every 6 weeks or so. And switch prayers discussed so it's not too repetitive. Perhaps discuss older versions or prayers edited or deleted by Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist Jews.	9
small informal interest groups that discuss such topics in an intimate, open environment. topics as Jewish History, Bible analysis, Jewish Cooking, Theology, Israel, Current Affairs, etc. Such small groups could meet regularly either in person or through Zoom, and could enhance ties to many aspects of Jewish life.	8
Would be nice once a month to have a clergy member give a sermon at Shabbat services and announce it in the bulletin so we know in advance.	7
Hold study/learning sessions about how reform Judaism diverged from more trad. movements (esp. prayers and practices being added/removed).	6
Many of us want to learn the meaning of the words we sing in HIHO or other services. We could have sessions exploring the Hebrew texts.	5
Create a friendly break space where people who need a break from large services can go but still engage— satellite feed to chapel/library/classroom.	4
Take Oneg out of voluntary services and out of being paid by the B'nei Mitzvah family .Temple could absorb the cost of the food and services.	4
Build connections with Congregations in other parts of U.S., in Israel and in other countries using technology. Share our stories.	3

<p>Unite the Social Action groups. Sisterhood social action seems geared toward older women, making it less welcoming for younger women to get involved that way. Build the work of social action for the future, including the school children.</p> <p>It could be done by a liaison between school teachers and adult social action activities. Have at least monthly opportunities for family-friendly social action events.</p>	3
<p>classes about Judaism History , and Culture for adults. (Not a 1 hour a week , glancing through the subject)</p>	2
<p>Create travel opportunities...</p> <p>the new Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience just opened in New Orleans might be a way to learn about the Jewish community in the south.</p>	2
<p>Mynian and B'nei Mitzvath in one service.</p> <p>Discusión about the parasha as a Torah study before Saturday services</p>	2
<p>Daily services , learning the prayers for the weekdays. Kaddish</p>	2
<p>Clergy and Board members to be role models, If the task is being done by volunteers. Clergy and Board should be the first to enlist</p>	2
<p>Prayers and singing are in Hebrew. To be welcoming to mixed marriages and there kids</p> <p>Hebrew is a must . Teach Hebrew to all not by partnering with Hebrew College, which is not helpful, is expensive and not effective</p> <p>Teach as the language of prayer. Provide opportunities for free adult Hebrew learning.</p>	1
<p>Make use of Zoom technology to bring in archeologists, biblical scholars, and philosophers with a Jewish perspective..</p> <p>It is especially helpful to include academics and others who are not tied to traditional Jewish taboos about challenging the authorship and authenticity of texts that are sacred by tradition but newer than Sinai.</p>	1
<p>Allow for the Temple and the community to be a space for activism.</p>	1
<p>Connect to, get speakers from and develop programming with outside Jewish organizations like the local chapters of AJC, CJP and JCFS.</p>	0
<p>Hold classes about how music in the reform movement has evolved.</p> <p>Example: What might have been typical during the HHD pre-Janowski?</p>	0
<p>Arrange small group self-directed Jewish text study groups. Each (month?) one person in the group would prepare and lead a session.</p> <p>Groups.</p>	0
<p>Bring discussion of how Torah is relevant to our lives today into all religious services</p>	0
<p>Build a free little library for outside the building to exchange PJ Library books.</p>	0

Increased support for the Lexington Institute for Jewish Studies for serious study of Jewish subjects with Temple Emunah & others	0
Explore different Jewish communities and traditions around the world.	0
Teach kids and adults about comparative religion.	0
One-time presentations, with food, on a weekend (not too early!) explaining the basics of various topics. Ex creation and early history of Israel as a nation, Israeli-Palestinian conflict, modern ultra-religious Jewish groups, overview of the Bible/Torah, etc.	0
Teach Yiddish and increase use of Yiddish expressions in Isaiah life.	0
Continue to partner with Hebrew Union College, to offer its programming on Jewish history and culture, to consider its faculty as resources.	0

Pass on Judaism to our children and grandchildren	Votes
More family retreats like the 3rd grade kallah for other age groups	22
Invest in LEFTY to continue to strengthen the teen community.	18
Require kids to attend a certain # of services in the years prior to Bar Bat Mitzah. ex. 10, in 5th grade, 10 in 6th grade and 20 in 7th Include their parents, too!	14
Grow the Shabbat Club model for family Shabbat meals beyond 5th grade	14
Leverage Abbe's class. Create a whole cadre of Abbes to engage kids and maybe their grandparents.	12
Create a sharing or mentoring opportunity between college age and young adults and Bar/Bat Mitzvah kids or high school kids.	12
children's choir?	11
Continue the holiday gift packages to college age kids and create additional outreach programming for the college age and young adults.	11
children led services (like camp) so services become "their thing" not just their parents' thing.	9
Invest in a families with young children program coordinator.	7
Rekindle partnership with Billy Dalwin Preschool. This is a strategic relationship which benefits the entire Jewish community.	5
continue to offer grandparenting groups. (possibly for grandparents of interfaith grandchildren.)	4
Look for ways to let people know about the resources in the library and encourage its use.	4

Family-friendly group trip to Israel with activity options for various ages/grades.	4
Provide resources, tools, classes to help families document their family stories, history, ancestry.	3
Opportunities for intergenerational learning and sharing stories. Maybe open up high school classes to older members (not the students' parents), so different generations can study together.	3
Encourage more programs like the old family connection where parents and children learn together or in parallel on related subjects	2
I wish there was a Temple Isaiah summer camp for kids	1
Call our Rabbi's/Cantor by their first name, such as Rabbi Howard. Makes it feel closer, and less formal, especially for the young.	1
Preschool at Temple Isaiah?	1
Grades 2-5 youth group with one or twice a month social gatherings.	1
Offer cookie program for kids and grand friends to make cookies for onegs and for community gathering.	1
Inclusión is very important and recognizing the changes in our culture is also important . We have to open up the passages of scripture that are not consider kosher to our current level consciousness. It is important to put them in contexts, and understand , not to rose colored	1
Look into genealogy studies for members to learn about who came before us. Might connect people who didn't realize they were related.	1
Create an opportunity for those of us without children and who love kids to connect with Temple Isaiah children.	1
Ensure that there are activities available for all ages that don't focus on a ritual or spiritual aspect of Judaism, but rather existing in a community of Jewish people. LEFTY does this well.	1
Make Hebrew school more interesting – teach Hebrew through current popular Hebrew songs or translations of popular English songs, discussions of more recent history / events, Jews around the world.	1
Live a Jewish life as a parent or grandparent, in whatever way you feel is living a Jewish life, and include your children and grandchildren in that life.	0
Allow for greater democratization of the behind-the-scenes process with the temple, especially with student and teen representation on committees.	0
Change the name SMALLY -- not how tweens like to think of themselves	0

Increase the amount of Hebrew taught in Hebrew school.	0
Make regular Friday and Saturday morning services genuinely inclusive forentire congregation. including chuldren and teens	0
u	0

Observe and celebrate Jewish traditions and rituals in a welcoming way	Votes
Make Saturday morning b'nai mitzvah services more inclusive to the entire community, not just siloed for the b'nai mitzvah family and friends.	24
shabbat service and dinner - monthly, free, all ages, not associated with speaker or event. social and community building	19
outside services sometimes	16
opportunities for social/cultural events without heavy learning component: cooking/trips/music/rituals/on-line interest matching/clubs	14
New Member, new to Judiasm and new to Reform song session to learn melodies that are used regularly in our services (Isaiah is first reform experience)	11
Move some of the services back to 8:00pm so they do not interfere with dinner hour	11
Leverage outdoor space behind and next to the temple for welcoming outdoor services.	11
Consistency from week to week in prayer/melodies instead of constantly changing tunes	9
1-page "Guide to Shabbat services" for the less familiar 49 Married, 3 kids in Hebrew school	8
Make attending a number of Friday services apart of the 7th grade curriculum (circa 1990s) to encourage more family and youth participating.	8
Work to make the Yud less of an insider's club so that everyone feels welcome even if they have not been to Yud events before.	8
Find a way to make unmarried people without children who are older feel included. Start when age group begins to feel left out.	8
Outreach to single members and potential members who are otherwise isolated and require support to join in.	8
Workshops before each holiday to help families celebrate who do not have established traditions or discuss new & creative ways to celebrate	7

social shabbat havdalah by ages and stages (group matching or buddy system for new or those wanting a connection	7
traditional services without extras . more predictability. some shorter services without sermons and guest speakers	7
Non-binary prayer options	6
cheat sheet or pre-service micro lessons for prayers and rituals - how and why we do things (like bowing)	6
facilitator assisted matching of people to chavurahs for ages and stages (whether a new member or an old member). reach out effort beyond just new member families	6
Create some predictability in Friday night service so people feel they are coming to the familiar and known, vs. guest/special so many weeks. establish consistent schedule (first week of month is musical, second is guest speaker, third is with dinner, etc) it is too hard to reach-in to figure out what's happening when	5
There is something about familiar faces. Videos that people could watch that introduce fellow congregants, pictures in directory	5
Retreats for ages and stages (like WWA or Kallah for adult cohorts) Camp like but not camping, or hotel	5
Vary the music at Shabbat services so that we are exposed to a wider variety. Teach the new songs in a mini lesson before services start. Perhaps some people would be helped by adding music notation to the song sheets. (I've seen hymnals at some churches that do this.)	5
Redesign the prayer space. put music and rabbi in the middle, make it informal. More stuff in the chapel. More energy.	4
Add a Daily Minyan component for those who would like to say Kaddish in their own, Reform congregation	4
alternative service in chapel for folks seeking smaller service at High Holidays	4
Explain all the different traditions of the specific holiday . How the holiday had changed through time and by the different groups	3
Pair children of all ages who are compassionate and accepting with disabled children in the congregation.	3
	3
a "what to expect" session 30 min before each service to explain to those of us who are Jewish but totally unfamiliar!	2
the power of individual connections to clergy.	2

Discuss the pros and cons of new music in services (e.g., excitement of new pieces vs. comfort of old favorites).	2
outside service in a dedicated space (not a tent, not a parkinglot)	2
encourage less \$ on Bar/Bat Mitzvah receptions and encourage families to sponsor shabbat dinners	1
Files to be kept at the Temple: funeral home name, prayers, poems etc. to be read at the funeral or other service--voluntary, of course	1
Put details about weekly or holiday services at the top of each Digest, Bulletin or communication to keep the focus on prayer first.	1
mitzvah day like events all year	1
More traditional melodies more often, so our kids will ultimately feel comfortable in a range of Jewish congregations.	1
song books?	0
holiday partnering website for seats at your table -- pairing families together	0
junior congregation to give kids a friday/saturday experience	0
a center for Jewish Life like "all access"	0
Emphasize the realities and benefits of participating in non-Jewish activities within a Temple community.	0
Consider changing the membership system. The big price tag discourages people from joining, especially when you consider Hebrew school fees	0
Monthly Zoom Havdalah - it's nice to connect and experience ritual without the commute.	0
Guest presentations by non-White Jews, especially rabbis.	0
More lay-led services	0

Feel a sense of calm and peace	Votes
Provide a designated space, perhaps the small chapel, that is always open for anyone to come in & meditate, relax, have quiet time, silence.	10
Create welcome outdoor space for meditation and prayer.	9
Continue to offer meditation classes and/or as part of services.	8
Babysitting! When you have little kids the best part of services is when the kids go hear a story. You can take a breath	8
Some people are put off by "forced" meditation. Moments of silence could be a good middle ground and is consistent with tradition	4

Create an affinity group for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) members. Have events for the whole congregation to learn more about the experience of being Jewish and non-white.	4
Temple negotiates a bulk deal with mediation / mindfulness app company (e.g. Calm)	3
Jewish support groups for people dealing with anxiety, depression, bipolar, substance abuse, OCD, panic, etc. Zoom accessible for isolated.	3
support groups specifically for older people who have never been married and have no children	3
at large group events have a place for those who get overwhelmed by socializing to regroup and be alone or only with a few people	3
Make meditation a bigger part of Shabbat services	2
Offer regular resources for parents to learn stress-management skills and normalize the challenges of parenting.	2
professional development, communication from clergy, more team building, more "get to know your temple staff" opportunities	2
Break learning into bite-sized pieces. First Friday is an example. One hour, any level learner, come to some sessions or all.	1
Create opportunities to be with clergy and talk to them in a more fluid way. Not only by appointment	1
Create an ongoing group for congregants who suffer from chronic pain which precludes them from experiencing Temple life to its fullest.	1
"Self-Care Kibbitz" gatherings where people of similar age and stage share favorite products & practices, with focus on loving your body	1
Fostering a sense of safety by offering multi-access ways for congregants to understand temple security protocols and meet guards	1
Ensure that temple security does not threaten community members of color or of historically oppressed groups.	1
Look into Kabbalah inspired mental health therapeutic techniques and strategies related to this.	0
Leverage the library as a space for retreat, reflection, and learning.	0
Oatmilk for coffee, remote working hybrid continues, updated technology, if given responsibility, being empowered to make decision	0
thinking through an entire project from beginning to end	0
De-stigmatize mental illness by working to minimize othering language like "crazy," "schizophrenic," etc.	0

Feel energized, stimulated and excited by Judaism	Votes
Have a very participatory, live musical service once a month with Isaiah's musicians.	16
Continue/ resume Shabbat Together dinners	15
Offer positive, upbeat speakers and leaders who have an activist, participatory approach, like group cooking, making art and ritual objects.	14
focus on values instead of solutions. less political. politics are not inclusive.	14
action against anti-semitism. we seem to support every social justice topic de jure but do almost nothing to combat anti semitism and anti zionism	14
work with other faiths to combat anti semitism	13
inspiring Rabbi: uplifting strong orator	12
"Traditional" or "Standard" Jews are forgotten because they are not special. Kids with 2 Jewish parents feel othered. The effort to include all should be inclusive of all.	12
more male representation in leadership and clerical team	10
division of rabbinic skills so something for everyone - including charismatic inspiring leadership	9
Bring a house band to services once a month and encourage new membership to the band.	7
Modernize our website and social media strategy	7
Create a central information center for volunteer opportunities.	7
sunday morning adult learning (religious learning/discussion) during religious school	6
an inviting (and publicized!) path toward conversion for those of us who are members but aren't yet Jewish	6
Speakers to connect ancient Jewish wisdom to today's issues (parenting, marriage etc)	5
congregant-initiated programming for adults that is not implied or overtly gender-segregated	4
Teach tropes and chanting of Torah to adults who have never had the chance to connect with Torah in this way.	4
volunteer opportunities beyond Mitzvah Day (e.g., religious school classes doing volunteer session together)	3
co-rabbis male and female	3

more representation on temple board of outliers	3
break room with service streaming for those that need a break (kids, sensory)	3
service without yoga and meditation as not everyone comfortable with this	3
more activities/programs outdoors (on TI property or elsewhere)	2
parent-support group, for parents across mixed ages of kids (including parents of high school age kids)	2
Temple Isaiah Choir: more rehearsal time. More opportunities to sing	2
Have a "Nigun" night of singing Yiddish melodies that are joyful and moving.	2
continued relationship with Interfaith Groups and partnerships with other religions to have space for exploration	2
I would love a mussar group	1
Self-directed Jewish text study groups (10 max) See above in "...Deepen our connection to Judaism..."	1
Could music be present outside services in the building? During p/u and drop off at religious school on speakers? Other times?	0
All the liturgy and scripture is in Hebrew Teach us to understand what we are reading. The language of our ancestors for the future	0
Create a Bubbe / Zayde Buddy program where older members can mentor a class or particular student in the school, connecting generations.	0
Do not treat children differently if from Interfaith parents. All the same.	0
We once had an initiative where interested congregants were invited to learn about the opportunities to be involved in that way	0
Lean into the fun of a Jewish community and host frequent, off-or-onsite activities with varying sizes and types of groups that do non-Jewish things together as a temple community.	0
brotherhood and sisterhood board meetings on differnt nights so families with young children can both participate	0
shorter services are more accessible to all ages	0
Increased support of LIJS as a vehicle for joint study with Temple Emunah and others on Jewish topics	0
Don't have the Sunday speakers series through Brotherhood free to men and have a fee for others.	0

Goodie bags throughout the year, either dropped off or available for cabinet pick-up.	0
Be our authentic selves and build lasting relationships	Votes
Community Shabbat dinners hosted in people's homes	20
Create a welcoming, cool space for parents to hang out while kids are at religious school. Could be inside Isaiah or in a coffee shop.	17
Invest in outdoor space so community mingles before/after attending religious school or events at the temple (picnic tables, chairs)	16
Offer wine at the Onegs.	14
A social area - a couple connected rooms w sofas, chairs, tables, games (pool, chess, etc.), snack machine, coffee, BYO wine/beer. This could be a great community-builder, a way to meet new people, & a meeting place for those who already know each other.	14
Serve better food at post service onegs so people stay after services and chat.	11
Reach out to members & encourage them to join committees & the like, which is a great way for people to get to know each other.	11
A "young" men's group similar to the Yud. As the Yud is to the Sisterhood, something similar for the Brotherhood.	10
Engage people in their 30s, provide space for them to connect to Temple and Judaism and meet people.	9
Have ongoing social events.	8
Create a Yachad like group for post-22 special needs adults who do not have a homebase in the reform community and can't get to Brookline.	8
Re-engage parents of religious school children - dropped off of most programming for the last 14 months	8
Class specific mitzvah projects (separate from Mitzvah Day) where families can volunteer together and get to know each other better.	7
Engage recent college grads and people in their 20s, provide space for them to connect to Temple and Judaism and meet people.	7
sisterhood vs yud. It leaves some women out (not older, not with young children). It seems ageist as well.	5
random assigned seating at dinners and events. No stress of having to "find a table" and you meet people you wouldn't otherwise meet.	5
Learning about other congregants through "my journey" stories	5
An informal "drop in" group for widows and widowers.	5

Outreach to people with visual loss . , having Sidurs in Braille, to people with hearing loss with person with sign language. Train all to know where the defibrillators are and how to use it. No always there is a health professional in the building, and how to reach them	5
periodic galas - temple wide. Can raise money, and also nurture a sense of community	4
revisit gender-specific groups. Do we want in this era to divide up by gender?	4
create space and community for single parents. this is an extremely overlooked cohort in the Jewish community.	4
Share Hebrew words with translations on our website. This dilutes some of the shame people have who don't remember Hebrew/never learned it	4
Do outreach to mental health alliances like DBSA and NAMI to welcome people suffering from anxiety, depression, bipolar etc. to temple. Find a way to bring these isolated people into our family.	3
Sisterhood and YUD have offered important space in a traditionally "coupled" environment. Age Cohorts that will move through stages +++	2
Outreach to the lonely.	2
Implement and encourage chavurot groups over a broad range of activities, from study groups to family groups for celebrating holidays.	2
explore way to encourage congregants to join and form small affinity groups, to deepen new/existing relationships with other congregants	1
Allow more opportunities to share personal Jewish journeys beyond the few people at High Holy Day services.	1
Create an affinity group for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) members	1
Have groups and events for single older people who have never had children.	0
Allow people to include pets in their family list. Many are like children to us.	0
Group which encourages people with mental health issues to share how their disorder has affected their Jewish identity and vice versa	0
Magazine/website to share personal Jewish journey stories	0
Have a Pet Shabbat outside for people to share their nonhuman family members and gear the services towards our love and thankfulness for them.	0

Name family pets who have passed recently during Kaddish. Their memory is already a blessing. Let's acknowledge the loss.	0
A group for people with social communication challenges. Could be autism, social difficulties associated with disability, social anxiety.	0
Temple Isaiah trip to Boston Fan Expo/ Comic Con. Connections for geeks!	0
Group for members to share their pets, photos/in person/ stories etc.	0
Continue the social activities specific to the 65+ group to be as creative and inclusive as possible, given changing circumstance.	0
Ensure that constant leadership (lay or clergy) remain approachable and fun when acting in such a capacity.	0
Find ways of being explicitly welcoming of interfaith families. Kids who celebrate other traditions with a non-Jewish parent may feel they need to hide this. Non-Jewish spouses may not see Isaiah as a home, which makes it harder for the family to spend time together at Isaiah.	0
Have adult events at the same time as a child event with babysitting so that both members of a couple with young kids can socialize at Isaiah together.	0
Have a drop-off child event for a chunk of hours during afternoon/evening so kids can bond and parents can have a night out.	0
Have clergy make more of an effort to have deeper conversations at events with different members, not just ones they have closer relationships with.	0
Have neighborhood gatherings so we meet Isaiah members who live near us	0

Be a better version of ourselves and live our Jewish values	Votes
Expand temple organized volunteer options for congregants.	10
Ted talks or "The Moth" with themes about failure, finding your purpose, the second mountain (David Brooks), etc.	5
Join as a team w/other temple members in our work to repair the world and create systemic change working with our interfaith GBIO allies.	4
Sustainability from a Jewish lens - Comprehensive effort around advocacy (Hazon), action/education (community farming), etc.	3
Create an affinity group for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) members	3
Build antiracism explicitly into the religious school curriculum	2
Evaluate the library for diversity of titles, authors, and topics.	2

Be intentional about examining our Jewish values against our internal practices (for example around eligibility for leadership positions)	1
Consider how to exercise environmental sustainability practices in all we do. Composting should be throughout the building and integrated into the job of maintenance (not left to volunteers). Get rid of old single-serve drink machine with high waste in library.	1
Have Board members reach out to members throughout the year.	0
Support for unemployed to career shadow, informational interviews, networking - be who they want to be.	0
Promote active community participation in activism - attend BLM protests with an Isaiah cohort, etc.	0
Consider how the challenges historically faced by Jews are similar to those faced by other ethnic/racial groups today, and support those other groups.	0

Live a more spiritual life	Votes
Sponsor small group Shabbatonim for different categories (beyond parents of school kids), around art, music, or other interests.	10
Ted talks or "The Moth" with themes about failure, finding your purpose, the second mountain (David Brooks), etc.	5
Invite prominent Jews inside/outside our community to speak in small groups about how Judaism has informed their personal/professional lives	4
Teach Kabbalah . Read and analyze Talmud in a deeper way Stablished books to read or chapter prior to the classes. Allow the students to prepare a part of the class.	3
Promote Mussar with an Intro session with Alan Morinis, Laila Goodman, and Isaiah Mussar students.	0
Create a Mussar class that doesn't pair people randomly. I had to quit a class because I just could not connect with my partner.	0
Allow for singing and non-prayer rituals to connect people through a community - see LEFTY Havdalah	0