

# SYNAGOGUES & CONGREGATIONS

## Temple Israel Member Michael Abadi Honored

Michael Abadi has been honored with the *Sherut L'Am* Service to the Nation Award. The Tribute Ceremony will take place at the Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City on Thursday, December 10 at 6:45 PM. Rabbi Murray Ezring will be leading the invocation.

Michael grew up in Bogota, Colombia and started his involvement with the Conservative movement by becoming a counselor of the recently established Ramah Youth Organization. In addition to the world-known Camp Ramah, that group provided activities for Jewish children and young adults in a Conservative Jewish setting. He rose through the ranks to become director until he left the country in 1976 to pursue graduate education, obtaining a Master's Degree in Chemical Engineering at MIT, followed by an MBA at Stanford University. A natural entrepreneur, throughout his professional and personal life Michael has always worked in areas that enable him to stay close

to his roots in Latin America; he believes the Jewish communities worldwide have a lot in common, but also a lot to learn from each other. For the past nine years, Michael and his family have been members at Temple Israel in this city, where he has been involved in its Men's Club as president for three years and board member for four years, as well as in several committees helping the Temple board of directors. In addition, he is an active volunteer for the Conservative movement at an international level, working both at the International Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs and *Masorti Olami* (World Council for Conservative Synagogues). Among his many contributions, he serves as a special liaison for the Latin America region and helps to build lay leadership and co-operation programs for the communities in that region. For many years Michael has dedicated an enormous amount of both business and personal travel time to visiting Masorti congregations, and has



Michael Abadi

established excellent working relationships with rabbis, lay leaders and young adults in 15 countries. Through all of these visits and endeavors, he is helping to develop the future leadership of the Masorti movement in Latin America. Michael has been married to his lovely wife Denise for 25 years. They have two children, Sara and Mark, who live in New York City and Chapel Hill respectively. ☆

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## Anne Weiss Named Executive Director

The Board of Trustees is pleased to formally announce that Anne Weiss, who for the past nine months has served as our Interim Director, has been named Executive Director of Temple

Israel. During her interim period Anne has worked diligently with all of our staff, volunteers, and congregation to provide an inviting environment as well as improving many areas of our synagogue.

She has proven herself to be an excellent candidate for the position as our Executive Director and we are excited to have her in this leadership position. If you do not already know Anne, or would like to share your thoughts with her, please feel free to contact her in person or by phone at the Temple office, or via email at [anneweiss@templeisraelnc.org](mailto:anneweiss@templeisraelnc.org).

### Business Ethics: Guidelines for Shopping

Every year as Chanukah comes around; parents and children begin to focus on gifts. But shopping is something that we do all the time. When we think of business ethics, we often think of the way the big banks handle their affairs, deal with each other and their customers. How many of us realize that shopping, whether it be for clothes, groceries, gifts, or even houses, is part of the general category of business ethics. On Thursday evening, December 3, 7:45-9 PM, Temple Israel announces a first in a series of courses on Business Ethics: Guidelines for Shopping.

When we walk into a store, how should we speak to the sales personnel? Are we allowed to touch items that we are thinking we might purchase? Are we allowed to take a sample of a product we might buy? All of these, and many more, will be investigated in this first session of Jewish business

ethics. This first class is free and open to the public.

### TI Sisterhood Judaica Gift Shop Chanukah Room Open

The Chanukah Room will be open now through December 14. We invite everyone to check out our large selection of Chanukah items. Our expanded hours are Sunday-Friday 10 AM-1 PM. Call 704-362-2796 for afternoon hours. **Chanukah Dinner and Dance Sponsored by TI Men's Club**  
December 12 at 8 PM—Midnight

Tickets are \$18 per person in advance or \$25 per person at the door

Send checks to Temple Israel, made out to Temple Israel Men's Club Write, "dance" on the memo line

### Men's Club Shabbat-January 9, 2010

We will be celebrating the talents of the members of Temple Israel's Men's Club, as they lead the congregation in Shabbat Services. Services will be followed by a Kiddush luncheon. For more information, contact Ben Aizenman at 704-541-9603 or [baizenman@aol.com](mailto:baizenman@aol.com)

### Room In the Inn

As winter approaches, we need to think about how we can best share our good fortune with those who are less fortunate, have lost their homes and are living on the streets of Charlotte. Once again, Temple Israel is hosting Room at the Inn on December 26 and January 30, and we are reaching out to you to help us provide to them with a night of warmth, good

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