

Temple Zion celebrates Purim

Temple Zion recently observed the joyful, spring holiday of Purim, during which Jews commemorate being saved from persecution in the ancient Persian Empire.

The West Long Beach synagogue welcomed congregants and community members for Megillah readings both on Saturday evening and Sunday morning, March 15-16. A Purim celebration followed Sunday afternoon in Temple Zion's newly renovated

Abraham Hall, drawing a crowd of roughly 65 children and adults, including City Manager Jack Schnirman and his wife, Joan.

Ceiling-high activity tents featured face painting, mask and crown crafting and other activities. Kids in costumes enjoyed a costume parade and "Great Job Ribbon" prizes for participating. The event also featured a festive meal, music and traditional Hamantaschen cookies. For more information about Temple Zion, visit www.templezion.org.



TEMPLE ZION PRESIDENT David Koegel, left, City Manager Jack Schnirman and Temple Zion Rabbi Daniel Vinik.



MEADOW PRAFDER, LEFT, and Rachel Barkan at the Purim celebration.



SHAYNA BARKAN at Temple Zion's Purim celebration last Sunday.



JULIA SHARIN WORE a festive costume for the occasion.

Photos courtesy Temple Zion

Temple Zion unveils new Abraham Hall

Temple Zion of West Long Beach recently unveiled its newly renovated social hall to congregants and community members.

During a celebratory Kiddush on March 1, esteemed Temple Zion member, Edward Kurtz and his family, in honor of Abraham Kurtz, the family's deceased patriarch, dedicated Abraham Hall.

Following months of renovations, the 2,000 square-foot-space now includes a state-of-the-art kitchen, full bar, men and women's restrooms and can accommodate up to 125 guests. With high ceilings, porcelain tile flooring, restored stained glass windows and tasteful décor, the light-filled space radiates a warm, charming ambience.

"Temple Zion has been one of the best kept secrets for a long time," said David Koegel, President of the 66-year-old syna-

gogue, a historical site in the West End of Long Beach. "Our congregation personifies a most unique blend of spirituality, fun and unpretentiousness."

An ideal venue for brissses, baby namings, bar or bat mitzvahs, Shabbat luncheons, birthday parties, anniversary parties and other special affairs, Temple Zion offers a choice of carefully selected off-premises kosher caterers, to fit all tastes, styles and budgets.

"It's enlightening to witness a vibrant membership, resilient against all odds and never ceasing to amaze even the most skeptical observers," said Koegel. "We've had our challenges over the decades, including Hurricane Sandy, but did not lose hope. Divine intervention has emerged again with blessings of kindness, generosity, dedication and vision from truly committed hearts, souls and minds. This helps Temple



Courtesy Temple Zion

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Zion thrive in a way that would have made all of its past generations prouder than they could ever have imagined. Long may it run."