January 2015 Vol. 7 No. 5

B'nai Torah

A BREATH, BREEZE, AND SPIRIT OF THE TIMES



B'NAI MITZVAH





Jenna Miller January 10

Ellen & Michael

My name is Jenna Miller. I am a seventh grade honor student at Wantagh Middle School. My hobbies include drawing, creative writing, playing the violin, and playing piano. The thing I enjoyed most about preparing for my bat mitzvah was working with my tutor, Mr. Kramer. I'm excited to stand on the bimah and lead the service! My goal for my bat mitzvah project was to help cheer up chronically ill children. I helped fulfill The Ashley Wade Foundation's mission of creating care packages for these sick children. I would like to thank Mr. Kramer, Rabbi Bellows, Cantor Sher and my family for helping me prepare for this special day.



January 24 **Gregory Paul**

Jay & Alexandra

My name is Gregory Paul and I go to Grand Avenue Middle School where I am a seventh grade honors student. I worked hard with my tutor, Mr. Kramer, to study for my bar mitzvah. Because I love sports I play on my school's soccer and basketball teams, as well as many travel teams. For my mitzvah project I collected new or gently used sports equipment to donate to children who can't afford their own equipment. I would like to thank Rabbi Bellows, Cantor Sher, and my family for preparing me for my bar mitzvah.



January 31 **Matthew Perez**

Rina

Matthew Perez attends Salk Middle School. Matthew is very energetic and has interest in winter sports such as tubing, skiing and snowboarding. Matthew also is musically inclined, plays the clarinet for his school and is learning the keyboard. Matthew is an awesome brother to his two-year-old brother, his older brother, step-brother and step-sister. For his mitzvah project Matthew makes rubberband bracelets and sells them to donate the money to breast cancer. This past October Matthew walked in the "Making Strides For Breast Cancer Walk" at Jones Beach. We are very proud of the young man he is becoming and look forward to his upcoming bar mitzvah.

JANUARY RITUAL CALENDAR

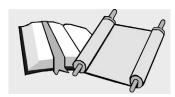
l	Friday, January 2	7:30 pm	Family Service
l	Friday, January 9	5:30 pm	Tot Shabbat Service
l	Friday, January 9	8:00 pm	Shabbat Service
l	Saturday, January 10	10:30 am	Shabbat Service - 1 BM
l	Tuesday, January 13	7:30 pm	Ritual Committee Meeting
l	Friday, January 16	6:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat
l	Saturday, January 17	10:30 am	Shabbat Service
l	Friday, January 23	8:00 pm	Shabbat Service
l	Saturday, January 24	10:30 am	Shabbat Service — 1 BM
l	Friday, January 30	8:00 pm	Shabbat Service
l	Saturday, January 31	10:30 am	Shabbat Service — 1 BM
l	Tuesday, February 4	7:00 pm	Tu B'Shevat Seder
l	Friday, February 6	7:30 pm	Scout Shabbat/6th Grade Siddurim
	Saturday, February 7	10:30 am	Shabbat Service — 2 BM
1			



Adult Confirmation Class Now Forming!

Our next level of adult intensive learning is here.

Join Rabbi Bellows and Elisa Blank for our brand-new 18-month curriculum, which will begin in January 2015. and culminate in a celebratory worship experience during Shavuot 2016.



- There will be three primary components to the program, and all students must commit to all three:

 1) Attend monthly in-person sessions taught by Rabbi Bellows and Elisa Blank on Sunday afternoons.
- 2) Participate in chevruta (small-group) twice-monthly study sessions, scheduled on your own
- 3) Accumulate a required number of points by taking part in approved Jewish activities (worship, classes, museums, travel, books, movies, etc.) and reflecting on each in writing.

Prerequisites: All students must:

- Be a member of Temple B'nai Torah in good standing
- . Have familiarity with Hebrew letters and vowels (Hebrew will NOT be taught in
- Have become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, either as a child or in an Adult Program
- Fill out an informational form that will be available in the main office.

For more information

please contact Rabbi Bellows (rabbibellows@temple-bnai-torah.org). To sign up for the class. please email Linda DeStefano (LDestefano@temple-bnai-torah.org)

Spaces are limited and are First-Come, First-Served.

INSPIRATION FROM OUR RABBI

LifeCycle Learning: Choosing Judaism



Shalom, Chaverim,

For many of us, our Jewish identity is fixed, and we might even take it for granted. We were born Jewish, we "eat" Jewishly, we even "speak" Jewishly. We know the basics (or maybe even more) about our heritage, but we otherwise don't think much about being Jewish. For others, who were perhaps born into other religious

backgrounds, but nevertheless find themselves drawn to the Jewish community, choosing to be Jewish is a deliberate, meaningful, and exciting life change.

Throughout the Hebrew Bible, there are a number of stories of non-Israelites easily becoming a part of the Israelite community. There was no actual ceremony preceding their inclusion in our people, other than circumcision for the men, and the focus was primarily on joining the community.

The matriarchs of Genesis, such as Sarah, Rebekah, Leah, and Rachel, were not born Israelites, but were understood to become so solely through their marriages to Israelite men. They were then responsible for following the laws that governed the people of Israel. Early in Genesis, when Abram and Sarai depart from Haran and go to the land that God has shown them (Genesis 12:5) we read, "Abram took Sarai his wife, Lot his brother's son, all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls whom they had made in Haran, and they went forth to the Land of Canaan." The Jewish commentator, Rashi, believed that these souls they had made were people who had converted and joined Abram's familial community. Naturally, it is important to remember that Abraham himself was not born Jewish, but became Jewish in later adulthood through his covenant with God.

Even the Exodus from Egypt contains an event understood to be a significant occurrence of conversion. We learn of a "mixed multitude" that left Egypt (Exodus 12:38) along with the fleeing Israelites. Rashi interprets this multitude as a mixture of converts made up of various peoples who chose to align themselves with the Israelite people.

Later in the Hebrew Bible, we find the inspiring story of Ruth. Ruth's husband passed away, and Naomi, her mother-in-law, encouraged the widow to leave and go back to her people of origin. Ruth refused to leave, and instead decided to link her life with Naomi's and the Jewish people. With words alone, she pledged her commitment to the Jewish people (Ruth 1:16):

"Entreat me not to leave you, and to return from following after you.

For wherever you go, I will go.

Where you lodge, I will lodge.

Your people will be my people and your God, my God "

The sage, Resh Lakish wrote a famous *midrash* (Tanhuma B, Lech Lecha 6):

"The proselyte who converts is dearer to God than Israel when they stood at Mt. Sinai.

Why? Because had Israel not seen the thunders and the lightning

and the mountains quaking

and the sound of the shofars,

they would not have accepted Torah.

But this convert, who saw none of these things,

came, surrendered himself to the Holy One, and accepted upon himself the Kingdom of Heaven.

Could any be dearer than he?"

The Halachah, the fundamental Jewish law, set eventual rules and requirements for conversion. Essentially, the Jewish legal requirements for conversion have been a course of study, circumcision for men, standing before the *Beit Din* (Judicial Court) of three rabbis, and immersion in a *mikveh* (ritual bath).

Due to my interest in conversion and my admiration for those who choose to join us, I have personally worked with nearly two dozen students. I have sat on a Beit Din for many, many more. My own process with a student involves enrollment in a 20-week, local 'Introduction to Judaism' class, monthly meetings with me, journaling and reflecting throughout, and attendance and participation in synagogue activities. We contemplate issues such as the creation of a Jewish home, how to begin observing the holidays, the role of prayer and spirituality in our lives, sharing news of the decision with family and friends, connection to the state of Israel, what will happen in December each year, and much more.

I require that the process take no less than nine months, and it can last as long as the prospective Jew-by-choice will like. I will never say to someone, "You are ready to convert." Rather, the readiness must come from him or her. The final conversion takes place once the student has written an extensive spiritual autobiography, and with circumcision or *hatafat dam brit* (the drawing of a symbolic drop of blood by a *mohel* for a man who is already circumcised), immersion, and a discussion with the *Beit Din*. Additionally, it is considered highly unethical for a rabbi to request compensation for any part of the conversion process.

(continued on page 5)



Last February I wrote an article about a video I watched, sent to me by my friend Michele Westlund, from Wisconsin. Michele and I met when we worked together on the same therapy team more than forty years ago in the, then experimental, "Adolescent Therapy Program," of Fairview Hospital, in Minneapolis.

We were a group of therapists-in-training, the "Young Turks," on the cutting edge of the latest interactive techniques used with behavior change in the adolescent community, ages 13-19. Ours was a short-term crisis intervention unit on a locked psychiatric unit of the hospital, where patients spent anywhere from one week to six months.

While some of our patients were teenage psychopaths, sociopaths and even prone to violent acting out, most were the kind of kids who just couldn't handle the microcosm of their dysfunctional home lives. After three long and intense years I, at the urging of our medical director, Dr. Joel Finkelstein, left to seek higher education in the field.

Dr. Finkelstein was a great mentor (I earned my Ed.M. in counseling and group behavior from Temple University). He taught me the "therapeutic" aspect of Tikkun Olam, of the generosity and fulfillment of self-sacrifice so someone young, confused and misdirected might be mentored to achieve behavioral change so necessary for the successful commandeering of a healthy personal and social life.

Joel Finkelstein, an observant, practicing Jew, taught me how to celebrate and enjoy a guilt-free Christmas holiday. He was a wonderful example of one who was so secure in his own religious and cultural identity, that the embracing of holidays unrelated to Jewish practice only enhanced his love of his people and his Jewish identity.

I hope that you recall that the video, mentioned at the beginning of this article, the performance of a poem by the retired state trooper, Bob Walsh, told the story of Sue Mackay, a young girl he brought home one night when she was 5 or 6 years old, after having to tell her that her mother had died in a terrible car accident.

Bob and his wife guided her into foster care and, later, adoption by a wonderful couple. Many years later, long after he had retired, on a snowy Christmas Eve, a young state trooper showed up at his door, a foreboding he dreaded, remembering all the times he had to deliver bad news on such a night.

She introduced herself, shedding a tear and asking him if he remembered......Trooper, Sue Mackay. This story moved me so much, that I remembered how Dr. Finkelstein had discouraged me from ethnocentric thought, encouraging me to find the "Jewishness" in the ritual celebrations of others, fostering inclusiveness.

All of what I recalled loomed vividly in my mind, as I had intended to present the song, Christmas Dinner, at our annual Interfaith Community Service, this season, at the First Episcopal Church of Wantagh (Unfortunately, the service was cancelled due to inclement weather). This stirring song tells of a poor, homeless boy who shares his dinner, a piece of cheese and roll, with a poor and destitute elderly woman, sitting in her cold house with nothing to eat.

While the song is about the "Christmas Spirit," The Jewish spirit of Tikkun Olam and, even, Bikur Cholim, assisting the sick and infirm, are exemplified in this moving folk song:

His outstretched hands held the food and they trembled
As the door, it opened wide
Said he, "Would you share with me Christmas dinner?"
Gently said she, "Come inside."

Isn't that what we Jews are supposed to do, invite the stranger? It would be wonderful if those not Jewish, could enjoy and learn the wisdom of our numerous holidays, in the same way that we Jews can learn from Christmas.....

My wish for you and yours: that you will have a happy, healthy, wise and fortunate secular New Year!

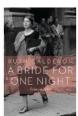
Cantor Steve Sher

Rosh Chodesh 2014-2015

TBT Sisterhood invites you to the sixth year of the

popular series with Rabbi Bellows

This year's topic:



A Bride for One Night:
Talmud Tales from Ruth Calderon

Pick up a copy of your own, borrow from a friend or, if you'd prefer, Rabbi Bellows will be emailing each session's readings in advance and hard copies will be available at each program.

Tuesday, January 20, 7:00p Sunday, March 22, 12:00p Sunday, May 17, 12:00p

Questions? Contact Felicia Denaro at 516-679-0666 or mermaidmom18@aol.com



(Rabbi . . . continued from page 3)

I am proud to share with you that conversion is such a respected and important process to the leadership of Temple B'nai Torah that those who convert under my instruction receive a free year of membership in our community, with the hopes that he or she would feel at home here and become a part of the TBT family. This may be due to the fact that many of our most respected and beloved leaders have converted to Judaism themselves!

I have heard many a student weep with joy and wonder from the waters of the *mikveh*. They enter the waters in one state, and they emerge a Jew. Something magical, mystical, and beautiful happens in the water, and he or she is now fully a Jew. They won't ever have to tell anyone that they have converted if they don't want to – they can just say that they are Jewish. A favorite *midrash* of mine discusses the souls who gathered at Sinai to receive the covenant – the text says that the Torah is given to those who stand there, and those who are not there. One *midrash* believes that this refers to future converts, meaning they were at Sinai, as well. Thus, when I conclude a conversion ceremony, I do not say, Welcome to the Jewish people. Rather, I say, Welcome Back.

If some of you out there have ever considered converting, please know that my door is always open, and I would be honored to help you in your journey.

L'shalom, Rabbi Marci N. Bellows

YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP INFO

A number of TBT funds offer scholarships to our youth for a variety of uses. Funds are available for a Kallah, or to help cover part of a Temple convention trip. Support is also available for a project or need of our youth members.

Pick up an application in the Temple Office from our administrator, Sue-Ellen. They are not difficult to fill out. Return it to the office. The Temple Scholarship committee will process the application to obtain whatever funds are necessary.

Feel free to call Rabbi Bellows, Temple Educator Elisa Blank, or one of us with any questions. Jan 781-5041, Rita 785-5827, Janis 679-1450

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL



Our sixth grade students are learning about life cycle events and are involving their parents in this learning process as they learn about their own families. One of the topics we learn about is the custom of giving Hebrew names. In earlier times, when a baby girl was born, her father would run to *Shul* and name the little girl. For a

boy, the name was given on the eighth day as part of his *Brit Milah*, circumcision ceremony.

The earliest names on record are found in the Torah. Their roots are easily traced to the original Hebrew. In the Book of Numbers, where we count our people following the Exodus, their names included the names of their fathers, such as *Yehoshua ben* Nun, Joshua son of Nun. We see how important names and lineage were to the Jewish people and giving Hebrew names helps keep Judaism alive.

Today, living in the Diaspora, Jewish families, interfaith families and families that adopt name their children in assorted ways with a variety of dynamics taking place. A child is often named during Shabbat Services with the entire community sharing in the joy. This immediately connects the child to the larger Jewish community. Some families choose to name a child at home and it is equally meaningful to hold this ceremony in one's home at a time of their choosing.

The tradition for Ashkenazic Jews, used for centuries, involved choosing a Hebrew name to remember and honor a deceased ancestor. In the Sephardic custom, a family could use the name of a living relative. In this way lineage could easily be established and genealogy could be discovered. Today, with DNA testing available, lineage can more easily be established and people have become much more creative in choosing names.

Some families now choose a Hebrew name which corresponds in meaning to the child's English name. Some like to use the first letter of an ancestor's name to find a new name. Some choose a Hebrew name based on the meaning and their hopes for the child's future, or connected to a biblical word or its *Gematria*, numerical value, interpreting or predicting one's future.

I have enjoyed reading about the stories behind the names of our sixth graders. Please be sure to share the stories and reasons why you chose their names with your children.

> L'Shalom, Elisa Blank, Director of Education

OUR COMMUNITY

From the TEMPLE B'NAI TORAH BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 30, 2014 at 8:00 pm

Meeting called to order at 8:08 pm

Blessings / D'var Torah – Blessings / D'Var Torah – Rabbi Bellows shared blessings for committee work. She encouraged board members to say these blessings at our own committee meetings. She also shared things that should be discouraged at committee and board meetings "Top Ten Banned List for Synagogue Councils, Boards, and Committees."

Secretary's Report – Regarding Amazon, TBT will continue to receive credit for purchases, but allowing members to get credit against the capital fund for purchases would violate our agreement with Amazon.

President's Report - Sherrill Spatz - The Honey Fundraiser raised \$2800.00.

Vice President's Report - Rob Saunders -. Dancing through the Decades is now a Matzo Ball Dance. It will be held at the end of March with an Honoree.

Financial— The New Year's Card raised \$2944.00. Janee Loewenstein also noted that \$12,000 was raised from the Book of Remembrance. Jan Friedman noted that cards were sent to non-members which was successful. Guest tickets to the High Holidays brought in more than \$16,000. More volunteers are needed for these types of jobs. Discussion ensued on how to spread the news of volunteer opportunities.

House and Administration - Shelly Lomove —Thank you to Sue-Ellen Pennington for getting the building ready for the holidays. The Tree of Life leaves are being sold for \$180.00. You can pick the color of your leaf — copper or silver. The smaller sized rocks are being sold for \$360.00. It takes 2-3 weeks for the order. We are trying to send in 5 orders at a time. Please use a regular donation form and include up to 3 lines of wording. The form is available on the website.

Education Report — Elisa Blank — Report stands.

Youth Group Director's Report - Daniel Strauss - BNTY Sr. and Jr. have started off. We are including elements of fundraising and social action.

Spirituality: Janee Loewenstein – Rosh Hashanah went very well. We had 125-150 attendees on the second day. Thank you to everyone who helped with the honors.

Membership – Julia Brite – Ambassador meeting was great.

Financial Secretary Report – Tessa Kean – Report stands. There are 486 members. This includes 49 associate members and 5 courtesy member families. 52 members have resigned and we have 24 new members. Only 350 members are full paying. Discussion also ensued regarding an alternative to special arrangements, such as a nominal fee membership with certain privileges.

Long Range Planning Committee Report - Jeff Spiller – Jeff Spiller is taking over the leadership of the Long Range Planning Committee.

BINGO/Gift Certificates/Purchasing Report – Rita Hofer – We have been nominated for Best Bingo Long Island 2015.
Bingo games continued throughout the summer. We are doing great compared to other Bingo places in Nassau and Suffolk.
However, we are still not doing as well as we were 4-5 years ago. We need more volunteers to assist.

Caring Committee Report – Jan Friedman –. If you know anyone who is laid up please take the time to call. The Caring Committee led an effort along with Rabbi Bellows and many volunteers to send out about 100 personal notes to people who have had a loss since last year..

Respectfully submitted: Sharon Curry



From the TEMPLE B'NAI TORAH BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 28, 2014 at 8:00 pm

New Business—Tessa Kean reported that a letter to all congregants explaining the Shomrim Program will be sent shortly.

Shomrim means "protectors". The program will be asking congregants to pay an amount, on a yearly basis, above their dues obligation. There will be several categories. A plaque with the names of the Shomrim contributors will be displayed. The Shomrim Program money will be for general operating funds and will be submitted through the general office.

Learning - Helaine Schnall - Our reports stand but please be sure to read them. They include great information about our High School and Youth Activities. The first Youth Activities Committee (YAC) meeting of the year will be held November o

House and Administration: Tessa Kean for Shelly Lomove -- There is wifi available in most of the building and in the parking lot.

Spirituality: Janee Loewenstein – Jan Friedman reported that the Yizkor Service went well and that the Book of Remembrance will net about \$10,000, which includes \$2326 from non-congregants.

Rabbi Bellows' Report – Report stands. High Holidays went very, very well. It was an honor to officiate and be with the TBT congregation. Thanks to all who helped - staff, leadership, High Holiday Committee, congregants, etc., as indicated in her report. The first Rosh Chodesh of the year was terrific and very well attended. Rabbi participated in the first session of the Religious School's new Bonim program and declared it phenomenal.

Membership – Robin Galardi – The Thrive in 5775 Appeal has raised \$2439 and will continue throughout the year. All new member families have received handwritten cards. Julia Brite reported that the Ambassador Program is going well; all new members have an ambassador. The second annual Chanukah Breakfast, sponsored by Membership as a gift to the congregation, will be on December 14.

Financial Secretary Report – Tessa Kean noted that the Special Arrangements Committee does its best to assist families with need who want to remain members.

Investments Report - Alan Loewenstein -. Investments are going well despite recent market volatility.

Long Range Planning Committee Report - Jeff Spiller -- The committee had a brainstorming session and created a list of 21 items that need to be prioritized. The committee is divided among members who feel that plans should be based on keeping the status quo or growth, and others who believe the focus should be on addressing shrinkage. The Long Range Planning Committee is open to ideas from all congregants.

BINGO/Gift Certificates/Purchasing Report – Rita Hofer – Report stands. Food certificates are selling exceptionally. We now carry them for more than 50 vendors. Consider buying them for gifts. Wednesday morning BINGO needs additional regulars from 9 - 11 am. Melissa Coene volunteered to be added to the Wednesday morning crew.

Caring Committee Report – Jan Friedman – It was another busy month for the caring committee. Notes were sent to all congregants who lost a family member between Yom Kippur 5774 and Yom Kippur 5775. Try to gather ideas that might be helpful to TBT; concepts like implementing Kabbalat Shabbat and writing letters to all congregants who lost loved ones have come from listening to members of other congregations.

Minyan Committee - Tessa Kean -- The committee needs additional members to do this rewarding and important work.

Tessa and / or Rabbi Bellows will train anyone interested.

Respectfully submitted: Sharon Curry Thank you to Judy Novet for recording the October 28th meeting.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After Hanukkah many of us are finalizing our end-of- the-year and winter plans and thinking ahead to 2015. While the thought of springtime naturally commands our attention, I would like you to reconsider your financial commitment to TBT and, specifically, our 2014-2015 Shomrim Appeal. It is never too late to support this very important fundraiser.



As the secular New Year approaches we reflect on the past year and look ahead to the new one, wondering what it will bring. Our Temple B'nai Torah family once again is faced with decisions about our future. Our Long Range Planning and Budget Committees are exploring which options TBT should take to ensure our financial stability and which ones to discard. In addition, our Nominating Committee will soon start their very important task of choosing your leadership for the next fiscal year. If you are interested in being considered to become part of the Temple Board, please let us know. We would love you to be a part of decisions made on behalf of the congregation.

It is the time to make New Year's resolutions. Temple B'nai Torah remains a very active, vibrant congregation with many activities. While our members have always stepped up to provide leadership and participation, we are looking for individuals able to volunteer to co-chair a committee, to step up and to lead an event. I am asking each of you to make at least one New Year's resolution for Temple B'nai Torah: resolve to chair one event or one committee or assist with one event or committee. Events do not just happen, volunteers are needed to work on them.

Speaking of events, our spring 'Matzoh Ball' will be on Saturday, March 28, 2015. Please save the date and plan to attend this important event and fundraiser for TBT. Better yet, why not volunteer to work with us. There are large jobs, and some very small ones, that can use your help.

From my family to yours, have a happy and healthy new year.

> Sherrill Spatz Congregation President

BROTHERHOOD SPEAKS





2014 is passed and 2015 has arrived. We hope everyone enjoyed the Hanukkah Latke Breakfast sponsored by PTA. A few weeks ago a group from Brotherhood met at Johnnie Malones to watch the Dolphins beat the Jets (what else is new?). Thanks to chef Mike Bruno and company for the outstanding Home Brewing Demo and Chili fest this past month. Everyone had a blast.



We are looking forward to our Tuesday, January 13th dinner which will feature a Hot Stove League discussion led by ESPN beat reporter Adam Rubin. Adam Rubin is the Mets beat writer for ESPN.

He previously covered the team for the Daily

News. A Bellmore native, Adam graduated from Mepham High School and the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.

Along with this discussion we will be serving Chef Chester's famous secret recipe meatloaf. This is a culinary delight you will not want to miss. As always Brotherhood dinners include open bar and are a very reasonable \$10 in advance (for members of Brotherhood) or \$15 at the door.

May all your resolutions be easy to follow and may they be successful.

Shalom from Bruce Jaffe and Harvey Wiener



OUR COMMUNITY

OUR TBT SISTERHOOD SOURCE



A Happy 2015! I hope your New Year's celebration was a fun time. Did you make resolutions? Better yet, will you keep them?

A common goal is to lose that extra weight. Well, wait a couple of weeks for that one because Monday night, January 12, is our Sisterhood program, "Bake What

You Like and Like What You Bake." Lisa Basini from "The Baking Coach" will demonstrate making focaccia bread and we'll be sampling the bread with assorted olive oils. I can taste it already...yummy!

Following that on Tuesday night, January 20, is our third of five Rosh Chodesh sessions based on A Bride for One Night. The feedback on this series has been excellent. Note that the sessions are independent from one another so missing the first and/or second session doesn't preclude you from attending the others.

We continue as a sponsoring arm of the Square Dance on Saturday, January 24, along with Brotherhood, Chai Club, Couples Club, and the PTA. Swing on down and do-si-do your partner.

And if you feel the need for laughter galore, come the very next evening, Sunday, January 25, to our Comedy Club fundraiser at The Brokerage in Bellmore.

It's very evident that Sisterhood is a super-vibrant part of TBT. We work very hard to appeal to all of the women at the temple (and often to their guests as well). So even though the fiscal year is halfway over, ladies, join us if you haven't - or at least come on over to see what we're about.

Sincerely, Diane Schoenberg Sisterhood President

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Acoustic or Electric
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TBT-PTA

Happy New Year everyone, we hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. The Chanukah celebration on December 14th was a great success. The children had a great time learning and enjoying the traditions of this holiday. A big thank you to all the volunteers who made this event so wonderful.

Our first activity in 2015 will be the Tu B'Shevat Seder for grades K-4. The seder will take place during Hebrew School hours. The children will have the opportunity to make leaves for the tree which will be on display in the Religious School middle stairway. Feel free to walk by and see all of our previous Tu B'Shevat trees.

On Sunday, February 8th the PTA will host Family Bingo. This fun-filled event is open to everyone. All children win a prize, and more importantly have a great time with each other. Please see flyers for more information.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, January 11th at 11:45 in the Library. Please join us.

Written by Alissa Neches



Letters, we get letters.....

Many, many thanks from us to everyone who sent us birthday wishes, the Uniongrams, especially the Goldengrams, were wonderful.

Ruth and Herb Sussman

I'd like to thank the many friends and congregants who have been concerned about my sudden and mysterious disappearance from the activities and environs of Temple B'nai Torah.

I have spent the last several months in hospitals, beginning with two back surgeries, followed almost immediately with a cardiac complication and then a rare, (and currently) incurable skin disease for which the dermatologists are trying to find a solution.

The swiftness, treatment and finding solutions to these maladies left little time for communication, except to notify the temple office that I was in the hospital.

Again, I thank you all for your concern and caring. I hope and pray to return in the near future to the active life at Temple B'nai Torah.

Ed Kliegman

OUR COMMUNITY

COUPLES CLUB

Festivus R Us



Ira and Yolanda
Friedman, along with
Al and Fran Woods,
established a new
threshold for outstanding
Arms Membership
Dinners. Bowlerman
Bernie unveiled his
latest breakdance moves.

The photos of this extraordinary evening are on the TBT web. The Couples Club held its annual Chanukah party on December 14th at Rosemary's Restaurant. We can only say that those who missed this extraordinary gala missed the party of the year. We feasted on exotic fare and participated in the evening gala, in which our outstanding Couples Club Players performed world class skits. In the interest of being modest we will not list this year's grab bag prizes.

This year over thirty Couples Club members danced and ate into the wee hours at our unscheduled New Year's Eve outing. Thanks to exhaustive research we were able to track time curves including the violation of Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, cracking of quantum cryptography and the perfect cloning of quantum states to ascertain the time and place of this grandiose party.

Bowling Buzz is reaching Cosmological Proportions in which the excitement is being reflected between the many 'parallel' everyday cosmos heralding our universally esteemed Bowling Tournament on Sunday, January 11th. The superstars are in practice 8/28, and each assures us of a dominant victory. This year the use of Quantum Entanglement is prohibited. Steve (Lord Bubble) Block has arranged a Seventy-Six Trombone Parade of Heroes, and a lavish victory feast following the tournament. Details are available on the TBT Scroll and Website: see Couples Club Flyer.

Couples Club membership is open to any couples, married or not. Our exciting Couples Club functions welcome all congregants, whether singles or couples, and many singles participate in our activities. Why not come down to our next event and join in the fun?

The planned events for this year include: January 11th Bowling Tournament, "Matzoh Ball" Temple Dance, Temple Square Dance, Games Night, Theater & Dinner Evening, High Line and Chelsea Market (NYC visit). Other events are in the works.

The casting for the full-length feature film "Couples Club: The Movie" is continuing. We have accepted requests from Paul McCartney, Billy Joel, and Neil Diamond to compose the score for this blockbuster. To date they have completed the title track "Couples Club: The Alpha Arm" based on the lyrics from "Chariots of Fire". Rob (The

Editor) Saunders has been signed on as a script consultant and Clint Eastwood and Susan Sarandon will play Ira and Yolanda Friedman, "The Doyenne of Decorum".

Couples Club's monthly word of wisdom: The fool who knows he is a fool is for that very reason wise. The fool who thinks himself wise is the greatest fool of all.

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CHAI NOTES



Best wishes for a happy and good New Year. Although we had the opportunity to wish everyone a "Shanah Tova" in September, it is always good to have the opportunity to send good wishes to all our friends again. December is usually a hectic month, so now we can follow a quieter schedule. I did love celebrating Hanukah with Chai Club, with our Temple programs, Bingo Friends, and

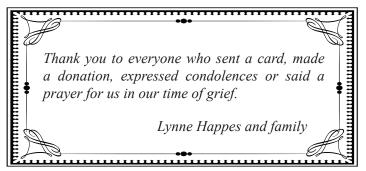
my family. Even the Temple Membership Committee got in the act and sponsored a Sunday morning Hanukah breakfast -- thank you, you are the greatest.

We begin the month with Chai Club General meeting (all temple members invited) on Monday, January 5th at 1:30pm, featuring guest speaker Susan Weiner. She is a registered dietitian & nutritionist, and was named the "2015 American Association Diabetic Educator of the Year". We are very lucky to have her as a speaker, thanks to our program chair Esther Phillips. So come on down. Also in January, on Saturday the 24th, is the 5-Arm Square Dance. Make your reservation for a fun evening.

The next few months feature some very interesting programs. Our member Martha Kolodkin will be our guest speaker at the Chai Club General, February 2nd, again at 1:30 in the afternoon. Her topic will be "How It Came About". For example, how did the ice cream cone come about? Guess what dessert we will have? There is another Triple Bingo Game, February 15th, at which so many of you will help out -- thank you so much. Watch your TBT Scroll, TBTTimes, etc., for the 'Adventures –In-Music' four part series with Cantor Sher, beginning March 30th. Also in March is the Chai Trip to see 1776 in Elmont on Sunday the 22nd, at 2PM. Make sure you order your tickets from Pearl, 781-7610, as they are going quickly. Saturday evening, March 28th will be the temple dinner dance. So plan ahead, mark your calendars.

When you come to Temple bring a kosher food item, other food items and/or supplies for our troops. Have a good month, stay warm, hug each other.

> Rita Hofer, Chai Club President





Brotherhood announces a not-to-be-missed evening of fun and food



Tuesday, January 13th

A "Hot Stove League" discussion



with Adam Rubin **Mets Beat Writer for ESPN**

Plus a dinner that features: "Mark's Meatloaf"

Will 2015 be the year of the Mets?

Bring your questions.

Wear your best **Mets Colors!** You are invited -- RSVP by January 9th Details in flyer on page 15









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OUR COMMUNITY

BLOG FROM ISRAEL

For those of you who follow news from Israel, I recommend subscribing to Ha'aretz online in English. One of my favorite op-ed writers is award-winning Sayed Kashua, who also writes novels, movies, and the screenplay for a popular satirical sitcom TV show "Avoda Aravit" (Arab Labor). Born in 1975 in Tira, Israel to parents of Palestinian descent he, as a teenager, studied at the Israel Arts and Science Academy, then at the Hebrew University. He and his family lived in a Jewish neighborhood until he accepted a position as a visiting scholar for this academic year at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in their Israel Studies program. He had other teaching positions in the Chicago area, including the University of Chicago. He writes in a humorous, tongue-in-cheek style, about problems faced by Arabs in Israel, including the racism and ignorance displayed by Arabs and Jews towards one another.

Having the opportunity to "get away" from the difficulties in Israel seemed like a luxurious opportunity, but it seems to have backfired. He, like many of us, can't ignore what is happening in Israel, can't become indifferent. I think that sometimes it is easier to be in Israel, in the thick of things, because we can see close up the good things that are happening, often at the grass-roots level. In November, before reading his most recent column, I had the good fortune to be introduced, via Skype, to the dean of Auburn Theological Seminary in New York through a

activities at the ADL. We talked about programs involving women fighting for peace in Northern Ireland and Liberia, and expressed the desire to do something in Israel around the concept of "loving tables" of dialogue and friendship between Arab and Jewish women in Israel.

close friend, Rabbi David Sandmel, director for inter-faith

Friday, November 21st, I attended a gathering at the home of the American Ambassador to Israel, Dan Shapiro, and his wife Julie Fisher. They invited about one hundred women to hear Professor Paula Rayman from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. She spoke about women building "Positive Peace", and the need for confidence that things can get better. Amazingly, many of the women had never heard of the projects and activities of the other attendees, and there was a frenetic exchange of business cards. It was an empowering morning, generating hope that things can be done to change the face of Israeli society, to work towards a healthier, more value-oriented society for all.

I thought to myself after reading Kashua's column that it's too bad that he and countless others in Israel aren't exposed to such important projects. There is light at the end of the tunnel!

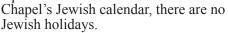
Rabbi Miri Gold

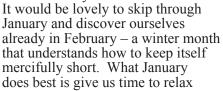
Rabbi Miri Gold, of Kehilat Birkat Shalom at Kibbutz Gezer, invites you to visit next time you are in Israel.

FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

With all respect to T.S. Eliot, it is January that might be the cruelest month. January is dark, it is cold, it is bleak, it holds the mental image of shoveling snow, and January is just too L-O-N-G.

Plus this year, with a quick check of the Memorial





and reflect. And isn't January everyone's month for resolutions?

Make this the year we resolve to do "one more"! Why not attend "one more service"? Or make "one more donation"? Or participate in "one more adult-ed class"? Or accomplish "one more act of tzekakah. Maybe volunteer for "just one more hour". Let's use 2015 to bring us "one step closer" to all TBT has to offer.

Mark Chester, TBT Editor



TBT Membership Committee and Rabbi Bellows invite you to our first

"How to.....Workshop"

Workshop topic: How To Do Shabbat I

Tuesday, January 6, 2015 5-5:45 PM

In the Kiddish Lounge

Future programs to include:

February 3 - Shabbat II March 3 - Purim March 24 - Passover

SPECIAL GIFTS

SPECIAL FUNDS AND DONATIONS

Temple B'nai Torah follows a long and rich heritage of Tzedakah, consistent with our Jewish tradition. Such giving often recognizes a birth, birthday, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, wedding, anniversary, or death. Your generosity, large and small, continues to provide for Temple B'nai Torah by sustaining programs for its members. A beautifully inscribed card is sent acknowledging and commemorating your gift.

Please mail this form to the Temple, together with your check payable to Temple B'nai Torah.

This will ensure that your donation is acknowledged in a timely fashion.

Enclosed is my gift of:	\$10	_\$18	_\$36 _	\$54	_\$100	Other \$	
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For either the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund or Cantor's Discretionary Fund, please make your check payable to the fund; for all other fund donations, please make your check payable to TEMPLE B'NAI TORAH.

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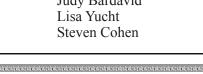
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Esther Sackstein Siegel from Richard & Ilene Roth

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Cantor Sher's support & encouragement from Vicki Goldberger

Cantor Sher's officiating at the funeral of Loretta Post from Susan & Michael Bruno

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Loretta Post from TBT Sisterhood Board
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Rabbi Bellows & Cantor Sher naming our granddaughter Evy Rose from Janis & Jim Beldner

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Sally Leonard from Shelley & Barry Lomove **Loretta Post** from Ellie Dayton

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Saul Lewanda from TBT Sisterhood Board **Saul Lewanda** from Ellie Dayton

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from Jay & Alexandra Paul

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from Rina Perez

The TBT Junior Players presented "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown"



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Nathan Feierstein from Pearl Sutz
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William S. Keyser from Sarita Keyser
Louis Krelenstein from Sarita Keyser
Nieves S. Krelenstein from Sarita Keyser
Rabbi Moshe Krelenstein from Sarita Keyser
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Thomas Roemlein from Sarita Keyser
Ralph Sam Abofsky from Janis Beldner
Frieda Rebitch from Dorothy Duckstein
Emily Wagner from Karen O'Donovan
Sandra Maltz Saccio

from Barbara & Russ Carpenter
Hyman Gelburd from Bob Gelburd
Charlotte Berlow from Rita Hofer
Rose Nochlin from Sharon & Arthur Schindler
Harry Nochlin from Sharon & Arthur Schindler
Bluma Weisberg from Sharon & Arthur Schindler
Jennie Zinder from Newton & Clarice Zinder
Paul Zinder from Newton & Clarice Zinder

Jean Wilson from Su Bruno
David Friedman from Su Bruno
Murray Fishman

from Charles & Ellen Fishman

Seymour Altman from Esta Regent

Rita D. Goldstein

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from Lori & Jarrett Freeman

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Ida Schwartzberg from Barry Worgan
Paul Kussoy from Doris Kussoy
Lisa Pitzer from Doris Kussoy
Julius Joseph from Elaine Becker
Linda Jan Gordon from Mildred Gordon
Harry Chinowsky from Iris Kelmenson
Samuel Wagner

from Roberta & Emil Salomon

Burt Reiss from Roberta & Emil Salomon

Hani Feldman from Jules & Toby Weissman

Hani Feldman from Jules & Toby Weissman Bertha Golden from Audrey Golden Boris Aronow from Edith Naps Sally Drucker from Rita & Harvey Drucker Bert Gruber from Sandy & Len Honig Jean Feldman

from Herb & Hannah Feldman Sidney Rosch from Janet Krasner Sadye Weidler from Saul Weidler Russell G. Carpenter

from Barbara & Russ Carpenter **Rebecca Sactor** from Lisa Evans **Regina Gashel** from Ruth Hochberg

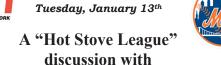
YISKOR ELOHIM:

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-- TBT Brotherhood Dinner--



a not-to-be-missed evening of fun and food $Tuesday, January 13^{th}$





Adam Rubin, Mets Beat Writer for ESPN

Tets beat Wilter for Estiv



Plus a dinner that features:

<u>Mark's Meatloaf</u>
The Return of a Brotherhood Classic'

Details:

Cocktail Hour and Appetizers @ 7pm Family Style Dinner about Seven-thirty Presentation with Adam Rubin to follow



Wear your best **Mets Colors!**

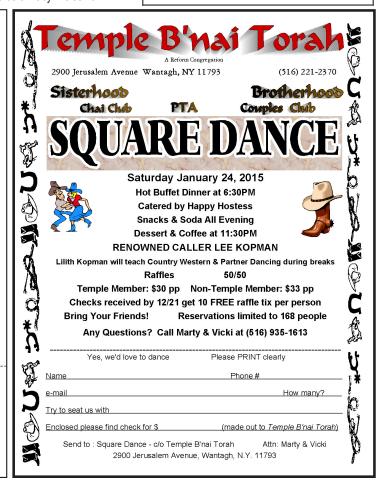
<u>Don't end up Loaf-less!</u> You are asked for the consideration of a timely RSVF RSVP due date is Friday, January 9th



Count me in!	Count me	in!
--------------	----------	-----

Name(s):

(Need to know more? Ask at 783-9607 or Emchest2@aol.com)





	1				1	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday 1 New Year's Day No Bingo - holiday Building Closed - New Year's Day	Friday 2 • 7:30pm Family Service	Saturday 3 • 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (K/L)
No Religious School Building Closed 10:00-12:00noon Couples Club Bd. Mtg (Away)	5 • 12:00pm Torah Study (K/L) • 1:30pm Chai Club Gen'l Mtg (S/H) • 5:30-6:30pm BNTY Jr. (Y/L) • 7:00-8:30pm Religious School • 6:30-7:00pm Teen Choir (Rm. 201) • 7:00pm Housing Mtg (K/L) • 7:30-9:30pm Adult Choir (Rm. 201) • 8:30-10:00pm BNTY Sr. (Y/L)	6 • 10:00am Al Anon (K/L) • 4:30-6:00pm Religious School • 5:00-5:45pm How- To-Do Shabbat I (K/L) • 6:45pm Sisterhood Exec. Mtg (101/103) • 7:00pm Brotherhood Exec. Mtg (104) • 7:30pm Sisterhood Board Mtg (101/103) • 8:00pm Brotherhood Board Mtg (K/L)	7 • 10:30am Bingo • 7:00pm "5-Arm" Square Dance Meeting (Away)	8 • 6:00-7:30pm Cub Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30-9:00pm Boy Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30pm Bingo	9 • 5:30pm Tot Shabbat Service • 8:00pm Erev Shabbat Service • NFTY Winter Kallah (Away)	• 8:15am B/M photos • Miller family (Sanc.) • 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (K/L) • 10:30am Service (1) B/M Miller • 12:00pm-5:00pm B/M Luncheon Miller Family (S/H) • NFTY Winter Kallah (Away)
• 9:00am Rel. School • 9:00-11:30am Rel. SchDance Class (K/L) • 9:15am Brother- hood Breakfast (S/H) • 9:30am-noon Book Club (Library) • 10:00-11:00am Membership Mtg-S/H • 11:30-noon Youth Choir (Rm 201) • 11:45pm PTA Mtg (Library) • 1:00pm Jewish Experience on Film (K/L) • 2:00pm Couples Club Bowling (Away) • NFTY Winter Kallah	Study (K/L) • 5:30-6:30pm BNTY Jr. (Y/L) • 6:30-7:00pm Teen Choir (Rm. 201) • 7:00pm Jewish War Veterans Mtg (S/H) • 7:00-8:30pm Religious School • 7:00pm Sisterhood Program (K/L) • 7:30-9:30pm Adult Choir (Rm. 201) • 8:30-10:00pm BNTY Sr. (Y/L)	13 • 10:00am Al Anon (K/L) • 4:30-6:00pm Religious School • 7:00pm Brotherhood Dinner (S/H) • 7:30-9:00pm Religious Ed Mtg (104) • 7:30pm Ritual Com. Mtg (K/L)	14 • 10:30am Bingo	15 • 6:00-7:30pm Cub Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30-9:00pm Boy Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30pm Bingo	16 • 3:00pm B/M Rehearsal (Sanc.) • 6:00pm Pre-Neg • 6:30pm Kabbalat Service	• 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (K/L) • 10:30am Shabbat Service
18 • No Religious School • Building Closed • 4:00pm MLK, Jr. Interfaith Com. Svc @First Presbyterian of Levittown	19 Martin Luther King, Jr. • Building Closed	• 10:00am Al Anon (K/L) • 4:30-6:00pm Religious School • 7:00pm Rosh Chodesh (K/L) • 7:30pm Budget Meeting (Rm. 104)	21 • 10:30am Bingo	22 • 6:00-7:30pm Cub Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30-9:00pm Boy Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30pm Bingo	• 3:00pm B/M Rehearsal (Sanc.) • 8:00pm Erev Shabbat Service (S/H)	• 9:00-11:30am R.S. Bonim Fam. Shabbat- Grade 5 (Y/L) • 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (K/L) • 10:30am Service (1) B/M Paul • 2:00pm Square Dance Set-up (S/H) • 6:30pm Temple Square Dance (S/H)
• 9:00am Religious School • 9:15am Brotherhood Breakfast (S/H) • 11:30-noon Youth Choir (Rm 201) • 1:00-3:00pm Adult Confirmation Class (K/L) • 7:00pm Sisterhood Comedy Club Event (Away)	26 • 10:00am Chai Club Board Mtg (K/L) • 12:00pm Torah Study (K/L) • 1:15pm Womens Meadowbrook (K/L) • 5:30pm BNTY Jr. Y/L • 6:30-7:00pm Teen Choir (Rm. 201) • 7:00-8:30pm Religious School • 7:00-8:30pm 7th Gr Holocaust Prog Sanc • 7:00pm Fundraising Mtg (Classroom) • 7:30-9:30pm Adult Choir (Rm. 201) • 8:30-10:00pm BNTY Sr. (Y/L)	27 • 10:00am Al Anon (K/L) • 4:30-6:00pm Religious School • 6:45pm Exec. Board Mtg (Rm. 104) • 8:00pm Board Meeting (K/L)	28 • 10:30am Bingo	29 • 6:00-7:30pm Cub Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30-9:00pm Boy Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30pm Bingo	30 • 3:00pm B/M Rehearsal (Sanc.) • 6:30pm Indoor Picnic Dinner (S/H) • 8:00pm Erev Shabbat Service (S/H)	31 • 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (K/L) • 10:30am Service (1) B/M Perez • 7:00-11:00pm South Shore Adult Learning Kallah (Away)

SAVE THE DATE



SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2015

BROKERAGE COMEDY CLUB 7:00 - 10:00 P.M.

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The following is a list of the boys and girls who will be celebrating their Bar/Bat Mitvah January 1, 2015 through March 28, 2015. Circle the names of those to whom you would like to send congratulations, and PRINT your name as you want it to appear on the Uniongrams. Please return the list promptly with \$1.25 for each Uniongram made payable to

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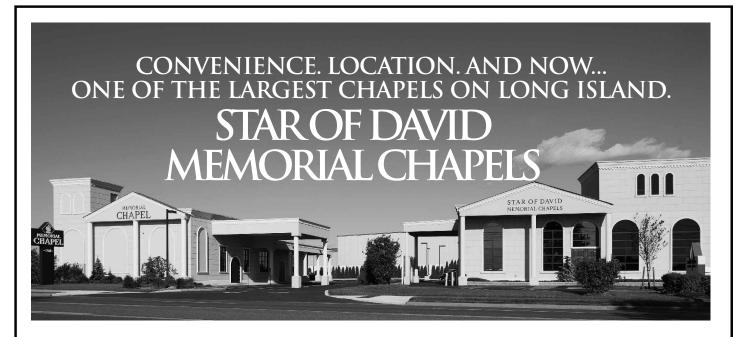
<u>DATE</u>	CHILD'S NAME	<u>PARENTS</u>
Jan. 10	Jenna Miller	Michael & Ellen
Jan. 24	Gregory Paul	Jay & Alexandra
Jan. 31	Matthew Perez	Rina
Feb. 7	Nathan Rosen	Daniel & Samantha
	Max Feldman	Steven & Helene
Feb. 21	Brian Friedlander	Joe & Lori
	Joshua Handley	Rich & Jill
Feb. 28	Rachel Pontillo	Joseph & Gayle
	Arinn Schnall	Marc & Helaine
Mar. 7	Michael Liebow	Ernest & Julie
Mar. 14	Juliana Gross	Jon & Maryann
Mar. 21	Benjamin Bach	Steven & Susan
	Justin Froese	Michael & Cara
Mar. 28	Jordan Berke	Adam & Alyse
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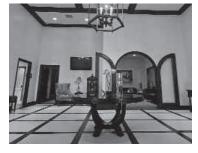


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Mission Statement

Temple B'nai Torah's mission is to embody, enhance and perpetuate Jewish tradition by providing a welcoming spiritual home where the community gathers to worship God, study Torah, engage in acts of Tikun Olam (repairing the world), participate in Jewish rituals and life cycle events, and experience the joy of being part of a caring community.



Dated Material - Please Rush!



While Singing The Song "This Was Very Good" Our Youth Choir Showed It In Their Actions. The Whole Service Was Very 'Up'.

A Big Hug To All!

Nominations Are Open

Do you know someone who should help direct the future of Temple B'nai Torah? Could that person be YOU?

All officer positions are open, in addition to a number of vacancies as trustee to serve on the Temple Board. Elections will be in the spring. TBT needs their leadership, and yours!

Get in touch with the Nominations Committee by email to Emchest2@aol.com. Please put 'Nominations' in the subject line.

Questions? Call Mark @516/783-9607