

# Temple Israel of Greater Miami



## Welcome

### Our Mission

To worship God in accordance with the faith of Judaism in the Reform tradition; to stimulate fellowship in the Jewish community; to strengthen the bonds of loyalty with the Jewish people everywhere; and to help complete the creation of God's world through an emphasis on the principles of righteousness and oneness of humanity.

### Our Values

- A spirited progressive community with a powerful connection to God.
- A community with fresh approaches to lifelong Jewish learning.
- A 21st century urban synagogue with a responsibility to its multicultural neighborhood.
- An inclusive congregation where all our members and visitors can feel at home in any of our myriad of religious, educational and social activities.
- The diversity in which our members express their Jewish identities and are dedicated to creating and maintaining a sense of community, standing at the forefront of social change, supporting the struggle for civil and human rights for all, regardless of creed, color, sexual orientation, or national origin.

## Meet our Clergy



**Rabbi Jody Cohen** ([jcohen@templeisrael.net](mailto:jcohen@templeisrael.net)) joined Temple Israel as the rabbi in April, 2007. In addition to providing care and attention to the pastoral needs of the congregation, she has continued the temple's long tradition of commitment to social justice. Rabbi Cohen planned and hosted a community-wide forum on immigration, and she has recently partnered with other faith-based groups to establish the creation of a

community garden to provide food for the homeless in our area. During her tenure, she has implemented a number of new initiatives, including "Satellite Shabbat", an informal small-group Shabbat dinner in members' homes, Havdalah pot luck programs for young families, Bow-Wow-Palooza, an annual blessing of the pets, and led the first congregational trip to Israel in a decade.

Prior to becoming the rabbi at Temple Israel, Rabbi Cohen served for ten years as the Regional Director for the Southeast Council of the Union for Reform Judaism. Rabbi Cohen also served as the solo rabbi of Temple Beth Hillel in South Windsor, Connecticut and associate rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel in West Hartford, Connecticut. In 1985, Rabbi Cohen established Noah's Ark, the first synagogue run, early childcare center in the country for children ages six weeks to five years.

Rabbi Cohen and her husband Jimmy (Moshe) Gavarian are the parents of a grown son, Ami.



**Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz** ([mchefitz@bellsouth.net](mailto:mchefitz@bellsouth.net)) is the scholar-in-residence at Temple Israel. He served as the temple's rabbi from 2002 to 2007.

Prior to coming to Temple Israel, Mitch was the director of the Havurah of South Florida, an outreach organization he established in 1980.

He is the author of two novels, one of them (*The Seventh Telling*) a *Los Angeles Times* bestseller, and a collection of stories (*The Curse of Blessings*), which has been translated into German, Korean, and Mandarin.

He is considered an authority in Jewish spiritual discipline. Rabbi Lawrence Kushner has described our scholar-in-residence as "one of the finest of a new generation of American Kabbalists. He brings an intuitive grasp of the mystical to everyday life. His teaching is disturbing, profound and inspiring." Mitch is in demand as a speaker and consultant to Jewish communities throughout North America. (See [www.mitchellchefitz.com](http://www.mitchellchefitz.com))



## Our Diversity

You want diversity? On any given Shabbat, you might daven with local politicians and journalists, young singles, old hippies, new immigrants from Latin America, interfaith families, couples celebrating their 50th year together, people in suits and people in blue jeans. We were the first local synagogue to actively reach out to the gay and lesbian community. Some of our members grew up Orthodox, others grew up outside Judaism

altogether; many men don't wear a *kippah*, and some women do. Our congregants also include many of the pioneer families of Miami Reform Judaism. Unusual for a young city like Miami, we have many multigenerational families, whose older members remember the 1923 groundbreaking, 86 years ago, for the sanctuary where their grandchildren and great grandchildren are now becoming *b'nai mitzvah*.

## Tikkum Olam (Social Action)

We encompass the full political spectrum, but our temple has historically been known as a hub for liberal social action. Our rabbis and members have been at the forefront of every civil rights movement in Miami's history, including those that were controversial at the time. We were almost alone among local synagogues to speak out against Anita

Bryant's anti-gay campaign in the seventies. In 2000, when Jesse Jackson came to Miami to protest the counting of the presidential election ballots, he spoke from our pulpit. Most recently, we convened and hosted an interfaith community-wide forum on immigration.

## Our Architecture



Ideally, it should be possible to experience holiness in a tent, a barn, a mall, or anywhere else. But a beautiful place makes it that much easier for the spirit to take wing and Temple Israel is blessed with two such spaces.

The sanctuary, named the Bertha Abess Sanctuary for the matriarch of the family that founded City National Bank, retains its historic ambience, although it has also undergone several changes over the years. Its central lectern was replaced with two after the temple hired its first cantor in the fifties. A massive restoration, (which included the establishment of a center

aisle, where congregants now sometimes dance during "Lecha Dodi"), took place in the nineties.

Our other worship space is the Sophie and Nathan Gumenick chapel, built in 1969. Experimental, where the sanctuary is classic, and intimate rather than grand. (Imagine a large, luminous igloo suffused with rays of sunlight and eye-popping color, and you begin to get the idea.) Architect Kenneth Treister, who also designed the Miami Beach Holocaust Memorial and Mayfair in the Grove, grounded his conception in Torah, particularly God's

commandment in Genesis, "Let there be light."

The Chapel's architecture was the theme of a lavishly illustrated book, *Chapel of Light: Jewish Ceremonial Art in the Sophie and Nathan Gumenick Chapel*. Copies are available in the temple gift shop. In April, 2003, it was also the subject of a full-length article in "House and Garden" magazine, which described the chapel as an emblem of the revitalization of the neighborhood and also of Judaism itself. "The architecture of this chapel is intended to echo that quest."





## Adult Learning

Temple Israel provides abundant opportunities for learning.

### “Learn with the Rabbi”

Every Wednesday at noon during the school year, Rabbi Chefitz leads this one hour of philosophy and theology and an exchange of ideas goes by with lightning speed. If you wish, bring a brown bag lunch. Coffee is provided. Missed out on previous sessions? Join us anyway; we'll have you up to speed in no time.

Rabbi Chefitz, our scholar-in-residence, conducts pre-holiday learning sessions as well as an intergenerational learning program for the religious school students, their families, and whomever else might like to attend.

### Creative Midrash with Rabbi Cohen

How do we make the Torah relevant to our lives today? How can we use our texts and creativity to relate these ancient words to our contemporary world?

**By popular request, this initial four part learning series has become an ongoing learning series twice a month, from noon-1:00 PM on Thursdays.** We study the Torah portion for the week using *The Torah: A Woman's Commentary* as our primary source.

### The Havurah Setting

Our system of *Havurot* (fellowships) creates a relaxed learning situation. Basically, *Havurot* are small groups of friends who have similar interests and who wish to pursue that interest in both a social setting and from a Jewish perspective. One example of *Havurah* in action at Temple Israel is the **Central Havurah**. This group meets once a month in the evening to discuss a predetermined topic, sometimes a contemporary issue connected with Judaism, sometimes a particular phase of Jewish history, literature, or music.

Another *Havurah* is **Ru'ach**, the Gay and Lesbian *Havurah*. For the full details of this very active *Havurah*, please visit the Gay and Lesbian page at [www.templeisrael.net](http://www.templeisrael.net) or write to [ruach@templeisrael.net](mailto:ruach@templeisrael.net).

Members of Temple Israel are most welcome to join the existing *Havurot*. Alternatively, new *Havurot* can be formed to accommodate any group with a special interest. Although *Havurot* are

encouraged and empowered to set their own course of activity, the rabbis are available for guidance. The Temple office assists the *Havurot* administratively with publicity, mailings etc. Please call the Temple office at 305-573-5900 for information or send us an email letting us know of your interest.

## Shabbat Dinners

Many Friday nights we have a catered Shabbat dinner, beginning at 6:00 PM. We have special theme dinners to celebrate a particular Jewish community like medieval Spain, China, Argentina, or Italy, with foods appropriate to the region. Reservations are essential for all dinners. Call Phyllis by noon the day before at 305-573-5900, ext. 405, or email her at [plittman@templeisrael.net](mailto:plittman@templeisrael.net).

## Satellite Shabbats

In addition to our regular Shabbat service offerings at the Temple, approximately once a month Temple members host a Pot Luck Shabbat featuring stimulating conversation, Shabbat learning, and delicious home-cooked food. If you would like to host or participate in one of these small-group gatherings, please contact Linda Levin at 305-573-5900, ext. 414 or email her at [llevin@templeisrael.net](mailto:llevin@templeisrael.net).

## Worship Opportunities

### Friday evening – Kabbalat Shabbat

Every Friday night we have an informal gathering at 7:00 PM to welcome Shabbat with chanting, a bit of learning, and the mourner's Kaddish. We continue with our Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 7:30 PM.

### Friday evening – Shabbat Service on the Radio and the Internet

Our Shabbat Service is also broadcast live on the radio (880 AM) and streamed over the internet ([www.templeisrael.net](http://www.templeisrael.net)) at 7:30 PM, from the Bertha Abess Sanctuary.

### Saturday

We begin our Shabbat morning with bagels and coffee at 9:30 AM. The morning blessings are at 9:45 AM, and then Torah Learning begins in earnest, studying texts of the late spiritual and ethical masters. The studying is done informally, around tables. As noon approaches, learning gives way to meditation and closing prayers.

### Torah Tykes Shabbat

Saturdays at 9:00 AM Torah Tykes draws together a warm and bustling group of Temple Israel's littlest Shabbat observers and their families in spirited bite-sized Shabbat worship. Join us any Shabbat morning as we mark the day with blessings, song, merrymaking, and Torah.





## Join a Committee

We need your expertise. Share your skills with our community by joining one or more of Temple Israel's committees. You will find the experience most fulfilling.

**Budget.** Advises the Board on the administration of the Temple's annual budget.

**Finance.** Advises the Board on the financial operations of the temple so they may be performed following the best accounting practices.

**Fundraising.** Plans and organizes events to raise funds that support various temple programs.

**House Maintenance.** This committee makes sure the physical structure of Temple Israel is maintained.

**Interfaith Outreach.** A group for couples and families with multiple religious traditions who are interested in forming a social network.

**Marketing and Public Relations.** Helps create the best public image of the Temple among its membership and the community by promoting its programs and services through an annual communications plan, that utilizes state-of-the-art collaterals and techniques.

**Membership.** The committee focuses on recruitment, integration and retention of members.

**Newcomers to Judaism.** A group for those who have recently chosen Judaism. Programs and activities will foster Jewish learning and provide spiritual and social nourishment.

**Planned Giving.** Advises members on the best ways to support our programs by leaving Temple Israel in their wills and bequests.

**Programming.** Plans and executes educational, cultural and social events to enlighten and entertain our members.

**Religious School.** Advises the Director of Education on Religious School matters.

**Religious Affairs.** This committee helps develop a shared congregational vision for worship at the temple.

**Sisterhood.** Sisterhood is an organization of women who band together in friendship for programs that benefit our Temple and our community.

**Social Justice.** It's the committee that keeps us involved with our Jewish traditions of justice and peace. Our activities go from pursuing immigration reforms to feeding the homeless, and reaching our neighbors in Overtown.

Please fill out the Volunteer Opportunities Section on your Membership Profile.

## Incoming Leadership 2009-2010

### Officers

President	Douglas M. Jacobs
Vice President Administration	TBA
Vice President Education	Suzanne Sponder
Vice President Fundraising	Marc Levin
Vice President Membership	Joan L. Schaeffer
Vice President Programming	Michelle Krinzman
Vice President Public Relations	Alec J. Rosen
Vice President Religious Affairs	Oliver Pfeffer
Treasurer	Cindy Sobel Gold
Secretary	Carla Neufeld

### Honorary Trustee

Muriel Rosen

### Board of Trustees

Peter L. Bermont*	Howard Goldstein	Natalie Pritikin
Margrit Bernstein	Sandra Goldstein	Harris Reibel
Dr. Joan Bornstein*	Jane Kahn Jacobs*	Candace Ruskin*
Leslie Collier	Ellen Kempler Rosen	Jack Schillinger*
Marsha B. Elser*	Edythe Kerness	Gerald K. Schwartz*
Martin Fine*	Ben Kuehne	Donna Seldes
Esta Friedman	Marc Levin	Michael Silver*
Susan Gladstone	Marlin Lewis	James Tate
Robert Glazier*	Richard Milstein	Stanley G. Tate*
Michael Graubert	Michael D. Orovitz*	Robert Waxman
Richard Goldberg	Norma A. Orovitz*	Henry E. Wolff, Jr.*

(\* denotes Past President)

### Directors:

Lori Solomon, Executive Director  
 Dr. Alan Mason, Director of Music  
 Valeria Michanie, Director of Education  
 Melba Leiman, Director of ECC Administration  
 The Joni and Stanley Tate Early Childhood Education

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 P. 305-573-5900, F. 305-573-5904  
[www.templeisrael.net](http://www.templeisrael.net)





# The Joni & Stanley Tate Early Childhood Center

Temple Israel of Greater Miami takes great pride in its Early Childhood Center. Parents can feel comfortable knowing that their child is being cared for in a warm, nurturing Reform Jewish environment. The center's philosophy is to encourage children to develop emotionally, spiritually, socially, physically, and cognitively. The facility is new and state-of-the-art. The Joni and Stanley Tate Early Childhood Center has received accreditation from N.A.E.Y.C. (National Association for the Education of Young Children)

Our ECC was recently awarded with the highest Kindergarten readiness rate by the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe.



For more information, please contact Melba Leiman at [mleiman@templeisrael.net](mailto:mleiman@templeisrael.net) or 786-248-3033.

## Religious School



Top: Religious School students prepare *Hamantaschen* for Purim. Right: Students prepare gifts for the homeless during the holiday season.



Temple Israel Religious School Philosophy:

"To live and teach the sanctity of Life" ..... Elie Wiesel

Temple Israel provides for a full complement of religious instruction from Pre-K through post Confirmation. Our goal is to teach, inspire and motivate the next generation of Jewish Adults.

## Sisterhood

Sisterhood is an organization of women who unite in friendship for programs that benefit our Temple and our community. Sisterhood offers social activities and learning sessions for the growth of the individual so that each woman may find an opportunity to fulfill her potential as a person and as a Jewish woman.

In the larger sense, we are one of 600 Sisterhoods in the Women of Reform Judaism, a legal affiliate of the URJ. A portion of our Sisterhood dues goes to the Women of Reform Judaism and, when

combined with the dues from other Sisterhoods, we support world wide Jewish projects.

We affirm Jewish identities and equal rights. We encourage friendship, and support our Temple, our congregation and our larger community. Join us. Attend our events. Make new friends. Help yourself and Temple Israel and our Miami and Jewish communities to be the best that they can be.

Contact Donna Seldes at [djseldes@aol.com](mailto:djseldes@aol.com), or Esta Friedman at [bubief@aol.com](mailto:bubief@aol.com), or call Phyllis at 305-573-5900, ext. 405.



# TEMPLE ISRAEL MEMBERSHIP FINANCIAL FORM

## JULY 1, 2009– JUNE 30, 2010

For Temple Israel to meet its obligations, it is important for members to contribute their membership support on a timely basis. For your convenience, three payment options are available. Please sign your commitment and return it to the Temple with your membership profile page.

### LEADERSHIP CIRCLES

*Leadership Circles include public recognition of your generosity and a gift of appreciation.*

<b>The Bridge</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>Mitzvah Circle</b>	<b>\$3,600</b>
<b>President's Circle</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>Grand Council</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Household Membership	\$2,195	
Individual Membership	\$1,495	
Young Adult Household (30 and under)	\$360	
Young Adult Individual (30 and under)	\$250	
25 and under		Membership is complimentary (life cycle events not included)
New to the Neighborhood		Membership is complimentary for people during their first year living in the temple's neighborhood (Zip codes 33131, 33132 or 33137). (Life cycle events not included.) Call for details.
Families with children		ECC tuition discount applies to families joining at the household level or higher.

It is the policy of Temple Israel that no one will be refused membership based on an inability to pay. This policy is possible due to the generosity of the members of our Leadership Circles. Congregants who have a challenge in meeting the general membership commitment are encouraged to contact Linda Levin at (305)573-5900, ext. 414 or email her at [llevin@templeisrael.net](mailto:llevin@templeisrael.net). Linda will help each member with confidentiality and care.

I/WE agree to a membership commitment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT OPTIONS:

\_\_\_\_ **One payment.** I choose to pay my 2009-2010 in one payment, enclosed with this form.

\_\_\_\_ **Quarterly payments.** (July/ October/ January/ April.)

\_\_\_\_ **Monthly payments.**

### PAYMENT TYPE:

\_\_\_\_ **By check.**

\_\_\_\_ **By Mastercard or Visa** for all payments.

\_\_\_\_ I authorize a 3% voluntary contribution to offset credit card expenses.

### CREDIT CARD AUTHORIZATION:

I authorize Temple Israel of Greater Miami to charge my \_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ Visa

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ID INFO

IF YOU ARE NOT ON A PAYMENT PLAN, AT LEAST HALF OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION IS DUE BEFORE THE HIGH HOLY DAYS IN ORDER TO RECEIVE TICKETS.

# Membership Profile



Temple Israel of Greater Miami

Personal Information	Adult Applicant A	Adult Applicant B
Full Name	<input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Hon.	<input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. <input type="checkbox"/> Hon.
Home Address (Including City, State and Zip)		
Personal Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married date (m/d/y) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Partners <input type="checkbox"/> Engaged <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Separated	
Hebrew Name		
Date of Birth		
Preferred E-Mail Address		
Home Telephone		
Cellular Telephone		
List relationships to any members at Temple Israel		
Occupation		
Business Name and Address		
Business City/State/Zip		
Business Phone + Ext		
Business Fax Number		
Business E-mail Address		
Religious Background	<input type="checkbox"/> Reform <input type="checkbox"/> Conservative <input type="checkbox"/> Orthodox <input type="checkbox"/> Reconstructionist <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Jewish	<input type="checkbox"/> Reform <input type="checkbox"/> Conservative <input type="checkbox"/> Orthodox <input type="checkbox"/> Reconstructionist <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Jewish

***Volunteer Opportunities. Please become involved in the area of your choice.***

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budget                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Office              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Planned Giving      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Programming         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> House Maintenance              | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious School    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interfaith Outreach            | <input type="checkbox"/> Ritual/High Holiday |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing and Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Sisterhood Events   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Justice      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newcomers to Judaism           | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcoming           |

Please complete other side →

## Children

	CHILD #1	CHILD #2	CHILD #3	CHILD #4
First Name				
Middle Name				
Surname if Different				
Birth Date MM/DD/YY				
Sex (circle)	Male - Female	Male - Female	Male - Female	Male – Female
School Attending Grade				
E-Mail Address				
If College Student (School and expected graduation)				

1. Is anyone in your household a survivor of the Holocaust, or children of survivors?     Yes     No  
If yes, list name/s \_\_\_\_\_
2. Does anyone in your household read Hebrew?     Yes     No    Speak Hebrew?     Yes     No
3. Does anyone in your household speak Spanish?     Yes     No    Other Languages spoken \_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you have special needs?     No     Yes - Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

### YAHRZEITS

(Date of Death of Any Family Member)

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	HEBREW OR ENGLISH DATE

### EMERGENCY CONTACTS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ RELATIONSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ RELATIONSHIP \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM**