December 2014
Vol. 7 No. 4

Brai Torah

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A BREATH, BREEZE, AND SPIRIT OF THE TIMES





B'NAI MITZVAH

Dec. 13 Matthew Moser

Gary & Jennifer Opas

Matthew Sol Moser is thirteen years old and attends Grand Ave. Middle School. He has an eighteen year old brother named John and a seven year old sister named Rose. His favorite course of study is science. Matthew has been in the Boy Scouts since he was in first grade and has earned many merit badges. He has played for the Grand Ave. Lacrosse Team and plans on playing with the team again this spring.

DECEMBER RITUAL CALENDAR

Friday, December 5	7:30pm	Family Service
Saturday, December 6	10:30am	Shabbat Service
Friday, December 12	5:30pm	Tot Shabbat Service
Friday, December 12	8:00pm	Shabbat Service Guest Speaker - Dr. Manisha Gupte
Saturday, December 13	10:30am	Shabbat Service — 1 BM
Tuesday, December 16	Sundown	First Candle Chanukah
Tuesday, December 16	7:30pm	Ritual Committee Meeting
Friday, December 19	6:30pm	Chanukah Kabbalat Shabbat
Saturday, December 20	10:30am	Shabbat Service
Wednesday, December 23	Sundown	Eighth Candle Chanukah
Friday, December 26	6:30pm	Kabbalat Shabbat
Friday, January 2	7:30pm	Family Service

Recite three blessings before kindling the Chanukah lights on the **first night** of Chanukah, Tuesday, December 16^{th} . On **every subsequent night** only the first two are recited.



Blessing over Candles

בַּרוּךְ אַתַּה יִיָ אֵלֹהֵינוּ מֵלֵךְ הַעוֹלָם

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam Blessed are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe

אַשֶׁר קַדְשַׁנוּ בִּמִצְוֹתַיוּ וִצְּוַנוּ

asher kidishanu b'mitz'votav v'tzivanu Who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us

לְהַרְלִּיק גַר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה: (אָמֵן)

l'had'lik neir shel Chanukah. (Amein) to light the lights of Chanukkah. (Amen)

Blessing for Chanukkah

בָּרוּדְ אַתָּה יִיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶדְ הָעוֹלָם

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam Blessed are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe

(אָמֵן) מָעַשָּׁה נָסִּים לַאֲבוֹתִינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בַּזְּמֵן הַזָּה:

she'asah nisim la'avoteinu bayamim haheim baziman hazeh. (Amein) Who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days at this time (Amen)

Shehecheyanu (first night only)

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יְנָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶּךְ הָעוֹלָם

Barukh atah Adonai, Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam Blessed are you, Lord, our God, sovereign of the universe

שֶׁהָחֶיָנוּ וִקִּיְמָנוּ וְהִגִּיעָנוּ לַזְּמֵן הַזָּה: (אָמֵן)

 $shehecheyanu\ v'kiyimanu\ v'higi'anu\ laz'man\ hazeh.\ (Amein)$ who has kept us alive, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this season (Amen)



UJA Breakfast Committee and Honorees



UJA Breakfast Honorees and Clergy

INSPIRATION FROM OUR RABBI

LifeCycle Learning: Religious School Milestones



Shalom, Chaverim,

As you know, I've devoted this year to teaching you tidbits about the Jewish LifeCycle. So far, we've looked at the Shiva process, Pregnancy and Childbirth, and B'nai Mitzvah. This month, I wanted to focus on other milestones in a child's religious school journey (with much thanks to www.reformjudaism.org for the

research included in this article).

The first major milestone is Consecration. We are so proud when parents decide to enroll their children in our religious school program. These parents are fulfilling an incredible mitzvah, one which we chant every single service in the words of the *V'ahavta*:

"You shall love the Eternal your God with all your mind, with all your strength, with all your being. Set these words, which I command you this day, upon your heart. Teach them faithfully to your children; speak of them in your home and on your way, when you lie down and when you rise up." (Deuteronomy 6:5-9)

These familiar words form the basis for the Jewish love of learning, and most families make sure to begin the Jewish education of their children during elementary school (if not much earlier). Indeed, the learning process impacts the entire family, as both adults and children alike are involved in the learning process. Ideally, the synagogue and the parents work together to help shape the Jewish identity of the child. Certainly, for the very young, the most effective teacher of Judaism is the parent. One's basic values and attitudes towards life are acquired in the home.

Most children receive their formal Jewish education in a synagogue religious school, and our program at Temple B'nai Torah meets either weekly or twice a week, depending on the age of the student. In these classes children study Hebrew, Bible, and Jewish history. They celebrate Jewish holidays and reinforce Jewish values. Students experience Jewish culture via art, music, dance, drama and literature.

Consecration generally takes place at the beginning of kindergarten, or whenever a child begins his or her Jewish education. The ceremony is often held as part of the Simchat Torah celebration, and our congregation holds Consecration on a Shabbat near to this holiday. This is a lovely and meaningful ceremony for children and families alike. The children are blessed by the clergy and are often given a certificate and a gift.

This year, we made a slight but important change to

our Consecration ritual – we included the entire family of each new student in the Consecration Blessings. Our clergy and staff, together with our leadership, felt that this change speaks loudly of our philosophies regarding both Jewish education and synagogue involvement – the entire family is responsible for the nurturing and nourishing of Jewish life, and we welcome the entire family when the children become part of our school.

At the other end of our students' education is the celebration of Confirmation. Confirmation, started less than 200 years ago, was an entirely Reform innovation that was tied to the holiday of Shavuot in the late spring. It celebrates a student's affirmation of his/her commitment to the Jewish people as he/she approaches adulthood.

Most scholars attribute the creation of Confirmation to Israel Jacobson, a wealthy German businessman and a nominal "father" of Reform Judaism. In 1810, expending more than \$100,000 of his own money, Jacobson built a new synagogue in Seesen, Germany. He introduced a number of then radical reforms, including the use of an organ and mixed male-female seating. Jacobson felt that bar mitzvah was an outmoded ceremony. Accordingly, when five 13-year-old boys were about to graduate from the school he maintained, Jacobson designed a new graduation ceremony, held in the school rather than the synagogue. In this manner, confirmation came into being. In 1831, Rabbi Samuel Egers of Brunswick, Germany, determined to hold confirmation on Shavuot, the festival of the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, also the widely accepted practice today.

The first recorded confirmation in North America was held at New York's Anshe Chesed Congregation in 1846. Two years later, New York's Congregation Emanu- El adopted confirmation. The ceremony grew in popularity, and in 1927, the Central Conference of American Rabbis recommended confirmation as a movement- wide practice.

After a specified period of study, students were subject to a public examination. The following day, in the rabbi's presence, students uttered personal confessions of faith. The rabbi addressed the class, recited a prayer, and then blessed them. It was a simple service with no fixed ritual. As Confirmation moved into the synagogue and as its ties to Shavuot strengthened, the ceremony became more elaborate.

In the early 1900s, Confirmation took on an air of great pageantry, boys and girls wearing robes, bringing flower offerings to the bimah, and participating in dramatic readings and cantatas illustrating themes of dedication and commitment to Judaism. You still see many of these components in our celebration here at Temple B'nai Torah. Preparation for Confirmation still includes a period of study, but public tests and confessions of faith have given way to more normative exams and papers, and speeches reflecting

(continued on page 5)



The performance of John Adams' "The Death of Klinghoffer," has, as many of you know, been in the news as a result of the combative nature of the controversy surrounding this contemporary opera, first performed in 1991. While the concern and contention was minimal back then, today, with the rise of anti-Semitism and its abusive

expression throughout Europe and countries of the Middle East, there has been a much greater concern over the opera's performance and the effects it might have on exacerbating these already abrasive confrontations occurring worldwide.

The great conundrum that has resulted is manifested in the attempt to reconcile a justifiable concern about Jewish vulnerability and the constraints needed to mitigate the negative expression of bigotry, versus the ethical constraints of preventing the free expression of speech and the concepts that accompany it.

We are, indeed, facing a multi-faceted problem with no specific or easy resolution. "The Death of Klinghoffer," first and foremost, is a dramatic example of the operatic art form dependent for its impact and success on the melding of text and music. Among the many articles and critical analyses I have recently read, contained in the New York Times, the Forward, the Jewish Week and specialized magazines of classical music, like Listen and Opera News, is a pervasive message that courses through these many responses: the nuances of the text are most defined by music more than a content-analysis of text.

It is the nuance that defines the intention of the meaning more than anything else, leading to the shaping of opinion and, subsequently the controversy that results from intellectual concern and, most of all, the flaring of strong emotions. The recent performances at the Metropolitan Opera were accompanied by significant protest in the form of civil gatherings that, while not resulting in physical confrontation, nevertheless, were dramatic in their expression.

The controversy lies at the heart of the opera, the historical recalling of the murder of Leon Klinghoffer, an elderly Jewish man in a wheelchair, by Palestinian terrorists aboard the cruise ship Achille Lauro, in 1985, long before but, perhaps, prescient of the coming terrorist attacks culminating in September 11th, contributing to the growing culture of xenophobia in the United States.

No forms of expression are more exciting, stimulating and catalytic than text set to music. The example of "Klinghoffer," contemporary, controversial, damning and, yet, perhaps, courageous, draws on the examples of our own ancient liturgical expression and its accompanying

musical enhancement.

Have you ever asked yourself why it has been our tradition, and our tradition alone, to express our texts in musical "clothing," whether by recitation of traditional nusach (those phrases of motifs associated with texts over a long period of time) or penned composition? Surely, John Adams, one of our most respected contemporary opera composers did not invent that very relationship that is at the heart of the expression of his operatic ideas.

It came from the very tradition that has caused Jews throughout the millennia to question, to challenge, to arbitrate, and to be impassioned about all that we, as Jews, hold dear. Ironically, it is that very constant relationship, text and music, that is at the heart of our questioning the public expression of the ideas found in "The Death of Klinghoffer."

Are you waiting for my own opinion? Forget it for now. Because I am not familiar with the music, text or libretto, I don't feel qualified to assess its musical, political or cultural value. However, as a student of ethical constructs, I suggest that no one is qualified to evaluate, deride or condemn a work without, first, becoming familiar with it. Enabling a well informed and, therefore, more valuable and substantive opinion is also at the heart of the Jewish concepts of Justice and Mercy. I look forward to seeing a performance in the future.

I hope you will join me for my next presentation in my new series, "The Jewish Experience in Film." The inaugural showing of "Storm in the Desert" proved to be a most stimulating subject of discussion following the feature. Watch the TBT Times and the Scroll for future times and dates.

My travel series, "The Wandering Jew," next meets on Sunday, December 14th, at 1PM, for a look at the Jews of Malta, the small, three-island nation nestled just south of Sicily and north of Tunisia. The land of the "Maltese Falcon" is also the home of a worldly and age old Jewish community. Please join us!



As the gates begin to close.....TBT Shofar blowers.



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) twicemonthly study sessions, scheduled on your own time
- 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:

- 1) Be a member of Temple B'nai Torah in good standing
- 2) Have familiarity with Hebrew letters and vowels (Hebrew will NOT be taught in the class)
- 3) Have become a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, either as a child or in an Adult Program
- 4) 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).

Space is limited and is First-Come, First-Served.

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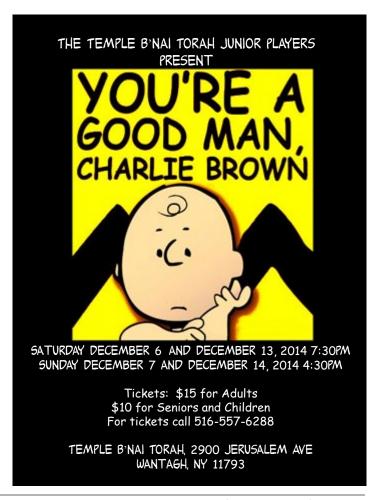
(Rabbi . . . continued from page 3)

a deeper understanding of Jewish teachings and values. While tenth grade Confirmation remains the norm in Reform Judaism, a number of synagogues now mark the event in ninth, eleventh, or even twelfth grade.

At Temple B'nai Torah, we mark Confirmation in tenth grade, and we add an additional milestone with the completion of twelfth grade as we proudly send our students off to college.

L'shalom, Rabbi Marci N. Bellows







RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

I*EXPRESS



I*Express represents the latest thinking in the synagogue transformation movement that has taken hold around the country over the past fifteen years. It recognizes that, though each congregation has its own personality and culture, they share many similarities and are looking for

answers to many of the same questions. Engaging children and their families in Jewish living and learning that fits in with what they find meaningful and how they live their lives is key.

I am excited to tell you that Temple B'nai Torah Religious School has been chosen to participate in an exciting new project. It is designed to propel congregations like ours into new and innovating models of education. I*Express is offered by The Jewish Education Project, a beneficiary of the UJA Federation of New York. A team made up of

myself, Rabbi Bellows, teachers, and lay leaders has been receiving the services of an educational consultant who has been guiding us through the steps necessary to choose and pilot a new model of Jewish learning for a targeted group in our religious school. I also participate in a peer consultancy network with other directors of education of congregations going through I*Express. Our congregation will also be awarded a \$1000 grant in early spring to help us try out our new model.

So far, it has been an exciting journey exploring the many new models of Jewish learning that have been created around the country. I can't wait to see what our team creates as we take important steps towards choosing our target group and creating a new model that will provide the best learning experiences possible to our community.

> L'Shalom Elisa Blank, Director of Education

LIONS AND TIGERS ANDGOLDFISH??? OH MY.

"It was a dark and stormy night...." – No, wait. That was Noah's shtick. On October 25th TBT enjoyed beautiful weather for its third annual Blessing of the Animals. To quote our creature-friendly Rabbi Bellows: "We continue to provide a special event for a wonderful group of intergenerational congregants."

This year was no different. We had a plethora of canines (about 30 dogs, to be inexact), a number of felines, and representatives of the avian, chelonian, and piscine varieties of companions. (OK, birds, tortoises, fish.)

Thanks to Harvey Drucker for capturing it all in photos; to guitarist Emily Altman for her always-stellar accompaniment; and to our temple's custodial staff for its excellent assistance.

And most of all, thanks to everyone who turned out to support what is now a TBT tradition. Hope you all (two-legged and four-

legged) enjoyed the munchies provided. For us, this is a labor of love. It means so much to us to honor those



pets who grace our lives and to pay respect to the loved companions who have gone before us.

See you next year! Marty & Vicki Goldberger

OUR COMMUNITY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

When this issue of TBT Times reaches you, we will have enjoyed Thanksgiving with our families and friends and my annual trip to Florida to spend this holiday with my family will be over for another year.



The preparation for this holiday is quite impressive. The supermarkets are overflowing with patrons, stocking up on what is needed for all of the traditional recipes. Our homes are filled with anticipation of a great meal, surrounded by those we care about. For my family, it is the only holiday where all of us from near and far make an effort to come together in my daughter's home, having four generations under one roof. We give thanks for this time of being together.

For many, the last few years have brought about difficult times. It has been hard to appreciate what we do have. All of us though, in one way or another, have something to be thankful for. On Thanksgiving we express our gratitude. This holiday is a wonderful reminder of how important it is to reflect upon our lives and to truly count our blessings.

As Thanksgiving passes, we have another holiday to prepare for: Chanukah. We will again celebrate with music and food, as well as all the traditions associated with the Festival of Lights. It is another moment in our year that draws us closer together with family and friends.

Chanukah is a special time for us to say thank you for all the little and big miracles in our lives. When we look into the pure flames of the candles, we should remember that no day is just another day. There are blessings around all of us every moment, just waiting for us to notice.

Over the next few weeks, as we focus our thoughts on all that we are grateful for, we should make an effort to keep this flame of gratitude burning year round. In difficult times as well as good times, there is much to appreciate and be thankful for.

From my family to yours, we wish you a very Happy Chanukah.

Sherrill Spatz Congregation President

BROTHERHOOD SPEAKS



I can't believe that Chanukah is almost upon us. The Brotherhood /Sisterhood Dinner was a success, as was our Holiday Fair. Thanks to Chuck Coene and Sharon Forman for the Dinner work, and Ben Cernese for the Holiday Fair.



We are looking forward to our upcoming Monday Night Football at Maggie Malones on December 1st. Our December Dinner will feature a lecture on beer brewing presented by an associate of Mike Bruno. Our January Dinner will feature a discussion of the Hot Stove League. <Sooner than you think to pitchers & catchers!>

May all your Chanukah lights burn

bright, and your latkes be perfect.

Shalom from Bruce Jaffe and Harvey Wiener



Emily Altman's
Jewish Cooking Series

A Temple B'nai Torah Life Long Learning Program



Sunday, December 7 - 12noon LOTS of Latkes with Judy Kule & Emily Altman

Why latkes for Chanukah? Why not? Learn out how to make the best latkes in the world!



Sunday, February 1 - 12noon

Baking and Cake decorating with Emily Altman &

Mary Gross, Master Cake Decorator

A feast for your eyes and your taste buds!



Sunday, May 3 - 12noon

Savor the Flavors of Israeli Food With Emily Altman and her guest
What makes the food of Israel so deliciously unique?

what makes the jood of Israel so delictously unique

RSVP Linda (<u>ldestefano@temple-bnai-torah.org)</u>



For more information or to RSVP contact Emily Altman 516-799-7201

OUR COMMUNITY

OUR TBT SISTERHOOD SOURCE



A LOOK BACK...

From September through the end of November, if everything went off according to plan, Sisterhood has been very busy indeed:

- We had a program on Jewish superstitions that was terrific and very well attended (close to 50 people).
 THANKS CONNIE!
- We welcomed our new members with a lovely breakfast and gave them the Sisterhood "spiel." Hopefully some will be our future leaders. THANKS SHARON, JUDI, ALAINA, AND COMMITTEE!
- We decorated the bimah for Sukkot. How stunning it was with all the beautiful fall colors. THANKS LOUISE AND COMMITTEE!
- We held our annual Paid-Up Dinner, a huge undertaking.
 This year, we celebrated all our members and what
 it means to be part of this wonderful arm of the temple.
 THANKS JONI AND COMMITTEE! We also
 continued our tradition of giving by donating a portion
 of the proceeds of our "Sisterhood Cares" raffle that
 night to Long Island Cares, a local non-profit. THANK
 YOU AMY AND COMMITTEE!
- We had the first two of five Rosh Chodesh sessions devoted to the book A Bride for One Night. THANKS RABBI BELLOWS AND FELICIA!
- We had two of our members attend the WRJ Northeast District Biennial in Albany. WAY TO GO, PATTI AND MARLYN!
- We pampered ourselves with a Night of Beauty. Check out our hair, our skin, our fingers and toes, our eyebrows, etc. THANKS MARILYN!
- We enjoyed a dinner at the temple with our counterparts from Brotherhood. THANKS SHARON AND COMMITTEE!

A LOOK AHEAD...

This month, we've got three great events coming up:

- Monday, December 8 is our Evening of Learning.
 We share this with other South Shore Sisterhoods.
 It will be at Congregation Beth-El in Massapequa and will feature media specialist Richard Knox focusing on the contributions of Jewish celebrities from the performing arts.
- Our December 9 program will be led by Stephanie Jacobson. She will guide us as we create photo holders. Smile, everybody!

 Always a favorite, our Hanukah sale will be on Sunday, December 14. (The first candle gets lit Tuesday night, December 16.) There is great merchandise at different price points and for different ages. So come on down. And by the way, Happy Hanukah to you all.

Ladies, have you caught Sisterhood fever yet? It's never too late to join us. We would welcome and embrace you at any time.

One of the nifty things about being Jewish is the celebration twice yearly of a New Year (religious and secular). Very shortly, 2015 will be upon us. I hope it is a happy and wonderful year for everyone.

Sincerely, Diane Schoenberg Sisterhood President

TBT-PTA

Hi everyone. Chanukah time is upon us. The PTA will be hosting a Chanukah celebration on Sunday, December 14th. The students will participate in the celebration during their religious school hours. Sisterhood will also be in the lobby that day hosting a Chanukah sale. Come in and help your student shop or even shop for yourself.

So far the 2014-2015 school year has been wonderful for the PTA. We have some fantastic new members who are already taking active roles in our programming and attending the PTA meetings. Our first ever PTA Service was a huge success. It was fun to see so many parents and their families come out.

The PTA members are hard at work planning activities for early 2015. On Sunday, January 25th there will be a Tu B'Shevat Seder for grades K-4 and on Sunday, February 8th the PTA will be running Family Bingo. More information to follow.

The next PTA meeting will be held on Sunday, December 14th at 10 AM in room 101. But of course we all eat breakfast first at 9:00am in the social hall. Please stop by.

Lastly, we wish everyone a Happy Chanukah, and a Happy New Year.

Alissa Neches



COUPLES CLUB

Life Is But a Dream – Couples Club



IIra and Yolanda Friedman (The Magnificents) hosted this year's membership dinner at H.R. Singletons in Bethpage. Prior arrangements with the Nassau County Crowd Control Swat Team allowed our annual red

carpet entrance to proceed with minimal interference from the throngs of paparazzi and adoring fans. We settled into the hall, and partook of our lavish twenty-course dinner with imported wines and ale. The special concert featuring Barbra Streisand and Neil Diamond entertained us with melodies made famous by our own Emily (Music Muse) Altman.

It's the time of the season when excitement fills the air in anticipation of the annual Couples Club Chanukah party to be held on Sunday, December 14th. This year, because of increased demand, we have arranged for a larger room to accommodate those lucky enough to attend.

Last year more than thirty Couples Club members danced and ate into the wee hours at our unscheduled New Year's Eve outing. Since this is an unscheduled activity, we have to ascertain just when this will take place. Our teams of Astrologers and Mensa Mavens are in consultation with the ultimate source of wisdom, Reality TV Stars, in order to schedule the unscheduled. Pertinent information will be forthcoming upon the completion of their deliberations.

Bowling Buzz Begins. Tea Leaves, Farmers Almanac, Ouija Boards, all are in alignment, forecasting a Night Of Infinite Possibilities challenging the Topological Defects in the Fabric of Space and Time at our world famous Bowling Tournament on January 11th. Will one of our superstars prevail, or will a rising star be crowned in TBT glory?

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: Sunday, December 14th we will repeat our outstanding Chanukah Party. As seating is limited early reservations are recommended even though we have arranged for a larger room to meet the demand: January 11th, Bowling

Tournament, A Temple Costume Dance, Temple Square Dance, Games Night, Theater Evening, High Line and Chelsea Market (NYC visit), and other events are in the works.

A special reminder to new TBT members. As new members, you automatically get a free year of Couples Club Membership. Take advantage of this opportunity to get to know us and discover, for yourself, how great the Couples Club is. You will be welcomed into the group, and very soon you will feel as if you were a long-time member. We would like to share this feeling with all TBT couples, married or not. The Couples Club members actively participate in the other arms' functions (seventeen attended the Brotherhood/PTA picnic), Chai Club and Sisterhood activities. Being part of our family makes it easier to become engaged in the areas that interest you, as you will always have a friend in attendance. 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.

Fred Dinstell

Michael C. Horwitz, CPA, P.C.

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OUR COMMUNITY

CHAI NOTES



Chai Club had a wonderful Fall Membership Dinner last month. The evening went very well.

Every board member and others, helped with jobs from shopping, setting up, serving, cooking and, most important, clean-up. It certainly takes a team effort to run such a dinner. Thank you so much everyone.

Hope you all had a delicious Thanksgiving. This month starts off with a sing-together program, which was a huge success last year. Our singers will include Artie & Debbie Schlesinger, Yolanda Friedman, and Steve Block with Barbara Held as our song historian. Let's sing along together. After enjoying all the holidays, our January meeting will feature a well-known nutritionist. February's meeting will again feature one of our favorite speakers and member, Martha Kolodkin. A little ahead is the Sunday, March 22nd day trip to the show "1776". Contact Pearl Sutz for tickets as this will sell out. Watch the scroll, lobby flyers, or call me for any info.

We also try to share with other Temple events. This month the Junior Players will be producing the show, "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown". This reminded me of a long time Temple member, Charlotte Bornstein. She has been a member of Temple since 1960. She loves to write poems. One is about show business:

Yes, my dear child, it was many a great day, that I was standing on a stage saying my lines in a play. The Temple had a stage show every year, and I gave it my all, it was hard to bear.

The brain took my dialogue and transformed the same to my tongue but expression was my forte and soon my voice rang out like a song that was sung.

I enjoyed being many different personalities and hearty applause, when the final curtain call ended, I knew we were not bores. Hobbies are great,

and my little bit of show business lingers to this date.

As you can tell, Charlotte also enjoyed appearing in our Temple shows. So take time to see Charlie Brown here at TBT. I'm sure our young players will enjoy their experience as much as our senior member did.

Have a great Hanukah Holiday and Best Wishes for a Good (secular) New Year.

Rita Hofer, Chai Club President Chai Club Membership Dinner



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



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CONGREGANT CORNER



Robin Galardi and family, husband Joe, children Michael (age 11) and Danielle (age 9) joined TBT just over four years ago.

Robin is a Certified Career and Life Coach, a career she started three years ago after a twenty year career as a Human Resources Director at Citibank. She made the career move to apply her love of helping people fulfill their potential. Seeing her

clients have a happy and balanced life makes her work very rewarding. Her husband Joe is a Business Development Executive.

Michael and Danielle are in sixth and fourth grade, respectively.

Some of the things that Robin enjoys doing include, cooking, entertaining, crafts, walking, biking, road trips with the family, and reading a good book. She loves to cheer her kids on with their sports and takes great pride in keeping the family connected.

When asked why their family chose to join Temple B'nai Torah, Robin states, "TBT offers Joe and me an opportunity to give our children a Jewish education and a community. As an interfaith family we needed to find a synagogue that would be accepting of this and make our family comfortable in their home. TBT was that perfect fit for us, we feel like we are part of a community and, more importantly, a temple family.

It is a comforting feeling to walk into TBT anytime and know people that greet you, bring you into their conversations, save seats for you during services and want you to be part of their groups. It was such a huge honor to be asked to carry the Torah during Rosh Hashanah services this year and such a proud moment to tell my eighty-nine year old grandmother."

Robin went to a Sisterhood event which was a bit out of her comfort zone as the people she was supposed to attend with cancelled. But she was welcomed with open arms. Next thing she knew she was going to Brotherhood breakfasts on Sundays, schmoozing with others on Tuesdays while picking up her children and becoming more and more involved with the administration of the temple.

Robin is now in her third year as a TBT trustee, co-chairs the Membership Committee, and is a member of PTA and Sisterhood.

Concerning the temple clergy, Robin says "Rabbi Bellows is wonderful! She is so easy to approach and always makes time in her schedule for us, even when she has a full plate. The rabbi is engaging with all the children and makes services fun and enjoyable for them which is very important to me as a parent. This year when my family attended services for the High Holidays, Sukkot and Simchat Torah Rabbi Bellows and Cantor Sher worked so beautifully together and their voices were magical."

Robin Galardi is a shining example of an active member of TBT and we are very fortunate to have such a wonderful family as part of our temple family.

Jeff Cohen



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OUR COMMUNITY

BLOG FROM ISRAEL

I was privileged to participate in an event called "Harmony for Humanity" as part of the Daniel Pearl World Music Days. As you know, Daniel Pearl, a Jew with dual American and Israeli citizenship, a journalist and a musician, was kidnapped and murdered by extremists in 2002 in Pakistan. Since then, hundreds of musical events have been held around the world each October. The Music Days promote the Daniel Pearl Foundation's goal of using the power of music to promote tolerance to remind people of all cultures and religions that we share a common humanity

The concert was held in Lod, a city close to Kibbutz Gezer where Birkat Shalom is located. The concert was a gift from the U.S. Embassy, recognizing that the Jewish and Arab residents constantly strive to live side by side, with mutual respect for one another's culture and shared aspirations of prosperity and peace.

David Broza, Mira Awad, and the Jerusalem Jewish-Arab Youth Chorus performed and inspired all who attended. The mission of the Jerusalem Youth Chorus is to provide a space for young people from East and West Jerusalem to grow together in song and dialogue. Through the co-creation of music and the sharing of stories, we seek to empower our singers to become leaders in their communities.

The final song, by David Broza, the Israeli musician, is an anthem to peace, which he wrote when Anwar Sadat came to visit Israel in 1979

We will yet learn to live together between the groves of olive trees children will live without fear without borders, without bomb-shelters on graves grass will grow, for peace and love, one hundred years of war but we have not lost hope. And all will be good yes, all will be good though I sometimes break down but this night oh, this night, I will stay with you.

Rabbi Miri Gold

Rabbi Miri Gold, of Kehilat Birkat Shalom at Kibbutz Gezer, is raising funds for a new synagogue building, with the foundations to be in place by the end of 2014.

FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

Like Gelt for Chocolate

Hooray for Chanukah! Sweet, unassuming, joyous



Chanukah. Everyone loves eight days of fried food, spinning dreidles, candle lighting ceremonies, plus a gift or two, or eight, along the way. These are traditions that started more than two thousand years agowhat

a holiday!

Then there is gelt. This is an odd and puzzling part of Chanukah, not fully appreciated but where there are children there is gelt. My years of teaching Hebrew School have led me to this observation: most students think gelt is the Hebrew synonym for chocolate. And why not? Neither are they certain why they receive gelt, but when it comes to chocolate, who's asking?

Gelt isn't the Hebrew word for chocolate; it is the Yiddish word for money. Coins, brand new coins (often pennies and dimes because they were the shiniest) were traditional. One



common explanation is this reflects that after the dedication of the Temple (the literal Chanukah) -- the next step was to mint money with Jewish symbols, rather than Greek. This was considered a big deal.

It is ironic that much of the chocolate gelt that arrives in those cute gold mesh bags resembles U.S. coinage, with Presidents Washington and Kennedy, rather than symbols of Chanukah. Now if only we could agree on one spelling.

May the lights of Chanukah brighten your home remind us of miracles in our own lives.

Mark Chester, TBT Editor

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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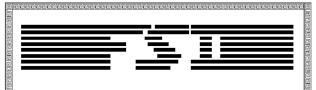
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from Jan & Stan Friedman

Birth of Brandon Stone

from Jan & Stan Friedman

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Aida Gouveia from Rita Hofer

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from Jan & Stan Friedman

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on the birth of their granddaughter,

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Andrew Lubman on his engagement to Laurie Novemestky

Gerry & Barbara Morgenlender

on the marriage of their son,

Eric to Melissa Gavin

Herb Price on the birth

of his great granddaughter,

Sierra Reese Bonaventura

Larry & Jane Prosky

on the birth of their grandson, Brandon James Stone



How to do what is the question?? Unable to remember the prayers that you were taught as a child?

Trying to incorporate Jewish Rituals in an inter-faith marriage?

Clueless on when and how to recite basic prayers? Drawing a blank on holiday traditions?

TBT Membership Committee and Rabbi Bellows invite you to our first

"How to.....Workshop"

Workshop topic: How To Do Chanukah

December 2, 2014 Tuesday 5-5:45 PM In the Kiddish Lounge

Rabbi Bellows will share the meaning of Chanukah, prayers in Hebrew and English, how to place the candles on the menorah and why jelly doughnuts are eaten.

All attendees will receive a take home packet with Chanukah Prayers and ideas

This is a complementary workshop for TBT

Why wait in the car for school dismissal. Join us

No previous experience required

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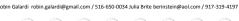
Drop in as your schedule permits

Future programs to include:

January 6 - Shabbat I

March 3 - Purim March 24 - Passover

with us what topics you would like to learn about by contacting our Membership Committee co-chairs



















SPECIAL GIFTS

YAHRZEITS

David Albert from Harvey & Bernice Albert Joseph Askin from Jeffry & Joanne Wengroff Arthur Becker from Elaine Becker Rae Beller from Sue & Jeff Beller Lillian Berkow from Phyllis & Andrew Lubell Bernard Berkow from Phyllis & Andrew Lubell George Berkowitz from Sandee & David Horowitz Milton S. Berger from Herbert Berger Betty Bergman from Herb & Sonia Match Hyman Blackbeer from Rita & Harvey Drucker Harry Bobis from Florence Karmel Bonnie Boyle from Rita Hofer Irwin Chaiken from Beth, Jeff, Adam & Ian Cohen Lena Cohen from Debbie & Bart Cohen Cortney Colby from the Toscano Family Harriet Einbinder from Sandra Dabrusin Paul Freed from Heidi & Glenn Rosen Jack Gallin from Yvette & Harvey Consor Hyman R. Garnet from Florence Garnet Harry Goldman from Sandee & David Horowitz Kate Goodman from Charlotte Bornstein Robert Greenbaum from Laurie Epler Clara Hochberg from Ruth Hochberg Abraham Horowitz from Sandee & David Horowitz Freda Horowitz from Edward Horowitz Martin Kane from Paula Grant Nathan H. Klein from Jan & Stan Friedman Joseph Leidner from Marilyn Leidner Eva Lewis from Janine & Michael Berg Rosemary Lallathin from Diane Lewis

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grandmother of Deanna Popeck

Grace Shinfeld,

mother of Ann Dinstell



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR 2ND ANNUAL

CONGREGATION HANUKKAH BREAKFAST

Sunday, December 14th @ 9:15 am in our Social Hall

This breakfast is our Hanukkah gift to our congregants (compliments of The Membership Committee)

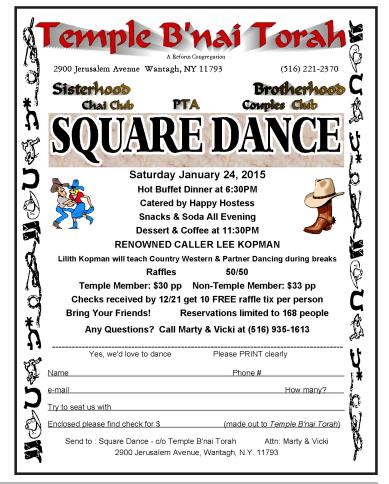
Come join us for some Latkes, Sufganiyot, and all the usual Brotherhood breakfast goodies

Dreidel Games will be played and recipes will be shared

We hope to see you there!

Co-Chairs of The Membership Committee Robin Galardi & Julia Brite







DECEMBER

				_		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 • 12:00pm Torah Study (K/L) • 6:30-7:00pm Teen Choir (Rm. 201) • 7:00-8:30pm Rel. School - 7th Grade ONLY • 7:00-10:30pm Kids Show Reh. (S/H) • 7:30pm Chai Club Gen'l Mtq (K/L) • 8:30-10:00pm BNTY Sr. (Y/L)	2 • 10:00am Al Anon (K/L) • 4:30-6:00pm Religious School • 6:45pm Sisterhood Exec. Mtg (101/103) • 7:00pm Brotherhood Exec. Mtg (104) • 7:00-10:30pm Kids Show Reh. (S/H) • 7:30pm Sisterhood Board Mtg (101/103) • 8:00pm Brotherhood Board Mtg (K/L)	3 • 10:30am Bingo • 7:00-10:30pm Kids Show Reh. (S/H)	4 • 6:00-7:30pm Cub Scouts (Y/L) • 7:00-10:30pm Kids Show Reh. (101/103) • 7:30-9:00pm Boy Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30pm Bingo	5 • 3:00pm B/M Rehearsal (Sanc.) • 7:30pm Family Service	• 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (K/L) • 10:30am Shabbat Service • 5:00pm Kids Show Set-Up (S/H) • 6:00pm Kids Show Cast (K/L) • 7:30pm Kids Show (S/H)
• 9:00am Rel.School • 9:00-11:30am Rel. School Dance Class (K/L) • 9:15am Brother- hood Breakfast (S/H) • 11:30-noon Youth Choir (Rm 201) • 12:00-1:30pm Jewish Cooking Class (K/L & Kitchen) • 2:30pm Kids Show Set-up (S/H) • 3:00pm Kids Show Cast (K/L) • 4:30pm Kids Show (S/H)	7:30pm Sisterhood Evening of Learning (Away) 7:30-9:30pm Adult Choir (Rm. 201) 8:30-10:00pm BNTY Sr. (Y/L)	9 • 10:00am Al Anon • 4:30-6:00pm Religious School • 7:00pm Sisterhood Program (K/L) • 7:00-9:00pm Kids Show Reh. (S/H)	10 • 10:30am Bingo • 7:00pm Fundraising Mtg (Away)	• 7:30-9:00pm Boy Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30pm Bingo	12 • 3:00pm B/M Rehearsal (Sanc.) • 5:30pm Tot Shabbat Service • 8:00pm Erev Shabbat Service • Guest Speaker Manisha Gupte, AJWS @shabbat Svc • Confirmation Trip (Away)	• 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (K/L) • 10:30am Service (1) B/M Moser • 5:00pm Kids Show Set-Up (S/H) • 6:00pm Kids Show Cast (K/L) • 7:30pm Kids Show (S/H) • Confirmation Trip (Away)
• 9:00am Rel.School • 9:00am Sisterhood Hanukah Sale (Lob) • 9:15am Hanukkah Congregation Breakfast (S/H) • 10:00am PTA Mtg (Library) • 11:30-noon Youth Choir (Rm 201) • 1:00-2:00pm Wandering Jew prog(K/L) • 2:30pm Kids Show Set-up (S/H) • 3:00pm Kids Show Cast (K/L) • 4:30pm Kids Show (S/H) • 5:00pm Couples Club Chanukah Party (Away) • Confirmation Trip	15 • 12:00pm Torah Study (K/L) • 5:30-6:30pm BNTY Jr. (Y/L) • 6:30-7:00pm Teen Choir (Rm. 201) • 7:00-8:30pm Religious School • 7:00-9:00pm Brotherhood Dinner (S/H) • 7:30-9:30pm Adult Choir (Rm. 201) • 7:30pm Budget Meeting (Rm. 104) • 8:30-10:00pm BNTY Sr. (Y/L) • Confirmation Trip (Away)	16 • 10:00am Al Anon (K/L) • 4:30-6:00pm Religious School • 7:30pm Ritual Com. Mtg (K/L) • 7:30-9:00pm Religious Ed Mtg (104) • Chanukah First Candle	17 • 10:30am Bingo	18 • 6:00-7:30pm Cub Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30-9:00pm Boy Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30pm Bingo	19 • 6:00pm Pre-Neg • 6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Chanukah Service	• 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (K/L) • 10:30am Shabbat Service • 12:30-3:00pm Cernese Family (S/H)
21 • No Rel. School • Building Closed	• No Rel. School • 12:00pm Torah Study (K/L) • 1:00-3:00pm Womens Mead. Init. (K/L) • 7:30pm Chai Club Board Mtg (K/L) • 7:30-9:30pm Adult Choir (Rm. 201)	• No Rel. School • 10:00am Al Anon (K/L)	24 • No Bingo - holiday	• No Bingo - holiday • Building Closed - Christmas Day	26 • 6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Svc	• 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (Away)
28 • Building Closed • No Rel. School	No Rel. School 12:00pm Torah Study (K/L)	30 • 10:00am Al Anon • 6:45pm Exec. Board Mtg (Rm. 104) • 8:00pm Board Meeting (K/L) • No Rel. School	31 • No Bingo - holiday			

SAVE THE DATE



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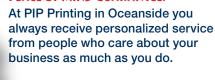
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The following is a list of the boys and girls who will be celebrating their Bar/Bat Mitvah December 13, 2014 through March 28, 2015. Circle the names of those to whom you would like to send congratulations, and PRINT your name as you want it to appear on the Uniongrams. Please return the list promptly with \$1.25 for each Uniongram made payable to

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

<u>DATE</u>	CHILD'S NAME	<u>PARENTS</u>			
Dec. 13	Matthew Moser	Gary & Jennifer Opas			
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 & Helene			
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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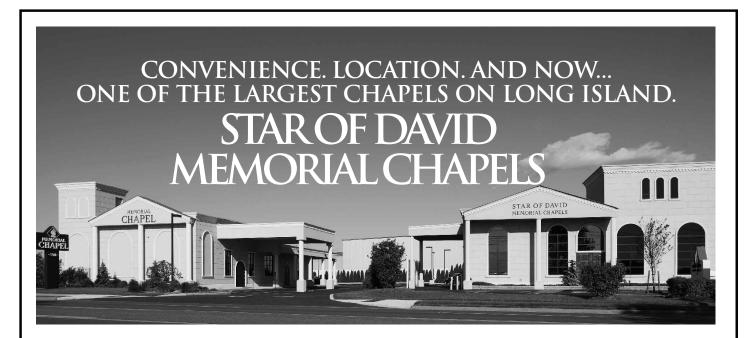
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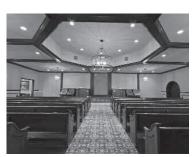
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Rabbi Marci N. Bellows Cantor Steven Sher

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Direct Dial Departments: Religious School: 221-2374

Rabbi Emeritus:

Rabbi Sanford Jarashow Rabbi Robert Raab

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.



Address Correction Requested

Dated Material - Please Rush!

Pack 189

October arrived with pretty nice weather this year – just what is needed to make sure everyone has a good time on trips.

The troop went to Blue Rocks Campground in Pennsylvania. The best part of this trip (we have gone before) is that it connects to the Appalachian Trail, so there is some awesome hiking and great views. Looking from a cliff at some beautiful farmland is a spectacular moment. It also gives the boys a chance to practice cooking on the trail, bringing their food and cooking apparatus with them and packing out their trash. Scouting is a supporter of 'Leaving No Trace' in the outdoors, doing our part to preserve the beauty of this country for future generations.



The pack took a day trip to the USS Intrepid Museum. Like most Cub Scout events, this was a family trip, and siblings joined Looking along. at the planes the flight on deck is always a good time, and the hands-on section (called the Exploreum) is pretty cool. We

also took a tour of the guided missile submarine, the USS Growler. If you have never been to this museum, it is unique. There are many places where you can board former US Navy ships, but not a lot of carriers, and the Growler is unique (she is one of only two boats of her class and the only one still in existence).

All in all, a month that was fun, adventurous, and educational. November will be awesome, too: it is the Troop's annual Turkey Trip. Stay tuned to hear how that went.