Temple Hosts Steve Israel For Book Talk


“We’re very pleased that Congressman Israel will be talking about his new book to our temple members and friends,” said Susie Moskowitz, senior rabbi at Temple Beth Torah. “We know that he is a very knowledgeable and entertaining speaker.”

“The Global War on Morris” is a witty political satire taken from the headlines by Israel, who’s met the characters, heard the conversations, and seen the plot twists firsthand. Israel has said he wrote the book on his Blackberry during snatched moments between House votes, meetings and everything else that keeps a Congressman going at breakneck speed. It tells the story of Morris Feldstein, a pharmaceutical salesman who lives and works on Long Island. He loves the Mets, loves his wife Rona, and loves things just the way they are. He does not enjoy the news; he does not like to argue. Rona may want to change the world; Morris wants the world to leave him alone. He does not make waves. But one day Morris is seduced by a lonely, lovesick receptionist at one of the doctors’ offices along his sales route, and in a moment of weakness charges a non-business expense to his company credit card. The misstep draws him into a world of blackmail and espionage.

Though the work is pure fiction, locals will recognize more than a few names and details. The congressman, who was a Dix Hills resident when he started his political career as a Huntington Councilman, today represents the 3rd Congressional District, which encompasses parts of Queens and the townships of North Hempstead, Oyster Bay, Huntington and Smithtown. He is the sixth ranking member of the House Democratic Leadership, serving as chair of Policy and Communications, in which he focuses on the issue of middle-class economic security and opportunity.

While speaking to the House Democratic Caucus in 2013, former President Bill Clinton called Israel “one of the most thoughtful people in the House of Representatives.”

Also known for his quick wit, Israel is not one to pass up an opportunity to take jabs at the establishment, especially one’s whose names end in Cheney.

His talk begins at 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18 at Temple Beth Torah, 35 Bagatelle Road, Melville.