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### **Temple Israel Center Celebrates Its Centennial Year**

*"Windows on the Past, Doors to the Future"*

White Plains, NY – Temple Israel Center, one of the largest and most influential Conservative Jewish synagogues, is celebrating its 100 year anniversary. The Centennial celebrations began in September with the Jewish High Holidays, and will continue until the closing Centennial festivities on May 18, 2008. The year-long Centennial celebration includes a variety of community, educational, charity, musical, historical, and family programs and events.

The synagogue chose the slogan, *"Windows on the Past, Doors to the Future,"* to represent this special year. The phrase signifies a study of the synagogue's historical role in both the local community and the Conservative Movement, while looking ahead to the future of the congregation, its influence in both these arenas, and the many points of entry available to its members. The Centennial logo features the Hebrew letter kuf, which stands for the number 100, and serves as an artistic representation of a both a door and a window.

"From the century vantage point, we look at where we have been, but we must also remember to cast our eyes to the future," said Mark Zeichner, President of Temple Israel Center. "What about our community from our past and present should be preserved? What should be changed to make our synagogue community more of a role model?"

"Our centennial celebration gives us a wonderful opportunity to tell people in our region and throughout the Conservative Jewish movement about all of the fine programs that we offer here," said Senior Rabbi Gordon Tucker. "I am especially looking forward to our symposium on Conservative Judaism in January. Our intention is to use it as an opportunity to open up a dialogue about

how we can better define our understanding of what it means to be a Conservative Jew.”

### 2008 Key Events at Temple Israel Center

1/6/08 – 1/10/08	Artist Mordechai Rosenstein commemorates Centennial with specially commissioned art. Also creates art with children of the synagogue.
1/11/08 – 1/13/08	Scholar-in-Residence Shabbat Symposium with leading scholars on Conservative Judaism
3/15/08	Dinner Dance/Purim Ball
4/13/08	TIC hosts opera concert with talent from the Metropolitan Opera & Philharmonic
4/29/08	Jewish Art Museum sponsored film, “The Rape of Europa”
5/18/08	Closing Centennial Celebration

#### **About Temple Israel Center**

Founded 100 years ago, Temple Israel Center is a traditional, egalitarian congregation, deeply committed to fostering Jewish observance and learning in an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance of all people regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, background or ability. Temple Israel is also a leader in the Conservative Jewish movement, working to explore, study and open up dialogue on key Jewish issues in today’s world. .

One of the largest and most influential synagogues in the country, it is home to more than 850 families. Because Temple Israel Center has a devoted membership with close to 3,000 congregants, it is able to offer Jewish rituals, traditions and services, such as daily morning and evening minyans and a mikveh (or ritual bath), not available in many synagogues. On-site is a newly designed 500-seat sanctuary that expands to seat 1600 with an overflow area for holidays, a nursery school, religious school, reception hall and award-winning library.

#### **Leadership**

Senior Rabbi Gordon Tucker is an influential leader and respected scholar in the Conservative Judaism movement who has also been a part of the faculty at the Jewish Theological Seminary for 31 years. Rabbi Neil Zuckerman, a leader among the younger generation of rabbis, has worked to develop programs related to youth and family so that today they have a strong presence in the Temple Israel community. He currently serves as the President of the Westchester Board of Rabbis. Cantor Jacob Ben-Zion Mendelson is an Oscar-nominated internationally recognized singer, leading cantorial master, beloved

teacher, and composer. Rabbi Dina Shargel is the Ritual Director who also leads B'nai Mitzvah programs, adult education classes, and nursery school programs. Temple Israel Center always encourages personal relationships between their religious leaders and congregants, whether it is one-on-one dialogue, counseling, education or music lessons; there is an open door policy that supports a loving, supportive community.

For more information, please visit [www.templeisraelcenter.org](http://www.templeisraelcenter.org).

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