

# *Purim at TBT:* .....March Madness.....





### **B'NAI MITZVAH**



#### **Michael Liebow** March 7

Michael is a seventh grader at Berner Middle School in Massapequa. He excels in science and English. He is a member of the Chess Club and enjoys golfing. He spends his summer on the water in his kayak or fishing with his father. His mitzvah project is something he has been working on for a while. He has been volunteering at a St. Baldrick's event for the past four years and last year decided to become a "shave". He grew his hair for eight months, took in pledges to donate to this charity which aids children battling cancer.



#### March 14 Juliana Gross

My name is Julianna Gross. I am a seventh grade honors student at Howitt Middle School. I play violin and my favorite subject is science. Every Saturday I volunteer at PetSmart to take care of the cats. I have a dog, Jasper, and a cat, Josie. I enjoy reading, photography, and listening to music.



#### March 21 **Benjamin Bach**

My name is Benjamin Bach and I am an honors student at Merrick Avenue Middle School. I've attended here since Nursery School. I like hanging out with my friends, playing Xbox and I enjoy all sports. For my mitzvah project I will be donating a portion of my bar mitzvah gifts to the American Cancer Society to find a cure for this terrible disease that has affected my family. I have enjoyed studying with Mrs. Altman and would like to also thank Rabbi Bellows for her help. Thank you to my family for their support as well.



#### March 21 **Justin Froese**

My name is Justin Froese and I go to Wantagh Middle School where I am a seventh grade honor student. In my free time, I enjoy playing baseball, going to karate, and participating in Math Olympiads. For my bar mitzvah project I volunteered at Last Hope Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation in Wantagh, because I love cats and have two at home. I also collected supplies that Last Hope needs to care for these loving animals. I am excited for my bar mitzvah and would like to especially thank Rabbi Bellows, Mrs. Altman, and my family for preparing me for this special day.



#### March. 28 Jordan Berke

My name is Jordan Berke and I attend Grand Avenue Middle School where I am a seventh grade honor student. I enjoy skiing, track, science, travel and I am an active participant in Boy Scouts and the Village East Gifted Program. For my bar mitzvah project, I am writing a book about my grandmother's experience as a hidden child of the Holocaust, as well as sharing my special day with a child lost in the Holocaust through "Remember Us: The Holocaust B'nai Mitzvah Project." I would like to thank my parents, my brother Tyler, Rabbi Bellows and Mr. Kramer for all their help in preparing me for my bar mitzvah.

The names of Rose Worgan and Rose Richman were misspelled in last month's issue. We regret any inconvenience.

#### Michael & Cara

### Adam & Alyse

#### **Ernest & Julie**

Jon & Maryann

Steven & Susan

## MARCH RITUAL CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 4	7:30 pm
Friday, March 6	7:30 pm
Saturday, March 7	10:30 am
Friday, March 13	5:30 pm
Friday, March 13	8:00 pm
Saturday, March 14	10:30 am
Friday, March 20	6:30 pm
Saturday, March 21	10:30 am
Tuesday, March 24	7:30 pm
Friday, March 27	8:00 pm
Saturday, March 28	10:30 am
Friday, April 3	5:30 pm
Saturday, April 4	10:30 am
Thursday, April 9	7:30 pm
Friday, April 10	8:00 pm
Saturday, April 11	10:30 am

Purim Celebration & Speil Shabbat Across America Shabbat Service – 1 BM Tot Shabbat Joyce Berger Interfaith Shabbat Shabbat Service – 1 BM Kabbalat Shabbat Shabbat Service – 2 BM **Ritual Committee Meeting** Couples Club Shabbat Service Shabbat Service – 1 BM First Night Pesach/Shabbat Service First Day Pesach/Shabbat Service Seventh Night Pesach Service/Yizkor **Brotherhood Shabbat Service** Shabbat Service – 2 BM



Please join us for the Joyce Berger Memorial Interfaith Shabbat March 13, 2015, 8:00pm

> Featuring Guest Speaker, Reverend Gregory J. Cappuccino Pastor of St. Frances de Chantal Parish in Wantagh

Father Cappuccino will be speaking on Jewish-Catholic relations in the 21st Century. We look forward to welcoming our neighbor and celebrating our connections and similarities across faith lines.

**Reverend Gregory J. Cappuccino** was born in Manhattan. Upon graduating from College he attended Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington where he received his Masters of Divinity Degree.

Fr. Greg was ordained a priest of the Roman Catholic Church on May 26, 1973 and has served as a priest in the Diocese of Rockville Centre for thirty-seven years.



He is presently the Pastor of St. Frances de Chantal parish in Wantagh. Fr. Greg has also served in the Blessed Sacrament parish in Valley Stream, St. Christopher's in Baldwin, St. Anthony's in Rocky Point and St. Cyril and Methodius in Deer Park.

Fr. Greg has also served on various Diocesan committees including the Catholic Ministries Appeal, The Campaign for Human Development (American Catholic Church's outreach to help people in poverty help

themselves), The Personnel Policy Board, and the Priest Personnel Assignment Board for the Diocese of Rockville Centre. He most recently became a member of the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. For several years he was President of the Valley Stream Religious Council.

### INSPIRATION FROM OUR RABBI



Shalom, Chaverim,

Throughout the year, I've been discussing various stages of the Jewish lifecycle. We've now come to one of the most difficult moments in all of our lives – Jewish rituals surrounding death and mourning. While these are the most challenging, they also contain centuries of wisdom

and compassion. Our ancestors had a keen sense of human nature, and they seemed to keep this knowledge in mind as the rituals around death and mourning were developed.

Once one learns of a death, it is traditional to say, *Baruch Dayan HaEmet* – Blessed is the Judge of truth. If you are a primary mourner (the parent, spouse, sibling, or child of the deceased), then you have status as an *Onen* before the burial. Traditionally, this is a period of time when you have zero obligations, and you do not have to speak to anyone you don't want to. The only true obligation is arranging the funeral and burial.

Once at the funeral home on the day of the funeral, the closest relatives take part in Kriah – the tearing of a ribbon, which symbolically represents the tearing of our hearts. The guests rise when the family of the deceased enters the chapel, and then all are seated. The clergy person who leads the funeral typically includes a number of readings from psalms (most often, psalms 121 and 23), contemporary poetry, liturgical songs, and requests from the family.

It is a mitzvah to eulogize the deceased by delivering a *hesped* (eulogy). This is one of the ways that we honor the dead (kavod ha-met) and celebrate his or her life. *El Male Rachamim* (God full of Compassion) is chanted as the conclusion to the chapel service.

Burial takes place, traditionally, as quickly as possible.

Mourning does not officially begin until this time. It is at the cemetery that Mourner's Kaddish is first recited. As most of us have experienced, it is customary to take part in the shoveling of earth into the grave of our loved one. It is such a difficult, even haunting, act, yet the rabbis taught us that it should be our loving hands that help our family members or friends rest in peace.

Following burial, *shiva* (7 days which follow the funeral) begins. Please see my article from September for more information on how to make a sensitive and appropriate shiva call.

The mourners remain with a special status through the end of *Sheloshim* (30 days after the funeral), or for 11 months if the deceased was a parent. This status is known as *Aveilut*, or mourning.

Sometime before the first year anniversary of death (*the Yahrzeit*), there is usually an "Unveiling," during which time the headstone or grave marker is revealed to the family. This is a powerful moment, as it lends itself much more tangibly to a feeling of finality. Some mourners feel a greater sense of closure at this point, though certainly not always.

In all, our rabbis created a ritual which allows us to slowly recover from our loss, and to slowly re-enter the world around us. There are ritual moments all along the way that enable us to mark the passage of time, and to give ourselves space to mourn as we need.

> L'shalom, Rabbi Marci N. Bellows





### INSPIRATION FROM OUR CANTOR



The optimum word for March is, "dugmah," a Hebrew word meaning exemplary, or by example. This is a most important term in our tradition that I have used on many past occasions when I have spoken to b'nai mitzvah.

To be exemplary draws attention to not only practicing principle, integrity, dignity and respect, but also leadership,

teaching and mentoring.

Our behavior before others becomes formative in creating perceptions of us in the eyes, minds and hearts of others.

Jews are always potential goodwill ambassadors to those who are unfamiliar with us. Unfortunately, Jews also have the negative potential to assist in the formation of unflattering stereotypes.

Our Adult, Youth and Teen Choirs recently applied their skills, in an exemplary manner when they performed at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. annual memorial service, at the First Presbyterian Church of Levittown, on Sunday, January 18, 2015. I could not have been more proud of them, as they stood with confidence, poise and dignity, tempered with an unbridled enthusiasm for the selections they sang, including "Behold How Good," by Cantor Lisa Levine, who was a Composer-in-Residence a few years back. The TBT Adult Choir members made up the majority of the community wide choir assembled for this event!

Regarding the Teen and Youth Choirs, I am also greatly indebted to their parents, the unsung heroes in the background. Without their support, cooperation and encouragement, their children would not be so involved. No matter what age, when Jews present themselves positively, they also achieve those most important qualities of dugmah, mentioned earlier, that of teachers, leaders and mentors.

Each and every member of the Youth and Teen Choirs who participated in the service achieved those qualities in the highest form of our tradition. By leading they also taught, engaging the congregation gathered to sing with them. Their presence mentored the hearts and minds of those gathered, especially those with little or no familiarity with any Jewish person, young or old.

In addition, as I commented at the service, our adults and children could have been doing any number of activities on that holiday weekend, but they choose to be at the service! They were "Jews By Choice" in the highest form of our tradition. Again, I could not have been more proud.

All of these children will be the up and coming bar and bat mitzvah candidates in a few short years. I am sure this experience, like many others in which they chose to participate, will guide them in their achievement and success. A famous quote from the Book of Prophets, in reference to the mentoring relationship of Moses and Joshua, who would lead the Israelites into Canaan while Moses would have to stay behind, states, "He, who shall bring up a servant with delicacy and compassion, shall have a master, at the last." The most important aspects of being this cantor are pastoring and mentoring, with music a close third. I only hope that my own contribution will have made "masters at the last."

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On Sunday, March 29th, at 2pm, my series "The Jewish Experience in Film," will continue with the showing of



"Crossfire," an intensely dramatic classic, black and white film from 1947. Starring Robert Young, Robert Mitchum, Robert Ryan, and Gloria Grahame, it was nominated for five Academy Awards, including Best Picture. It is a murder mystery and reveals the strong anti-Semitic feelings of a soldier having just returned from action in World War II.

Our last showing, in February, was, by contrast, a contemporary film from

2001, "Focus," from the play by Arthur Miller, which stars William H. Macy and Laura Dern. It is the story of a gentile couple mistaken, in their small community, for being Jewish.

I'm delighted that the series grows in audience attendance for each showing. I hope you'll join us!

The next day, Monday, March 30th, at 1 pm, join us for our first session of "Adventures in Music," featuring the extraordinary talents of Fiel and Rene Sahir, father and son classical guitarists, who will perform a wide variety of selections, including those relevant to Jewish texts. Rene, Fiel's father, has been on our series previously and was enthusiastically received.

Sponsored by the Chai Club, join us for a light lunch following the program. Fiel and Rene will also regale us with witty anecdotes and stories. Again, I hope you will join us!

May you all enjoy a sweet pre-spring March, filled with great Purim fun, warmer weather and lots of temple activity!

Cantor Steve Sher

### **CONGREGANT CORNER**

Silverman Family

The Silverman family has been members of Temple B'nai Torah for a few years now. Jeff is an architect in NYC and his wife Colleen is a school teacher in the Bellmore-Merrick School District. They have three children, Michael and twins, Matthew and Jaclyn.

As a family, they enjoy the

outdoors. "Whether just play time or a hike or a bike ride, we all love being outside. Like many families with children of this age, we find ourselves shuffling around all weekend from bowling to basketball to scouting events, to religious school and birthday parties." Sometimes, back-to-work on Monday is a pleasant relief. Colleen currently coaches PAL basketball for both of our younger children. "I am a scout leader for the boys and have been for the last 6 years", says Jeff.

When asked about what it means to be a member of the TBT family, Jeff says "As a family with one parent not raised Jewish, we are offered the opportunity to participate in our religious faith in a way that not only doesn't exclude anyone, but makes it welcoming and a learning experience. A reform temple makes it easier to bridge that gap and still provide a great environment and education for our children. Both of our boys have earned their religious emblems in scouting through TBT associations. The idea of connecting to a group of similar, local people is very appealing and comforting. We look forward to many more years associated with TBT."

"We are very happy with Rabbi Bellows and Cantor Sher. We think they make a great team while up in front of everyone and they connect with both our children and with us. Their energy and common sense approach makes us feel welcome and they seem very approachable." Colleen was not raised Jewish, but also feels quite comfortable in the sanctuary and is able to follow along. "The differences between the services for Family Night Services and regular services seem very 'natural' for both the Rabbi and Cantor. Now that Michael has started his bar mitzvah studies, we're working more directly with the Cantor on a weekly basis. We appreciate his guidance. We are of course, are very excited about the bar mitzvah and are very much looking forward to his May date."

Congratulations to the Silverman family on Michael's upcoming bar mitzvah. We know it will be a day they will never forget.

Submitted by Jeff Cohen

# **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**



Our confirmation trip in December was to Washington D.C. to participate in L'Taken, a social justice seminar sponsored by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC). The program is designed to introduce students to a variety of public policy issues and explore the Reform Movement's advocacy around these

issues. Two of our students, Rebecca Ponticello and Morgan Schnee, wrote an effective, persuasive and passionate speech on the rights of people with disabilities. They had the opportunity to read it to Senator Gillibrand's aide.

Their presentation included:

We are here to discuss the rights of people with disabilities, in particular the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. An estimated one billion people worldwide have and live with a disability this translates into approximately 15% of the world population. Already 151 countries have ratified the CRPD, as a result this is opening the doors for people with disabilities. This will make it easier and possible for people with disabilities to travel and work abroad. *The United States should also ratify this and be a part of* this international movement that will majorly help people with disabilities. Ratifying this law could help enforce and ensure that children and adults with disabilities receive the health care, education, transportation, and employment opportunities that are vital to participate fully in all aspects of life, thus doing this will economically and physically make this nation stronger.

As a reform Jew, we were taught, "You shall not insult the deaf or place a stumbling block before the blind." (Leviticus 19: 14) Simply put, we should treat the people with disabilities as equals. I attend a school where the education of people with disabilities is valued. Those children are given the proper accommodations to succeed.

We hope that you can bring CRPD back to the Senate next Congress for ratification. Thank you for your time today listening and meeting with us.

> L'Shalom, Elisa Blank, Director of Education



### Pack & Troop 189

Another great month for the Pack and for the Troop!

Let me start by talking about our participation in Scout Sabbath and Scout Sunday services. Many boys attended Scout Sabbath services at Temple B'nai Torah. As always, Rabbi Bellows and Cantor Sher did a fantastic job. In addition, many other boys attended services at other Houses of Worship in the area. Our members take the twelfth point of the Scout Law ("A Scout is Reverent") very seriously, and it shows by our attendance.

During the last weekend of January, the troop went camping at Glen Grey Camp in New Jersey. You may remember it was a very snowy and icy weekend, but that didn't stop our troop! They went orienteering in the snow. It becomes more of a challenge when the trails and trail markers can't be seen, and when walking is more difficult, but they persevered. Everyone had a great time.

That same weekend, the pack went to the Whaling Museum at Cold Spring Harbor for an overnight stay. As typical of a whole family activity, there were many siblings along with us. The museum staff showed the boys a lot about what it would have been like to grow up in Cold Spring Harbor in the early 1800s, which really gave the youth a different perspective on their own lives today.

The pack had its Pinewood Derby on February 1st. For those unfamiliar with this event, the boys, with help from their parents, make race cars out of blocks of wood. It was a very exciting contest, and we are sending four qualifiers on to the District Derby on March 28th: Jack Johnson (Tiger Den), Anthony Francolini (Wolf Den), Alec Spar (Bear Den), and Alejandro Aviles (Webelos Den). A special shout out goes to Patrick Fioribello, who made his car to look like a Duracell 9-volt battery. I was completely blown away by the amount of detail on the car, and he won 'Best Looking Car'. Good luck to all of our qualifiers!

Last, the troop had its Winter Court of Honor. Courts of Honor award the boys in front of their parents. It is also where the new Patrol Leaders and other staff members are sworn in. We had a number of boys achieve the rank of First Class, which Robert Baden-Powell (the founder of the Boy Scouts) stated was the mark of a complete Scout. We also honored our two latest Eagle Scouts, Joe Vitucci and Kevin Greene. While they will be honored at their Eagle Court of Honor at a future date, they are Eagles as of the date of their Board of Review. Great work, gentlemen!

That's it for now. I look forward on filling the community in on the activities of our Scouts next month!

J.J. Scotch



Visit www.tbtwantagh.org for the latest information.

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

As I am writing this during the beginning of February for the March edition, football season has now come to an end with an exciting Super Bowl game (depending on whom you were rooting for) and I realized how much putting together a good football team



resembles putting together a good temple staff. While comparing running a temple to coaching a football team might be a stretch, the idea that it is important to plan for the future is a goal that we share. To succeed it is necessary to determine where the strengths and weaknesses are, capitalize on the strengths and eliminate the weaknesses.

Fortunately for Temple B'nai Torah, we have a wonderful "support" staff in our office. Starting at the top is Sue Ellen Pennington, our quarterback. Without her Temple B'nai Torah could not run efficiently or financially as well as it does. She is on top of every aspect of what goes on in our temple, from the calendar to accounts payable, to walking on the roof of our building with a contractor, to making sure the snow is removed in a timely fashion, even if it is her day off. And while not everyone might agree with all she does, especially if it does not fit your particular agenda, I personally could not have handled being President of TBT without her.

The rest of our "team" is Paula Metzger and Marilyn Pomeranz. These two women also work very hard at keeping TBT running smoothly and have been with the temple for more years than I can remember. Accounts receivable, doing mailings, answering phones and responding to congregant questions are just a few of their tasks. Being the front line of the temple is not an easy job.

So the next time you are in the building, why not pop on into our office and say, "Thank you" to these wonderful women who are on your team. Try schmoozing a bit and you will discover what I see in them.

> Sherrill Spatz Congregation President

### TBT-PTA

Wow! Spring is almost here! Can you believe it? The PTA would like to thank all the wonderful people who helped out during our cold, wintery February events: the Tu B'Shevat Seder and Family Bingo. The K-4 children had such a wonderful time celebrating the birthday of the trees with Elisa Blank, Rabbi Bellows, and Cantor Sher! The children tried out new fruits and made leaves for the beautiful family tree which is now hanging in the Religious School Stairway. We hope you will join us next year! Our parent volunteers spent time preparing Seder plates and joining in the celebration. Thank you to Ilene Helman and Sharon Curry for taking the lead, and to all the parents who helped out!

At Family Bingo we had almost fifty parents and children who stayed after Religious School to match numbers and win big! They enjoyed hot dogs, pizza, k'nishes, and won prizes and raffles. Thank you so much to Diane and Jay Schoenberg, our professional callers, for leading our game and allowing us the use of the professional Bingo equipment. They also provided tours for the children so that they could see how the process works. Thank you as well to Rita Hofer who stayed for the event so that the equipment could be used. Michele Samuels, Alaina Walsh, and Melissa Coene did an amazing job putting this together – thank you to all three as well as our PTA volunteers!

The PTA candy sales have begun. Your purchase of some delicious Passover candy will help raise needed funds for the PTA. Even the purchase of one or two items goes a long way! Also, the PTA will be seeking out volunteers to help out with the Passover Seder in the school this month. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sharon Curry at TBTSharon@aol.com Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 15th at 10 am. This is right after the Brotherhood Breakfast that is held in the social hall each Sunday when school is in session. Many parents who come in get to know one another and hang our after drop-off! So please come have a cup of coffee, a bite to eat, and then join the meeting. If you don't know anyone, come on in and introduce yourself - we would love to get to know you! Chag Pesach Sameach and Happy Spring!

> Written by Alissa Neches



### **COUPLES CLUB & SINGLES CLUB**

#### A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME



The Couples Club, in response to appeals to adopt a more inclusive title, has started a trial period in which we will be advertising our events as the "Couples & Singles Club". We are conducting this trial

period to see if it results in additional participation in our club, from those congregants who have indicated that they have not joined because they viewed us as being for couples only. If this experiment is successful, a new and permanent name will be established in the fall, with the appropriate revision to the temple documentation.

Throwing a coin into a wishing well, rubbing the toe of a statue of a saint, kissing the Blarney Stone, or twirling a Buddhist prayer wheel are examples of the ways individuals hope to achieve good fortune. These mystical benefits can be acquired without traveling to distant lands. It has been determined by the authorization committee, that stroking the "Couples Club Stone", which occupies the throne position in the center of the "TBT Tree Of Life", one will reach a state of nirvana, enlightenment and bliss. The Couples Club is happy that we can provide this opportunity to all who enter our building. Skeptics and doubters will only be depriving themselves.

The planned events for this year include: March-"Matzoh Ball"- Temple Dance; April- "Man Of La Mancha" show and Gelato Festival; May-Museum of the Moving Image in Queens; June-High Line and Chelsea Market (NYC visit).

The casting for the full-length feature film "Couples Club: The Movie" is continuing. The roles of Sherry Feldman, Rhoda Goldstein and Rita Hofer will be played by Nicole Kidman, Helen Hunt, and Judy Dench.

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 yourselves, 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 members. The Couples Club members actively participate in the other arms' functions, (many participated in the TBT Square Dance), 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.

Couples Club's monthly word of wisdom: Learn the rules so you know how to break them properly.

Fred Dinstell



### Michael C. Horwitz, CPA, P.C.

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### **CHAI LIGHTS**



"March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb", I used to tell all my kindergarteners. We have so many activities. We hope all our lion days are sunny and gentle. Last month our meetings were held in the afternoon due to the cold; in March we plan to go back to our evening meetings

Our first meeting of the month is

Monday, March 2nd at 7:30 pm. Rabbi Bellows will share with us changes in Jewish beliefs. Join us as we always learn so much from our Rabbi. Purim follows shortly after. The Purim Spiel is always fun and many of our Chai Members are great participants. Hopefully many received and participated in the Shalach Manos fundraiser. Thank you to those that helped make this a great treat for so many.

Chai Club looks forward to our trip to see '1776' on Sunday, March 22nd. Thank you Pearl, for organizing this event. She had to increase the tickets three times. The Chai Club four- week Adventures-in-Music program, organized by Cantor Sher, will begin on Monday, March 30th, at 11:30am. Programs are followed by a light lunch. We ask \$4 to help defray the cost.

Although it seems far away, Passover is coming April 3rd. Chai Club runs a Temple Second Seder on Saturday, April 4th at 6pm for you and your families. Make your reservation early. The Service will be led by Cantor Sher. Thank you Joan & Brian Levy and Marilyn & Ed Pincus for chairing this fun and delicious project.

Hope to see you all at the Temple Matzoh Ball, and throughout the month. Perhaps our heavy jackets will come off as March ends. Feel free to call me with any questions (516-785-5827).

#### Rita Chai Club President

### **OUR TBT SISTERHOOD SOURCE**



First off, our month starts with Purim. I hope you've participated in our Shalach Manos fundraiser and enjoyed your bag of sweets. The celebration with the reading of the Megilah will be Wednesday evening, March 4th. Come and participate wearing your costumes; it's a blast for little kids and big kids alike.

I am so excited and looking forward to this month's happenings. On Tuesday, March 10 is Sisterhood's Painting Party, organized by Cara Froese. We'll be creating works of art to take home, frame, and brag about. What grabs me about this first-time event is that "no talent is required." I surely fit the bill; you can't possibly have less artistic ability than me.



The fourth of five Rosh Chodesh sessions led by Rabbi Bellows is on Sunday, March 22. Different sections of the book A Bride for One Night are discussed and everyone who attends is inspired and learns something.

We end the month on Tuesday, March 31,

with one of my absolutely favorite functions of the year, namely the Women's Seder. This event is also led by the rabbi (she'll sure be busy with us in March!) with a tremendous amount of work done by our membership department and a number of other volunteers. We fill the social hall as we read the Haggadah from a woman's point of view. There's singing and dancing, delicious food, storytelling, and you can just feel the warmth all around you. Ladies, you won't want to miss this.

Lots of Sisterhood stuff going on...JOIN IN!

Sincerely, Diane Schoenberg Sisterhood President

### **FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN**

#### Spring Has Sprung!

After a winter that was more like Montreal, Quebec than Wantagh, Long Island we're ready for some sunshine! It is a comfort to know spring is headed our way. You can take my word on it.



What are the first signs of spring for Jews? Is it coming home while it is still light outside? Is it the arrival of pitchers and catchers for spring training? Maybe it is discovering the Passover aisle in Shop-Rite has made its appearance?

Our herald of spring is the holiday triple-play on the Jewish Calendar of Tu b'Shevat – Purim – Passover. They arrive exactly a month apart, each near a full moon, what a plan! Now if only we could arrange the full moon so Passover will always arrive after April 15th!

Mark Chester, Editor



### Family Bingo















Tu b'Shevat Seder

Tu b'Shevat Crafts





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### **BLOG FROM RABBI MIRI GOLD**

I would like to interest you in a new book, titled Voices in the Wilderness: Emerging Roles of Israeli Clergywomen, edited by Cantors Meeka Simerly and Jonathan L. Friedmann, Gaon Books, 2015. (for more details, go to http://j.mp/clergywomen).

I am privileged to be included in this book, along with Rabbis Maya Leibovich, Ilana Baird and Gila Caine, and Cantors Meeka Simerly, Miriam Eskenasy, Maria Dubinsky, Galit Dadoun Cohen, and Tamar Havilio. We have each shared our journeys. Some beginning in Israel, others in the United States or the former Soviet Union. In a country where the road is bumpy when it comes to reform clergy, we have all faced challenges and reaped rewards to the paths we have chosen. Each of us tells a personal story of religious practice within the background of our families and social context.

It is perhaps telling that of all the cantors in this book, only one is practicing her calling in Israel (Tamar Havilio, who made aliyah from North America, heads the cantorial program at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem). Because of the Orthodox rabbinate, no liberal rabbis are officially recognized; because of extreme Orthodox leaders, the voice of women is considered outlawed and reviled. In Talmudic discussions, it was said that the voice of a woman would distract men praying. From that to banning women singers in public in modern day Orthodox religious circles in Israel, one can see the ongoing swing to extremism. You may recall a big stir when a woman came to sing for army troops. Some of the Orthodox soldiers walked out, and refused to obey their commanders who ordered them to return to the assembly.

Women rabbis have fared better in Israel, although there are obstacles of prejudice and disdain. Thankfully, many (but not all) of the "secular", and even the modern "enlightened" segments of Orthodox Jews, are becoming more accustomed and accepting of the idea that in a Jewish and democratic society in Israel, the streams of Judaism must be tolerated, even if not liked. Since the beginning of my appeal to the Israel Supreme Court in 2005, many more Israelis have come to know and appreciate Reform Judaism in Israel. Our congregations are growing, more and more people are exposed to the beauties of our ceremonies and celebrations, and new initiatives in different parts of the country continue to take root.

When I was ordained in 1999, I never thought of the possibility that the Government of Israel might provide some funding for our rabbis in Israel. Over fifteen years later I can look back over many accomplishments, and look ahead with more confidence that we can overcome additional barriers and meet the challenges that we still face. Your involvement helps us achieve a more secure future for a thriving religious diversity in Israel. Thank you! *Rabbi Miri Gold, of Kehilat Birkat Shalom at Kibbutz Gezer, invites you to visit next time you are in Israel.* 

Evening of Line Dancing





Crafting Multi-Photo Holders, under the direction of Stephanie Jacobson

**Recent Sisterhood Activities** 





Baking and Tasting Focaccia Bread with The Baking Coach





### 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 \$	
Get Well to:	In I	Honor of	f:		In	Memory of	
From	Send Ca	ard To			Rela	atioship	
Address							

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.

Send to: Temple B'nai Torah, 2900 Jerusalem Avenue, Wantagh, NY 11793-2025

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### SPECIAL GIFTS

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CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND From Ellen Solomon In memory of: Edwin Kliegman from Saundra & Len Honig In appreciation of: Cantor Sher's visits to Sol Goldstein from Elaine & Sol Goldstein

CANTOR WALTER LEWIS MUSIC FUND In memory of: Ben Marz from Stan & Jan Friedman Nani's mother from Board of Trustees Sunshine Fund

MUSIC & CHOIR FUND From Ellen Solomon In memory of: Ben Marz from Board of Trustees Sunshine Edwin Kliegman from Martha & Larry Zaretsky Edwin Kliegman from Ira & Barbara Sandler Edwin Kliegman from Helene Berk

CARING COMMITTEE FUND In memory of: Jacqueline Curry from Board of Trustees Sunshine Fund

RABBI ROBERT RAAB FUND In memory of: Nicoletta Mock from The Beldner Family

DORIS & ED KLIEGMAN ADULT EDUCATION FUND From Ellen Solomon In memory of: Blanche Inkeles from Ruth & Herb Sussman Edwin Kliegman from Ruth & Herb Sussman Edwin Kliegman from Harvey & Rita Drucker Edwin Kliegman from TBT Chai Club Edwin Kliegman from Rita Hofer Edwin Kliegman from Sharon & David Forman Edwin Kliegman from Sarita Keyser Edwin Kliegman from Marcia Kotkin Edwin Kliegman from Jack & Esther Phillips Edwin Kliegman from Sol & Elaine Goldstein Edwin Kliegman from Bill Bardavid Edwin Kliegman from Len & Shirley Young Edwin Kliegman from Bobbi Meisner Edwin Kliegman from Lois & David Swawite Edwin Kliegman from Zelda & Marvin Zuckerman

PRAYER BOOK FUND From Ellen Solomon In honor of: Janee & Alan Loewenstein's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary from Shelley & Barry Lomove In memory of: Seymour Shotland from Esther & Jack Phillips Ben Marz from Shelley & Barry Lomove Edwin Kliegman from Shelley & Barry Lomove Edwin Kliegman from Tessa Kean Irving Carroll from Tessa Kean Irving Carroll from Shirley Briskie

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MAZEL TOV TO:

Diane & Jay Schoenberg on the engagement of their son, Mark to Allison Keane Rita Bogatch on the birth of her grandson, Nolan Perry Bogatch Barry Adler on the birth of his granddaughter, Mackenzie Gilbert

YISKOR ELOHIM: Edwin Kliegman, member Irving Carroll, member Dorothy Nyer, mother of Neal Nyer

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4.

5.

6.

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### ø lemple TIME B'nai orah b d h

Come Celebrate Purim with the Temple B'nai Torah Community.

There's something for everyone!

- "How-To-Do" Purim (Tuesday, March 3, 5-5:45pm) The next in our series of "How-to-do" the Jewish holidays. Come meet the characters, learn the story, and pick up recipes for yummy hamentaschen! All TBT members welcome.
- Purim Service, Parade, and Spiel (Wednesday, March 4, 7:30 pm) Everyone is welcome to come in costume to our silliest, zaniest, and craziest night of the year! All those in costume will be invited to parade around the sanctuary, and we hope you'll "let it go" (hint hint) when you sing along with this year's spiel!
- Purim Carnival (Sunday, March 8, 9am-1pm) Kids of all ages love attending our festive and fun Purim Carnival (run by our very own BNTY youth group). Come have a nosh, win a prize, get your face painted, and have a blast!

Temple B'nai Torah ~ 2900 Jerusalem Ave ~ Wantagh, NY 11793 ~ 516.221.2370

Sponso Chai Club of Ten 2900 Jerusalem Avenue, Want				2370	
Bring your family and friends and enjoy a complete Passover Seder meal without the preparation.					
Led by Cantor Steven Sher Saturday, April 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2015 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. AReform Congregation 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, seniors, and unaffiliated members of our community are all welcome. All reservations, which are required, must be made no later than March 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2015. We can't accommodate any walk-ins. Please call Brian Levy, (516) 781-4966 or e-mail bellobl@aol.com with any questions. Mall the form and check, payable to CHAI CLUB TBT, to: Temple Binal Torah (/o Chai Club, 2000 Jerusalem Avenue, Wantagh, NY 11793. Reservations must be received by March 21 <sup>-2</sup> , 2015.					
			erusalem Avenue, Wantagl	n, NY 11793.	
	eived by March	21 <sup>#</sup> , 2015. E-r	erusalem Avenue, Wantagi	n, NY 11793.	
Reservations must be reco	eived by March	21 <sup>st</sup> , 2015. E-r h: s age 13 + ers		Children under 7 years old: No charge.	

Enclosed

#\$

Subtotals

#\$

Total numbers of

Guests

Total Amount



### MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<ul> <li>9:00am Rel. School</li> <li>9:15am Brother- hood Breakfast (S/H)</li> <li>10:00am PTA Meeting (Rm. 201)</li> <li>11:30-noon Youth Choir (Rm 201)</li> <li>11:45-1:45pm Adult Confirm. Class (S/H)</li> <li>2:00-8:00pm Rental (S/H)</li> <li>BNTY Albany Social/Justice Day (A)</li> </ul>	12:00pm Torah Study (K/L)     5:30-6:30pm BNTY Jr. (Y/L)     6:30-7:00pm Teen Choir (Rm. 201)     • 7:30-8:30pm Religious School     • 7:30-9:30pm Adult Choir (Rm. 201)     • 7:30pm Chai Club General Meeting (K/L)     • 8:30-10:00pm BNTY Sr. (Y/L)	<ul> <li>10:00am Al Anon</li> <li>4:30-6:00pm</li> <li>Religious School</li> <li>5:00-5:45pm How-</li> <li>To-Do Purim (KL)</li> <li>6:00-8:00pm Purim</li> <li>Spiel Reh.(Sanc.)</li> <li>6:45pm Sisterhood</li> <li>Exec. Mtg (101/103)</li> <li>7:00pm Brother-hood</li> <li>Exec. Mtg (104)</li> <li>7:30pm Sisterhood</li> <li>Board Mtg (101/103)</li> <li>8:00pm Brother-hood</li> <li>Board Mtg (K/L)</li> </ul>	10:30am Bingo     5:00-7:00pm Purim Spiel Rehearsal (Sanc.)     7:30pm Purim Celebration & Spiel	<u>6:00-7:30pm Cub</u> <u>Scouts (Y/L)</u> <u>7:30-9:00pm Boy</u> <u>Scouts (Y/L)</u> <u>7:30pm Bingo</u>	<u>3:00pm B/M</u> <u>Rehearsal (Sanc.)</u> <u>7:30pm Family</u> <u>Svc/Shabbat Across</u> <u>America</u>	9:30-11:00am Torah Study (K/L) 10:30am Service (1) B/M Liebow
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins • 9:00am Religious School • 9:00am-1:00pm BNTY Purim Carnival (S/H & K/L)	9 • 12:00pm Torah Study (K/L) • 5:30pm BNTY Jr. Y/L • 6:30-7:00pm Teen Choir (Rm. 201) • 7:00-8:30pm Religious School • 7:00pm Jewish War Veterans Mtg (S/H) • 7:30-9:30pm Adult Choir (Rm. 201) • 8:30-10pm BNTY Sr.	10 • 10:00am Al Anon • 4:30-6:00pm Religious School • 7:00-9:30pm Sisterhood Fundraiser/Painting Party (S/H & Y/L)	11 • 10:30am Bingo	12 • 6:00-7:30pm Cub Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30-9:00pm Boy Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30pm Bingo	13 • 3:00pm B/M <u>Rehearsal (Sanc.)</u> • 5:30pm Tot Shabbat <u>Service</u> 8:00pm Joyce <u>Berger Interfaith</u> <u>Shabbat Svc-guest</u> <u>Father Cappuccino</u>	14 • 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (K/L) • 10:30am Service (1) B/M Gross
15 •9:00am Rel.School •9:00-11:30am Rel. School Dance (K/L) •9:15am Brother-hood Breakfast (S/H) •10:00am PTA Mtg S/H •10:00-11:00am Membership Mtg (Lib) •11:30-noon Youth Choir (Rm 201) •11:45am B/M Orientation Mar-April 2016 Fam (K/L) •1:00-3:00pm Bogatch Baby Naming (K/L & Sanc.) • NFTY Elections	<u>Study (K/L)</u> • 5:30-6:30pm BNTY <u>Jr. (Y/L)</u> • 6:30-7:00pm Teen	17 • 10:00am Al Anon • 4:30-6:00pm Religious School • 7:00pm Brother-hood Dinner (K/L) • 7:30-9:00pm Religious Ed Mtg (104)	18 • 10:30am Bingo • 7:00pm Fundraising <u>Mtg (Away)</u>	19 • 6:00-7:30pm Cub <u>Scouts (Y/L)</u> • 7:30-9:00pm Boy <u>Scouts (Y/L)</u> • 7:30pm Bingo	20 • 3:00pm B/M <u>Rehearsal (Sanc.)</u> • 6:00pm Pre-Neg • 6:30pm Kabbalat <u>Service</u>	21 • 9:30-11:00am Torah <u>Study (K/L)</u> • 10:30am Service (2) <u>B/M Bach &amp; Froese</u> • 12-3:00pm B/M <u>luncheon Bach (K/L)</u>
22 9:00am Rel. School 9:15am Brother-hood Breakfast (S/H) 9:30am-noon Book Club (Library) 11:30-noon Youth Choir (Rm 201) 12:00pm Rosh Chodesh (K/L) 2:00pm Chai Club Theatre Event (Away) 3:00-5:00pm Adult Confirm Class (K/L)	•6:30pm Teen Choir • 7:00-8:30pm Religious School • 7:00pm Housing Meeting (K/L) • 7:30-9:30pm Adult Choir (Rm. 201) •8:30-10:00pm BNTY Sr. (Y/L)	24 • 10:00am Al Anon • 4:30-6:00pm Religious School • 5:00-5:45pm How- To-Do Passover (K/L) • 7:30pm Ritual Com. Mtg (K/L)	25 • 10:30am Bingo	26 • 5:30pm B/M photos Berke (Sanc.) • 6:00-7:30pm Cub Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30-9:00pm Boy Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30pm Bingo	27 • 3:00pm B/M <u>Rehearsal (Sanc.)</u> • 8:00pm Erev <u>Shabbat Couples Club</u> <u>Service</u> • NFTY Jr. Kallah (Away)	28 • 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (Rm. 104) • 10:30am Service (1) B/M Berke • 12:00-4:00pm Berke Family Luncheon (K/L- Lobby) • 2:00pm Temple Dance set-up (S/H) • 7:00pm "Matzoh Ball": Masquerade Dinner/Dance (S/H) • NFTY Jr. Kallah (A)
29 • 9:00am Rel.School • 9:15am Brotherhood Breakfast (S/H) • 10:00-12:00pm Couples Club Bd tg (A) • 11:30 Youth Choir 201 • 12:00-3:00pm BNTY Program(Y/L) • 1:00pm Jewish Experience on Film (K/L) • NFTY Jr. Kallah (A)		31 • 10:00am Al Anon • 4:30-6:00pm Religious School • 6:00pm Sisterhood Women's Seder (S/H) • 7:00pm Brother-hood Men's Seder (K/L)				



### **IN THE HOUSE**

What a meeting we had in January! We took a road trip down to the basement of the temple (Okay, we really walked). What an eye opener it was for some of our members. Pipes, pipes and more pipes. Storage, storage and more storage. (Sorry...all space is accounted for.) Rooms, rooms and more rooms. We examined all the floors of our building and all areas in our building. "Oh-so this is the school wing." "Ohour bathrooms are up to code." "Oh-the kitchen looks so much better." "Oh-here is our dumbwaiter" (I actually had one of these when I was growing up in Queens).

The best part of our meeting was the participation of our members in discussion followed by the offering of suggestions which will be investigated. Thank you to all our members who brought their concern and their expertise to the table.

Come to our next meeting and bring your ideas. Our next meeting will be on March 23rd at 7 p.m.

by Tessa Kean



### UNIONGRAM ORDER FORM UNIONGRAM ORDER FORM

The following is a list of the boys and girls who will be celebrating their Bar/Bat Mitzvah MARCH through JUNE, 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

#### **TEMPLE B'NAI TORAH SISTERHOOD**

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

CITIL D'O MANE

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DADENTTO

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHILD'S NAME</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>					
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					
Apr. 18	Emily Sturm	Michael & Audrey					
Apr. 25	Morgan Berman	Marc & Jodi					
May 2	Madison Lapiana	Holly Sher					
May 9	Alex Holden	Christopher & Jennifer					
	Andrew Almont	Daniel & Cori					
May 16	Kayla Nietsch	Brian &Julie					
	Michael Silverman	Jeffrey & Colleen					
May 30	Evelyn Yousha	Eric & La Donna					
	Jonathan Goldsmith	Michael &					
		Cathy Lewis					
June 6	Jack Chillemi	Robert & Jennifer					
	Autumn Ledbetter	Lee & Evren					
June 13	Jake Boden	Andrew & Stephanie					
	Harrison Rubin	Richard & Ann					
June 20	Matthew Axelrod	Alan & Audrey					
Unio							
Uniongrams @ \$1.25 each = \$							
PLEASE PRINT							
<b>PLEASE NOTE:</b> All uniongrams requested must be submitted <b>TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE</b> , either by mail or left in the Uniongram box in the Temple office. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE CASH IN THE MAILBOX.							

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Rabbi Marci N. Bellows **Cantor Steven Sher** 

#### **B'nai Torah Times**

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  - 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.



#### Dated Material - Please Rush!



The staff of TBT Times shares the loss with the passing of Ed Kliegman. Ed was the initial editor of TBT Times and he cared passionately for the future of this Temple. Ed served on the Constitution Committee, helping craft the foundation of TBT. His participation on Nominations Committee, and his interest in promoting continuing leadership in organizations was heartfelt.