

Temple Judea of Manhasset – 2007

YOSSI OLMERT SPEAKS AT TEMPLE JUDEA'S ISRAELI BOND BREAKFAST HONORING RABBI & LAUREN CHIZNER

On Sunday, November 3, Temple Judea of Manhasset once again hosted an Israeli Bond Breakfast, marking a stunning return of the event to the Synagogue. More than 120 people, both congregants and guests, filled every table, a turnout that more than exceeded expectations. The breakfast honored Rabbi Todd Chizner and his wife Lauren who have been with the temple now for over one year. Yossi Olmert, brother of Israel's Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, spoke about the state of Israel and its need to continue to be a shining light of freedom in the Middle East. Temple Judea was able to raise over \$350,000 in the sale of Israel Bonds, a number that also was more than expected.

Dr. Olmert, an expert on the modern Middle East, terrorism, Islamic militants, Palestinian issues and U.S.-Israel relations, gave a stimulating discussion, touching upon issues like the upcoming peace conference in Annapolis later this month between Israelis and Palestinians. He contrasted that with the continuing aggression against Israel by Palestinians, despite the requested withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. Dr. Olmert further highlighted the need for attention to the nuclear aspirations of Iran by the United Nations and countries around the world.

Noteworthy for Temple Judea was the honor bestowed to its spiritual and religious leader, Rabbi Chizner, who just over a year ago assumed his new position with optimism and confidence in taking Temple Judea into its second 50 years. Those in attendance witnessed his support of a Jewish homeland when he gave an inspired speech offering some of his memories of Israel and the importance of supporting the country as a whole. He met his wife, Lauren, while both were studying there, and the rest, as they say, is history, as family members from across the region and country came to share the honor that was bestowed on the two of them. In an emotional message, Mrs. Chizner also spoke warmly of her time in Israel and how she has continued to work to better the lives of Jews here and abroad.

"At this morning's Israel Bonds Drive brunch, much good was done. Many people came to hear the wonderful insights from Yossi Olmert, to honor Lauren and me, and to purchase many Israel bonds. Yet, the greatest good done was not by any of us, rather by Israel," said Rabbi Todd Chizner of Temple Judea of Manhasset directly after the breakfast. "There was a palpable sense of Israel's presence on this morning, reminding us that the Jewish people are a people connected by a faith, a history and a homeland."

In his remarks to the gathering, Tod Groman, president of Temple Judea, commented on how happy he was that Rabbi and Lauren were chosen to spearhead the return of Israel Bonds to Temple Judea. "By the looks of the turnout," he said, "I guess I was not the only one with that sentiment." He stated that it was a terrific indication of both people's support of Todd and Lauren and the endorsement of continuing to help Israel maintain its security, borders and existence. "There was an excitement throughout our membership in general and the money raised is a real way to put words into action."

The breakfast was organized by Marilyn and Sidney Bender, longtime members of Temple Judea, along with help from Spencer Herman, co-chair of temple's newly re-established Israel Committee. Attendees were served a beautiful spread of bagels, smoked fish and fruit.

Temple Judea of Manhasset was established in 1955 and has over 500 member families. Temple Judea, affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism, is located at 333 Searingtown Road, Manhasset. Please call (516) 621-8049 for further information and visit its website at www.temple-judea.com.