

January 2013  
Vol. 5, No. 5

# B'nai Torah TIMES

A BREATH, BREEZE, AND SPIRIT OF THE TIMES

MAY IT BE BREATH OF FRESH JEWISH SPIRIT ARRIVING AT YOUR HOME



***Happy New Year to the Trees  
(and to you, too!)***

Temple B'nai Torah • 2900 Jerusalem Avenue • Wantagh, New York 11793-2025



## Jan. 19 Sarah Pontillo

## Joseph & Gayle Pontillo

Sarah Pontillo has grown up in North Bellmore. She is an honor student, in the 7th grade at Grand Avenue Middle School. She has been attending Hebrew School at Temple B'nai Torah since Kindergarten. Sarah is very excited about her Bat Mitzvah. For her Mitzvah Project, she is collecting money and pet supplies for the Little Shelter Animal Rescue & Adoption Center, in Huntington. Sarah loves animals, and animals love her, also. Besides her love for animals, Sarah also loves archery, swimming, art and playing her clarinet. She would like to thank Cantor Sher, Rabbi Bellows, Mrs. Altman, and her family for giving her endless support while preparing for this special day.



## Jan. 26 Matthew Serpe

## Thomas & Fradell Serpe

My name is Matthew Serpe, and I attend Grand Avenue Middle School. Some of my favorite hobbies are building with Legos, bike riding, and archery. Since I enjoy archery, I decided to incorporate it into my Mitzvah project by hosting an archery shoot to raise money for Sunrise Day Camp. This organization is a summer camp for children who have or have had cancer. I chose this charity because it benefitted a friend of mine who struggled with eye cancer. This charity gave him support and friends that he could relate to. I never knew that helping my community could be as easy as doing something that I love!

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Friday, January 4	7:30 pm	Family Service
Saturday, January 5	10:30 am	Shabbat Service
Friday, January 11	5:30 pm	Tot Shabbat
Friday, January 11	8:00 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Friday, January 18	6:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Service
Saturday, January 19	10:30 am	Shabbat Service (1 Bat Mitzvah)
Friday, January 25	8:00 pm	Erev Shabbat Service
Saturday, January 26	10:30 am	Shabbat Service (1 Bar Mitzvah)
Friday, February 1	7:30 pm	Family Service, honoring TBT's Scouts
Saturday, February 2	10:30 am	Shabbat Service (1 Bat Mitzvah)

# Temple B'nai Torah

A Reform Congregation

2900 Jerusalem Avenue Wantagh, NY 11793

(516) 221-2370

**Sisterhood**

**Chai Club**

**PTA**

**Brotherhood**

**Couples Club**

## SQUARE DANCE

Saturday January 26, 2013

Hot Chuckwagon Dinner at 7:00PM

Catered by Zorns

Snacks & Soda All Evening

Dessert & Coffee at 11:30PM

PROFESSIONAL CALLER

Line and partner dancing will be taught during breaks

Raffles 50/50

Temple Member: \$29 pp Non-Temple Member: \$32 pp

Bring Your Friends!

Reservations limited to 192 people

Any Questions? Call Sue at (516) 826-4909



Yes, we'd love to dance Reserve early (we sell out quickly) by 1/7/13

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ How many? \_\_\_\_\_

Try to seat us with \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed please find check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (made out to Temple B'nai Torah)

Send to : Square Dance - c/o Temple B'nai Torah

Att: Sue

2900 Jerusalem Avenue, Wantagh, N.Y. 11793



*Shalom, Chaverim* – Hello, friends,

Well, we've survived December 21, 2012, so on to a new secular year! The New Year that I'm most looking forward to is The New Year of the Trees. Many of us lost beloved trees last fall during the worst of Superstorm Sandy, and the upcoming holiday of *Tu B'Shevat* provides a wonderful opportunity to start planting new trees.

*Tu B'Shevat* (the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat), according to our tradition, is the day on which all trees turn one year older. Why might this matter? In Leviticus 19:23-25, we learn that fruit from trees must not be eaten during the tree's first three years. The fourth year's fruit is given to God as a tithe, and then we may eat of the tree's fruit from that point on. It is presumably quite difficult to keep track of the age of trees if one does not know the exact birth date or "plant-date," so *Tu B'Shevat* is the default date.

Planting trees is just one way to celebrate *Tu B'Shevat*. Some people choose to plant trees in Israel, some use the day as a way to celebrate the environment, and some see it as a reminder to live "greener" lives. Many congregations have also begun holding *Tu B'Shevat* seders, based on the Kabbalistic (mystical) Seders of the Middle Ages. Temple B'nai Torah held our very first one last year, and it was an enormous success. We were joined by nearly 80 congregants of all ages, who participated in sampling many different types of fruits, juices, and nuts. Each item held particular significance or was taken from a different type of tree. They also each carried special spiritual symbolism related to our lives. We sang, ate, laughed, and had a wonderful evening together.

Temple B'nai Torah will be holding its 2nd Annual *Tu B'Shevat* Seder on Friday night, January 25, at 6:00 pm. Because it is also *Erev Shabbat*, our Seder will include a Shabbat dinner. The Seder promises to be a delicious, informative, and thought-provoking way in which to celebrate the precious world around us. I do hope you will join us.

*L'shalom* – In peace,  
Rabbi Marci N. Bellows

From the Editor's Desk  
by Rob Saunders

January is the month we usually think of as being the fresh beginning (at least, in the secular sense). The detritus of the previous year has been tossed away, like an expired calendar, and the new calendar holds all of the promise for the things we hope for in the coming year.

This January comes on the heels of a truly horrible previous two months, and all of the promise, unfortunately, has been tainted by the tragedies—first, of superstorm Sandy, and then the unfathomable events in Newtown, Connecticut. If ever there was a time for us to turn the page on the calendar, this is it.

We can't simply turn away from what has transpired; it is all too vivid, and it is still fresh in our communal consciousness. It is true that time will heal all the wounds, at least the physical ones, but the psychological scars of these events may haunt us for the rest of our collective days.

But we also cannot simply stand by and wait for change to come our way. We need to stand up for that change; we need to be the implements of that change. We need to contact our elected officials, make our opinions known, and vote out of office anyone who doesn't stand for what we value. We need to volunteer our time, and our money, to effect the changes we want to see. And before you throw your hands up in despair, and complain, "What can I do? I'm just one person", please read the parable in the opening of Rabbi Pasternak's column on page 11 of this edition. It explains the "power of one".

As the saying goes, if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem. In the coming years, let us all find the strength to be part of the solution, regardless of what the problem is.

From my household to yours, I wish you a happy, healthy, and safe New Year's and 2013.

Larry and Martha Zaretsky would like to thank  
all of our friends at TBT for the cards and  
words of sympathy for the loss our dear son,  
Sam Zaretsky.



## INSPIRATION FROM OUR CANTOR



The journey is as important as the destination. On Sunday, January 27, at 1pm, my lecture series, "The Wandering Jew," continues, as I share my stories about meeting the Jews of Cuba. Of course, the actual time spent in Cuba could not have been realized without the work and dedication that went beforehand; the journey TO Cuba was as important as the journey THROUGH Cuba. It is that journey, TO Cuba, that I write about here, because it is at the heart of that to which, in an ideal world, congregations of every sect and community aspire. The remarkable efforts of my former congregation to gather and prepare a great variety of provisions for our brothers and sisters in their limited and parochial communist world is at the heart of everything our tradition teaches us about *tikkun olam* (repair of the world) and the words, "love thy neighbor as thyself."

Drs. Ron Wolfson and Lawrence Hoffman are passionate in their study of the dilemmas and challenges of modern synagogue life. This inspired them, some fifteen years ago, to inaugurate a new approach to creating an engaging and alive synagogue environment. "Synagogue 2000," now continuing as "Synagogue 3000," makes a great statement for the importance of reshaping the "culture of community" in our temples, those sacred spaces, in which Jews gather.

In a recent book, Dr. Wolfson writes, *"To this day, after visiting hundreds of synagogues throughout the world, I am amazed at how I can measure the health of a congregation within minutes of stepping into the place.....I have noticed that some of the congregations are far more exciting than others; you can feel it from the minute you walk into the place. I know it is the **culture of community** that is different. In synagogues where the culture of the community is thriving, the place is buzzing with activity. More often than not, these same synagogues offer a warm greeting to a stranger."*



I grew up in such a congregation, Temple of Aaron, a ritually creative and liberal community, affiliated with the conservative movement, in St. Paul, Minnesota. It is this very same sense of communal metabolism that I have always sought in my professional environment. Truthfully, it has, in my almost 35 years as a cantor, been elusive to attain and maintain. Yet, I believe that, here, at Temple B'nai Torah, this state of being has, at times, been exhibited, and has every opportunity to be achieved on a level that could only grow and flourish. This kernel of potential, once nourished, coddled, cared for and titillated, will create a great spiritual presence. The sky's the limit.

So, what does all of this have to do with my prefacing statement about my journey to Cuba? It was in that journey that we found the evidence of greatness in my former community, and that exists in greater potential in this, our present TBT community. I believe that Temple B'nai Torah can be that same kind of place that was my formative environment for growing as a Jew.

I do hope you'll join me on my reflecting, in photos and stories, my great and profound adventure in discovering the greatness of a Jewish community in such a small corner of the world.

### FIRST IN A SERIES

#### "WANDERING JEW WITH CANTOR SHER"



At the beginning of December, Cantor Sher primed his audience with a bit about himself and how he became interested in traveling to Jewish communities around the world. His first trip out of the US was to Winnipeg, Canada., and that sparked his desire to see the rest of the world. This presentation was the first of a series that will continue in 2013, when Cantor Sher will tell us about Jews the world over, with audio and photo presentations.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The responsibilities of being a congregation president can be daunting. Writing the monthly newsletter article is one of my least favorite. The deadline for submission is more than a month before printing, and I always find myself having trouble choosing a topic that will be both timely and informative, and not just “old news.” You may have noticed that last month’s newsletter did not have an article written by me. That article was due to the editor prior to the storm, but I had not written one. After the storm, I was unfortunately not in any state of mind to write an article.

I know that there are others in the congregation who experienced the devastation of Sandy directly. Many of you have neighbors, friends or family whose homes or businesses were damaged by this “storm of a lifetime.” Sandy caused personal trauma and distress to many, including my family. A month ago, I was not even able to talk about what we were going through. I cried at the drop of a hat. I felt violated by Mother Nature. I was very uncomfortable accepting all of the help that was being offered to us; Les and I have always been givers and comforters. We found it hard to be on the receiving end of assistance.

When Thanksgiving arrived, a full month after the waters flooded our home, our business and our community, I realized, for maybe the very first time, the true meaning of the holiday. I was feeling truly thankful. I was grateful for the outpouring of help and thoughtfulness from so many people in our lives. Assistance came from unexpected places. Congregants who had been mere acquaintances turned out to be true friends. When we had to evacuate, they opened their home to us (Les, Ben and I, and our 4 dogs) without hesitation. They provided warm beds, delicious meals and comforting conversations. Teens from our temple’s youth group waded into our chest-deep flooded basement, wearing bathing suits, and bailed out the cold sea water with buckets. When the water was gone, Les and I stood there dazed by the enormity of the cleanup. It was a congregant who we barely knew who pushed up his sleeves, dug into the mess and started us on our way to recovery. For days, the BNTY teens and their friends returned to our home to help carry our ruined possessions out to the curb. Our son-in-law also came back every day to help with the rip-out and repairs. Congregants, clergy, staff and board members continually texted me. They were checking on our well-being and offering us warmth, coffee, recharging and showers. One congregant who is a neighbor of ours loaned us a space heater when the stores had none. I will never forget the much-needed and very consoling hug she gave me as I left her home. When the second storm was imminent, and we could no longer stay safely in our home, our daughter and son-in-law (congregants of TBT) also provided us the shelter, warmth and sustenance that we so needed. Despite what we were dealing with personally, the status of the temple was still a major concern to me. The office staff and clergy removed that weight from my shoulders. They were diligent to a fault, sometimes risking their own welfare, to ensure that our temple buildings remained safe, secure and available to anyone who needed it.

Throughout the ordeal, I understood that things could have been much worse. I am thankful that they weren’t. The outpouring of comfort and caring by our temple community got us through this. The damage to our home is being fixed. I know that we will eventually be all right. I am so thankful to be part of such a caring community. This article was easy to write.

Judy Kule  
Congregation President

### BROTHERHOOD SPEAKS



We would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. 2012 was an eventful year for Brotherhood, which included many exciting programs, fundraisers and service to the Temple. I am looking forward to continuing this trend in the current year.

Recent events for Brotherhood include:

- The Holiday Fair on November 25th was again a huge success. We had over 90 vendors take spaces and sell their products. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, with special thanks to Ben and Sharon Cernese.

- The Chai Club/Brotherhood dinner on December 3rd was enjoyed by all. Thank you, Rita Hofer, for ordering the delicious food and making this event special. This was the first time Brotherhood shared an event with Chai Club, and I am sure more will follow in the future.

Upcoming future events include:

- Tuesday, January 8th – Board Meeting at 7:30pm in Room 101.

- Tuesday, January 15th – Monthly dinner featuring Mark Chester's famous cuisine. An exciting program will follow. Cocktails begin at 7:00, dinner at 7:30.

- Saturday, January 26th – the annual Square Dance will begin at 7:00 pm in the Social Hall. Everyone who attends always has a good time.

Please join us for breakfast at 9:15am every Sunday morning that school is in session. If you are interested in cooking or just schmoozing with the kitchen crew, please come down.

Please join and come to the many wonderful breakfasts, dinners, programs, or services that we provide for the Temple. Your input is always welcome. Please email me at [alafal@aol.com](mailto:alafal@aol.com) or call my cell phone 782-4885 with any thoughts or comments.

Alan Loewenstein  
Brotherhood President

### OUR TBT SISTERHOOD SOURCE



Happy New Year! Being a Sisterhood member is a great way to begin the year. We have many events this winter to keep you warm. Our next program is called "The Magic In You". Join

Joseph Fallarino in an interactive workshop on January 14th. Come and discover the magical, unique YOU!

January 27th is our comedy night out at The Brokerage Comedy Club. We will gather for a fun filled evening of laughter as we warm up to the comedy of five comedians.

We look forward to February and March. *Shalach Manot* bags for Purim, our annual Women's Seder, and a major fundraiser are all on the calendar. Please watch your mail for our rescheduled Night of Beauty. Many thanks to Marilyn Woronoff for all her hard work organizing this event. Thanks also go to Felicia Denaro and Lynn Vosper for their work in the Judaica Shop, and for the terrific Chanukah sale. What a beautiful selection of gifts we had this year! Remember, when you need a gift, make our Judaica Shop your first shopping stop.

We pray for the New Year to bring peace in Israel, good health to all and a continuation of love and friendship.

Joni Christie  
Sisterhood President



### CHAI NOTES



Important Holocaust program, Monday, January 7th at 7:30 –

The Chai Club welcomes Temple member, and Holocaust survivor, Janine Berg, who will recount her remembrances of this terrible period of history. Please join us in the Kiddush Lounge for an informative evening. We will also celebrate members' January birthdays.

130 people attended Chai Club-Brotherhood Dinner –

As a result of the superstorm, Sandy, Chai Club's membership dinner was held Monday, December 3rd. Since Brotherhood had also scheduled their dinner for the same day, we partnered with them and shared a fantastic joint dinner. Cocktails began at 6:30 with a steak dinner (catered by Iavarone) following. We were entertained by Mr. Everett Green, who provided his beautiful musical tribute to the songs of Neil Diamond, Tom Jones and Engelbert Humperdinck. After dessert, the Brotherhood invited everyone to watch Monday Night Football, which the Giants (unfortunately) lost. We also celebrated our members' November and December birthdays. Congratulations to Mark Chester and Alva Fromm, who won the bottles of cheer, and to the winner of the 50/50, Al Weinstein. This dinner could not have taken place without the huge efforts of Rita Hofer and her committee of dedicated volunteers. Chai Club owes them a debt of gratitude.

#### Future general Meetings in 2013:

February 4th – Barbara Held, The Hollywood Squares Show

March 4th – Long Island Jewish Genealogy Society Presentation

April 8th – Sally Wershba talks about Edward R. Murrow

May 6th – The Banjo Rascals

Chai Club will again be partnering with Cantor Sher's noon-time *Adventures in Music* series, April 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2013. This program is sponsored by the Ed Kliegman Fund.

Plans are also underway for the Chai Club sponsored Second Seder, March 26th. Cantor Sher will once again lead us in the *4-questions* and all the traditional ritual and song. Please watch for your reservation form in your mail.

Chai Club will also be sponsoring a trip to see a musical at the Broad Hollow Theatre in Elmont, Sunday, April 7th. Watch for further details.

Joan and Brian Levy  
Co-Presidents





### COUPLES' CLUB

by Fred Dinstell



**The Rain is Tess, the Fire, Joe;  
And they call the Wind #&@% Sandy**

Mother Nature did her best, but it did not stop the Couples' Club from enjoying an evening of spectacular entertainment. In the best of the "Show Must Go On" tradition, about thirty Couples' Club members attended the Long Island Cabaret on November 10th. We cheered on our supremely talented Linda Lazarus, Barbara Morgenlender, Bonnie Russolillo, and Debbie Schlesinger. The troupe performed 47 song and dance numbers, continually interrupted by standing ovations. Everyone should plan on attending the new performance next Spring.

Steve survived his Tiger Encounter, this has been rescheduled to next year, compliments of the storm which shall not be named. President Obama, on his trip to Bangkok, Thailand, assured the grieving throngs that the Couples' Club representatives would be gracing their astonishing city next fall. The monks have also assured us that the tigers will be bigger and hungrier next year. Congratulations to the Couples' Club Adonis, who has, for the fifth year in a row, been named by People magazine as "The sexiest man alive - 2012".



The planned events for the rest of this year include: our outstanding Bowling Tournament, Temple Square Dance, Games Night, Military Bridge, Theatre Evening and other electrifying events. Several additional adventures are in the planning stage.

We are glad to hear that Vicki Goldberger, Arthur Solop, Michael Frank and Brian Levy are on the mend. Wishing all our fellow Temple members a fantastic New Year. For those still suffering from the storm's impact, we extend our wishes for a better year.

The Couples' Club held our annual Chanukah party on December 15th at Rosemary's Restaurant. We can only say that those who missed this annual extraordinary event missed the party of the year. We feasted on exotic fare, and participated in the evening gala, in which our outstanding Couples' Club Players performed world class skits. The group also took part in our annual "take a chance" grab bag. Prizes such as Lear Jets, Lamborghinis and sailing yachts, among other treasures, were given out.

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 the great spirit of the Couples' Club. We would like to share this feeling with all TBT couples, married or not. 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](mailto:fdinstell@yahoo.com).

Couples' Club monthly word of wisdom: Two wrongs don't make a right, but two Wrights made an airplane.

For those who were looking forward to finding out if

### Congregant Corner

John Krauss and his family, wife Amy and kids Ryan (11) and Mandy (6) have been members of the Temple B'nai Torah family for four years. John is a computer programmer for a major NYC law firm. When he is not working, John enjoys being around his family, riding his bike, listening to music, weight lifting, watching football and reading.

Remembering back, he says "I felt very welcome when we first joined, especially the breakfast which honored the new members. I also enjoy the family class with my son, participating in his learning, and look forward to doing it again with my daughter." He goes on to say, "I like having my children exposed to other Jewish children/families. I look forward to helping my son prepare for his Bar Mitzvah!"



As a people person, John says, "I think it might be nice for additional family outings (picnics, local trips, etc.). I think this would give families a chance to get to know each other better."

"Growing up, I went to temple, the rabbi/cantor were very uninteresting. I love the energy/fun factor that the rabbi/cantor bring to the family services/holidays. I look around and see all the kids smiling!"

When you see John and his family around the temple, say hi and you will see those great smiles.

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### Cohen Family Thanks TBT

It was an honor to be feted at the UJA breakfast on October 28th. Thank you all for your good wishes and especially for the support of the UJA and the terrific work that they do in our community and around the world. We were overwhelmed by the sheer number of people who celebrated with us. Thank you to all who planned this event and made it such a special day for our family.

We consider Temple B'nai Torah our second home.

Love,  
The Cohen Family

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### 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, plus many for the Temple Board. TBT needs their leadership, and yours! Elections will be in the spring.

Get in touch with the Nominations Committee by email to [mhorcpa@aol.com](mailto:mhorcpa@aol.com) or [stgolfclub@aol.com](mailto:stgolfclub@aol.com). Please put 'Nominations' in the subject line.

Questions? Call Mark @ 516-783-9607.

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL REFLECTIONS

Long ago, our rabbis recognized the enormity of *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world, and how frustrated or overwhelmed people could feel when faced with the challenges of mitzvah work. One rabbi in particular, Rabbi Tarfon, used to say “*Lo alecha ham'lacha ligmor, v'lo atah ven chorin l'hibateil mi-menah.*” “It is not for you to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it.” This concept is illustrated beautifully in a short story, which was adapted from *The Star Thrower* by Loren C. Eiseley:

A young girl was walking along a beach upon which thousands of starfish had been washed up during a terrible storm. When she came to each starfish, she would pick it up, and throw it back into the ocean. People watched her with amusement. She had been doing this for some time when a man approached her and said, “Little girl, why are you doing this? Look at the beach! You can't save all these starfish. You can't begin to make a difference!” The girl seemed crushed, suddenly deflated. But after a few moments, she bent down, picked up another starfish, and hurled it as far as she could into the ocean. Then she looked up at the man and replied, “Well, I made a difference to that one!” The man looked at the girl inquisitively, and thought about what she had done and said. Inspired, he joined the little girl in throwing starfish back into the sea. Soon others joined, and all the starfish were saved.

The devastation that happened because of Hurricane Sandy has certainly provided us with an opportunity to put the message in that story into reality. There was, and still is, much that remains to be done to help those who were harmed by the storm. I have been touched by the many organizations and individuals that immediately put together programs to help in so many different areas. The need was overwhelming, but so was the response. I'm proud that our temple and our school were part of the response. Our temple was designated as a “warming center” as soon as we got our power back. People could come in, warm up, recharge their electronic devices, and have snacks and conversation with others. Our school has started an ongoing project to provide funds from our *tzedakah* money to organizations who are aiding in hurricane relief efforts. Each class has chosen to which organizations they will donate their *tzedakah* money. We also plan to go beyond the *tzedakah* box and find other ways in which to help during this year.

It is a “mitzvah-commandment” in our Jewish tradition that we provide *tzedakah* for others, no matter how little we ourselves might have. It is also important that we provide our children with models and experiences of charitable giving and kindness that help repair the world. This teaches them not only about the problems and needs around them, but that it is within their power to make the world around them better. Through this, they will learn the true value of being rewarded not *for* your good deeds, but *by* your good deeds.

May we all continue to go from strength to strength together in the coming year.

Rabbi Deanna Pasternak, Education Director

### Nursery News

submitted by Ann Lazare



Even the very young can help. The children from Temple B'nai Torah Nursery School in Wantagh learned a lesson in compassion by collecting toys and clothing for other children that lost their belongings in hurricane Sandy.



## SCOUTING

by Lauren Lev

Boy Scout Troop 189 assembled in the parking lot of Temple B'nai Torah in Wantagh before noon on Sunday, ready to help victims of superstorm Sandy. There's irony in this. Troop 189 is unofficially known as "The Rainmakers of Wantagh," since their overnight trips always seem to be accompanied by rain. And on this day they would deal with the destructive aftermath of rain and wind.

Many of the boys arrived in red T-shirts and sweatshirts, the troop's "casual" uniform. Accompanied by leaders, parents and siblings, they were briefed for the first of many times: how they would head to Nickerson Beach, meet Red Cross personnel and get a specific volunteer assignment for the afternoon.

Nine cars headed south on the Meadowbrook Parkway and got clearance from authorities to proceed south to Long Beach, one of the many disaster areas of the Oct. 29-30 storm. There, the Red Cross awaited. A week earlier, our family had received a troop email about helping Long Beach and my 16-year-old son, Lathan, expressed immediate interest. In an acute role reversal, I found myself asking his permission: Would it be OK if I went along? Nearly two weeks since Sandy's arrival, about a week since power was restored in our home in East Meadow, and all we kept wondering was how to do something more. This was our chance.

What was supposed to be an afternoon assisting in food/meal distribution changed in an instant. Each team of four scouts was dispatched with a first-responder: current or retired police officers, emergency medical technicians, or firefighters (typically a parent of a scout). Each team included a scout leader, and other parents and siblings as well, to knock on doors of homes. We took two hours to tend to residents' immediate needs: moving out damaged possessions, getting more water or food, taking requests for medicine or medical care. Each patrol would then return to base -- the parking lot behind a restaurant at West Beech Street and New York Avenue -- where the Red Cross Disaster Relief Truck was stationed. I left my son to another group and headed out with mine.

Scouts walked down Long Beach's tiny footpaths named for the months of the year, May or June Lane, for example. They knocked on doors with signs that read "Welcome to Paradise." They sidestepped the streets littered with waterlogged children's videos, sofa cushions, soggy sheet rock, insulation and bar stools set out for removal. And they navigated the sand. So much sand so far away from its origin -- the beachfront.

Other memories of the day were like photographic or video images: a religious statue was set to dry on a dresser drawer in the middle of a portico. A sport-utility vehicle with the radio tuned to the Giants game allowed a homeowner to listen to football while he gutted and cleaned the inside of his home. Ceramic frogs sat in the garden grass. American flags still flew on their poles.

What was remarkable about this effort were the people of Long Beach. As we knocked on doors, many didn't need help to pack, move or throw anything away, but they blessed and thanked the boys for coming out to see them. They admitted that water, gasoline, and power would be welcome now, but it was really great that these scouts, Long Islanders all, were part of a greater community here to provide a kind word.

Upon returning to our base in Long Beach, our scoutmaster reflected with all participants on the significance of the afternoon. We may not have moved a great deal of furniture and belongings or delivered hundreds of supplies to every household. Yet these young men moved residents' emotions and delivered a heartfelt wish that this resilient community will strengthen and return, rebuild and replace. And for that brief moment, Troop 189's service was honored with gratitude -- by both residents and scouts alike.

*This article first appeared on Newsday.com on November 12, 2012; reprinted with permission.*





## YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE - 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.

**If you prefer to donate by credit card, please fill in the section at the bottom with your credit card information.**

Enclosed is my gift of: \_\_\_\$10 \_\_\_\$18 \_\_\_\$36 \_\_\_\$54 \_\_\_\$100 \_\_\_ Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

Get Well to: \_\_\_\_\_ In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_ Send Card To \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

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

#### TEMPLE FUNDS

Adult Education Fund  
Cantor Walter Lewis Fund  
Cantor's Discretionary Fund  
Chapel Fund  
Choir Fund  
College Fund  
Floral Fund  
Fund for the Disabled  
General Fund  
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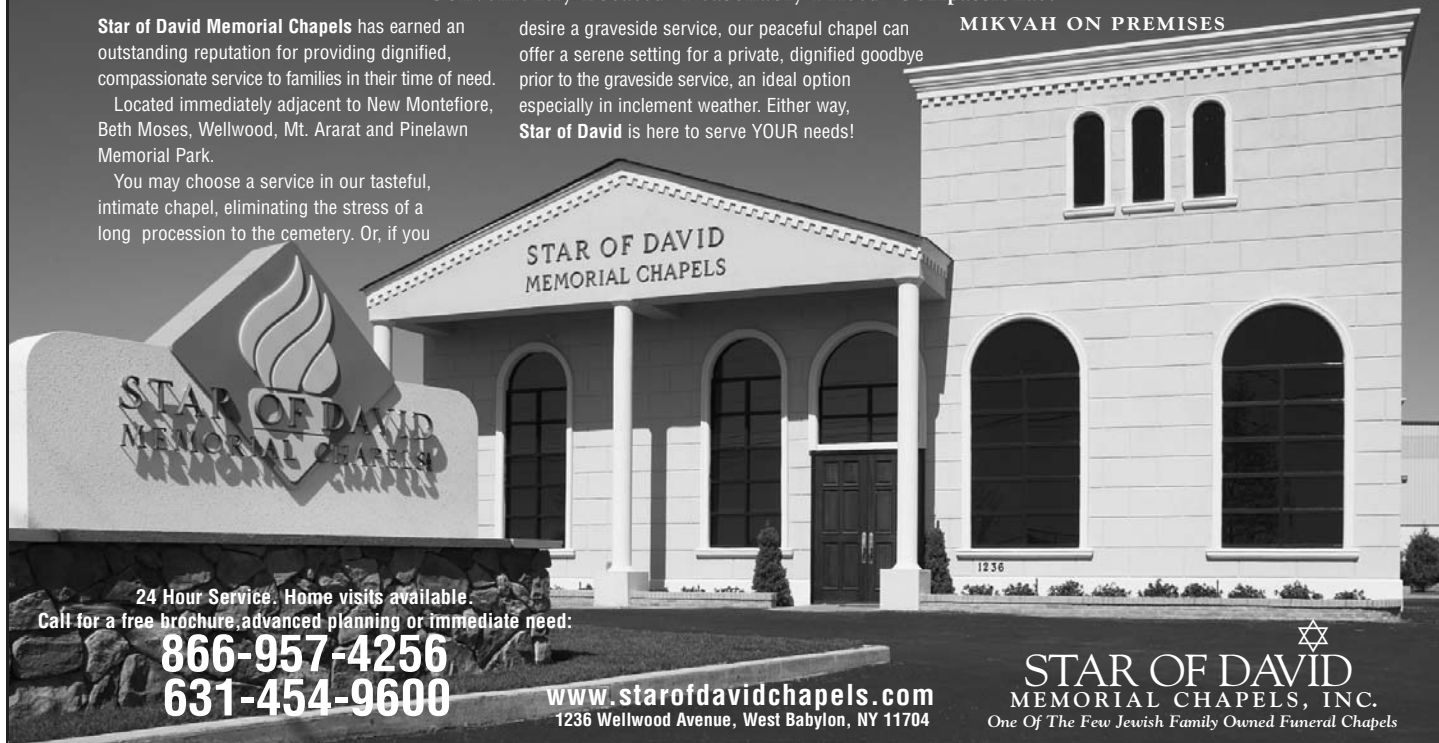
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# EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES - DECEMBER 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>January 2013</b>		<b>1 New Year's Day</b> • NO REL. SCH.- Winter Rec. • Nursery School Closed • Building Closed	<b>2</b> • NO REL. SCH.- Winter Rec. • Nursery School Resumes • 10:30 am Bingo	<b>3</b> • 6:00pm - 7:30 pm Cub Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30 pm Bingo S/H • 7:30-9:00 pm Boy Scouts (Y/L)	<b>4</b> • BNTY Shul-In • 7:30pm Family Shabbat/4-5 Grade Svc/Dinner	<b>5</b> • 9:30 - 11:00 am Torah Study (K/L) • BNTY Shul-In • 10:30am Shabbat Svc
<b>6</b> • 9:00am Rel. Sch. • 9:15am Brotherhood Brkfst S/H • 10:00am-12:00pm Book Club (K/L) • 10:00-11:30am Adult B/M Class (Classroom) • 12:00-4:00pm Eagle Court of Honor (S/H)	<b>7</b> • 1:00pm-Torah Study with Rabbi Bellows (K/L) • 4:30pm Rel. Sch. • 6:30-7:00pm Teen Choir Reh. (101/103) • 7:30pm-9:30pm Adult Choir Practice (101/103) • 7:30 pm Chai Gen. Mtg K/L • 8:30pm - 9:30 pm BNTY Sr. Y/L	<b>8</b> • 10:00am AIAnon K/L • 3:30pm-8:00pm Tutor (Library) • 4:30pm Rel. Sch. • 6:45pm Sisterhood Ex Bd Mtg K/L • 7:00pm Jewish War Veterans Meeting (Y/L) • 7:00pm Brotherhood Brd Meeting (Rm 101/103) • 7:45pm Sisterhood Gen Mtg K/L	<b>9</b> • 10:30 am Bingo • 4:30pm Rel. Sch. • 6:30pm - 7:30pm BNTY Jr. Y/L	<b>10</b> • 6:00pm - 7:30 pm Cub Scouts (Youth Lounge) • 7:30 pm Bingo • 7:30-9:00 pm Boy Scouts (Youth Lounge)	<b>11</b> • NFTY Winter Kallah (Away) • 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat • 6:30pm Indoor Picnic Dinner S/H • 8:00pm Erev Shabbat Svc S/H	<b>12</b> • 9:30 - 11:00 am Torah Study (K/L) • NFTY Winter Kallah (Away)
<b>13</b> • 9:00am Rel Sch /6 Family Class • 9:15am Brotherhood Brkfst S/H • 10:00-11:30am Adult B/M Class (Classroom) • 10:00am-12:00noon Membership Meeting S/H • 1:00pm Film Series (K/L) • 3:00pm Couples Club Bowling (A) • NFTY Winter Kallah	<b>14</b> • 1:00pm-Torah Study with Rabbi Bellows (K/L) • 4:30pm Rel. Sch. • 6:30-7:00pm Teen Choir Reh. (101/103) • 7:00pm Confirmation Parents Meeting (Rm 109) • 7:00pm Sisterhood Mtg (K/L) • 7:30pm-9:30pm Adult Choir Practice (101/103) • 8:30pm - 9:30 pm BNTY Sr. Y/L	<b>15</b> • 10:00am AIAnon K/L • 3:30pm-8:00pm Tutor (Library) • 4:30pm Rel. Sch. • 7:00pm Brotherhood Dinner S/H • 7:30pm Ritual Com Mtg K/L • 8:00pm Religious Ed. Mtg. (Library)	<b>16</b> • 10:30 am Bingo • 4:30pm Rel. Sch. • 6:30pm - 7:30pm BNTY Jr. Y/L	<b>17</b> • 6:00pm B/M photos Pontillo (Sanc.) • 6:00pm - 7:30 pm Cub Scouts (Youth Lounge) • 7:30 pm Bingo S/H • 7:30-9:00 pm Boy Scouts (Youth Lounge)	<b>18</b> • 6:30pm Kabbalat Shabbat Svc	<b>19</b> • 9:30 am - 11:00 am Torah Study (K/L) • 10:30am Shabbat Service (1) B/M Pontillo
<b>20</b> • NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	<b>21 Martin Luther King, Jr.</b> • NO RELIGIOUS. SCHOOL • Nursery School Closed • Building Closed	<b>22</b> • 10:00am AIAnon K/L • 3:30pm-8:00pm Tutor (Library) • 4:30pm Rel. Sch. • 7:00pm Exec. Bd. Mtg (K/L)	<b>23</b> • 10:30 am Bingo • 4:30pm Rel. Sch. • 6:30pm - 7:30pm BNTY Jr. Y/L	<b>24 Tu B'Shevat</b> • 7:30 pm Bingo S/H	<b>25 Tu B'Shevat</b> • 6:00pm Tu B'Shevat Seder & Dinner S/H • 8:00pm Erev Shabbat Svc	<b>26</b> • 9:30 - 11:00 am Torah Study (K/L) • 10:30 am Shabbat (1) B/M Serpe • 1:00 pm Square Dance Set-up S/H • 7:00 pm Square Dance S/H • South Shore Adult Learning Kallah Cancelled
<b>27</b> • 9:00am Spec. Person Day K-2nd grade • 9:00am Rel. Sch. • 9:15am Brotherhood Breakfast S/H • 10:00am PTA Meeting (S/H) • 10:00-11:30am Adult B/M Class (Classroom) • 11:30am PTA Tu B'Shevat Tree Project (S/H) • 1:00pm Adult Ed Series (K/L) • Sisterhood-Brokerage Comedy Club (Away)	<b>28</b> • 1:00pm-Torah Study with Rabbi Bellows (Lib.) • 1:00 pm Chai Bd. Mtg S/H (partitions up) • 1:00-3:00 pm Meadowbrook Womens In. K/L • 4:30pm & 7:00pm Rel. Sch. • 6:30-7:00pm Teen Choir Reh. (101/103) • 7:30pm-9:30pm Adult Choir Practice (101/103) • 7:45pm - 8:30pm YAC Mtg Y/L • 8:30pm - 9:30 pm BNTY Sr. Y/L	<b>29</b> • 10:00am AIAnon K/L • 3:30pm-8:00pm Tutor (Library) • 4:30pm Rel. Sch. • 7:30pm Board Mtg (K/L)	<b>30</b> • 10:30 am Bingo • 4:30pm Rel. Sch. • 6:30pm - 7:30pm BNTY Jr. Y/L	<b>31</b> • 6:00pm - 7:30 pm Cub Scouts (Youth Lounge) • 7:30 pm Bingo S/H • 7:30-9:00 pm Boy Scouts (Youth Lounge)		

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Order Form

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHILD'S NAME</u>	<u>PARENTS</u>
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Jan. 26	(M) Matthew Serpe	Thomas & Fradell
Feb. 2	(F) Alicia Elsner	Steven & Hope
Feb. 9	(F) Alyson Henig	Gina
	(M) Michael Simmons	Thomas & Stacey
Feb. 23	(M) Russell Holtzman	Jay & Bonnie Feldman
	(F) Jade Leviton	Brian & Susanne
Mar. 2	(M) Brian Paul	Jay & Alexandra
Mar. 16	(F) Samantha Cashton	Dennis & Marni
Apr. 6	(F) Marielle Garvey	Alyson
Apr. 13	(M) Clyde Feldman	Steven & Helene
Apr. 20	(M) Jason Yelner	Gary & Michelle

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