



Courtesy Erika Prafder

TEMPLE ZION, at 62 Maryland Ave., held its first annual Miracle on Maryland Dinner Dance last month. Pictured are honorees David and Joy Koegel, center, with their daughters, Cassandra and Alexa. David Koegel is the temple's president.

Temple Zion holds annual dinner dance

Temple Zion of Long Beach held its first annual Miracle on Maryland dinner dance on Aug. 17, at the West End synagogue's newly renovated Abraham Hall. Approximately 100 guests attended the special event to honor long-time Temple Zion president, David Koegel, and his wife, Joy, for more than two decades of service, dedication and spiritual leadership. Evening highlights included a fully catered menu and gift-giving presentation.

The event's theme was chosen in recognition of the 66-year-old congregation's remarkable spirit, continuance and commitment to membership engagement and growth. "Our first in-house Dinner Dance was a resounding success," said David Koegel. "In addition to the enjoyable time had by all who attended, the event was triumphant in its goal of bringing Temple Zion's diverse congregants and friends closer together."

Preparing for the High Holy Days

As everyone nostalgically prepares for the end of summer, the Jewish community has ingeniously discovered a way to defeat the doldrums of declining daylight by vibrantly preparing and anticipating the High Holy Days and Jewish New Year. Yet an important fact seems to be repeatedly forgotten: the month in which the High Holidays begin is actually Tishrei — the sixth month of the calendar — while the Torah refers to the "first month" as Nissan in which Passover is celebrated. The Jewish calendar implicitly recognizes multiple new years, with Passover renewing creation of the Jewish nation, and Rosh Hashanah, renewing creation of all human kind, including the entire terrestrial order and even the universe. If that's what Rosh Hashanah is about, it may not necessarily be a uniquely Jewish holiday. Even though the Jewish people are commanded in 613 foundational directives — from which myriads of laws, principles and values are derived — the Torah teaches major expectations that God has of humanity as a whole, including belief in God, respect for property, minding animal suffering, and establishing political law. The common hope is that a plurality of


religious systems and personal practices arise unified in acknowledgement of God as the creator of the world and personal caretaker of all human evolution. We have the sacred opportunity to do teshuva, repentance, to return to our best selves and ideals every High Holiday season. One of the primary metaphors of Rosh Hashanah is coming before God like sheep before a shepherd. A primary example of repentance identified on Yom Kippur is the city of Ninveh, a non-Jewish town saved from tragedy due to their collectively intense and authentic change for the better. May it thus be God's will, that all human kind alike take this year's opportunity to renew before our creator the most awesome and blessed aspects of our lives. By way of heartfelt prayer and openhanded charity, we can truly honor our shared divine image and be worthy of the abundance inherent in our existence. Wishing all a most healthy and happy holiday season.

Daniel Vinik is Rabbi at Temple Zion Synagogue in Long Beach, and can be reached at rabbivinik@gmail.com.

Guest Column

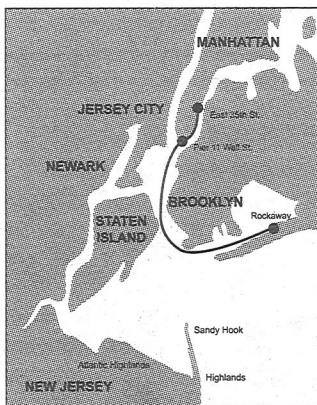


RABBI DANIEL VINIK



ROCKAWAY TO MANHATTAN

Seastreak Weekday Schedule



Rockaway Departures	BAT Arrivals	BAT Departures	Pier 11/Wall St. Arrivals	East 34th St./FDR Arrivals
5:40 AM**	6:15 AM	6:20 AM**	6:35 AM FT	7:00 AM
6:30 AM	7:05 AM	7:10 AM	7:25 AM FT	8:00 AM
7:40 AM**	8:15 AM	8:20 AM**	8:35 AM FT	9:00 AM
8:15 AM	8:50 AM	8:55 AM	9:10 AM	9:30 AM
9:25 AM**	10:00 AM	10:05 AM**	10:20 AM	10:30 AM
4:35 PM	—	—	5:30 PM	—
5:50 PM	—	—	6:45 PM	—
6:50 PM	—	—	7:45 PM	—

FT - FERRY TRANSFER FROM PIER 11 TO EAST 34TH STREET

MANHATTAN DEPARTURES

East 34th St./FDR Departures	Pier 11/Wall St. Departures	BAT Arrivals	Rockaway Arrivals
—	6:35 AM	—	7:30 AM
—	7:25 AM	—	8:10 AM
—	8:35 AM	—	9:20 AM
2:45 PM	3:05 PM FT**	3:15 PM	4:00 PM
4:20 PM	4:45 PM	4:55 PM	5:40 PM
5:10 PM	5:35 PM FT**	5:45 PM	6:30 PM
6:30 PM	6:50 PM FT	7:00 PM	7:45 PM
7:30 PM	7:50 PM FT**	8:00 PM	8:45 PM

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