



# Temple Israel

CHAI - Lites

A Traditional Conservative Synagogue



JUNE/JULY 2009

ISSUE 1086

SIVAN/TAMUZ 5768

## *Temple Israel of Long Beach 46th Annual Dinner Dance*

*Honoring*

*Barbara Semel, Revi Spinks and Shlomit Cohen*

Sunday Evening, June 7, 2009

Temple Israel - 305 Riverside Boulevard

Long Beach, New York

Since Barbara, Schlomit and Revi took over the education programs for Temple Israel, the Hebrew School has evolved into more than just a place to prepare for Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. It has become a place to learn about Jewish history and heritage. They share their dedication and love with students, parents and the entire Temple Israel family.

Barbara has been the Administrative Director for the past nine years. She lives in Oceanside but feels rooted in Long Beach. She and her husband, Myron, have a son, Barry, a litigation attorney in Manhattan.

Revi is a regular attendee of Shabbat services and always helps run junior congregation. She has been working in the Long Beach School District for the last 14 years and is involved in numerous community activities. She is married to Ian and they have 2 children, David, a graduate of SUNY Geneseo and Sara, a junior at Long Beach High School.

Shlomit started working at Temple Israel in 1994, as a teachers assistant in the Nursery School. She has worked at the Oceanside JCC, as a head teacher, for the last 10 years. She and her husband, Tzachi, have a daughter, Ravid, an eight grader at Long Beach Middle School.

All three wonderful women are active members of Temple Israel Sisterhood.



**FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY****Shavuot Description**

Shavuot is a harvest ritual, during which pilgrims would bring their first fruits to the Temple in Israel. It also became associated with the anniversary of the giving of the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai. The most well-known custom of Shavuot is the eating of dairy foods. The source of this custom is not clear. Some say that it is because, before the Torah was given, the Jews did not know the laws of Kashruth and, therefore, might have chosen to refrain from eating meat. Two other explanations are suggested in Encyclopedia Judaica. One explanation is that the Torah is compared to milk (through an understanding of Song of Songs 4:11), or that the Torah juxtaposes the commandment of bringing first fruits with the commandment of not eating milk with meat (Exodus 32:19).

**Donate to the Sisterhood**

We are assembling a new Golden Book. Pages are \$50. Donation cards can still be purchased for \$5 each or 6 for \$25. Contact the office.

**Celebrate the Torah  
By Learning Torah!**

Dairy Dinner and class following evening services, Thursday, May 28th: Rabbi Gradofsky will speak on the topic "Halacha and Morality, Rabbi David Weiss Halivni's Resignation from the Jewish Theological Seminary."

No charge, reservations preferred. Services begin 6:45 PM.

The learning continues: Cheesecake kiddush and "Munch 'N Learn" with continued discussion led by Rabbi Gradofsky following services Friday morning.

**HEBREW SCHOOL  
HAPPENINGS**

On Friday evening, March 20th, we celebrated Shabbat Across America and had a very successful affair. Over 150 attendees participated in a delicious catered dinner. At the conclusion of the meal, the Hebrew School children delighted us with their choral talents.

In celebration of Purim, all of our children baked delicious Hamantashen to share with their families. Our Purim Carnival was a festive event enjoyed by all. We want to thank the children who built the booths and the members who helped throughout the day.

Our Toy Drive, to benefit the Sunrise Day Camp and children in the hospital, was a great mitzvah. Thank you to everyone who made a donation. From the generous tzedakah given by the students, we planted trees in Israel in honor of each class.

We'd like to thank you for all your contributions to the model Seder.

A special thanks to Debbie and Hillary for all their help.

Barbara, Revi and Shlomit

**"Tree of Life"**

Gold Leaves on the Tree of Life in the upper lobby may be purchased for \$125 each. This is a good way to honor a loved one or oneself on any special occasion, such as a birth, bar/bat-mitzvah, wedding, etc.

Call the Temple Office  
432-1410

**GOLDEN BOOK**

Sisterhood's Golden Book is an easy way to express congratulations or condolences. Just call the temple office 432-1410

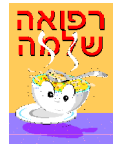
**Make Your Next  
Simcha at Temple  
Israel**

Our synagogue facilities include our stunning synagogue, a charming beit midrash (chapel), two beautiful ballrooms, several Hebrew school classrooms including modern computers, and a large multipurpose room. Our facilities are available to host your kosher affairs.

Call the Temple Israel Office for more information 432-1410

**We extend sincere get  
well wishes to:**

Rachel Scharman  
Jerry Sklover  
Zev Vishnia

**Make Throwaways Useful**

The Sisterhood is collecting used eyeglasses, cell phones, and used ink cartridges. Please drop your donations off in the box near the Hebrew School office.

**FREE HEBREW  
HIGH SCHOOL**

Temple Israel is offering Free Hebrew High School this coming year. Classes are on Wednesday evenings, 6:00 – 7:15 PM. These tuition-free classes are open to all students in grades 8-12, regardless of synagogue affiliation. Classes will cover Hebrew reading refreshers, the basics of Judaism, and modern day topics that are important to teens (drugs and alcohol, relationships, peer pressure etc). Please see the flier or Rabbi Gradofsky.

## SISTERHOOD NEWS

The Spring Torah Fund Luncheon, honoring Freda Eiberson and Debra Gordon at Temple Israel on April 26th was a fabulous success. We had a luscious lunch, catered by Prestige, and an interesting afternoon. The chair, Sheryl Beck, assisted by Grace Levie, Ruth Olenick, Gigi Raphael and of course, Bernice Altarac. Kudos to a great chair and her team.

We had a fabulous Purim Carnival, with many children participating. Chair was VP Pam Garfinkle, ably assisted by Malky Asarch, Barbara Semel, Robin Mahler, Grace Levie, Gigi Raphael, Michele Raphael, Marcia Kaskel, Marci Ross and Revi Spinks. The Men's Club and Hebrew School parents helped run games and the inflatables. A special thank you to all.

Kudos to Debbie Gordon for her diligent efforts on the Shalach Manot project, which raised much money for various synagogue programs.

Mazel Tov to Rita and Simon Berger celebrating their 60th Anniversary and Rita's birthday.

Mazel Tov to Barbara Semel for chairing a well-attended and delicious "Shabbat Across America" dinner.

Welcome home to Membership VP, Evalyn Rintel and Sy Ulan.

Please visit our Boutique for your gift-giving needs. Call Debbie Gordon or the office.

Remember, the 52 Club will award a bond to a paid-up member at each open meeting. Chair Rita Berger, 432-3157, will be happy to make you a member.

The chair VP Robin Garfinkle Mahler thanks the cookbook committee Malky Asarch, Pam Garfinkle, Doris Lax, Grace Levie, Amy Press and Marci Ross for their efforts and cooperation.

Our open meeting, serving Brunch and launching our Sisterhood Cookbook, was greatly enjoyed by the members and guests. Robin Mahler's "Blintz Soufflé", Marci Ross' "Creamy Vanilla and Almond French Toast", Helen Pinchasin's "Coffee Cake", Grace Levie's "Chocolate Chip Cookies" and Malky Asarch's "Chocolate Chip Cookies" plus bagels, cream cheese and coffee were a real treat. Thanks to Pam Garfinkle for her work at the door, Evalyn Rintel for the raffle of a handbag and Amy Press for doing the food shopping.

Francine Wurman

### Editor's Note

I have received complaints regarding the omission of the names of some sick congregants. Unless someone notifies me or the temple office, the illness is unknown to us and, obviously, that name will not be listed.

## Mazel Tov to:

- Lisa and Allen Schwartz, on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Mikaela, on Saturday evening, May 16. At the morning Shabbat services, Mikaela delivered an original, thoughtful D'var Torah. The proud parents also sponsored a scrumptious, dessert kiddush after Shabbat morning services.

- Ellen Gabe, who became a Bat Mitzvah at Temple Israel, on her 60th birthday, achieving a long-time personal goal.

- Francine and Gus Wurman, on the engagement of two granddaughters, Meredith Wurman and Heather Wurman, to Brett Richter and Dr. Eric Rosen, respectively, and the graduation of granddaughter, Deborah Birnbaum, from Columbia Law School.

- Yona and Zev Vishnia, on the graduation of their grandson, Donnie Charles, from Emory University.

- Revi and Ian Spinks, on the graduation of their son, David, from SUNY Geneseo

- Drs. Cathie and Harry Adler, on the graduation of their daughter, Rebecca, from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. Anita Adler is the proud grandmother.

- Gert and Dr. Sol Griboff on the celebration of their 58th wedding anniversary

### Sisterhood Boutique

The Sisterhood Boutique is now located to the upper lobby.

Think of us for all your Judaic and non-Judaic needs. Beautiful and unique gift items for all occasions. Flexible hours to suit your schedule. Contact Debbie Gordon, Marci Ross, or Ellen Klein or Temple Israel 432-1410

## Torah Fund Luncheon

This annual affair, honoring Freda Eiberson and her daughter Debbie Gordon, was a huge success. Both honorees delivered heart-warming "thank you" speeches.

Sheryl Beck, as chairperson, is to be commended for her exceptional leadership. A delightful, catered luncheon was held in the Charles A. Silver Ballroom.

For those of you who missed this terrific affair, make sure we see you next year at this fun-filled event.

## Condolences to

- Pearl Gordon, on the loss of her dear sister, Blanche Gartner.
- Abe Rutman, and family, on the loss of his beloved mother Helen.
- William Rosenblum and family, on the loss of his beloved wife Helen.
- Marcie Livingston and children, Michael and Ellen on the loss of Bob, beloved husband and father.

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## Debra Griboff Lectures

The Fifth annual Debra Griboff Film Lecture Series sponsored by Temple Israel and the Long Beach Library will be at the Library on Wednesdays July 1 and 8 at 7:30 PM. The theme is "Through Jewish Eyes: Directors Barbra Streisand and Steven Spielberg" (Streisand on 7/1 and Spielberg on 7/8). The series will be an exploration of the cinematic genius of two legendary directors. From "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" to "Yentl," "Prince of Tides" to "Schindler's List," Streisand and Spielberg delve into the deep recesses of the human spirit.

## Jewish Literature Course

The Basic Judaism class meets on Tuesdays, at 7:30–9:00 PM. Our current subject is "Jewish Literature, from Torah to Today," which will include an overview of Jewish literature, including each book of the Bible, different forms of Rabbinic literature, later commentaries, philosophy, and works of history.

Shabbat Parsha Study returns.

Rabbi Gradofsky's Shabbat Parsha Study is held each Shabbat during Daylight Saving Time one hour prior to Mincha.

See "TILB Events" for exact time each week.

## Return of the Snowbirds

Renee and Leo Adler  
Miriam and Al Goldstein  
Pearl and Irwin Gordon  
Adele and Lester Peysner  
Gladys and Fred Reiser  
Dr. Herbert and Sylvia Tetenbaum

\* If your name has been omitted, please let us know by calling the.....

Temple Office at 516-432-1410.

## Thanks from the Bergers

Rita and Simon Berger want to thank all their friends who made donations to Temple Israel in honor of their Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary.

## Temple Israel Blood Drive

Thank you to Sara Garfinkle for once again spear heading a vital program. "The Gift of Life" Blood Donation facilities will be on-site at Temple Israel on Tuesday, July 21st. The need, as usual, is urgent so please, if you can, .....GIVE.

## Volunteers Needed

Looking for ways to volunteer? Contact FECS "Partners in Caring" South Shore Liaison, Rachel Bruckenstein at (516) 766-4341 x 131. Volunteer opportunities include "Adopt a Family," food pantries, visiting the homebound, assisting families coping with serious or terminal illness, and more. Time commitments are flexible and will be agreed upon between volunteer and FECS Volunteer Coordinator.

## SPONSOR A KIDDUSH

Whether celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other happy occasion, share that event with your Temple Israel family. Sponsor a Kiddush following Saturday morning services. Many different types are available. Speak to Sy Ulan.

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