

OUR HISTORY

Temple Israel of South Merrick, founded in 1963, was formed to provide potential members with a more modern conservative Judaism than was available in the immediate area. It continuously lives up to its mission. The idea was conceived by seven families in the Spring of 1963 and became a reality shortly thereafter, with thirty member families, in a rented store in the Holiday Park shopping center. By the end of 1963 membership had grown to 100 families and a Sisterhood and Men's Club were formed.

Temple Israel sponsored dinners, dances, bazaars and other social activities to obtain needed monies, and by the end of 1964 was able to purchase a 1 1/4 acre lot on the corner of Clubhouse Road and Bernard Street. By 1965 the membership had grown to 200 families. Temple Israel moved into its new building at 2655 Clubhouse Road in the latter half of 1968.

In 1970 participation of female congregants in the synagogue rituals took a step forward when, on Rosh Hashanah, two women were called to sit on the Bema.

Temple Israel saw difficult times when in the Spring of 1974 a major fire destroyed much of the inside of the existing building. By September, the fire damage was repaired and the new sanctuary wing complete.

The current facility was officially dedicated on April 6, 1975. Since that date our members have celebrated countless happy life cycle events and have gathered together for mutual help and support during times of trouble.

We have a minyan at eight o'clock in the evening, Monday through Thursday. Friday Evening Shabbat services are at eight o'clock. Sabbath morning services begin at nine o'clock. Our members are not just congregants. We are all part of a Temple Israel Extended Family!

OUR RABBI

RABBI SCOTT HOFFMAN

Rabbi Hoffman was born and raised in Silver Spring, MD, as was his wife Phyllis. His parents were long-time members of Shaare Tefila Congregation, and as a child was identified as one of the synagogue's "promising" boys. As such, he was taught personally by Rabbi Martin Halpern z"l, Cantor Gershon Levin, and the *gabbaim*. Rabbi Hoffman learned how to read the megillah and the Torah, how to daven, how to read a haftarah, and represented the U.S. twice in the International Bible Contest in Israel.

After graduating high school, Rabbi Hoffman attended the University of Pennsylvania, majoring in Biological Basis of Behavior and minoring in Jewish studies. Rabbi Hoffman earned a BA at Penn in December 1985 and, after spending a semester in Israel, began his studies at JTS in 1986. He was (re)introduced to his wife Phyllis (who he knew from childhood) by a mutual friend, and had a first date at the march for Soviet Jewry in Washington, D.C., in the fall of 1987. After spending the 1988-9 academic year in Israel, Rabbi Hoffman and Phyllis were married in July 1989.

The rabbi was ordained by JTS in 1991. He then served as rabbi of Congregation Chevra Thilim in New Orleans and assistant rabbi of Beth El Synagogue in New Rochelle, New York. In 1995, he assumed the pulpit of Lake Success Jewish Center, where he served the last 12 years. Rabbi Hoffman's additional roles included visiting instructor of Talmud at JTS, nursing home chaplain at Grace Plaza and Sterling Glen, and first vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly of Nassau and Suffolk. The rabbi's wife Phyllis has held various positions over this span, but is an opera singer by training who recently received certification to teach in the public schools. Rabbi Hoffman and his wife are proud parents of three boys, David Reuven and Ethan.

OUR CHILDREN COME 1ST!

- ✧ **BABIES & BAGELS** - meets twice a month to get to know new children and their moms in the neighborhood.
- ✧ **TOT SHABBAT** - special Friday evening services for our youngest members, where children participate in a service specifically designed for them.
- ✧ **BRACHOT & BREAKFAST** - join your children on Sunday mornings for breakfast and instruction on learning the weekday services.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

- ✧ **TINY TOTS** - children ages 3-4 begin the process of Jewish identification and learning.
- ✧ **KINDERGARTEN** - children further develop the programs introduced in Tiny Tots.
- ✧ **PRIMARY I AND II** - 1st & 2nd graders are introduced to reading Hebrew and prayer skills.

HEBREW SCHOOL

- ✧ **BEGINS IN 3rd GRADE** - children meet twice during the week for Hebrew School and on Saturday mornings for Junior Congregation services. This program fully develops such areas as reading, history, customs, ritual and current events. Our music teacher adds fun and socialization to the academic program.
- ✧ **YOUTH GROUP** - Kadima & Botnim both meet twice a month for a special evening dinner activity and socialization.

✧ BAR/BAT MITZVAH ✧

This life cycle event is truly special at Temple Israel. Each child has his/her own special day. Each student is taught individually. A Bar/Bat Mitzvah is not a “performance,” but rather a culmination of years of study and experience in leading the congregation in prayer.

OUR ADULT PROGRAMS

- ✧ **SISTERHOOD** - is a Synagogue service organization that promotes cultural, social and educational involvement in Temple, community and Jewish activities. Fashion shows, Mitzvah projects, Sisterhood Sabbath, Chanukah boutiques and cultural programs, are just a few of its activities.
- ✧ **MEN’S CLUB** - is a Synagogue service organization that assists the Temple with cultural and social events. Constructing the Sukkah, sponsoring the Chanukah party, running the Purim Carnival and coordinating an annual winter dance as well as spring family picnic are but some of its many and varied activities.
- ✧ **ADULT EDUCATION** - A community-wide program of Jewish Learning held at Temple Israel.
- ✧ **SPECIAL SHABBAT SERVICES** - join us for special services throughout the year including Men’s Club Sabbath, Sisterhood Shabbat, and Simcha Celebrations.

TEMPLE ISRAEL OF SOUTH MERRICK

An Egalitarian, Conservative Congregation with a Modern, Comfortable Setting and Concept

For young, Jewish families in the Merrick area looking for camaraderie, to have fun, be involved, and incorporate Judaism in their children's lives, Temple Israel of South Merrick is an egalitarian conservative congregation offering a warm, child-friendly, inviting, non-competitive atmosphere where members want to spend time.



**2655 Clubhouse Road
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