This Week at Temple Israel of Long Beach

Experiencing the Warmth of Tradition



October 31, 2026
20 Chesvan 5787
Shabbat Vayera

Candle Lighting
Shabbat - 5:36 pm
Kabbalat Shabbat – 5:46 pm
For week of 10/31/26 - 11/06/26

PARSHAT VAYERA
Answering The Call

The early history of humanity as told in the Torah is a series of disappointments. G-d gave human beings freedoms, which they then misused. Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. Cain murdered Abel. Within a relatively short time, the world before the Flood became dominated by violence. All flesh perverted its way on earth. G-d created order; man created chaos. Even after the Flood, humanity, in the form of the builders of Babel, was guilty of hubris, thinking that people could build a tower whose top "reaches heaven" (Gen.11:4).

Humans failed to respond to G-d, which is where Abraham enters the picture. What makes him special? He is not simply a good man in a bad age, as was Noah, but a leader and the father of a nation of leaders.

Abraham understands the nature of moral responsibility. In Parashat Vayera, comes a great moment: for the first time a human being challenges G-d himself. G-d is about to pass judgement on Sodom. Abraham fearing that this will mean the city will be destroyed, says:

"Will You sweep away the righteous with the wicked? What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of fifty righteous people in it? Far be it from You to do such a thing – to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from You! Shall the Judge of all the earth not do justice?" (Gen. 18:23-25)

This is a remarkable speech. By what right does a mere mortal challenge G-d himself?

Abraham had to have the courage to challenge G-d if his descendants were to challenge human rulers, as Moses and the prophets would do. Jews do not accept the world that is. They challenge in the name of the world that ought to be. This is a critical turning point in human history: the birth of the world's first religious protest – a faith that challenges the world instead of accepting it.

Abraham was not a conventional leader. He did not rule a nation as there was yet a nation for him to lead. But he was the role model of leadership as Judaism understands it. He took responsibility. To Abraham, G-d himself says, "Walk before me" (17:1) meaning: be a leader. Walk ahead. Take personal responsibility. Take moral responsibility. Take collective responsibility. Judaism is G-d's call to responsibility.

Excerpt from:
"Lessons In Leadership"
by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

With Gratitude

We thank the following donors for their generous contributions to Temple Israel this past week.

Deborah & Mitchell Gelberg
Dorothy & Dr. Lawrence Tydings
Joan & Stephen Schlissel
Fern Mehler & Jay Brick

KRISTALLNACHT

Kristallnacht or the Night of Broken Glass, was a pogrom against Jews carried out by the Nazi Party's Sturmabteilung forces along with civilians throughout Nazi Germany on 9–10 November 1938.

Commemorating the Beginning of the Holocaust

Sunday November 1, 2026
1:00 PM
Long Beach City Hall
Council Chamber 6th floor
1 West Chester Street
Long Beach, NY 11561

NEVER FORGET



Gus Wurman
May you enjoy many more!

רפואה שלמה
Wishing you a speedy and complete recovery.

Marcie Livingston	Helen Dresner
Kai Denson	Gert Griboff
Joan Schlissel	Sima Buckner
Deborah Dickstein	Sidney Weinman
Bonnie Gurland	Elyse Silverman
Esther Buckner	Carol Kantor
Irwin Richmond	Louis Meltzer
Jill Pittinsky	Neilan Stern
Cathleen Tedaldi	Cheri Levin

IN MEMORIAM

Goldie Seigel	Joseph Asarch
Beverly Virany	Edith Plosky
Allen Rosenzweig	Sam Samuels
David Mittwol	Harry Uhlfelder

KRISTALLNACHT

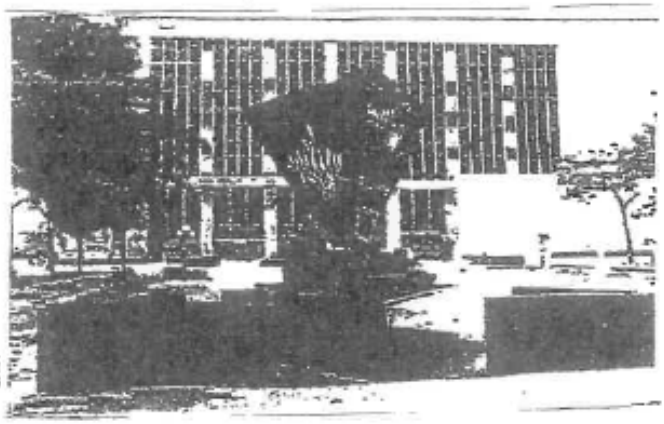
Commemorating the Beginning of the Holocaust

Sunday, November 1, 2026 – 1:00 P.M.

Long Beach City Hall, Council Chamber, 6th Floor.

1 West Chester Street * Long Beach * New York

Master Of Ceremonies.....	**Vincent Marmorale**
Pledge of Allegiance.....	**Jewish War Veterans**
National Anthem and Hatikva...	**Steven Bernstein**
Invocation	Rabbi **Benny Berlin**
Welcome.....	City Manager **Daniel Creighton**
Guest Speakers.....	Council President **Brendan Finn**
	State Senator **Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick**
	StateAssemblyman **Ari Brown**
	Nassau County Legislator **Patrick Mullaney**
	Honorable **Harvey Weisenberg**
Keynote Speaker	**Alexa Roth**
Musical Interlude	Cantor Lisa Klinger Kantor
Candle-Lighting Ceremony	**Esther Langer**
Holocaust Pledge.....	Honorable **Warren Vegh**
El Molei Rachamim.....	**Steven Bernstein**



Sponsored By: Holocaust Committee of Long Island

NEVER FORGET