



Temple Israel

CHAI - Lites

A Traditional Conservative Synagogue



MARCH/APRIL

Adar/Nisan 5767

CELEBRATE PURIM AT TEMPLE ISRAEL!

THE MOST FUN JEWISH HOLIDAY OF THE YEAR JUST WOULDN'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU!

Saturday, March 3rd 7:00 PM: reading of the Megillah, costume pageant and dessert reception.

Sunday, March 4th: Morning service with Megillah reading: 8:30 AM.



Purim Carnival

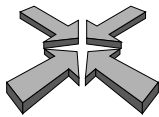
Sunday, March 4th at Noon

Featuring giant slides, sno-cones, cotton candy, face painting and more
Admission is free • Purchase tickets for games and food.

Save The Date

Sunday, July 1, 2007

Temple Israel's Annual Dinner Dance
honoring
Marci and Leonard Ross



Save The Date

Sunday, May 20, 2007

Temple Israel Sisterhood Annual Spring Torah Fund Luncheon

Will be honoring

Rita and Simon Berger

*for their years of dedication to
Sisterhood and Temple Israel*

Invitations to follow

This is sure to be a gala event

Candle Lighting Times

Fri. Mar. 2	5:28 p.m.
Fri. Mar. 9	5:36 p.m.
Fri. Mar. 16	5:44 p.m.
Fri. Mar. 23	5:52 p.m.
Fri. Mar. 30	5:59 p.m.
Fri. Apr. 6	7:06 p.m.
Fri. Apr. 13	7:14 p.m.
Fri. Apr. 20	7:21 p.m.
Fri. Apr. 27	7:28 p.m.

Shabbot Ends

Sat. Mar. 3	6:30 p.m.
Sat. Mar. 10	6:38 p.m.
Sat. Mar. 17	6:46 p.m.
Sat. Mar. 24	6:54 p.m.
Sat. Mar. 31	7:01 p.m.
Sat. Apr. 7	8:08 p.m.
Sat. Apr. 14	8:16 p.m.
Sat. Apr. 21	8:23 p.m.
Sat. Apr. 28	8:30 p.m.

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

When the Rabbi is a Cohen . . .

1 Why the Rabbi Does Not Perform Funerals?

As many of you are aware, I am a Cohen. A Cohen is a descendent of Moses' brother, Aaron, who was the first High Priest in Judaism. The Cohanim (plural for Cohen) served as priest in the Mishkan (AKA Tabernacle the mobile sanctuary used before the Temple in Jerusalem) and in the Beit Mikdash (the Holy Temple). There are a number of special rules for Cohanim. Perhaps the most difficult one is that a Cohen is restricted from contact and close proximity to a dead body. For this reason, even though I am a Rabbi, I am generally not able to officiate at a funeral or an unveiling. As many people have approached me with questions about this, I thought it would be a good idea to use this CHAI-Lites piece to explain these rules a little further.

2 What are the Restrictions on Cohanim Regarding Funerals, and Why?

Cohanim were the priests in the Jewish religion, and officiated in the rituals in the Mishkan and Beit Mikdash. One of the rules concerning these rituals was that those who participated in these rituals (both the Cohen and the lay-person) needed to be in a state of impurity. In Judaism, a dead body is considered the highest form of impurity. For this reason, the Cohanim are commanded to avoid contracting impurity from a dead body (see Leviticus 21:1-9). Exceptions are made for close kin, because the Cohen still has a personal obligation to arrange for proper burial for his relative. Although we no longer have a Beit Mikdash, this restriction still applies to Cohanim. There are three ways that a person can contract impurity from a dead body, each of which must be avoided by a Cohen: coming in physical contact with a dead body, coming within 8 feet of a dead body, or being under the same roof with a dead Jewish body. Because of these restrictions, I am not able to be at a funeral (unless the dead body is not in the building) nor can I go to cemeteries.

3 Is There a Message to be Learned from this Restriction?

Some time ago, I heard a colleague, Rabbi Stephen Golden, give a beautiful sermon on this matter. He suggested that we compare

the rules of Judaism to the rules of ancient Egypt, where the priests primarily involved themselves with death ritual. Rabbi Golden suggested that instead of this model, our religion chooses to emphasize that it is a religion primarily concerned with life. I would add that this is also shown by the fact that Cohanim are allowed to tend to the burial of their relatives. This shows that they can be involved with these rituals, but only in their personal capacity as a relative and not based on their professional capacity as religious leaders.

4 What Should a Congregant expect of Me upon One's Incurring a Loss in the Family?

First and foremost, you can expect me to be with you every step of the way. I will guide you through the process, arrange for shiva, and answer any questions you have. I will be available to you 24/7 to help in any way that I can. Please make sure that the Temple (or my cell phone) is one of your first calls so that we can set the process in motion. I will also help you make funeral arrangements. We will also talk about what Rabbi you would like to officiate at the funeral. Funeral homes generally have very able Rabbis whom they can contact. However, you may have a relationship with another Rabbi who can officiate. As many of you have seen, although I cannot go into the funeral home, I usually can be found outside the funeral home during the funeral, so that I can offer you condolences as you leave the home towards the cemetery.

5 What about the unveiling?

An unveiling is a relatively new Jewish ritual, and has no particular set text or prayers. Many people have their unveiling without a Rabbi to officiate. When it comes time to have an unveiling, I will of course guide you along this way. We may speak about getting a Rabbi to officiate, or I can help you put together a meaningful service that you can run along with your family and friends.

Being a Rabbi who is a Cohen certainly presents some challenges, both to me and to my congregants. We hope that we have many more moments that we can celebrate together, than we have losses to mourn. However, in the event of a loss, please know that I will strive to provide you with the utmost of care and compassion through those difficult times.

Rabbi Noah Gradofsky

Hebrew School Happenings

The Tu B'Shevat seder was a wonderful experience for all. Many thanks to the families who participated in the celebration with us and donated the fruit as well as their time to help us set up. We are pleased with the improved response to the program for planting trees in Israel. Thanks to the student's contributions to their tzedakah boxes, we will plant trees in honor of each class.

In celebration of Purim, the megillah reading will take place on Sat. March 3 at 7 PM, followed by a costume pageant and a dessert reception. A prize will be awarded for the best costume. The megillah will be read again Sun. Morning March 4 at 8:30 AM.

The Purim Carnival will take place at noon, featuring giant slides, sno-cones, cotton candy, face painting and more. Admission is free. Tickets must be purchased for games and treats. The Hebrew School students will bake Hamentaschen on Feb. 28 and March 1.

On Shabbat, March 10, we will celebrate our first Birthday Shabbat. There will also be a Junior Congregation Service. Please make every effort to attend.

As you know, the Passover candy sale is one of the few fund-raisers for the Hebrew School. We extended the sale, and we hope this will allow you to place your orders with us.

On Wed. March 21 from 4:30-5:45 PM, Hebrew School's "gan to dalet" classes will visit the Children's Matzoh Factory at the Friedberg JCC in Oceanside. Parents are invited to participate in the event.

Save Friday May 4 for Temple Israel's "Shabbat Across America" dinner and service (6:30 PM.)

We hope you all enjoyed your winter vacation week.

Barbara, Shlomit and Revi

SISTERHOOD NEWS

A very warm welcome to our newest member, Frances Niederman.

Our sincere condolences to Lenny Ross and family on the passing of his beloved mother, Molly Ross. Our heartfelt condolences to our long-time Life Member Hortense Glasgold on the loss of her dear son, Benjy.

I hope that, by now, you have all sent in your checks to participate in our wonderful "Shalach Manos Baskets for Purim" project. If you would like to volunteer to help fill the baskets or assist in delivering them, locally, please call Debbie Gordon, 431-6128 or Marci Ross, 897-8925.

Todah Rabah to Debbie Gordon and her hard working committee for the annual success that this undertaking has become.

Many thanks to Pam Garfinkle, program VP, for all her efforts in providing stimulating and enjoyable programs. Thank you for the movie.

Sunday, May 20, is set for our annual Torah Fund Luncheon. We are fortunate to have a wonderful, very special couple to honor: Rita and Simon Berger. They both have worked long and hard for our Temple and Sisterhood. Bernice Gross Altarac is serving as chairperson for what promises to be an outstanding event.

Francine Wurman

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.

Shapiros Shine

Marin and Griffin, the teenage children of Dr. Andrew and Marsha Shapiro, are to be commended for their diligent efforts in bringing material aid and comfort to the needy and aged citizens of the Long Beach Community.

Marin, as a member of the High School Key Club, helped the seniors at the Park Avenue Extended Care Facility make Valentines and cheered by their winter blues.

Griffin, an eighth-grader, organized a clothing drive to help needy community people keep warm for the winter. Griffin was cited by school officials for this and previous undertakings.

Thank You to

- Edmund Atrechji for the installation of a new lighting system in the Temple's lower lobby. Many people were enthused about the enhanced brightness of this area.

- Shari and Steven Silverman for donating the pizza for the Hebrew School for the last week of January.

- Francine and Gus Wurman for sponsoring the Tu B'Shevat kiddush after Shabbat services on Feb. 3.

Weekday Minyan

Mornings:

Sunday & Legal Holidays 8:30

Torah Reading Days: 7:00

Days without Torah Reading: 7:15

Talmud class Sundays 7:45 AM

Evening 5:15 PM through Mar. 2

Please help with winter minyans!

Passover Wine Tasting Event

Save money, taste many wine samples and purchase your wine for Passover and other occasions, by joining us in the Temple main lobby, off Park Avenue, on Sunday, March 11th, from 1 PM to 2:30 PM. Enjoy the wine, along with cheese and crackers, and mingle with your Temple Israel friends. This event is under the auspices of our Men's Club.

Mazel Tov

- To Jolanda Kintzer on the birth of her first great-grandchild, David, son of Tzipora and Yonatan Asherovitz, grandson of Aimee and Rabbi Moshe Levental. David is named in loving memory of his great-grandfather, David Kintzer.

- To Amy and Ian Deschler, on Olivia's Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Olivia, on Sunday Feb. 10. On the previous day, during the Sabbath service, Olivia delivered an eloquent Bat Mitzvah speech, Following Services, the Deschlers sponsored a delicious sit-down luncheon Kiddush.

Condolences

- To Lloyd and Joshua Struver on the passing of their beloved wife and mother, Cheryl Struver

- To Adeline Goode on the loss of her dear brother, Charles Gelfond

- To Allen Schwartz and Family on the passing of their dear father and grandfather, Sam Schwartz

- To Lenny Ross and family on the loss of their dear mother and grandmother, Molly Ross

Night at the Races

Thanks to all who helped with all the preparations and set up for this event. You know who you are, thanks again

Thank you to all of the guests who braved the long lines. Without you, this event would not have been the success it was.

Please remember all the companies who donated their products and services. See their names on page 5 of this publication.

David Klein
Racing Commissioner

Yahrzeits

Yahrzeit will be observed for:

MARCH

- 1 Eva Olem, Elissa Dealto, Simcha Yusupov
2 Muriel Sklover, Benjamin Weill
3 Eli Olem, Samuel Greenstein, Minnie Lloyd, Sylvia Rigrodsky
4 Allan Weinsieder
5 Abraham Jacob Press
6 Frederick Ross, Sholem Akiva Levinson, Benjamin Weinstein
7 Michael Kaskel
8 Ida Lefkoff, Sol Siegel, Norman Berkinsky
9 Max Tarshes
10 Jean Mlodinoff
11 Anna Tetenbaum
12 Regina Engel, Louis Krumbein, Pauline Erlitz
13 Mazaltov Farhi, Leopold Scharman, Alfred Siegel, Stanley Lax
14 Isidore Komanoff, Ruth Lebowitz, Faye Fox
15 Samuel Glick, Sol Rozman
16 Faye Stark, Murray Michaels
17 Fany Reisman Levenstein, Dorothy Ross, Anna Gordon, Shaine Rivka Levinson, Nellie Black, Louis Haber
18 Bertha Lobl
19 Eliezer Laib, Ida Baum, Leon White
20 Henrietta Alter, Ethel Polansky
21 Fishel Polansky
22 Jack Gordon, Hilda Siegel, Isaac Kaminow
23 Hannah Komanoff, Mary Ellen Kuperschmid
24 Samuel Gordon, Samuel Balopole, Ida Rubin

- 25 Sylvia Dardeck, Burton Weisner, Rabbi Yoel ben Shimon Schneierson
26 Miriam Krumbein
29 Lena Benenson, Louis Frank, Edward Samuels, Jack Schlossberg

30 Sol Siperstein

31 Harry Mittler

APRIL

- 1 Kitty Steele
2 Leslie Virany
4 Dr. Ira Gordon
5 Jacob Werner, Rabbi Samuel Langer
6 David Drucker, Ben Plosky
7 Milton Podhurst, Julius Abramson
8 Mollie Asarch
9 Selma Bedor
10 Sophie Wodopian, Rose Reiser
11 Minnie Werner
12 Bernard Scherzer, Sam Silbering
13 Harold Kaskel, Hedy Klein
14 Isidore Griboff, David Frank, Judge Robert Kleiner
18 Meyer David Kutner
19 Rochel Beila Kutner, Jacob Ulan, Shimon Katz
20 Joseph Schickler
21 Rose Stein
22 John Gray
23
24 Louis Weiss, Rachel Ehrlich, Harry Schaiman
25 Sydney Baer
26 Charles Gross
27 Irving H. Engel
28 Etta Schickler
29 Louis Lefkowitz, Hillel David Ginsburg, Ben Breger
30 Florence G. Stein

Donate your Throwaways

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.

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 or .

We extend sincere get well wishes to:

Helene Gerber
Hedda Pessin
Rachel Scharman
Howard Siegel
Zev Vishnia



If you or someone you know is ill, please fill out the Bikur Cholim (visiting the sick) form in the synagogue office, or call us with the information.

GOLDEN BOOK

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

Sisterhood Boutique

The Sisterhood Boutique is now open! 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

Temple Israel of Long Beach Mens Club Night at the Races

We would like to thank all the businesses that donated their services or products.

Without their help, this fund-raiser could not have been the success it was.

Please show your appreciation to these generous businesses and let them know how we appreciate their support.

Golds Foods	Shop Glatt	925 Sterling	Pops Liquors
Travers Tools	Jorge & Ida Salon	Judaica Plus	Curves of Long Beach
Fruit Bowl	Lazy Days	5 Town Judaica	Chateau Divine
Angel Tips	Steinberg's Bakery	Temple Israel Sisterhood	Petland Discounts
Beautiful Nails	King David Restaurant	Postal Pickup	Home Appliance
LaFemme Jolie	Long Beach Cinema	Hillary's Heart	Pet Supply Plus
Beauty Secrets	Tilbens	Tzell Travel	Emigrant Savings Bank
Associated Foods	Madeline's	Men's Warehouse	National Gifts
Friendly Auto	Feet First	Ross & Matza	Waldbaums of Long Beach
Laurel Tailor	Jewelry by Steven	Tanner Bolt	Print Visions
NYSC	Pescado Restaurant	Stop & Shop of Oceanside	
Cocomo's	Oh Nuts	The Coffee Bar	

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Temple Israel of Long Beach

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432-1410 • FAX 432-8371

Rabbi	Noah Gradofsky
Co-Presidents	Marc Goodman
.....	Len Ross
Vice-Presidents	Siegfried C. Adler
.....	Michael Busch
.....	Bruce Sklover
Treasurer	Todd Benenson
Secretary	Bernice Gross Altarac
Sisterhood President	Marci Ross
Men's Club President	Isaac Cohen
.....	Richard Schneierson
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.....	Revital Spinks
Chai-Lites Editor	Gustave Wurman



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