

**Geulah
June 27, 2003**

By Rabbi Harold Caminker

I wanted to say Todah rabbah to the 6 Sup. Ct. Justices for giving me the most wonderful birthday gift I could imagine! (Supreme Court Strike Down Texas Sodomy Law, June 26, 2003) The next time I am asked how I reconcile my personal life with chapter 18 of Leviticus, which I refer to as the "Dr. Laura Parasha" in the Torah, I will probably cite the 6 Justices who had the wisdom and courage to affirm that "at times people are BLIND to certain truths, whereas later generations can see clearly that laws once thought necessary and proper in fact serve only to oppress."

Todah Rabbah as well to 3 more special people:

First to Rabbi Lisa "who bestows her unique blend of wise and compassionate leadership on all of us who are privileged to know her." To Fran whose music brings such blessings upon us.

Then to our honored guest speaker, Reuben Zellman:

"I don't want to make you too nervous, given that you have not even officially begun your 1st year Rabbinic studies at HUC in Jerusalem. However ... please know that for many of us, Reuben, you are a Jewish hero. You have had the strength and courage to make the life decisions you needed to make in order to insure your wholeness and personal integrity. And by the way, I was once called a hero by my oldest daughter for similar reasons; so, in humility, I know just a little bit about what it means to be called a hero for living a true and honest life. Yasher koach to you, Reuben! You honor us by your presence here tonight."