

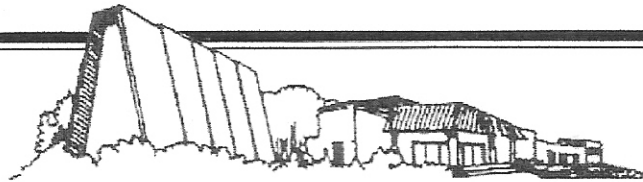
*Rabbi Gordon Yaffe*  
*State of Israel Bonds Honoree*  
*June 3, 2009*

Rabbi Gordon Yaffe was ordained as a Conservative Rabbi by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1990. He began his rabbinic career as the Rabbi and Cantor of Temple Beth Shalom in Stratford, Connecticut. Rabbi Yaffe immediately assumed leadership positions within the community and served as the president of the Stratford Clergy Association. He was also the president of the Bridgeport Board of Rabbis for several years. In August of 1995, Rabbi Yaffe relocated to Ocean Township, New Jersey where he has been the spiritual leader of Temple Beth El in Oakhurst for the past 14 years.

Rabbi Yaffe demonstrates and promotes the relevancy of Jewish tradition as a vibrant force in contemporary life. He has brought innovative programs to the Temple Beth El community such as Shabbat at the Beach, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Shabbabecue and a sunrise beach service for Shavuot. For the members of his congregation and our community he has shared his knowledge, insight, passion and compassion to make life cycle events, holiday celebrations and learning Torah transforming experiences. He has worked to bridge the gap between the generations and various segments of our community. Under his leadership, the observance of Veterans' Day has become a multi generational and multi congregational experience, the observance of Martin Luther King Day has brought segments of the Black and Jewish communities together in a spirit of brotherhood and understanding and the observance of Yom HaShoah has integrated members of the Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform congregations in our area. Rabbi Yaffe has served as the rabbinic voice in several Hadassah presentations on Organ Donation, he has represented the Jewish presence on interfaith panels at Monmouth University, and has helped with Jewish communal responses to events such as 9-11 and other tragedies that we have suffered at the hands of terrorists.

As a leader within our community, Rabbi Yaffe participated the TLC (Tomorrow's Leadership Counsel) program of the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County, has served on the Jewish Federation's Strategic Planning and Community Chaplain Committees and was a founder and the President of the Board of the Shore Hebrew High for 8 of the 10 years of its existence. In 2005 Rabbi Yaffe was honored by the Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Monmouth County for the rabbinic presence and guidance that he provided for the students and staff of the school. In November of 2008 Rabbi Yaffe celebrated his Bar Mitzvah year with Temple Beth El at a gala event at which he was honored for his contribution to the spiritual welfare of our community. Currently, Rabbi Yaffe is the president of the Greater Long Branch Ministerium, an organization that brings together clergy of different faiths to share ideas and work together to bring understanding, respect, goodness, peace and harmony to our world.

Having lived in Israel for a year and having traveled to Israel on numerous occasions, Rabbi Yaffe has brought first hand experience to his annual High Holiday Israel Bond Appeals. In March of 2000 he served as the chair for the mission to Israel of the Jewish Federation of Monmouth County and in December of 2006 he led a synagogue family mission to Israel. In response to his appeal, the members of Temple Beth El raised \$25, 000 with which the community assisted 4 Israeli families who were victims of terror. Rabbi Yaffe has been married to his wife, Carrie for 23 years. Their oldest son, Robert is a sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania and their younger son, Neal is a senior at the Academy of Allied Health and Science. On behalf of the State of Israel Bonds, it is our privilege to take this opportunity to honor Rabbi Yaffe for his exemplary leadership, achievements and accomplishments within his congregation and community.

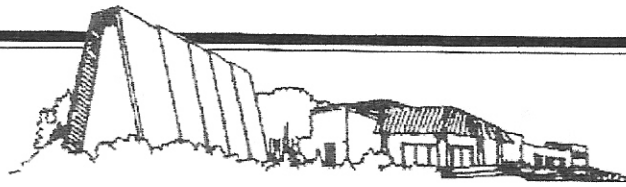


A Tribute to  
Rabbi Gordon Yaffe  
On the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah Year  
With Temple Beth El

It is the Spring, 1995 and Temple Beth El is searching for a new Rabbi. That is, until one Sunday evening when a dynamic candidate with a baby face and a booming voice led services with flair and laid down a challenge to the congregation. "If we don't preserve what we have in our Tradition, what are we going to have left? Who will be the Zeide of our children?" The questions lingered just long enough until he began to sing the notes of a powerful lyric, sweetly, then soulfully, yearning for our generation to become the Zeides of our own children. The message was compelling and the song sealed the deal. Rabbi Gordon Yaffe was engaged before he left the building.

The ensuing thirteen years have repeatedly proven the wisdom implemented by the Temple leadership that evening, and have also demonstrated that Beth El did not simply engage its Rabbi, but welcomed into our midst a vibrant family that has provided immeasurable support for our Rabbi and devotion to our Temple community. The era of the Gordon Yaffe ministry at Beth El has featured hands-on involvement of his wife, Carrie, and we have watched Robert and Neal grow from toddlers to adolescents to accomplished young men. No tribute to our Rabbi can ever be complete unless we acknowledge the contributions of his family members as well.

Change and transformation have been the by-words since Rabbi Yaffe's arrival. Under the leadership and guidance of Rabbi Yaffe, we now use a new Siddur for Shabbat, Festivals and Weekdays, a new Machzor for the High Holidays and a new Chumash from which we read the Torah and Haftarah portions. We have merged with Congregation B'nai Sholom and have become a stronger congregation in the process. We have worked together with a local artist to create a unique, three dimensional



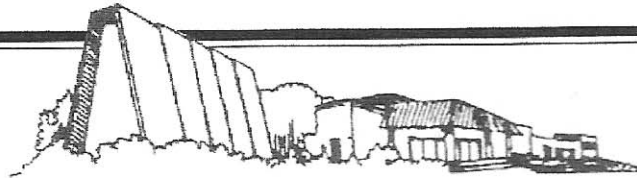
mural that visually tells the story of Temple Beth El as we enter the school wing of our building. We have reached across supposed barriers of race and religion to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in what has become a community-wide event of shared values and understanding. For ten years our teenagers benefited from

the Shore Hebrew High School. Rabbi Yaffe was a founder, a teacher in its classes and the President of its board. As a congregation, we adopted four Israeli families who were victims of Palestinian terrorists. We have introduced innovative experiences such as Shabbat at the Beach, The Shabbat Morning Experience, Sunrise Shavuot services overlooking the ocean and the annual Shabbabecue. We have become part of a community observance of Yom HaShoah, pulling together both clergy and lay leadership from nine separate congregations to say "Never Again" during the Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony.

We have held out our hand to the Russian immigrant community during Passover, and have brought together the young and the old of our congregation and of our neighboring congregations to honor our War Veterans as a community. In each of these endeavors, Rabbi Yaffe has been the innovator, the author and the engine that simply refused to quit until the goal was reached. Without Rabbi Yaffe, these accomplishments would only comprise notations on a Temple Beth El wish list.

Rabbi Yaffe is never more compelling, never closer to the purpose of a congregational Rabbi, than when he brings his unique warmth and insights to the life cycle events, celebrated and at times endured, by the members of our Temple Family. Whether it is at a bris or baby naming, a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, a Wedding, Divorce, Conversion or a Funeral, Rabbi Yaffe brings meaning, understanding, insight, and spirituality to the benchmarks and stages of our lives.

Through his sermons, adult education classes, and articles, Rabbi Yaffe has truly been our teacher. He has helped us to better understand the depth, the wisdom and the beauty of Judaism.



The Rabbi's energy, enthusiasm and love for our tradition and for living never cease to be an enduring source of inspiration. The Rabbi works tirelessly for our community, educating our children, bringing comfort to the ill and disheartened. He has been a driving force to bring us into the computer age and has worked hard to develop our professionally created Temple Website. A natural leader, the Rabbi has served as the president of the Shore Area Board of Rabbis, an executive board member of the New Jersey Rabbinical Assembly and is currently the president of the inter-faith Greater Long Branch Ministerium. He has not only been our Rabbi, but has at times also served as our Cantor. In both roles, his voice and his passion have inspired us, taught us and led our way.

The Rabbi has reached these achievements with the love and support of his wife, Carrie and his sons, Robert and Neal. Carrie has been his sounding board and advisor. Standing on her own, Carrie has been recognized as Sisterhood Woman of the Year, has served as the chair of Sisterhood Shabbat for the past ten years and has hosted numerous book review discussions and Shabbat dinners at their home. She is a frequent volunteer at Temple events and a constant presence at our services and programs. Robert and Neal, have been sources of pride and a diversion from the rigors of the Rabbinate, through their personal, scholastic and athletic achievements. Robert and Neal have grown up with our congregation. We celebrated together with them as they became B'nai Mitzvah, and have been proud of their continued participation in our services and programs. Robert is a sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania, and Neal is a senior at the Academy of Allied Health and Science.

It is with abiding love and gratitude that Temple Beth El offers this tribute, not only to our great Rabbi, but to his wonderful wife and family. Together they have enriched us as a community and have worked to make our world possible.

Jeffrey Donner  
Co-President



## Rabbi Gordon Yaffe



Honoree Rabbi Gordon Yaffe has been actively involved at Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Monmouth County for the past ten years. During his years of service to our school, Rabbi Yaffe has been a constant Rabbinic presence at Schechter and has offered guidance to students and staff. He has played a vital role in developing, coordinating and leading the Thursday morning *T'fillah* program for elementary and middle school students, always striving to make T'fillah a deeply enriching, meaningful, and memorable experience. For several years, Rabbi Yaffe has been a valued member of the Solomon Schechter faculty. He has led t'fillah workshops for students and teachers, and has taught curricular units on *Kashrut* and *Tefillin* to students in elementary and middle school grades. He has also volunteered on numerous school committees and has served on the school's Rabbinic Advisory Council. Rabbi Yaffe has also conducted workshops and taught adult education classes on a variety of Jewish topics to faculty, staff, and parents, always with an incredible amount of positive energy, spirituality and heart. Throughout his ten years of selfless dedication and service to our school and our students, Rabbi Yaffe has worked tirelessly in his primary role as spiritual leader of Temple Beth El in Oakhurst.

Rabbi Yaffe is deeply committed to the belief in Jewish continuity through Jewish education. For that reason as well as many others, Solomon Schechter holds a special place in the hearts of the entire Yaffe family. Rabbi Yaffe's wife, Carrie, has been very active at the school over the years, serving as PTO Executive Vice President of Fundraising, Vice President of Membership, Co-Chair of the highly successful Goods & Services Auction, Class Liaison, and had repeatedly served as Class Parent for her children's class. In addition to her many Schechter commitments, Carrie has a career as a geriatric social worker and also runs many Sisterhood programs for Temple Beth El. Their son, Robert, SSDS Class of '03, currently attends the Academy of Allied Health and Science and their son, Neal, will graduate from Solomon Schechter Middle School this year and also plans to attend the Academy of Allied Health and Science for high school.

Thank you, Rabbi Yaffe, for your unbounded energy and enthusiasm. We commend you for your dedication to Jewish education, to our school, and most importantly, to our students. Your contributions to Solomon Schechter Day School have been invaluable and your influence will be long-lasting, helping our school and our children to flourish.