

Temple Israel installs Rabbi Gradofsky

Enters new era with new rabbi at the pulpit

BY JUDI LANGER-SURNAMER CAPLAN

The first signs of a new generation of rabbinical presence has begun sprouting at Temple Israel of Long Beach. The venerable synagogue, located on Riverside Boulevard between Park Avenue and Walnut Street — the original shul on the barrier island — founded 85 years ago, now has an up-to-the-minute weekly mini-bulletin available at Shabbat services complete with the most current data from the newly launched Temple Israel website <http://www.templeisraeloflb.org>, and there is a computer on the rabbi's desk, and frequently a palm pilot in his hand from which to teach a section of tanach and mishna.

Rabbi Noah Colin Gradofsky joined Temple Israel this past August. Temple Israel's new spiritual leader is a Laurelton, Queens

native who graduated from HANC High School and then the Joint Program at Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary before commencing his advanced studies at both the Rutgers University School of Law in Newark, New Jersey, where he received a Juris Doctor in 2002, as well as at the Institute of Traditional Judaism or "The Mesivta" in Teaneck, New Jersey, where he received semicha from the renowned Talmud scholar Rabbi David Weiss Halivni in May 2004.

"There's an overwhelming feeling in the shul," said former Temple Israel Co-President Bruce Sklover recently, "that we selected the best person to be our rabbi, a man with new ideas, a new perspective, and a halachic commitment."

This is a sentiment echoed by many of the congregants who turned out for his installation. Eleanor Sobel finds him to be "a very thoughtful, unassuming young man." Gus Wurman believes "Rabbi Gradofsky's youthful zeal and enthusiasm can invigorate and stimulate the entire Temple Israel family."

At Rabbi Gradofsky's official installation on September 12, Long Beach City Councilwoman Mona Goodman noted she had been attending many 9/11 memorials over the weekend, and that she found it especially significant that Rabbi Gradofsky was being installed the day after September 11 for "on 9/12 three years ago we as Americans embarked on a new pathway and today Temple Israel embarks on a new road."

Rabbi Ronald Price, executive vice president of the Union for Traditional Judaism, keyed the ceremony installing Rabbi Grad-



Rabbi Ronald Price, center, president of Union for Traditional Judaism, congratulates the new rabbi of Temple Israel of Long Beach, Rabbi Noah Gradofsky, left, on his installation; Co-Presidents Marc Goodman and Lenny Ross look on.

ofsky in his first pulpit. He described the new *morah d'asra* as an "outreach rabbi," who will help the members of Temple Israel grow spiritually and halachically.

Rabbi Gradofsky voiced his deep hope and desire in this season of renewal for the congregation to grow in learning and practicing the ways of Torah, and in doing good deeds, and spreading their benefit to the synagogue family and the greater community.

Co-President Lenny Ross said, "As a congregational family we want to welcome Rabbi Gradofsky to our synagogue, and together create a symbiotic relationship."

PEOPLE

National Merit semi-finalist

air Frankel, a senior at