April 2014
Vol. 6 No. 8

B'uai Torah

ES

A BREATH, BREEZE, AND SPIRIT OF THE TIMES



ZISSEN PESACH

B'NAI MITZVAH





April 5 Brian Blauman

Richard & Carolyn

My name is Brian Blauman. I have been working very hard to prepare for my bar mitzah. I am very excited for the day to come. I have one sibling my little sister, Rachel. Some of my interests are ski racing and bowling. I have been involved with both of these sports for many years. I also enjoy simulator racing on my PS-3 as well as playing Minecraft on the PC.



April 5 Hannah Kussman

Michael & Glenda

My name is Hannah Kussman, and I am a 7th grader attending Plainedge Middle School. I have many interests. I love to sing and act. I've been performing with the TBT Jr Players since second grade and now with the PMS Drama Club. I love to read, draw and paint. In addition, I have a Red/Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do. For my mitzvah project I am helping people with cleft lips/palates through Operation Smile, Smile Train and The Hagedorn Cleft Palate and Craniofacial Center in Manhasset. Besides my family, I would like to thank Rabbi Bellows, Cantor Sher, and Mrs. Altman who have helped me prepare for this special day.



April 12 Joseph El-Amrani

Michele Samuels

My name is Joseph El-Amrani. I go to Grand Ave Middle School in Bellmore. I like to play soccer, basketball and video games. I also play the violin and enjoy acting. I have been part of three TBT Junior Players productions as well as played Grandpa Joe in Willy Wonka. Most of my closest friends are people I have met at TBT through Hebrew School and the plays. I am glad to be having my Bar Mitzvah here.



April 12 Ethan Silver

Rahni and Russell Silver

My name is Ethan Silver. I am a seventh grader at Grand Avenue Middle School. I love sports and I play on a travel soccer team, as well as for my school. In my free time I like to surf and snowboard with friends, and photography and making videos as well. For my bar mitzvah project I have been collecting used books for The Book Fairies charity. I would like to thank my mom, dad and two sisters along with Cantor Hiesiger, Rabbi Bellows and Cantor Sher for all their help in preparing me for my bar mitzvah.



April 26 Sydney Mason

Timothy & Shari

My name is Sydney Mason and I go to Grand Avenue Middle School. I enjoy hanging out with my friends, drawing and painting. Most importantly, my love is figure skating and I am a competitive figure skater. That is why I decided to host a Skate-a-Thon to raise money for Mitochondrial Disease as my mitzvah project. It is a cause that is near and dear to me. Hopefully, with the money that was donated, a cure can be found soon. I am thankful to everyone who helped me to become a Bat Mitzvah including Rabbi Bellows, Cantor Sher, and Mrs. Altman.



April 26 Lindsey Pollack

Gregg & Melissa

My name is Lindsey Pollack and I go to Grand Avenue Middle School. My favorite activities are shopping, reading, playing guitar and playing volleyball. I've been attending religious school at Temple B'nai Torah since kindergarten. This year I've really enjoyed preparing to lead the service and become a bat mitzvah. My mitzvah project was raising money to fight breast cancer through the American Cancer Society. I participated in the walka-thon at Jones Beach in October and raised over \$2,000. I would like to thank my parents, Rabbi Bellows, Cantor Sher, and Mrs. Altman for preparing me for my special day.



APRIL RITUAL CALENDAR

Friday, April 4	7:30 pm	Family Shabbat – Grade 4/5 Service
Saturday, April 5	10:30am	Service (2) B/M
Friday, April 11	8:00 pm	Joyce Berger Interfaith Shabbat
Saturday, April 12	8:00pm	Service (2) B/M
Tuesday, April 15	10:30am	First Day Pesach Morning Service
Friday, April 18	6:30pm	Kabbalat Shabbat – Brotherhood Service
Sunday, April 20	7:30pm	7th Night Passover Service w/Yizkor
Tuesday, April 22	7:30pm	Ritual Meeting (away)
Friday, April 25	8:00pm	Shabbat
Saturday, April 26	10:30am	Service (2) B/M
Saturday, April 26	7:00pm	Yom HaShoah Service (away)

From the TEMPLE B'NAI TORAH BOARD MEETING MINUTES January 28, 2013 at 8:00pm

Meeting called to order by President Sherrill Spatz at 8:00pm

Secretary's Report – Correction to last month's minutes: Bathrooms will be completed in 3 months, not all projects.

Unfinished Business – Rita Hofer reminded everyone that food certificates are a big fundraiser. Everyone please purchase them.

New Business – Discussion of the role of the ushers in the service. Idea for a sign which will be addressed in ritual committee. Kallah is coming up. We have 134 teens coming, and 18 host families.

Cantor Sher's Report –. Thank you to all who worked on the committee for this weekend. Also thank you to Emily Besthoff who has been working hard on the Kallah and to everyone who has participated. Thank you to Jeanine and Michael Burg for their generosity and to Ed Kliegman and the Kliegman fund for underwriting the weekend fees and expenses. Also noted and recommended Ed Kliegman's latest book.

Treasurer's Report – Beth Cohen –There was only one question on financials this month. Craig Field and Ed Kliegman worked on the financials with Beth

Temple Administrator Report – Sue-Ellen Pennington – Please submit calendar dates ASAP even if it is only a partial listing. Please get up to date with your account and if you have not made a Kol Nidre pledge please do so.

Financial Secretary Report –Sue Ellen Pennington reports: \$770,000 billed. Collected \$482,000. We have 519 members, 83 of whom are on special arrangement. We have 48 associate members, and 43 new members since July 1, 18 of whom were married by the Rabbi or the Cantor.

Investments Report – Committee came together very nicely. 5 money managers were interviewed. We plan to work with RBC wealth management. Going forward we will review the statements, evaluate performance, and evaluate how their service is working for us on a quarterly basis.

Motion made by Howard Popeck: "Resolved that the Board of Directors authorizes the Chair of the Investment Committee, the President of the Board, and the Executive Vice-President of the Board to open investment accounts with RBC Wealth Management, authorize investment discretion, and direct specific transactions on behalf of the Board and as directed by the Board pertaining to the assets under the authority of the Board for the Temple. Account opening, delegation of discretion, and withdrawal of funds requires two of the above signatures. Any specific directions for any change to this account require at least two signatures." Passed unanimously.

President's Report – Sherrill Spatz – Thank you to the Cantor for the last two months. You have exceeded all expectations.

Vice-Presidents' Reports: Rob Saunders: There will be a preliminary presentation of the budget at next month's meeting. Regular meeting next month will start at 7:00. We will go into closed session around 8:00. Thank you to Howard Lev and Wendy Ser for the Dan Nichols publicity.

Howard Popeck/Spirituality: Thank you to the Cantor for extraordinary help. Thank you also to Jan Friedman, Janee Lowenstein, Emily Altman, and other lay leaders for their help over the past 2 months

Good and Welfare - Cantor Sher participated in an MLK service which was wonderful.

Move to Adjourn - Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted: Sharon Curry

Misheberach List Update

At Friday night services, we hear names announced of our friends, relatives or fellow congregants as part of our Misheberach prayer, a prayer asking for healing of our loved ones.

The names on the list are submitted by our congregants, but in order to keep this list current, we need your help. Please let the temple office know when the person for whom you requested a prayer has recovered or, unfortunately, has passed away. Many on the list are undergoing surgery, are chronically ill, or are ill for a short period of time. TBT, as a caring community, wants to be kept informed of the health status of the people on the list, but we also would like to keep the list as current as possible.

Please contact Rabbi Bellows or the temple office, so that we can make adjustments to our list, as necessary. We thank you for your cooperation.

INSPIRATION FROM OUR RABBI

My Own Mitzvah Project, Part 1



Shalom, Chaverim – Hello, friends, Each and every one of our Bar and Bat Mitzvah students are required to take part in a "Mitzvah Project." This idea stems from the text from Pirkei Avot that, "The world stands on three things: Torah, worship, and acts of loving-kindness." The Torah and worship parts are clearly evident in the B'nai Mitzvah process, and asking the students to create a

mitzvah project allows them to add the third element to their experience. Some children prepare a concert on their favorite instrument to play at a local nursing home. Some collect sports equipment from friends and teammates to donate to teams who cannot afford their own equipment. Some volunteer at our area's animal shelters to raise awareness of the needs of abandoned and adoptable cats or dogs. Each student inspires us with his/her dedication to making the world a better place.

Well, it is time that I not just talk the talk, but that I also walk the walk. It is time that I participate in my own mitzvah project for something about which I care deeply. In December, hearts broke all over the world when we learned of the passing of one little, precious, 8-year-old boy. Just as Jewish tradition teaches us that, if we save one life, it is as if we've saved an entire world, we are also aware that losing one life forces us to lose the entire world that would have come from that special soul.

On Saturday morning, December 14, we lost "Superman" Sam Sommer. Sammy, the son of Rabbis Phyllis and Michael Sommer, who waged a brave and valiant fight against Acute Myeloid Leukemia for the past year and a half. His parents, both active on social media and both brilliant writers, shared the roller coaster events of his diagnosis, treatment, remission and then relapse, on a blog dedicated to the medical journey. Friends, family and people around the globe followed the story, offered prayers of hope, sent gifts to brighten the little boy's days and supported his loving family as they struggled to keep Sammy healthy.

And yet, despite everyone's hope, everyone's prayers, everyone's love.... Sammy died. We learned about his final moments from his mother:

The house filled up with family and loved ones. Sam slept quietly through it all.

Our kiddush wine was salty with tears.

The hour grew late... the house emptied out.

Around midnight, the last ones left. I took the first shift and sent Michael up to sleep.

I quietly sat down next to him and very, very, very softly sang his bedtime prayers.

Shelter us beneath thy wings... guard us from all harmful things.

He was always terribly impatient with me when I would cry during these prayers.

So I made sure not to cry.

Shema Yisrael Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad...

I whispered in his ear....I love you.

And then I settled down beside him on the couch, my hand on his back. Only a few minutes went by.

His breathing began to change. There were long pauses between the breaths. I caught myself holding my breath and the nurse and I exchanged a momentarily-frightened glance. We turned on the lights, we got Michael from upstairs.

We held our child close.

He took one final breath...

Sam was not alone for a single moment of his life.

He died peacefully and calmly and quietly at 12:33am.

He was not in fear or in pain.

And for that I am eternally grateful.

Those of us who are close to the Sommers, and who have loved and cared for Sammy, cried in our sense of loss, our anger, our confusion, and our sadness. How could this happen? How could God allow this sweet child to suffer so, or to die so young? We want to know where God was during our heartbreak, and why these terrible things happen to wonderful people.

I think that, in the end, we ask the wrong question. The question should not be, "Why did this happen to me?" but rather, "God, I hope you see my suffering and my pain. Can You help me?" Rabbi Harold Kushner, in his important book, When Bad Things Happen to Good People, discusses many of these challenges at length. He notes that we can turn to God to be strengthened and comforted. We don't need to turn to God to be judged or forgiven, or to be rewarded or punished. We can turn to God to help us get through and cope with our loss or crisis. The Bible, after all, repeatedly speaks of God as the special protector of the poor, the widow and the orphan, without raising the question of how it happened that they became poor, widowed or orphaned in the first place. Once we feel that God is with us, comforting us in our time of trouble, Rabbi Kushner implores us to ask an even more important question: "Now that this has happened, what do I do?

Well, amidst our heartbreak and hopelessness, dozens of rabbis all over the world have decided to do something. In an effort entitled "36 Rabbis Shave for the Brave," we have joined together with the St. Baldrick's organization to work towards the eradication of childhood cancers. We will all shave our heads on April 1, 2014, in an act of solidarity and in the hopes of raising awareness and raising funds. There are now more than 60 of us (at least 11 of whom are women) raising money to fight pediatric cancer. We hope that one day, no other little Sammys will die from this terrible disease. Our group began with an initial goal of \$180,000, and we have already reached it. Now, we hope to reach \$360,000 for this important cause.

(continued on pg 6)

INSPIRATION FROM OUR CANTOR



I'm delighted to announce and highlight the programs for this season's "Adventures in Music" guest lecture series. These four program events will prove to be the most varied, educational, dramatic and entertaining of this, the fifth season of this unique presentation of often exotic and unusual perspectives on the world of Jewish art, music and culture. Each

program occurs on Monday afternoon, from noon until 1PM, in the Kiddush Lounge, followed by a light lunch, prepared by volunteer members of the Chai Club, a wonderful arm of our congregation that has consistently supported this program, both personally and financially, since its inception in 2010.

For 2014, I will be featuring two presenters with whom I have previously worked, one in my former congregation and one who will reprise and expand upon his presentation at Temple B'nai Torah a few years ago. Three of our presenters are new to my series and new to my own experience and acquaintance. There are altogether six presenters, coming

from four different countries and cultures and representing a wide swath of musical genres, most of which have not been conventionally associated with the Jewish historical experience.

"Adventures in Music" begins on March 31st with a musical potpourri presented by Cantors Galit Dadoun Cohen and Guy Bonne. Cantor Cohen, from Israel and Cantor Bonne, from Great Britain, are two highly accomplished and gorgeously voiced colleagues who will present selections from the worlds of opera, Yiddish, Israeli, Hebrew and Ladino song, Broadway and the American Song Book. They are both engaging raconteurs, as well, and will delight you with their charm, wit and vocal gifts.

On April 7th, Mick Maloney, musicologist and Musical Director of the Irish Arts Center in Manhattan, will expand upon a previous presentation, with, "The Irish Jewish Connection Continues." Mick, having earned a PhD in ethnomusicology, is an Irish scholar, musician, cultural polymath and master of several instruments. Mick will regale us with great songs and tales of the Irish Jewish tradition. Dr. Maloney regularly performs all over the world, as a solo musician and with his own Irish folk ensemble.

Beejhy Barhany, the charismatic, charming and infectiously enthusiastic Director of Beta Israel of North America, the official organization of the Ethiopian Jewish community in America, will present a fascinating and rare glimpse at the "Life and Music of Ethiopian Jews in America," on April 28th. I brought her to my former congregation, where I produced this series for fifteen years. She was a great hit with everyone. Beejhy is a recognized scholar and authority on the history of Ethiopian Jewish music, its origins, development and expression. She will share with us examples of this unique, arcane and rare body of work from an equally unique and arcane tradition.

We conclude this spring's series on May 5th, as Joel Bainerman presents, "A Jewish Perspective of the Beatles." Joel is an investigative journalist, originally from Toronto, now living in, both, the United States and Israel, who has touched on many subjects, both provocative and controversial. His foray into the history and influence of the Beatles' music on Jewish life and culture represents a passionate exploration of these popular music icons and the sociology of their impact on Jewish life.

I greatly look forward to sharing these wonderful programs with you!

Cantor Steve Sher

Cantor Steven Sher

Presents

ADVENTURES IN MUSIC

Temple B'naí Torah

The series is made possible by the generosity of Ed Kliegman and the Kliegman Fund

March 31st, 2014 at 12:00 P.M.





Cantors Galit Dadoun Cohen and Guy Bonne: - A Jewish Music Potpourri." These two highly accomplished and gorgeously voiced colleagues will present selections from the worlds of opera, Yiddish, folk and art song, Israeli and Hebrew, Broadway and the American Song Book.

April 7th, 2014 at 12:00



Mick Maloney: The Irish Jewish Connection Continues - Mick is a cultural polymath, musician and brilliant raconteur, specializing in the ethnomusicology of Ireland. Playing several instruments, he will regale us with great songs and tales of Irish Jewish tradition."

April 28th, at 12:00



Beejhy Barhany: The Life and Music of Ethiopian Jews in America - Beejhy Barhany, the Director of Beta Israel of North America, the official organization of the Ethiopian community in America, among many achievements, is an authority on the history of Ethiopian Jewish music, its expression and development. She will share this unique and rare body of work in an equally unique and arcane tradition.

May 5th, at 12:00



Joel Bainerman: A Jewish Perspective of the Beatles - Originally from Toronto and having emigrated to and living in Israel since 1981, Joel is an investigative journalist who has touched on many and varied subjects of provocation and controversy. His foray into the history and influence of the Beatles on Jewish life, music and culture represents a passionate exploration of these popular music icons and the sociology of their impact on Jewish life.

ALL OF THE PROGRAMS START AT NOON. THE CHAI CLUB PROVIDES A LIGHT LUNCH. A FOUR DOLLAR (\$4.00) DONATION IS REQUESTED

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What is the ritual most observed by American Jews? If you guessed lighting Hanukkah candles, you are incorrect. Is it fasting on Yom Kippur? No it isn't. It is attending a Passover seder. The Passover seder has long been a strong tradition and has endured the test of time. It is filled



with ancient symbols as well as delicious food. For many it brings back warm memories of Jewish family gatherings. My childhood memories of Passover revolve around family, watching the "*Ten Commandments*" on television, a long, boring seder and a lot of matzah.

The seder has evolved over the years. Now you can find family seders, feminist seders, interfaith seders, vegetarian seders, and seders for "modern" families who may have two moms or two dads. At Temple B'nai Torah we also have a variety of Passover seders from which you can choose. The Temple sponsors a 'second night' seder which is led by Cantor Sher. It is coordinated by Brian and Joan Levy and Ed and Marilyn Pincus. Each year it attracts more and more of our community who wouldn't otherwise have somewhere to celebrate.

The Sisterhood has a Women's Seder, which started about 10 years ago with forty women attending, and has grown to well over one hundred. Many attend with generations of female family members. This seder is presided over by Rabbi Bellows. She makes it a very exciting and participatory event. Now the men of Brotherhood have gotten into the act and hold the Men's Passover Seder on the same evening, led by Cantor Sher. Our religious school even has a model seder for all of our students during school session. I would like to suggest that you try one of these very varied Passover seders and see what we have to offer at TBT.

We are commanded to teach the Passover story to our children. What better way to do this than to involve them and excite them? Even though the Passover seder is the most observed Jewish tradition in North America, many still try to recreate the seder they knew as children. If you can turn it into a participatory experience, it may become your children's favorite holiday of the year.

L'shalom, Sherrill Spatz Congregation President (continued from pg. 4)

My Own Mitzvah Project, Part 1

Sammy had big dreams, big goals and big hopes. He wanted to be famous, though this was certainly not the way anyone would have wanted it to happen. Let's allow his story to motivate us, to wake us up and to help us work towards a new day where no other children die of cancer.

If you would like to take part in this special event, please consider supporting me in my own mitzvah project. I will share stories and pictures from the Shave event next month, and you can come see how I look with my freshly shaved keppie.

You can donate to our event at http://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/mypage/661571/2014

L'shalom Rabbi Marci N. Bellows



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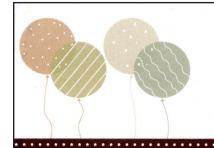
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BROTHERHOOD SPEAKS



Our February dinner featured debut dinner performance by Chuck Coene and his crew (Eric Altman, Ed Blecher, Mark Chasen, Brenden Curry, Arnie Minsky and Rich Tepper). Dinner had Mexican flavor and was a great new addition to Brotherhood's repertoire.

Brotherhood Breakfasts, on Sundays when school is in session, are still only \$4. Due to rising costs and participation, we have a new price for any person or group who would like to sponsor a breakfast (\$200 for all attendees.... a bargain for 50 or more attending)

April brings a Board Meeting on the 1st at 8pm. No April Fools! All Brotherhood members are welcome to attend.

April 18th is Shabbat Service featuring Brotherhood leaders and capably organized by Mark Chester.

Brotherhood's monthly dinner on April 8th, will be our Men's Seder, led by Cantor Sher, and organized by Alan Loewenstein and Josh Rest.....only \$18 for Brotherhood members, with pre-registration.

The Men's Seder is inspired by the resources of our parent organization, Men of Reform Judaism (MRJ). Our national organization encourages diversity, fellowship, interest in Jewish worship and studies, *tikkun olam* and service to our Congregation and community.

Our TBT Brotherhood is fortunate to have co-President Bruce Jaffe taking an active role at the regional level and long-term national leader, Dave Schuster, as a member of the National Executive Committee of MRJ.

Our Brotherhood leaders are involved in matters of interest to men.... locally, regionally and nationally.

But we're not satisfied until every male congregant is a member!

Join...participate...lead.

Harvey Wiener, Brotherhood co-President



BLOG FROM ISRAEL



Knowing the horrible weather you have experienced in New York, I can't complain too much about the weather in Israel, although it is worrisome that following the news-breaking headlines of snow in Jerusalem

in December, there has been quite a drought. Add to that the fact that the temperatures have been mild, and you find that everything is blossoming earlier than normal. It is exciting to see the cyclamen, the poppies, the redbud, and the wild mustard everywhere.

There is a more somber story behind the scenes. Hospitals are packed with patients sleeping in the hallways, sometimes waiting in the emergency room for eight hours. You may have read about the financial crisis at the Hadassah hospitals, but the government hospitals are experiencing their own woes. We know that it is possible to come home sicker than when the patient was admitted.

Even with all the legitimate complaints and gripes, we are fortunate to have a socialized medicine that gives decent care for every citizen. I carry a copy of Rabbi Joseph Telushkin's book A Code of Jewish Ethics, vol. 1, "You Shall Be Holy". Why is this? It is very easy to get angry, lose patience, and complain.

We were created in the image of God. We were not created saints. Rabbi Judah the Prince, the editor of the Mishnah, wrote a prayer asking God to help us follow our good impulses rather than "yetzer ha'ra" our bad instincts.

We have to work hard to remember that our challenge is to act in a godly fashion, and to see the human spark in those who challenge our patience and our good qualities.

It is always better to smile and say thank you than to frown and disapprove, even as we channel legitimate complaints in the hope of improving the system.

May we all be healthy in both body and soul!

Rabbi Miri Gold Spiritual Leader of Kehilat Birkat Shalom at Kibbutz Gezer





OUR TBT SISTERHOOD



Happy April! Hopefully lots of beautiful weather is on its way...we certainly deserve it.

In just a few days (April 8 @ 6:00 P.M.) is one of my favorite Sisterhood events of the year. This, of course, is the Women's Seder. Led by Rabbi Bellows and chaired by Joni Christie, it's a wonderful night of spirituality, music,

storytelling, dancing, and delicious food. To have about 100 multi-generational women sitting together reading from a Haggadah is so meaningful. If you've never attended this function in the past, you have missed something truly special.

At the end of the month (April 30 @ 7:00 P.M.) is a Sisterhood program called "Astrology 101: Understanding Yourself and Others." Presenter Judith Giannotti will discuss Earth, Air, Water, and Fire—the astrological signs—and explain the energy of the planets at the moment you were born. Responses for this evening are due by April 20. View the full flyer at our temple website.

Here's a heads up for the beginning of May. On Saturday, May 3 @ 7:00 P.M., is our Art Auction. It is being run by Marlin Art. There will be a variety of artists' work displayed. Andrea Rifkin is chairing this event for Sisterhood and reports that once again, we will receive a nice check for attendance of at least 100. We want much more so please look for the invitation/flyer and support this fundraiser. There's no pressure to buy anything and the \$5 admission will be worth it for the dessert assortment alone.

Also, don't forget about our next Rosh Chodesh program on Sunday, May 4 @ 1:00 P.M. It's the fourth of a series of five presentations by Rabbi Bellows about Jewish Women of the Bible.

I want to make mention of the Sisterhood Shabbat that took place on February 28. Simply said, it was a beautiful evening. Its theme was Jewish women composers. While four of the five artists featured have names familiar in the world of Jewish music, the very first song performed was written by our very own Ellen Solomon. A big thank-you goes out to Joni Christie, Patti Nacht, Debbie Schlesinger, and Barbara Morgenlender, as well as the all-female choir led by Cantor Sher. They, in addition to our readers, made this a truly memorable service.

Lots of good stuff going on in Sisterhood. If you're not a member, come on down to one of our activities and find out about what I objectively call the backbone of our temple (please don't fight me on this, or be gentle if you do).

Sincerely, Diane Schoenberg Sisterhood President

Temple B'nai Torah Sisterhood is now accepting orders for

PASSOVER ARRANGEMENTS



Name

Office Use:

Telephone ()





Flowers provided by Colonial Florist

Any questions, please call Ellie Dayton 516-785-0446 or <a href="mailto:emailt

Price includes delivery to: Bellmore, East Meadow, Levittown, Massapequa, Merrick, Seaford, and Wantagh. For deliveries to other areas, please call for pricing.

Send this stub with check payable to: Temple B'nai Torah c/o Ellie Dayton 2900 Jerusalem Ave. Wantagh, NY 11793

Deliver to. Name	Auul css	1 Holic
(If Gift) Name & Phone # of S	ender:	
Circle One: Medium \$40.00	Circle One: Vase	Circle One: Deliver – Monday, April 14
Large \$50.00	Basket	Deliver - Tuesday, April 15

Community Second Night of Passover Seder Sponsored by Chai Club of Temple B'nai Torah 2900 Jerusalem Avenue, Wantagh, NY 11793 (516) 221-2370

Bring your family and friends and enjoy a complete Passover Seder meal without the preparation

Led by Cantor Steven. Sher Tuesday, April 15th, 2014 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Cantor Sher will conduct the Seder and lead us in prayer and song. The Seder will be a full course traditional kosher style dinner, featuring many of your favorite dishes. Adults will receive a modern Haggadah to take home.

In order to make the Seder accessible to everyone, we will recite familiar passages and songs in both English and Hebrew. Families with children, singles, edderly, and unaffiliated members of our community are all welcome. All reservations, which are required, must be made no later than March 30th, 2014. We can't accommodate any walk-ins. Please call Brian Levy. (516) 781-4966 or e-mail bellobl@aol.com with any questions.

Mail the form and check, payable to CHAICLUB TBT, to Temple B nai-Torah c/o Chai Club, 2900 Jerusalem Avenue, Wantagh, NY 11793.

Reservations must be received by March 30th, 2014

I/We wish to be seated with:

First and last name of each person attending. For		Adult meals age 13		Child's meal ages		Children	
additional names please use the back of this form.	+		7-12		under 7		
	\$42.00 Members		Age appropriate		years old		
	\$50.00 Non-		meal.		no charge.		
	men	nbers			Member	s \$20.00	
	Chi	cken			Non-M	lembers	
	Veg	etarian			\$25	5.00	
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Subtotals	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#
C O JE L OW DDICE		•		•		•	

Total Amount

Total numbers of



COUPLES CLUB

Wantagh We Have A Problem



Just sit right back and you'll hear a tale, a tale of a fateful trip, that started from this Asian port aboard our majestic ship. The mate was a mighty sailin' man, the Skipper Harvey (The Lensman) Drucker, brave and sure. Three couples set sail that day for a three-hour

tour. A three-hour tour of the South China Sea. The mighty mate Fred, and his wife Shelly Spivack, Saul (The Professor) Weidler and Stephanie (The Movie Star) Neigeborn, Warren (The Millionaire) Kolinsky and his wife Freyda (Lovey). The sail was uneventful until they were caught up in Super Typhoon Haiyan. The weather started getting rough, the mighty ship was tossed. If not for the courage of the fearless crew, the ship would be lost. The ship would be lost. The ship set ground on the most unbelievable spot. The photos below document the final resting place of the Couples Club vessel. With little hope of recovering our property, we established the Couples Club International Monument that epitomizes the most daring, courageous, imaginative and idealistic aspirations of humanity. As our valuable ship had to be replaced, the Couples Club financial wizards have established a market in Couples' Coins, which have replaced Bitcoins as the preferred currency for cyber trading.





As usual, we showed up in force at the Temple Square Dance on March 22nd. On March 15th several members participated in the Purim Spiel, and on March 28th our annual Couples Club Service was in honor of Michael Frank. On April 5th we have our "dinner and show" evening. Details of this activity will be advertised in a timely manner.

May 12th to the 16th, we have seventeen rooms already booked for the Temple's Villa Roma outing. We are still taking reservations for this exciting getaway. A golf tournament is scheduled. Full details can be found on the Temple website. You have heard about Batman and Robin, The Green Lantern and Kato. Our superheroes Arthur (The Chairman) Schlesinger and his identical twin brother, "Not Arthur Schlesinger" are planning some amazing, not to be believed surprises for this outing.

These exciting Couples Club functions are open to all congregants, singles or couples, and many singles participate in our activities. Why not come down to our next event and join in the fun. Take advantage of this opportunity to get to know us and discover for yourself, the great spirit of the Couples Club. We would like to share this feeling with all TBT members.

If there is anything you would like to know about our group, please call us at (516) 798-5724 or email us at fdinstell@yahoo.com.

Couples Club monthly word of wisdom: Even if you're on the right track you'll get run over if you just sit there.

Fred Dinstell



Couples Game Nite

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CHAI NOTES



It's not too late to reserve your spot at Temple B'nai Torah's Annual Second Seder, 6:00 PM, Tuesday evening, April 15th. Join Cantor Sher as he leads us in a fun-filled evening filled with the four questions, four cups of wine (or grape juice), familiar songs,

rituals, and family memories as we retell the story of slavery, and sing the songs of freedom. Everyone will take home their own souvenir modern Haggadah. In order to make the seder accessible to everyone, we will recite familiar passages and songs in both English and Hebrew. Families with children, singles, elderly, and unaffiliated members of our community are all welcome. Our dinner will be kosher style and include gefilte fish, matzah ball soup, chicken, and many other traditional Passover favorites. Vegetarians will be accommodated. Reservations are required before April 8th with the cost for temple members age 13 and up \$42 and, \$20 for children age 7-12. Non-Member cost is \$50 for ages 13 and up and \$25, for children age 7-12. RSVP with flier mailed to your home or call Brian Levy, 516-781-4966 or email bellobl@aol.com with any questions.

Special thanks to Art and Debbie Schlesinger and Barbara Held for a delightful evening at our March program. The group sang several of the most popular oldies, rock and folk songs of the 50s, 60s and 70s. Thanks also to Pearl Sutz who organized a fantastic theatre trip to Broadhollow Theatre to see "Hello Dolly". Janis Beldner and Shelley Lomove are also to be congratulated for organizing a beautiful bus trip to the Jewish Museum in NYC.

We are continuing our partnership with Cantor Sher's Adventures In Music Series: All programs are at noon; Chai Club will provide a light lunch; A four dollar (\$4.00) couvert is requested to cover some of the cost.

April 7: Mick Malony: The Irish Jewish Connection Continues:

April 28: Beejhy Barhany: The Life and Music of Ethiopian Jews in America;

Joel Bainerman: A Jewish Perspective of the May 5:

Congratulations to the new Chai Club Board nominated for 2014-2015. Led by President Rita Hofer, we are sure to continue our tradition of love and support for our Temple. Best wishes also to our new Vice President, Sarita Keyser and new trustees Tessa Kean and Sol Goldstein.

We still have room for our retreat to the Villa Roma in the Catskills, Monday- Thursday, May 12-15, 2014. The Villa Roma includes all meals and a full schedule of activities.

Two and three night options as well as single supplements and triple occupancy rates are available. Please call us for further information, 781-4966.

Joan and Brian Levy, Chai Club Co-Presidents



Last month, we were entertained by the comedy of Elaine May and Mike Nichols as presented by Dr. Ira Epstein. We all had a hilarious time watching his audio video program.

T.B.T. Book Club Update from Tessa Kean

Where can you find fifteen to twenty people on a Sunday morning expressing their views on specific books? The TBT Library, of course! We meet every few months, discuss the current book, and learn together. Our Louise Erdrich. We extend a huge thank you to Martha Kolodkin who expertly led in a discussion that involved good vs. evil, the maturation of a 13 year old, the legal issues of Native Americans on their reservations, and more. Martha shared information on the Native Americans in our country and how their legal issues shaped the outcome of the story. Kindly e-mail our organizer, Marilynn Block, at mlynnb@optonline.net for information of our next meeting and title of the next book. All new members are welcome.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NEWS

Each year at my family's Passover seder, we always bring in an extra reading or discussion question. I remember when my grandmother was alive and I was a little girl, my grandmother would be so engaged in the discussion that I felt like we would never eat. We were instructed that the Haggadah is not to be recited



by rote. The story is to be told in a way that will make each of us feel as if we personally have come out of Egypt.

This year try enriching your seder. For families with young children, prepare props for the plagues. For those with school age children, have the children prepare a play about the Exodus or create a list of modern day plagues. For anyone who wants to nourish their mind and wants a little extra food for thought, here is some material that can be used for discussions at your seder.

There is only one woman mentioned in a traditional Haggadah. This is especially strange since there are five women that play important roles in the Bibical story. Shifra and Puah are midwives who defy Pharoah's order to kill all the Hebrew newborns. Yocheved, the mother of Moses, hides her child for three months until she sets her baby afloat in a basket on the Nile. Pharoah's daughter (a challenge at the seder to find out her name) rescues Moses. Of course, the fifth woman mentioned in the biblical story is Miriam, Moses's sister, who arranges to have Yocheved be his nurse. Given the prominence of women in the Exodus story, their absence from the Haggadah is amazing.

The absence of women in a traditional Haggadah is the exact opposite of men. There are over twenty men mentioned. How many of them can you name before the seder begins? See how many you notice during the seder itself. Another interesting fact about a traditional Haggadah is that Moses is mentioned only once. See if you can find the reference, and try to figure out why the central figure of the Bibical story is missing from the seder.

I have fond memories from my childhood celebrating Passover because at every seder we would have lively discussions and fun activities. Of course,

the meal of traditional foods is an important part of the seder, but a little food for thought to nourish the mind can be a nice addition.

> L'Shalom Elisa Blank Director of Education



Ebbie Kurian

East Islip, NewYork ebbie.k@peanutpix.com www.peanutpix.com 516.637.2561

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at Temple B'nai Torah



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Any questions? Contact Steve Block: (516) 541-6222 or email using subject "TBT Bridge Tournament" to steve_d_block@hotmail.cor

Name_			
Please :	seat me with	 -	

e-mail

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CONGREGANT CORNER

Melissa Coene

Melissa Coene is a very active member of the TBT family. As for her own family, Melissa is married to Charles and they have two children, son Bryan – age 14, and daughter Jordan -age 12. Melissa is a homemaker who likes being creative, writing poetry, being



"The best experience with both the Rabbi and Cantor was at my son's bar mitzvah. It was such a spiritual event. It was so nice to see the connection that Bryan had with them. They took him under his wing and encouraged him to be a grown up member of the congregation. To this day he still attends classes."

Melissa is an active member of the TBT PTA where she currently holds the position of Vice-President. Her husband is an active member of the Brotherhood. It is really great seeing them forge friendships with an amazing bunch of people.

"I have many feelings about the temple but the strongest one is a sense of family, a second home. The friends that I have made here are incredible. I can truly say that some of my closest friends are temple members. It is an amazing group of people that I am happy to have my family be part of."

Melissa would like to see more events geared towards families with post bar mitzvah children. "It would be wonderful for the children to want to continue to be active here "

Says Melissa, "I have had so many positive experiences here. Our wedding, my son's bar mitzvah and our daughter's upcoming bat mitzvah. Those are the big ones. But truthfully, each day's coming here and seeing my friends is a positive experience."

Being a member of TBT means everything to Melissa. It means a place of belonging, a place of leadership, a place of family, a place of friends, a place of true self and a place of home.

Melissa says, "Growing up in another temple I never had felt the connection with my religion or with the congregation. So I have to say I was a little skeptical about what I was going to get out of TBT especially since my husband converted and didn't know anything about the true meaning of Judaism. To my pleasant surprise we found a community in TBT with outstretched arms. A place where no matter what your upbringing, you are not only accepted but cherished."

by Jeff Cohen

FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

And On The Seventh Day.....

There Was No Going Back!

Ever wonder why Passover is seven days long? We know the Torah designates it as a one-day observance, on 15 Nisan. (That's Nisan the month – not Nissan the car.) Why not stop there? Why is there a connection lasting an entire week? Don't get me wrong – I love seven days of matzo brei, but why?

The key is that 21 Nisan must not be just any date. It hasn't been embraced as fully as it should be. After all, 21



Nisan is Mi Chamocah Day! It is the date Moses led the Israelites across the Sea of Reeds. (The topic of Reed Sea/ Red Sea is for another time.) It is the time of decision, there was no turning

back. This was it. There may be no clearer demonstration of trust in God, and faith in the future.

It is not nearly a coincidence the torah reading on the Seventh Day of Passover is highlighted by the Mi Chamocah chant. It is a true 'You Are There' moment!

A wish for a zissen Pesach from my family to yours.

Mark Chester, TBT Times Editor

Contribute to the Kosher Food Pantry

(Sponsored by the Chai Club of Temple B'nai Torah)

We are still collecting food that will go to **UJA Kosher Pantry.**



The Kosher Food Pantry assists families and individuals by providing nutritious nonperishable food packages. Please donate kosher dry and canned goods. Food must be marked K or U - Kosher, dairy, meat or parve. Cans should be small in size (not industrial).

Please take this opportunity to do a Mitzvah (good deed) and assist in the effort to aid our community. The Food Pantry operates year round.

We have done so nicely on this special Mitzvah project will continue to keep running it The food bin is currently inside the coatroom. It is on the left side when you walk in.

As we get closer to Passover, please consider donating canned and appropriate items Kosher for 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.

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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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On reaching my double 88's birthday

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Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Kussman

from Michael & Glenda Kussman

Bat Mitzvah of Sydney Mason

from Timothy & Shari Mason

Bat Mitzvah of Lindsey Pollack

from Gregg & Melissa Pollack

YISKOR ELOHIM:

Emily Wax, member

Steven Rosenthal, husband of Susan Rosenthal,

father of Jessica & Nicole

Philip Feingersh, father of Henry Feingersh

Gisela Wolk, mother of Elana Finkel

Marcia Katz, mother of Carolyn Dorhoffer

Joan Steinhart, mother of Judith Novet



Torah Study

Every Saturday - 9:30 am

Introduction to Pesach

Sunday, April - 6 1pm

ADVENTURES-IN-MUSIC

Mondays, April 7 and 28 - 12noon

TORAH STUDY SESSION WITH RABBI BELLOWS

Mondays, April 7 and 28 - 1:15pm





SPECIAL GIFTS



YAHRZEITS

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from Sandee & David Horowitz Betty Bergman from Sonia & Herb Match Philip Bergman from Sonia & Herb Match Irving Chait from Jeffry & Joanne Wengroff Robert Gordon from Mildred Gordon May Weidler from Saul Weidler Margaret Oberman

from Jane & Walter Oberman Clara Okon from The Okon Family Stanley Feldman

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from Zelda & Marvin Zuckerman Ann Stern from Robert Pepkin David Fromm from Alva Fromm Louis Price from Herb Price Sylvia Hulse from Herb Price Bernard Freeman

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from Don & Barbara Gouveia Siegfried Krieger from Lorie Schultz Minnie Sass from Helen Sass Murray Sass from Helen Sass

Rosalie Chaus from Arnold Chaus Ian Peckman from Arnold Chaus Nelson Lallathin from Diane Lewis Isadore Duckstein

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from Monica Wiener Reva Field from Craig Field Betty Schneider from Ellie Dayton **Abraham Moskowitz**

from Janice & Stanley Friedman Maurice Kirschner from Joel Kirschner **Dorothy Chautin from Carl Getzel Esther Madnick**

from Stephanie & Jay Jacobson Daniel Kelmenson from Iris Kelmenson **Shirley Fingerhood**

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Conde	Manday	Tuesday	\\\ada_aaaday	Thursday	Fuidou	Cotunday
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	RIL 14	1 • 9:00am Chai Club trip to Museum of Jewish Heritage (A) • 10:00am Al Anon • 3:30-8:00pm Tutor (Lib.) • 4:30pm Rel.School • 6:00-7:30pm BNTY Jr. (Y/L) • 6:30-9:00pm SAT Class (Rm. 208) • 6:45pm Sisterhood Exec. Bd Mtq (K/L) • 7:00-8:00pm Bro. Exec. Bd. Mtq (104) • 7:45pm Sisterhood Board Mtq (K/L) • 8:00-9:00pm Bro. Brd Mtg (S/H)	2 • 10:30am Bingo • 3:40pm-5:00pm Tutor	3 • 6:00pm Cub Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30pm Boy Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30pm Bingo	NFTY Spring Kallah (Away) 3:00pm B/M Rehearsal (Sanc.) 7:30pm Baby Naming - Jacoff Family 7:30pm Family Shabbat 4/5 Grade Svc	NFTY Spring Kallah (Away) 8:15-9:30am B/M photos Kussman (Sanc.) 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (K/L) 10:30am Service (2) B/M Blauman & Kussman
9:00am Rel School 9:15am Bro. Brkfast 10:00am Mmbrship Mtg (S/H) 10:00am Adult B/M Class (Rm. 211) 11:30-noon Youth Choir (Rm 201) 1:00pm Adult Ed- Intro to Pesach (K/L) 2:30-5:00pm Baby Naming lunch (K/L) Couples Club Board Mtg (Away) NFTY Spring Kallah (Away)	(K/L) • 1:15pm-Torah Study with Rabbi Bellows (Lib.) • 2:15pm Staff Mtg (Library) • 6:30-7:00pm Teen Choir (Rm 201) • 7:00pm JWV Meeting (S/H) • 7:00pm Rel. School • 7:30-9:30pm Adult	8 • 10:00am Al Anon (K/L) • 3:30-8:00pm Tutor (Lib.) • 4:30pm Religious School • 6:00pm Sisterhood Womens Seder (S/H) • 6:00-7:30pm BNTY Jr. (Y/L) • 6:30-9:00pm SAT Class (Rm. 208) • 7:00pm Bro. Mens Seder (K/L) • 7:30pm Religious Ed Mtg (104)	9 • 10:30am Bingo • 3:40pm-5:00pm Tutor • 7:30pm Ritual Meeting (Away)	10 • 6:00pm Cub Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30pm Boy Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30pm Bingo	11 • 11:30am Nursery Mini-Seder (K/L) • 3:00pm B/M Rehearsal (Sanc.) • 5:30pm Tot Shabbat • 8:00pm Joyce Berger Interfaith Shabbat	• 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (K/L) • 10:30am Service (2) B/M El-Amrani & Silver • 12:00pm-2:30pm Silver B/M luncheon (S/H) • 1:00-1:45pm Baby Naming RMB (Sanc.)
13 • Building Closed	14 Pesach No Nursery School Office Closes at 3:00pm	15 Pesach No Rel. School No Nursery School Office Closed 10:30am First Day Pesach Morning Svc 6:00pm Chai Club Second Seder (S/H)	16 Pesach No Rel. School No Nursery School No Bingo	17 Pesach No Nursery School No Bingo	18 Pesach • No Nursery School • 6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat-Brotherhood Svc	19 Pesach Building Closed 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (Away)
20 Pesach • No Rel. School - Spring Recess • 7:30pm 7th Night Pesaach Svc/Yizkor	21 Pesach No Nursery School No Rel. School Office Closed	22 No Rel. School No Nursery School G:30-9:00pm SAT Class (Rm. 208) T:00-9:30pm Cabaret Reh. (S/H)	23 • 10:30am Bingo 3:40pm-5:00pm Tutor • Nursery School Resumes	24 • 5:00pm B/M photos Mason/Pollack (Sanc.) • 6:00pm Cub Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30pm Boy Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30pm Bingo	25 • 3:00pm B/M Rehearsal (Sanc.) • 8:00pm Erev Shabbat	26 Yom Hashoah • 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (K/L) • 10:30am Service (2) B/M Mason & Pollack • 12:00-3:00pm B/M Luncheon Pollack/Mason Fam. (S/H)
27 Yom Hashoah • 9:00am Religious School • 9:15am Bro. Brkfast • 10:00am Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class (Rm. 211) • 10:00am-12:00pm Book Review (K/L) • 1:00-2:00pm Jewish Cooking Class (Kitchen) • 7:00pm Yom Hashoah Svc (Away)		29 • 10:00am Al Anon • 12:00-4:00pm Duplicate Bridge (S/H) • 3:30-8:00pm Tutor (Lib.) • 4:30pm Rel. School • 6:00-7:30pm BNTY Jr. (Y/L) • 6:30-9:00pm SAT Class (Rm. 208) • 6:45pm Exec. Bd. Mtg (104) • 7:00-9:30pm Cabaret Reh. (S/H) • 8:00pm Board Meeting (K/L)	30 • 10:30am Bingo • 3:40-5:00pm Tutor • 7:00pm Sisterhood Program Astrology 101 (K/L)			

1

OUR COMMUNITY

IN THE HOUSE...

What a busy time at TBT!

We thank Sisterhood for their generous donation toward the cost of our soon to be renovated Ladies' Room.

We give a big, belated thank you to the Couples Club for their generous donation to our new coffee urns. We are all grateful to our arms for their support of this project. The coffee is delicious!

Our Tree of Life Committee has been very busy looking at renderings and sharing their ideas for the creation of our updated Tree of Life. We could not have done this project without the professional work of Harvey Drucker, who spearheaded this committee. We are thankful of Harvey's diligence and attention to all aspects of this major project. Keep your eyes open this summer for the results of our efforts.

Harvey is also instrumental in the progress of the Memorial Board Project. He has spent hours for this most important project measuring, talking to vendors, researching, etc. We are looking forward to the fruition of all his labor.

New lighting fixtures for the Social Hall and Kiddish Lounge are on order. We will put more light on that subject in the future. Barry Lomove has been busily creating moulding to be placed in the Social Hall. Keep up the good work!

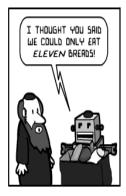
Just as you do in your home, we are constantly maintaining our building. If you have any ideas, please let us know. Our *next meeting is May 12 at 6:45. Please join us*.

by Tessa Kean

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UNIONGRAM ORDER FORM

The following is a list of the boys and girls who will be celebrating their Bar/Bat Mitzvah April, 2014 through June, 2014.

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.

DATE	CHILD'S NAME	PARENTS
Apr. 5	(M) Brian Blauman	Richard & Carolyn
	(F) Hannah Kussman	Michael & Glenda
Apr. 12	(M) Joseph El Amrani	Michele Samuels
	(M) Ethan Silver	Russell & Rahni
Apr. 26	(F) Sydney Mason	Timothy & Shari
	(F) Lindsey Pollack	Gregg & Melissa
May 3	(F) Emily Boden	Andrew & Stephanie
	(F) Erika Walsh	John & Alaina
May 10	(M) Matthew Jacobs	Brad & Janice
May 24	(M) Alex Gross	Ellen
	(F) Isabelle Gross	Ellen
May 31	(F) Jordan Coene	Charles & Melissa
	(F) Haley Kadin	Marsha
June 7	(M) Ian Cohen	Jeff & Beth
June 14	(F) Jaclyn Klein	David & Amy
	(M) Ryan Krauss	Jonathan & Amy
June 21	(M) Jordan Bologna	Heidi

Please return the list promptly with \$1.25 for each Uniongram made payable to

TEMPLE B'NAI TORAH SISTERHOOD

and send to Andrea Ferrara 11 The Plains Road, Levittown, NY 11756 516 520-6712

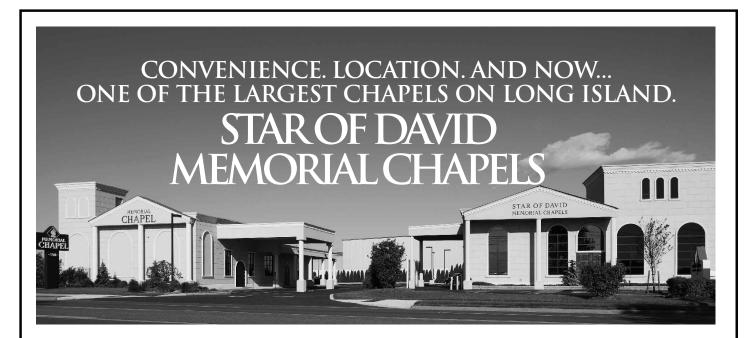
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Mission Statement

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!

Pack 189

The highlight of February was our annual Scouting for Food Drive with Troop 189, and it went great! Together, the Troop and Pack collected an enormous amount of food that we have spread out among food pantries covering the areas where our boys reside – from East Meadow to Massapequa. All the boys who participated felt enormous satisfaction in doing their part to help ease the cares of those in need. There is nothing like a good service project to help remind the boys of why we are here.

I promised to take a look at the advancement work by our boys this year. The work is never burdensome, and is generally enjoyable. "Fun with a purpose" is the watchword for program design in Cub Scouting.

The Wolves have worked on developing their bodies with Feats of Skill and Keeping the Bodies Healthy. They have built citizenship skills, learning about our flag and how to display and care for it correctly. Finally, they have developed skills for themselves and at home, working with Tools, starting a Collection, and having some Family Fun. They will finish the year showing their Duty to God, learning about Safety and Cooking, and helping out around the home and the community.

The Bears have also worked on citizenship, learning about what makes America special, and have already worked on nature skills and respect for wildlife. They are ready to offer assistance in emergencies. They have further developed their cooking skills and have learned bicycle safety, more tool use, and how to safely use a pocketknife for whittling. They, too, will be showing their Duty to God and spend some more time developing family skills over the next few months.

Last come the Webelos. For anyone who has ever wondered where such a weird name came from, it is an abbreviation for WE'll BE LOyal Scouts. So far this year, the Webelos have gone camping with Troop 189, and some of the boys are becoming true outdoorsmen. They have also earned Activity Badges that bring skill in specific areas to a high level for 9 and 10 year olds. They have worked on Citizen, Fitness (eating right and staying healthy), Traveler (navigation and travel skills), Readyman (first aid), Geologist, Naturalist, and Forester. They are currently working on Scientist, and they expect to become Showmen this year, too.

As you can see, the boys have been learning a lot over the year. The best part is, they are having a lot of fun doing it. One of the hats I wear for the Pack is Webelos Den Leader. I came into a meeting one week expecting to complete a number of requirements, including leading a discussion on faith. The boys got so into the faith discussion, we got to nothing else that night. And you know what? I think it's great! When boys are sharing ideas and learning new skills and don't want to stop it is a wonderful time in my book.