

# *Rabbi Emeritus, Gerald I. Wolpe (z”l)*

Reprinted from a resolution authored by Ralph S. Snyder, Past President, Har Zion Temple:

The Board of Directors and Trustees of Har Zion Temple are devastated by the death of one of its revered rabbis, Rabbi Emeritus Gerald I. Wolpe, who passed away on May 18, 2009.

**WHEREAS** Gerald I. Wolpe was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1927; and

**WHEREAS** he was educated at Boston Latin in Boston, Massachusetts; and

**WHEREAS** he matriculated at The Jewish Theological Seminary in 1953; and

**WHEREAS** he entered military service of the United States of America in 1953 as a Chaplain in the United States Marine Corps; and

**WHEREAS** he completed his military service in 1955; and

**WHEREAS** he began his rabbinate in Charleston, South Carolina; and

**WHEREAS** he became the Rabbi of Temple Beth El in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in 1955; and

**WHEREAS** he began his service to Har Zion Temple as Senior Rabbi in 1969; and

**WHEREAS** in the 30 years of his magnificent service to Har Zion Temple, he led the incredibly successful movement relocating its facility from 54th Street and Wynnefield Avenue in the City of Philadelphia, to Penn Valley, Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS** he effected a most dramatic change in the history of Har Zion Temple by converting it to a completely egalitarian synagogue; and

**WHEREAS** he became a most effective leader in the Greater Philadelphia Jewish community where he was accorded the respect to which he was so richly entitled; and

**WHEREAS** he was held in unbounded esteem by his colleagues of the Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia; and

**WHEREAS** upon his retirement as Senior Rabbi of Har Zion Temple, he became Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Bioethics Center at the University of Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS** he was named and thereafter acted as Director of the Louis Finkelstein Institute for Religion and Social Studies of The Jewish Theological Seminary, once again to demonstrate his outstanding leadership; and

**WHEREAS** the loss of this unbelievable man will be nearly impossible to replace; and

**WHEREAS** he repeated to his wife and to many of us, the wonderful words of the poet Robert Browning, "Grow old with me, the best is yet to be," and it was;

**WHEREAS** the Board of Directors and Trustees mourn the loss of a devoted, cherished and irreplaceable religious leader and wish to acknowledge permanently and publicly his contribution to this Congregation and to the entire community of Greater Philadelphia; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that this Congregation memorialize Rabbi Gerald I. Wolpe by dedicating itself to those standards which were the hallmark of his life; and

That this Resolution be adopted by the Board of Directors and Trustees of Har Zion Temple; and that this congregation express its heartfelt sympathy to his beloved wife, Elaine, and to his children and grandchildren to whom a copy of this resolution be transmitted.