

February 2015
Vol. 7 No. 6

B'nai Torah TIMES

A BREATH, BREEZE, AND SPIRIT OF THE TIMES



Tu b'Shevat..... The Cycle Renews

B'NAI MITZVAH



February 7 Nathan Rosen

Daniel & Samantha

My name is Nathan Rosen. I am an honor student at Grand Avenue Middle School. I play soccer for Grand Avenue and two other soccer teams. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, playing sports, and being at school. My mitzvah project consisted of collecting donations for different charities or volunteering my time each month from August to my Bar Mitzvah. I would like to thank my parents and my brother for always being there for me. I would also like to thank Mrs. Altman for tutoring and helping me learn Torah. I would also like to thank the Rabbi and Cantor for helping me prepare for my bar mitzvah.



February 7 Max Feldman

Steven & Helene

My name is Max Feldman, I'm twelve years old and I live in Bellmore. I play soccer for two teams, Bellmore Fire (a travel team) and for my middle school. Like most kids, I enjoy playing on my computer and talking to my friends on my phone. I love dogs, and recently I rescued an abused ten-year-old King Charles Spaniel named Sophie. For my bar mitzvah project I am raising money for her and, hopefully, other senior dogs. If you would like to help us out: please get in touch with me.



February 21 Brian Friedlander

Joe & Lori

My name is Brian Friedlander. I am a seventh grade student at Grand Avenue Middle School. My hobbies include playing baseball, basketball, hockey and football as well as solving Rubik's cubes. I play saxophone in the Grand Avenue Middle School seventh grade band. I would like to thank Mr. Kramer and Rabbi Bellows for helping me prepare for my bar mitzvah and I would also like to thank my family for all their support.



February 21 Joshua Handley

Rich & Jill

My name is Joshua Handley and I am a seventh grader at Howitt Middle School in Farmingdale. I like to play soccer and have been involved in karate for many years. I joined my school's cross country team this year and plan to continue with running. I enjoy playing video games as well. I would like to thank my parents, my sister Emily, Rabbi Bellows, Cantor Sher and Ms. Altman for all their help this year preparing for my bar mitzvah. I look forward to sharing my bar mitzvah with my family and friends.



February 28 Rachel Pontillo

Joseph & Gayle

Rachel Pontillo has grown up in North Bellmore. She is a seventh grade honor student at Grand Avenue Middle School. Rachel has been coming to Temple B'nai Torah since nursery school. She has been attending religious school since Kindergarten. Rachel is very excited about her bat mitzvah. For her mitzvah project, Rachel is collecting old sneakers for Nike Reuse-a-shoe. The old sneakers are recycled. She is saving the planet, one sneaker at a time. Rachel loves to shop, play soccer and play her flute. Rachel says, "Thank you" to Rabbi Bellows, Cantor Sher, Mrs. Altman, and her family for giving her endless support while preparing for this special day.



February 28 Arinn Schnall

Marc & Helaine

My name is Arinn Schnall and I am a 7th grade honor roll student at Plainedge Middle School where I play the violin and participate in Mathletes. I am an active Girl Scout and I am also proud to be part of the *madrichim* program at TBT. For my mitzvah project I ran a Halloween costume drive that collected hundreds of costumes which were donated to organizations that gave them to children in need. I have enjoyed working with Mrs. Altman to prepare for my bat mitzvah, and I look forward to sharing my day with family and friends.

FEBRUARY RITUAL CALENDAR

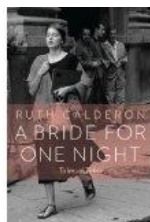
Tuesday, February 3	7:00 pm	Tu B'Shevat Seder & Dessert
Friday, February 6	7:30 pm	Scout Shabbat/ 6th Grade Siddurim
Saturday, February 7	10:30 am	Shabbat Service – 2 BM
Wednesday, February 11	7:30 pm	Ritual Committee Meeting (away)
Friday, February 13	5:30 pm	Tot Shabbat
Friday, February 13	8:00 pm	Shabbat Service
Saturday, February 14	10:30 am	No Services
Friday, February 20	6:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat
Saturday, February 21	10:30 am	Shabbat Service – 2 BM
Friday, February 27	8:00 pm	Sisterhood Shabbat Service
Saturday, February 28	10:30 am	Shabbat Service – 2 BM
Wednesday, March 4	7:30 pm	Purim Celebration & Speil
Friday, March 6	7:30 pm	Shabbat Across America
Saturday, March 7	10:30 am	Shabbat Service – 1 BM

Rosh Chodesh 2014-2015

TBT Sisterhood invites you
to the sixth year of the

popular series with
Rabbi Bellows

This year's topic:



A Bride for One Night: *Talmud Tales from Ruth Calderon*

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

Sunday, March 22, 12:00p
Sunday, May 17, 12:00p

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

TBT Is Proud of Our Member Carl Getzel

Carl received the following letter from the Counsel
General of France in New York.

Dear Mr. Getzel,

I am very pleased to inform you that you have
been awarded the insignia of Chevalier of the
Legion of Honor by the President of the French
Republic, Mr. Francois Hollande.

This prestigious distinction underlined the deep
appreciation and gratitude of the French people for
your contribution to the liberation of our country
during World War!! We will never forget the
commitment of the American heroes to whom
France owes so much.

Sincerely,
Bernard Lortholary (Consulate General)

A Sacred Union: Learning About Jewish Weddings



Shalom, Chaverim,

As you know, I've spent this year writing about Jewish lifecycle events for each month's columns. I've covered a number of the lifecycle moments found in a Jewish childhood, and I have also written about conversion to Judaism and how to properly make a shiva call.

This month, let's look at the joy of Jewish weddings. Although no wedding ceremony is described in the Torah, the institution of marriage is said to have begun with Adam and Eve. The Book of Genesis portrays God as saying (Genesis 2:18): "It is not good that man should be alone-I will make him a helpmate" (Gratitude to Anita Diamant's book, *The New Jewish Wedding*, as well as www.urj.org for information and resources.)

Most scholars agree that "marriages" originally amounted to a man's "reserving" a particular woman or women as his property. This was accomplished simply by bringing a woman into his tent or cave and having sexual relations with her. By the time of the Bible, however, the Jewish people had already begun to invest the man/woman relationship with far more than sexual significance. In Genesis 24:67, we read that "Isaac loved her," referring to Rebekah. This is the first mention of love between spouses. A series of customs arose that laid the groundwork for Judaism's elevation of marriage to a status of great legal and religious significance.

Judaism's emphasis upon the value of marriage is reflected in the fact that we call marriage *kiddushin*, from the word *kadosh*, "sacred" or "holy." Marriage, in other words, is a sacred union, according to the essential meaning of that Hebrew term. The sacred belongs to God, and it is the only social arrangement of human life that our tradition describes in this way.

Several of our most familiar Jewish wedding practices have surprising origins. In the traditional wedding ceremony, the bride circles the groom three or seven times, a custom deriving from the ancient belief that the best way to prevent the demon Lilith from taking the life of the groom is to form a magic protective circle around him. The breaking of the glass was originally performed after the circling of the groom, so that if Lilith were standing alongside the groom, the crashing would frighten her and cause her to flee from the circle. Over time the breaking of the glass was moved to the end of the ceremony and ascribed new meanings -- the reminder that at the height of our joy, we must remember the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, or a prayer for the couple that they share a life free from brokenness or pain.

We think of the *chuppah* as a uniquely Jewish tradition, but it is actually borrowed from the Roman Catholic Church, according to Joseph Gutmann, professor emeritus of Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. In the Middle Ages the priest placed a cloth over the bridal pair and recited one the following verses: "Spread your robe over your handmaiden" (Ruth 3:9) or "I spread your robe over your handmaiden" (Ezekiel 16:8). We similarly see many rabbis (including me) wrap the wedding couple in a Tallit during the ceremony and blessing them.

Reform Judaism has changed some aspects of the wedding ceremony, in great part to reflect the equal status of women. One of Reform's earliest changes was the double ring ceremony. In 1871, it was resolved that "after the bridegroom presented the ring to his bride with the words *hare at mekudeshet li* (By this ring you are consecrated to me...), the bride in her turn could also give the bridegroom a ring with a few appropriate words." Rabbi Joseph Aub of Berlin recommended that the bride use the phrase, "I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine." Today, Reform rabbis usually suggest that both bride and groom say, "By this ring you are consecrated to me according to the tradition of Israel." Another change has been the writing of egalitarian ketubot. Nearly all ketubot available today come in egalitarian versions, as well as interfaith and same-sex versions.

Other key moments of most Jewish weddings include:

Fasting: Among some Jews, it is customary for the wedding couple to fast on their wedding day, which is a day of forgiveness, similar to Yom Kippur. As a couple prepares for a new life together, this practice may enhance the spirituality of the day.

Badeken Di Kallah (Veiling of the Bride): Although the custom of badeken di kallah is not generally practiced by Reform Jews, one may encounter this ritual at some Jewish weddings. In this custom, which grew out of the biblical story of Jacob's love for Rachel, the groom looks at the bride before covering her face with the veil. Jacob worked for Rachel's father, Laban, for seven years in order to win Rachel's hand in marriage. But, at their wedding, Laban secretly substituted his elder daughter Leah for Rachel, later asserting that Jacob had to marry her before marrying Rachel. As a result of that undoubtedly traumatic experience, some Jewish grooms to this day assure themselves before uttering their vows that the woman they are marrying is in fact their intended.

(continued on page 12)

CONGREGANT CORNER

Joni Christie and family are long time members of TBT. She and Steve have three grown boys: newlywed Matthew (married Leah this year), Brandon (who resides in San Francisco), and Dylan (a freshman at the University of Delaware). Joni teaches special education in Queens for the past 30 years. Steve is a banker at Chase.



In her spare time Joni enjoys reading, gardening, creating art projects and exercising. But her number one love is dancing. She dances four nights a week to hip hop, tap, modern and Zumba.

Joni says "The temple is my family. They are always there for me. I know when I am down that I can go there and find a friend, a place of worship and support all around me. We all stand together and help each other."

She is also a very involved congregant. As a past-president of Sisterhood she is on the Sisterhood board. Joni is very active and loves her temple sisters. She is also a trustee on the Temple Board, participating with the Caring and Fundraising Committees (or wherever she is needed). She is working with the Square Dance Committee (guaranteed fun for all). Joni and Steve are chairing the Sisterhood Auction in April. Be sure to attend!!

As for the clergy: "The Rabbi is wonderful and has inspired me to continue to learn and grow in my knowledge of Judaism. She has made me proud to be a Jewish woman in today's society. The Cantor and I have a very strong relationship and he is a force with keeping my dad in good spirits and giving him a will to live. Cantor Sher is always there for my family during this difficult time."

"I am so glad TBT is in my life. I could not picture life without it." And neither could we.

Submitted by Jeff Cohen

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL



Our Religious School students are always fascinated with the ways Jews impacted American History. As we are about to celebrate Presidents' week, I would like to share with you the influence of one Jewish man during the time of the American Revolution.

General Washington's financial advisor and assistant was a Jewish man by the name of Chaim Solomon. During the cold winter in Valley Forge, when the American Revolutionary soldiers were freezing and running out of food, it was Chaim Solomon who marshaled the Jews in America and Europe to provide money. This money was used to supply relief aid to these stranded American Revolutionary troops and turned the course of history. Without this help, our army would have perished before it could have defeated the British.

If you take a one dollar bill out of your pocket, look at the eagle on the back. Notice that the stars above the eagle's head are in the shape of a six point Star of David, placed there to honor the Jews. If you turn the eagle upside down you will see a configuration that looks like a menorah. Both symbols are there at the insistence of George Washington who said we should never forget the Jewish people and what they have done in the interest of America. It is reported that Chaim Solomon died penniless, having used all of his resources to aid the newly formed and poorly supplied American army.

I hope that our religious school students and all of us are proud of the important role Jews have played in American history. As we honor George Washington we must remember that even today the Jewish people continue to be vital in the shaping of America.

*L'Shalom,
Elisa Blank,
Director of Education*

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Pack & Troop 189

The Pack and Troop 189 have had a great fall, going into the winter.



The Pack went to the Intrepid Museum in October. The kids (entire families came) had a great time looking at the jets and the ships. They were amazed at the tight living space on the submarine USS Growler. It is important to take the time to remind our youth of the sacrifice made by our veterans, both today and in the past, and the Intrepid does a fantastic job of making the experience real for our youth. In classic Cub Scout way, it was both fun and educational.



The next big event was the November Turkey Trip. Every year, the troop goes to Baiting Hollow Scout Camp, does an Open House for Webelos, and cooks a traditional turkey dinner for about 55-65 people. We cook our turkeys in a giant homemade reflector oven, and they are delicious. The smoke from the charcoal gives it a flavor not duplicated at home. There were all the expected sides as well, plus some scrumptious desserts made by the boys.

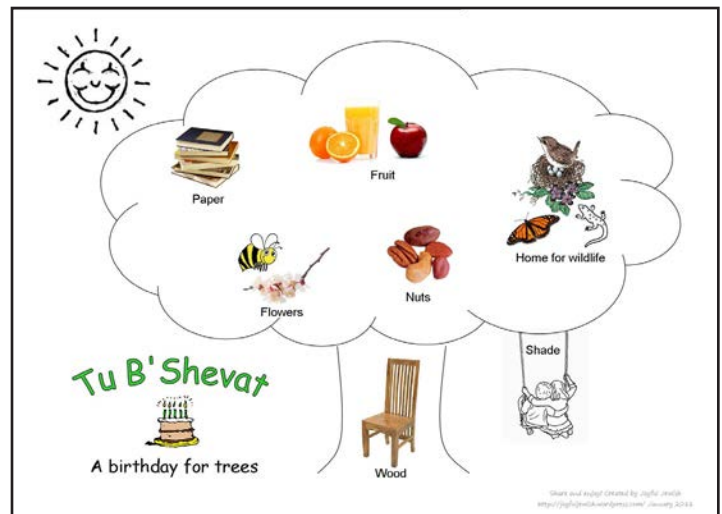
The troop also went camping at Camp Somers in New Jersey. Every year, the troop takes one non-traditional trip and bonds with simple food, fun, and fellowship over games. I was able to bring some games that most of the boys had never seen, including an old Castle Risk set (long out of print). Everyone had a blast.



The pack, in addition to our regular meetings, had our two holiday parties -- Halloween and the winter holidays. Again, everyone in the family was invited, and all the kids enjoyed getting dressed up in Halloween costumes. We also played dreidel at the winter holiday party, a new experience for many of our youth.

If you want more information about the Pack or the Troop, please email cubmaster@pack189ny.com or scoutmaster@troop189ny.com.

by JJ Scotch



OUR TBT SISTERHOOD SOURCE



Sisterhood's membership has grown just a little more. We happily welcomed two additional women into the fold. Hi, Deborah and Elaine!

So, why am I sharing this with you? I love how it happened. Deborah was helping out at our Hanukah sale as a P.T.A. parent. I didn't know her so I went to introduce myself (as others on the board did) and we had a lovely conversation about what Sisterhood has to offer. She joined on the spot for herself, as well as her mom, a temple member—and expressed interest in some of our upcoming events. This shows what can take place if we just put ourselves out there a bit. And the help from P.T.A. was very much appreciated true inter-arm cooperation within the temple.

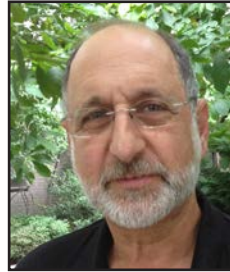
As of the writing of this column, we are now 176 strong in number and hoping to grow at any time. The activities continue throughout the year. This month includes a focaccia bread program on Tuesday, February 10 (yummy!) and the Sisterhood Shabbat service on Friday, February 27. Attend both and you'll fill yourself physically and spiritually.

*Sincerely,
Diane Schoenberg
Sisterhood President*

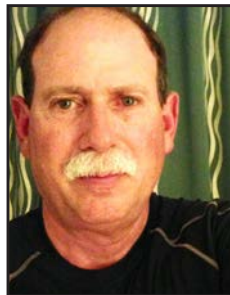


Brotherhood Chefs Are Proud of Their Meatloaf and Sprouts (Left to right: Harvey Wiener, Dave Schuster, Rich Tepper, Mark Chester, Ed Blecher)

BROTHERHOOD SPEAKS



2015 has arrived and is moving quickly. We hope everyone enjoyed the January Meatloaf Dinner prepared by Chef Chester, which featured Matzoh Balls by the team of Schuster & Wiener. The evening's activity was a 'Hot Stove' baseball discussion presented by ESPN personality Adam Rubin, their beat writer for the NY Mets.



We look forward to everyone attending our February Dinner, scheduled for Tuesday, February 10th. As always Brotherhood dinners with open bar are a very reasonable \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. This month's upcoming Sunday morning Brotherhood Breakfasts take place only twice, February 1st and 8th. Sunday breakfast is only \$4 for a gourmet breakfast! COME ON DOWN.

May we be blessed with a below average snowfall and a milder winter!

Shalom from Bruce Jaffe and Harvey Wiener



ESPN Mets Beat Reporter Adam Rubin Speaks at the January Brotherhood Dinner

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tu B'Shevat, this year on Wednesday, February 4, 2015, is the day that marks the beginning of a "new year" for trees. This is the season in which the earliest-blooming trees in the Land of Israel emerge from their winter sleep and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle. Why not join us for our annual Tu B'Shevat Seder on Tuesday, February 3rd at 7pm.



We at Temple B'nai Torah have a new tree blooming. It is the centerpiece of our renovated lobby. Many of the congregants have already claimed a new leaf, recognizing a birth, a special birthday and even a special event in their lives. Be a part of this great fundraiser. Watching this growth take place is a wonderful sight.

The first meeting of the Nominating Committee for the 2015-2016 board met in January. They are looking for congregants that would like to be a part of the decision making for Temple B'nai Torah. These are very rewarding positions. You get to know the clergy and congregants on an entirely different level. You get to see how your decisions affect TBT's future. Please consider a position on the Board. See the TBT scroll for information on contacting Mark Chester with your interest. I assure you that you will not regret it.

Also in the future of TBT is our Masquerade Ball on Saturday, March 28th. This is going to be our big fundraiser for the year, not including Bingo, and we would like as many congregants and friends to attend. The committee is very hard at work planning this event. Please come out to support it.

*Sherrill Spatz
Congregation President*

TBT-PTA

February is a busy month for the PTA. On Tuesday, February 3, we hope to see you at the Tu B'Shevat Seder, where the TBT-PTA Family Tree created by our students will be on display. Please be sure to take a moment to view the beautiful trees from prior years, on display in the center stairway of the religious school wing.

On Sunday, February 8th PTA will host Family Bingo.



This is one of our major fundraisers, and all the children have a great time. Every player wins a prize – no one will walk away empty handed. This year, Family Bingo will be open to the community along with our religious school students. So if you know any neighborhood kids who enjoy Bingo,

bring them along!

Purim is rapidly approaching. In the upcoming weeks we will be distributing information about the holiday activities.

The next two PTA meeting will be Sundays, February 1st and March 1st at 10 am. This is right after the Brotherhood Breakfast. So please come for a bite to eat, and then join us for the meeting. New members are always welcome.

*Written by
Alissa Neches*



Come Join Sisterhood on Tuesday, March 10th for a Fun Evening of Painting!

This hot new trend is led by a local artist where you will be guided, step by step, to make a beautiful painting to be taken home at the end of the night. Sound difficult? Not creative? Don't know the first thing about painting? Then you are the perfect person to come join the fun! Each person's painting will be unique and special but, most important, you will be shocked at the masterpiece you will make.



Yes, YOU!!!!

Bring your friends for a special night out! The cost is \$40, which includes all supplies and instruction for your beautiful piece of artwork, as well as wine and cheese to indulge in! This event promises to be a lot of fun and is expected to fill up quickly, so don't delay. Look for flyers for more information

and come paint with us!!!!

COUPLES CLUB & SINGLES CLUB

Now It Can Be Told



Because of security concerns and the TBT Times' early deadline, the following was delayed to this issue.

Richard (Lord Dahlia) and Dame Francine Tepper's black Cadillac Escalade pulled

up in front of the Carlyle Hotel in Manhattan, to a throng of media and shrieking admirers who were kept behind police barricades across Madison Avenue. Both smiled as the hotel's managing director, Giovanni Beretta, greeted them. He escorted them to the royal suite in which a gala party in their honor was hosted by Prince William and Princess Kate. After the festivities they received a special commemorative album of their godchild Prince George. The Queen's personal airplane will be at their disposal so that they can attend the next royal birth.

Steve (Lord Bubble) Block's Seventy Six Trombone Parade of Heroes proceeded down Wantagh Avenue, strobe lights lit the sky, and our Bowling Tournament commenced. This year's rules committee prohibited the use of Quantum Entanglement, which previously allowed for simultaneous multi-alley bowling. The contest was heated, with our superstars changing the lead several times. The tournament came down to the last frame, in which Bowlerman Bernie once again achieved victory. In recognition of his lifetime achievements, it was decided an award of celestial prominence is appropriate. The awards committee could not reach a decision and proposed a congregation vote on the several alternatives. Please cast your ballot in the Couples Club mailbox for one of the following. The options under consideration are naming a star, a constellation, a galaxy, a galactic cluster, or renaming Sagittarius A - the Black hole at the center of our galaxy. Votes must be submitted by April 1st.

The Couples Club stables are preparing our thoroughbred indoor racetrack equestrians, for our February 21st Games Night. The festivities include Poker, board games, Mah Jongg, Balderdash, Scrabble, cards, etc. You may bring your favorite game.

The planned events for this year include: "Matzoh Ball"- Temple Dance, Theater & Dinner Evening, High Line and Chelsea Market (NYC visit). Other events are in the works. The casting for the full-length feature film "Couples Club: The Movie" is continuing. Fred & Shelly Spivak, Arthur &

Sharon Shindler, and Irving & Phyliss Smyle will be played by: Keanu Reeves and Melissa Gilbert, Matt Dillon and Courtney Cox, Mark Harmon and Teri Hatcher.

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 couples, married or not. 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 monthly word of wisdom: "When you lose, don't lose the lesson."- Dalai Lama

Fred Dinstell

Michael C. Horwitz, CPA, P.C.

4190 Sunrise Highway

2nd Floor

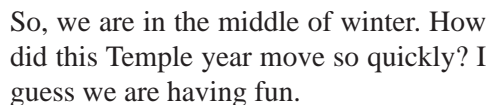
Massapequa, NY 11758

Tel: 516-795-7100

Fax: 516-795-7125

E-Mail: mhorcpa@aol.com

CHAI LIGHTS



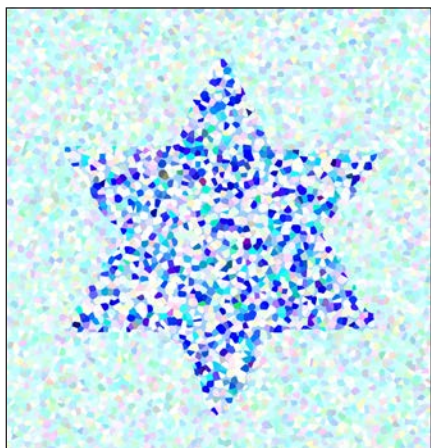
We begin this month with a fun and informative program on Monday, February 2nd, at 1:30pm. Martha Kolodkin, our storyteller in residence, will speak on “How It Came About”, stories on how everyday things we

Triple Bingo, not just a Chai Club event, but a total temple event to raise funds, is Sunday, February 15th. Thank you so much to Chai Club members and everyone else who helps out. Call me if you would like to join this crew.

Plan ahead and mark your calendars for March and April. Rabbi Bellows will be our guest speaker at our general meeting on March 2nd at 7:30pm. She will share with us how beliefs have changed. Watch for info on the Temple's Matzoh Ball, Saturday, March 28th. We all can be together and have a great time. The Chai Club trip to see "1776" is almost here, Sunday, March 22nd. Call Pearl for tickets (781-7610); tickets are almost gone. Cantor Sher's Adventures in Music Series, sponsored by Chai Club begins Monday, March 30th. Also, it's not too early to begin thinking about the Chai Club sponsored Passover Seder on Saturday, April 4th.

So stay warm. We can celebrate Valentine's Day. It's always a good time to share a little love with our family and everyone we meet, especially here at TBT.

*So, with love, Rita
Chai Club President*



NUTRITIONIST SUSAN WEINER HINTED AT WHAT WE SHOULD BE PUTTING IN OUR BELLIES
The snacks passed the test.....



Community Second Night of Passover Seder

Sponsored by

Chai Club of Temple B'nai Torah

2900 Jerusalem Avenue, Wantagh, NY 11793 (516) 221-2370

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

Led by Cantor Steven Sher

Saturday, April 4th, 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.

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 21st, 2015**. We can't accommodate any walk-ins. Please call Brian Levy, (516) 781-4966 or e-mail bellobl@aol.com with any questions.

✂

Mail the form and check, payable to CHAI CLUB TBT, to: Temple B'nai Torah c/o Chai Club, 2900 Jerusalem Avenue, Wantagh, NY 11793
Reservations must be received by March 21st, 2015.

Name _____				E-mail _____				
Telephone () _____				I/We wish to be seated with: _____				
First and last name of each person attending. For additional names please use the back of this form.				Adult meals age 13 + \$45.00 Members \$50.00 Non-members		Child's meal ages 7-12 Age appropriate meal. Members \$20.00 Non-Members \$25.00		Children under 7 years old. No charge.
				Chicken	Vegetarian			
1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								
5.								
6.								
Subtotals				#	\$	#	\$	#
Office Use:				Total Amount Enclosed _____		Total numbers of Guests _____		

OUR COMMUNITY

THE WRAP UP

A fabulous group of TBT volunteers spent two days in the latter half of December wrapping gifts at Westfield Sunrise Mall. We supplied the paper, ribbon, boxes, bows as well as friendly service, and grateful shoppers rewarded us with donations to our synagogue.



This fundraiser attracted a large cross section of the TBT community and provided an opportunity to forge and strengthen friendships as we worked together. Thanks are due to our entire crew, including Janis Beldner, Diane Derby, Harvey and Rita Drucker, Debbie and Matthew Flaster, Barbara Gouveia, Judy Herbert, Tessa Kean, Judy and Les Kule, Janis and Lauren Lambert, Connie Martin, Leslie Mittleman, Barbara Morgenlender, Patti Nacht, Judy Novet, Wendy Ser, Ruth Sussman, and Robin Wexler. (Sincere apologies if any names have been inadvertently omitted.) Thanks are also owed to all who donated wrapping paper, boxes, and other supplies and to Sue-Ellen and the office staff for loaning additional items and for their support.

Please consider joining us next year. There is always an incredible sense of cooperation and camaraderie, and we always have a terrific time. In addition to helping TBT, this fundraiser is an excellent way to meet and socialize with fellow TBT congregants.

Submitted by Judy Novet

MLK JOINT INTERFAITH CELEBRATION

On Sunday afternoon January 18th, The Wantagh Area Community Clergy Council celebrated its annual Community Martin Luther King Interfaith Service, at The First Presbyterian Church of Levittown, Reverend Teri Ofori, Pastor. It was a musical service with Minister of Music Kenneth Richardson, his wife, soloist Lisa Richardson, Cantor Steve Sher the Temple B'nai Torah Youth and Teen Choirs, as well as a Joint Adult Choir. All that attended ended the service singing "WE SHALL OVERCOME" together with clergy and choirs.



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OUR COMMUNITY

(Rabbi . . . continued from page 4)

Sheva B'rachot (Seven Blessings): These traditional blessings build in complexity, becoming more expansive in content and theme. They progressively unfold in praise of creation itself, the creation of human beings, the joy of the couple, the establishment of a household, and an ode to joy that links this individual celebration with the time when joy and gladness will be heard in every city and on every hill.

Some couples choose to add a meaningful biblical verse to their vows. Rabbis working with interfaith couples often suggest amending "according to the tradition of Moses and Israel" to "before God and these witnesses." Some same-sex couples adapt verses from the Book of Ruth or the First Book of Samuel.

Yichud (Privacy): Following the ceremony, the couple may opt to spend a few moments alone before joining their friends and family. This practice, called *yachud* (privacy or seclusion), can be a respite from the strain of being the center of attention for a whole day.

May each day feel as festive and joyous as a wedding day, and may we all be blessed with relationships in our lives worthy of God's blessings.

*L'shalom,
Rabbi Marci N. Bellows*



Letters, we get letters.....

Dear Editor:

What a lovely surprise! I just wish all the dear friends who sent me birthday Uniongrams could have seen my big smile as I read their greetings. Thank you all.

With love, Diane Lewis

~~~~~

Thank you to all the people who sent our family their prayers and thoughts during our time of grief.

Sincerely,

*The Schuster and Remnant Families*

~~~~~

To our Temple Family,

During adversity we need support. Support is given freely and willingly by caring friends.

Elaine and I think all of our friends from Chai & Couples Clubs, Brotherhood & Sisterhood, Cantor Sher, Rabbi Bellows and all who called when Sol was in the hospital over Christmas and New Year's.

Thank you for your prayers.

Sol & Elaine Goldstein

FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

"Is it spring yet.....?"

I've had enough. Winter can leave now. We've been through cold, wind, ice and snow. We need a hint of spring.

Luckily that first breath of spring is about to arrive. As the sun sets a bit later every afternoon, and the seed catalogues arrive in the mailbox, Tu b'Shevat (day 15 of the month of Shevat) appears just in time to lift our spirits. It is the start of a three month chain of holidays: Tu b'Shevat to Purim to Passover. It is a springtime reflection of the Halloween-Thanksgiving-New Year's sequence that heralds the Polar Vortex.



In the holy land the month of Shevat is truly the beginning of spring. As you read this column trees in Israel are already beginning to bud in the same manner as Long Island trees bud early in May. As we, and our congregation, more closely identify ourselves with Israel, the carefully orchestrated Tu 'b'Shevat Seder (literally: order) of selected fruits and wines is just what we need.

Join us Tuesday, February 3th at 7 pm for Tu b'Shevat Seder (& Dessert) and Wednesday, March 4th at 7:30 pm for the festive Purim Celebration (& Speil).

Mark Chester, Editor TBTTimes



SPECIAL GIFTS

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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.

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In honor of:

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son Justin's engagement

from Barry & Shelley Lomove

Janis & James Beldner's daughter

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from Joe & Lori Friedlander

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from Rich & Jill Handley

MAZEL TOV TO:

Alan & Janee Loewenstein

on the engagement of their son, Justin

Jim & Janis Beldner on the

engagement of their daughter, Jessica

Martha & Larry Zaretsky on the

birth of their grandson, Sam Zaretsky

Suzanne Dagger on her recent marriage

to Kevin Pike

Les & Judy Kule on the birth

of their twin grandsons,

Grayson Shale & Xander Kevin Kerley

Susan Beller on the birth of

her grandson, Herschel Evan Wachtel

YISKOR ELOHIM:

Rabbi Sanford Jarashow,

Rabbi Emeritus legacy Temple Judea

Shelley Leventhal,

mother of Dr. Keith Leventhal

Ben Marz,

cousin of Cantor Sher

Annette Peltz,

grandmother of Daniel Rosen



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I/We will attend the Masquerade Matzoh Ball on March 28th

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

I would like to sit with _____
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***PAYMENT IN FULL MUST BE MADE BY MARCH 13**





OUR COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY

1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00am Rel.School • 9:15am Brother-hood Breakfast (S/H) • 9:15-10:30am Tu B'shevat seder Rel. Sch. (K/L) • 10:00am PTA Mtg (Library) • 11:30-noon Youth Choir (Rm 201) • 12:00-1:30pm Jewish Cooking class (K/L & Kitchen) 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12:00pm Torah Study (K/L) • 1:30pm Chai Club Gen'l Mtg (S/H) • 5:30-6:30pm BNTY Jr. (Y/L) • 6:30-7:00pm Teen Choir (Rm. 201) • 6:45pm Sisterhood Exec. Mtg (101/103) • 7:00-8:30pm Religious School • 7:30pm Brother-hood Exec. Mtg (104) • 7:30-9:30pm Adult Choir (Rm. 201) • 7:30pm Sisterhood Board Mtg (101/103) • 8:00pm Brother-hood Board Mtg (K/L) • 8:30-10:00pm BNTY Sr. (Y/L) 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:00am Al Anon (K/L) • 4:30-6:00pm Religious School • 5:00-5:45pm How-To-Do Shabbat II (K/L) • 7:00pm Tu B'Shevat Seder & Dessert (S/H) 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30am Bingo 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:00-7:30pm Cub Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30-9:00pm Boy Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30pm Bingo 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30pm 6th Grade Svc/Siddurim Ceremony/Scout Shabbat 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (K/L) • 10:30am Service (2) B/M Feldman & Rosen
8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:00am Rel. Sch. • 9:00-11:30am Rel. School Dance Class (K/L) • 9:15am Brother-hood Breakfast (S/H) • 10:00-11:00am Membership Mtg (Library) • 11:30-noon Youth Choir (Rm 201) • 11:30am-5:00pm PTA Family Bingo (S/H) • 1:00pm Jewish Experience on Film (K/L) • 1:30pm B/M rehearsal (Sanc.) 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • 7:00pm Jewish War Veterans Mtg (S/H) • 7:30-9:30pm Adult Choir (Rm. 201) • 7:30pm Budget Meeting (Rm. 104) • 8:30-10:00pm BNTY Sr. (Y/L) 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:00am Al Anon (K/L) • 4:30-6:00pm Religious School • 7:00pm Sisterhood - Line Dancing Program (S/H) • 7:00pm Brotherhood Dinner (K/L) • 7:30-9:00pm Religious Ed Mtg (104) 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30am Bingo • 7:30pm Ritual Com. Mtg (Away) 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:00-7:30pm Cub Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30-9:00pm Boy Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30pm Bingo 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30pm Tot Shabbat Service • 8:00pm Erev Shabbat Service • NFTY Convention (Away) 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (K/L) • No Shabbat Service • NFTY Convention (Away)
15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Religious School • 2:00pm Bingo Set-up (S/H & K/L) • 6:45pm Triple Bingo • NFTY Convention (Away) 	16 President's Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFTY Convention (Away) • Office Closed • No Religious School • Building Closed • No evening activities 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:00am Al Anon (K/L) • No Religious School • NFTY Convention (Away) 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30am Bingo • 7:00pm Fundraising Mtg (Away) 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30pm Bingo 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:00pm B/M Rehearsal (Sanc.) • 6:00pm Pre-Neg • 6:30pm Kabbalat Service 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (K/L) • 10:30am Service (2) B/M Friedlander & Handley • 12:00pm-2:00pm B/M Lunch. Friedlander Fam. (S/H) • 7:00-11:00pm Couples Club Game Night (K/L)
22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Religious School • Building Closed 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:00am Chai Club Board Mtg (K/L) • 12:00pm Torah Study (K/L) • 1:00pm Blood Drive set-up (S/H) • 1:15pm MWI (K/L) • 2:30-8:30pm Blood Drive (S/H) • 5:30-6:30pm BNTY Jr. (Y/L) • 6:30-7:00pm Teen Choir (Rm. 201) • 7:00-8:30pm Religious School • 7:30-9:30pm Adult Choir (Rm. 201) • 8:30-10:00pm BNTY Sr. (Y/L) 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:00am Al Anon (K/L) • 4:30-6:00pm Religious School • 6:45pm Exec. Board Mtg (Rm. 104) • 8:00pm Board Meeting (K/L) 	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30am Bingo 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4:30pm B/M photos - Schnall (Sanc.) • 6:00-7:30pm Cub Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30-9:00pm Boy Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30pm Bingo 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3:00pm B/M Rehearsal (Sanc.) • 8:00pm Sisterhood Erev Shabbat Zachor Svc 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (K/L) • 10:30am Service (2) B/M Pontillo & Schnall

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UNIONGRAM ORDER FORM

The following is a list of the boys and girls who will be celebrating their Bar/Bat Mitvah 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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DATE	CHILD'S NAME	PARENTS
Feb. 7	Nathan Rosen	Daniel & Samantha
	Max Feldman	Steven & Helene
Feb. 21	Brian Friedlander	Joe & Lori
	Joshua Handley	Rich & Jill
Feb. 28	Rachel Pontillo	Joseph & Gayle
	Arinn Schnall	Marc & Helaine
Mar. 7	Michael Liebow	Ernest & Julie
Mar. 14	Juliana Gross	Jon & Maryann
Mar. 21	Benjamin Bach	Steven & Susan
	Justin Froese	Michael & Cara
Mar. 28	Jordan Berke	Adam & Alyse

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Rabbi Marci N. Bellows

Cantor Steven Sher

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Mission Statement

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



Address Correction Requested

Dated Material - Please Rush!***Nominations Are Open***

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

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

Get in touch with the Nominations Committee by emailing to mhorcpa@aol.com or emchest2@aol.com. Please put 'Nominations' in the subject line.

Questions? Call Mark @516-783-9607

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