

Rabbi Chosen to lead The Temple

SUBJECT FILE

By Amanda Milay
DeKalb Neighbor Staff Writer

After more than 30 years under the direction of Rabbi Alvin Sugarman, an extensive search led The Temple to select Rabbi Jeffrey Salkin to lead the 1,600-family congregation.

The need for a new Senior Rabbi arose when Sugarman announced he would retire in

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— Jeffrey Salkin
The Temple's new Senior Rabbi

unique challenge with infinite possibilities," he said.

According to Morningside resident and search committee member Marjorie Blum, "As we got to know him and Nina, his wife, it became clear that he could take congregation into

the next years.

Salkin called The Temple, located at 1589 Peachtree St., the linchpin in the revitalization of Midtown Atlanta, and said that the congregation is going through a spiritual evolution. The Temple fits in with his mission to bring God and Torah to modern Jews and to teach them how Judaism can make a difference in their lives, he said.

Since moving to Atlanta from New York, Salkin has already become involved in the community, visiting schools and meeting with members of The Temple and the community.

"I believe a large part of my mission is to foster understanding between Judaism and other religions," Salkin said.

He spends his days meeting with members, counseling and preparing to teach. Earlier this month, he visited the Davis Academy and told students a story.

"I come home every day feeling very fulfilled," he said.

A leader in the Reform movement, the Druid Hills resident has lectured in the United States, United Kingdom and Israel. Active in a number of organizations, Salkin served on the United Jewish Appeal's first official mission to Cuba.

"To me, the Reform movement symbolizes the success of Jews living in the modern world," Salkin said.

As an author, Salkin has been published in The Wall Street Journal, The Jewish Forward, Readers' Digest, Newsday and The Congregational Record, among others. His books include "Being God's Partner: How to Find the Hidden Link Between Spirituality and Your Work" (Jewish Lights), "Searching for My Brothers: Jewish Men in a Gentile World" (Putnam), "For Kids — Putting God on Your Guest List" (Jewish Lights) and "The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Memory Book" (Jewish Lights), co-written with his wife. His "Putting God on the Guest List: How to Reclaim The Spiritual Meaning of Your Child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah" (Jewish Lights) is used around the world in more than 300 congregations.

For more information about The Temple, call (404) 873-1731 or visit www.the-temple.org.