



11/26/13

Installation and Gala Formally Welcomes New Rabbi

BY JULIE LEVIN

THROUGH CEREMONY, TRADITION AND THEN CELEBRATION, TEMPLE

Kol Ami Emanu-El formally moved into a new phase of its history. The Plantation synagogue recently held a weekend's worth of events to welcome its new spiritual leader. Though Rabbi Howard Needleman assumed the post in July, the November 1st and 2nd Installation and Gala was his official welcome. "The excitement of moving forward into the 21st century and building a strong Jewish identity for Temple Kol Ami Emanu-el was never as apparent as this past weekend's Installation Gala for Rabbi Howard Needleman," said Calvin Helitzer, Temple President. "The overwhelming joy that ebbed from all in attendance, young and old, was obvious. We have truly 'Passed the Torch' from one generation to another, building on the strength of our past to the greatness of the future."

The synagogue held a Shabbat Installation service on November 1 which was open to the community. The next night, close to 250 people came out to welcome Rabbi Needleman with dinner and dancing at the Welcome Gala.

Temple Kol Ami Emanu-El began the search for a new spiritual leader following the retirement of longtime senior Rabbi Sheldon Harr, who now serves as the "Founding Senior Rabbi Emeritus."

Rabbi Needleman comes to South Florida from Temple Beth David in New York. One of his goals is to inspire a love of Judaism in others by creating a modern house of worship where spirituality and interactive programming is available for all generations. He and temple leaders bill it as a "new beginning" in keeping with today's times. "Part of my vision is to create a modern reform temple that is both engaged in how we are within the Synagogue walls, with our worship, our learning and outreach to all that seek to make Kol Ami Emanu-El their spiritual home," he said.

Rabbi Sheldon Harr, founding Rabbi Emeritus, passes the Torah to Rabbi Howard Needleman



Rabbi Needleman, Rabbi Harr and Cantor Mark Goldman during the enhanced Shabbat service

Caption 3: Rabbi Needleman and wife Beth enjoy the gala. As many as 250 people came out to welcome the new Rabbi.

