



# Temple Israel

## CHAI - Lites

A Traditional Conservative Synagogue



MAY/JUNE 2007

Sivan/Tamuz 5767

*Temple Israel's*  
**44th Annual Dinner Dance**  
 Honoring  
**Leonard and Marci Ross**  
 Sunday Evening, July 1, 2007



### Community Service Award to

Rev. Thomas E. Donohoe - St Mary of the Isle Church

and

Freda Eiberson - LB Hadassah & Temple Israel of Long Beach

### Shavuot Services Schedule

<i>Day</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Time</i>
Tues 22 May*	Beth Hamidrash	Mincha - Ma'ariv	6:30 pm
Wed 23 May**	Sanctuary	Shachris - Musaf	9:00 am
	Beth Hamidrash	Mincha - Ma'ariv	6:30 pm
Thur 24 May	Sanctuary	Shachris - Musaf	9:00 am
		Yiskor (Memorial Serv.)	
	Beth Hamidrash	Mincha - Ma'ariv	8:00 pm

\*Following Tuesday's evening services;

- Dairy Dinner (no charge)
- Class by Rabbi Gradofsky  
 "Being a traditional Jew: Why the old labels just don't fit"

\*\*Following Wednesday morning services:

- Cheescake kiddush
- Continued discussion, led by Rabbi Gradofsky

### Annual Spring Torah Fund Luncheon Temple Israel Sisterhood

Sunday, May 20, 2007  
will be honoring

*Rita and Simon Berger*

for their years of dedication to  
Sisterhood and Temple Israel

## FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

As the Israelites left Egypt many Passovers ago, they likely had many questions about their identity. Who were they as a people? What would God expect of them? They had been slaves, with little opportunity to express their free will and consider how they were supposed to live their lives. Now they were free, and Moses was leading them out of Egypt towards the promised land. Along the way, they would come to Sinai and receive Torah – God's instructions for who they were as a people, and how they were to live their lives.

Over the years, our religious destiny has become varied. Nowadays, we speak of Jews as being "Orthodox," "Conservative" or "Reform." There are still other groups out there, including the Union for Traditional Judaism, which I consider to be my spiritual home.

As we celebrate the giving of the Torah, and the formulation of our religion, I decided it would be appropriate for us to learn more about the basic beliefs that are the basis of a Traditional synagogue such as our own.

On the first night of Shavuot, Tuesday May 22nd, I will present this discussion as part of our Shavuot program. We will begin the program with Mincha at 6:30 PM, followed by a traditional, dairy, Shavuot meal. Following the meal, we will discuss "Being an Traditional Jew: Why the Old Labels Just Don't Fit." Everyone is welcome to this free program, and invited to bring their own questions about Jewish beliefs and practices. Our services on Wednesday morning May 23rd will be followed by a cheesecake kiddush and further discussion of this important subject.

We should all strive to be well informed, thinking Jews. We should not simply go through the motions (or worse yet, not go through them) without understanding what our beliefs are, and how we live them out. Though we cannot go back to Sinai, we can come to Temple Israel to renew our engagement with religion.

Rabbi Noah Gradofsky

## Save The Dates

- May 19, Hebrew School Graduation & Buffet Kiddush Luncheon
- May 20, Sisterhood Torah Fund Luncheon honors Rita & Simon Berger
- June 3, Men's Club's Long Island-Ducks baseball.
- June 26, Blood Drive

## Dinner Dance Honorees

Marci and Leonard Ross began planting their Jewish roots in Long Beach 17 years ago. Both were active members of their previous synagogue. Marci, a co-founder and President of the Evening Sisterhood and Lenny, a trustee. It was only natural that the moment they joined the Temple Israel family they dug in and got involved. Marci, a life member of sisterhood, began the Mishloach Manot fundraising program and, for the past 3 years, has been a devoted president of Sisterhood. She is also a life member of Hadassah and is the Financial Manager at Hewlett-East Rockaway Jewish Center. Lenny has been active since moving to Long Beach. He has served as a member of the Long Beach Zoning Board of Appeals and as a trustee of the Long Beach Lawyers Association. He is a former Chairman of the Long Beach Neighborhood Advisory Council Economic Development Committee and, since 2003, a member of the Long Beach Architectural Review Board. All of this has been a prelude to being a trustee and co-president of Temple Israel. Lenny is a partner in his law firm, Ross and Matza in Rockville Centre. Their love of Judaism and Temple Israel pales in comparison to their greatest love and achievement, their two sons, David and Spencer.

## Meet the Rabbi

If you are new to our synagogue, please introduce yourself to Rabbi Gradofsky and Co-Presidents Marc Goodman and Lenny Ross, and ask for more information about Temple Israel.

## Hebrew School Happenings

We are looking forward to our annual Shabbat Across America dinner and evening service that will be conducted by our Hebrew School students. The entire congregation is cordially invited to join us and the Hebrew school families on Friday evening May 4 at 6:30 PM and to show your support by attending.

In commemoration of the Holocaust, on Apr. 16-17 we conducted a candle-lighting ceremony in the classroom. Following the ceremony, we discussed the experience of Holocaust victim Anne Frank. Part of the Hebrew School curriculum involves the importance of remembering the Holocaust so that it should not be forgotten.

Our "Graduation & Moving Up" for all grades will take place on Shabbat May 19, commencing at 10:15 AM, as part of the family Shabbat service, during which diplomas and certificates will be awarded. The program will conclude at approximately 1:00 PM. A scrumptious, buffet, kiddush luncheon will follow.

As we are at the end of another school year, we encourage everybody to join us (bring your friends) to our upcoming events.

Barbara, Shlomit, and Revi

*Editors note: As we went to press, the "Shabbat Accross America" dinner and services had already come to fruition. Barbara Semel and Staff are to be commended for the outstanding success of this evening.*

## Mazel Tov to

- Jonathan Wind on his Bar Mitzvah, May 5. Jonathan is the son of Jan Lee Farris and the late Adam Wind.
- Harris Pittinsky on his Bar Mitzvah on May 12. Harris is the son of Jill and Laurence Pittinsky.

## SISTERHOOD NEWS

Mazel Tov to President Marci Ross, who has graciously accepted another term as president of Sisterhood.

Our premier event of the year, the "Spring Torah Fund Luncheon", is on Sunday, May 20th, at 12 noon. Our well deserving honorees are Rita and Simon Berger. This will be an elegant event; please make very effort to attend. The Co-Chairs are Bernice Gross Altarac, Ellen Klein and Evalyn Rintel.

The Sisterhood Boutique, now in the upper lobby, has beautiful gifts for all occasions. Call Debbie Gordon, Marci Ross, Ellen Klein or the Temple Office @432-1410 to arrange and appointment.

Get well wishes to Marcia Kaskel, Ethel Kampf and Ruth Haskel.

Save the Date: Monday night, June 11th, a fun filled program with Judge Joel Asarch doing his Dramatic Lawyer's sketch.

Sunday and Monday, August 12th and 13th, we will have a White Elephant Sale. Save all those antiques. Donations will be accepted 2 weeks before the sale. No clothes. Only jewelry, furniture, lamps, knick-knacks, etc. The hardworking chairs are Robin Mahler, Grace Levie and Evalyn Rintel.

Last call for recipes. Robin Garfinkle Mahler is almost ready for the printer.

Remember Sunday, July 1st. Our President Marci Ross and her husband, Lenny Ross, co-President of Temple Israel, will be honored at our Annual Dinner Dance.

Congratulations to the Wurmans, on the graduation of their grandson, Andrew Weinberger, from the University of Texas.

Congratulations to Pam and Steve Garfinkle, on the celebration of the triplets, Sara, Barbara and Sean's Sixteenth Birthday.

A warm welcome to new member, Donna Gold, and to new Life Member, Robin Landau.

Kudos to Pam Garfinkle, Program V.P., for producing a great "Game Night". We had a wonderful turnout, including men, and it was a real fun night.

Francine Wurman

## Presidents' Message

As we ponder this message, the April Nor'easter of 2007 has left us soggy but standing and, thankfully, a bit drier than some of our less fortunate neighbors. Perhaps it was the leftover Passover matzahs that soaked up the water. On the calendar, the Sisterhood had its first Game Night, lots of people, lots of fun and lots of games. We look forward to a repeat game night. Thank you, Pam Garfinkle, for your work making the evening a success. Also on the calendar, we had our first New Members Shabbat & Kiddush; good food is always a crowd pleaser. Special thanks to Isaac Cohen, Sy Ulan and Rabbi Gradofsky.

This brings us to our annual Shabbat Across America Dinner and Service led by our Hebrew School. This Shabbat dinner and service is always fun, well-attended and a wonderful evening of Jewish feeling for the entire Temple Israel Family. Barbara Semel, Schlomit Cohen, Revi Spinks and the staff of the Hebrew School are to be thanked for their work on Shabbat Across America at Temple Israel. Our annual report, from the Israeli consulate officer, comes on the heels of Shabbat Across America. Thank you, Siegy Adler, for arranging this informative talk. Jews from all over will join for the Israel Day parade to celebrate the 59th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. Synagogues and congregants from across the spectrum, working and celebrating together, demonstrate the vitality of Jewish life in Long Beach and elsewhere. Coming up, soon after, is our Hebrew School graduation and Shabbat kiddush luncheon.

And so we march through the calendar to Shavuot, celebrating the receiving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. Now that we have the Torah, the question is what do we do with it? Recently, Rabbi Gradofsky used the Don Imus affair to springboard into a discussion of torah values, on how and what we say about our fellow human beings. Hillel once said that the essence of torah is that we should not treat another in a way we ourselves would

not want to be treated. With our cherished freedom of speech, comes the obligation to refrain from speaking in a way that would be hurtful to others. As Jews, we are disgusted by hateful speech and mean references to Jews as long-nosed, money-grubbers, and an endless list of similar taunts. We must be vigilant to guide others away from hateful speech, but ever wary not to cross the line to censor legitimate, even sharp-tongued, discussion.

Marc Goodman & Len Ross  
Co-Presidents

### Shaleh Shudos

- March 31, Todd Benenson on the yahrzeit of his grandmother, Lena Benenson
- April 7, Ellen and David Klein, on the yahrzeit of his mother, Hedy Klein
- April 14, Harry Sealine
- April 21, Alice Klein, on the yahrzeit of her husband, Bernard
- April 28, Judy Felson
- May 5, Dr. Sol and Gert Griboff, on the yahrzeit of his mother, Rebecca
- May 12, Seth Jackson, on the yahrzeit of his sister, Cathy Jackson
- May 19, Barbara Schlachter and her mother, Lillian Friedman, on the Yahrzeit of Louis Friedman

### We extend sincere get well wishes to:

Helene Gerber  
Dr. Gary Goldsetin  
Ruth Haskel  
Ethel Kampf  
Marcia Kaskel  
Mildred Lefkowitz  
Rachel Scharman  
Neil Stern  
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.

## Yahrzeits

Yahrzeit will be observed for:

### JUNE

- 1 Helen Deschler, Naomi Marks, Adolphe Adler  
 3 Janet Schaiman, Mildred Mahler, Rose Beren  
 4 Aaron Goode, Dolly Gray  
 5 Toby Kahn  
 6 Rose Brettschneider, Lou Hodes  
 7 Joseph Lefkowitz, Rosalie Ratner  
 8 Esther Rozman  
 10 Leatrice Olem, Emica Agrimi  
 12 Lawrence Peckman  
 13 Charles Black, Rebecca Stein, Joseph Birnbaum  
 14 Howard Roseman  
 15 Frances Goodman, Harry Fahrer  
 17 Augusta Rudow  
 18 Bernard L. Klein, Pauline Berkinsky  
 19 Joseph Schalet, Marge Lebowitz, Frank Cohen  
 20 Steven Fahrer  
 21 Gertrude Michaels, Hyman Goldenberg, Chaim Eagle  
 22 Dr. Jerome Goldstein  
 23 Harry Morgenstern  
 24 Isaac Cohen, Mannie Oxenhandler  
 25 Samuel Platt  
 26 George Tarshes  
 27 Julius Fisher, Aaron Jacoby  
 28 Frances Fahrer, Saul Brettschneider  
 30 Fred Ross

## 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.

## Kudos to:

- Sara Garfinkle, daughter of Pam and Steve, for organizing the Blood Drive to be held here at Temple Israel.
- Harold Last, whose paintings were exhibited at the Long Beach Magnolia Senior Center.
- Hon. Pearl Weill, whose 90<sup>th</sup> birthday will be celebrated on May 17 at the annual dinner-dance sponsored by the Long Beach Advisory Board for the Aging and the City of Long Beach.

## Condolences to

Edith Shaw, on the loss of her beloved husband, Jack, who was a long-time member of our synagogue. Our sympathies, also, to his son, Howard, and daughter, Barbara.

## Shabbat Study Series

As in previous years, we will have a Shabbat study each Shabbat of Daylight Savings Time, one hour before Mincha. Our current subject is "Reversal of Fortune: How the Course of History Was Changed by the Garden of Eden." This will include a study of the structure of Genesis 2:4-4:1, which demonstrates the art of the Chiasitic structure (ABCC'B'A') often used in the Bible.

## Long Island Ducks

The Annual Men's Club outing to Long Island Ducks baseball will be on Sunday June 3, 2007. The game is at Citibank Park in Central Islip at 1:35PM. The first 1500 fans in attendance will receive a baseball glove BBQ mitt. The cost is \$18 per ticket, including a kosher boxed lunch. Make out your check to the Temple Israel Men's Club.

## 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

## Make Your Next Simcha at Temple Israel

Our synagogue facilities include our stunning synagogue, a charming beit midrash (chapel), two gorgeous ballrooms (below), several hebrew school class rooms including modern computers, and a large multi-purpose room. Our facilities are available to host your kosher affairs.

Call the Temple Israel Office for more information 432-1410



## 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 .

## 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.

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