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Adult Bat Mitzvah

Compiled by Chris Sieorty

Former Temple Emanuel President Toni Corwin was one of seven adult women who recently celebrated their Bat mitzvahs at Temple Emmanuel. Said Corwin, "If someone had told me 52 years ago, when I was 13, that I would be reading from the Torah on the occasion of my Bat mitzvah, I would have been in disbelief. As a child, we were not synagogue members and our Judaism was mainly the celebration of holidays, of which I have very fond memories. I started to feel true spiritual need and support when I lost my parents. Prayer began to sustain me in difficult times.



FULFILLING THE MITZVAH – Seven women shared in the special Bat mitzvah ceremony. Pictured (from left): Lisa Borman, Joyce Levine, Toni Corwin, Shana Passman, Marcia Levenson, Marilyn Wizenberg and Myra Levinson.

"When Rabbi Geller asked me to participate in her Hebrew and B'not mitzvah class, for some reason I did not hesitate. We learned to read Hebrew and explore the meaning of prayers. I discovered that Torah study not only made me feel connected to our tradition, but also challenged me to think about my own life." Each woman leyned (chanted) from the Torah and gave a short sermon about the

meaning of their Torah portion and the experience of becoming bat mitzvah. Following the service, each woman received a tallit (prayer shawl) from members of their families.