



Temple Beth Torah Times

Volume LI No. 2

Kislev/Tevet 5771

November/December 2010

UJA FEDERATION HONORS DIANE AND ARNOLD STEINBERG

By Meryll Feinstein



It was difficult at first to spot **Diane and Arnie Steinberg** as they stood against the backdrop of an enormous crowd at **Temple Beth Torah's Annual UJA-Federation of New York Dessert Reception** on November 14th. All those in attendance – TBT members,

friends, and family, patiently waited their turn to congratulate these most worthy honorees, whose everyday lives passionately embrace and embody the very essence of Judaism, and who serve as an inspiration to so many.

To know Diane and Arnie is to understand their dedication to Jewish causes at home, around the world, and to humanity as a whole. Arnie has been an active member at TBT for the last 36 years. His commitment began as a member of the Ritual Committee and since then he has served as Ritual Vice President, as a member of our Board of Trustees, as Treasurer, Executive Vice President, and lucky for us, he currently remains the Ritual Chair. Professionally, Arnie is a mortgage broker and is a sales representative for children's books.

Diane has been an Elementary Education and Special Education teacher in New York City for over 30 years, having taught K-6th grade. Diane also works with autistic children, teaching social skills classes. Both Arnie and Diane have proudly spent their lives instilling Jewish values in their children Stacy and Jonathan Schwartz, Jordan Feigenbaum, and their grandchildren, Parker and Reid Schwartz.

The Steinbergs also have a tremendous love for travel and make every effort to help sustain Jewish communities around the world. While it's apparent that they have great love and admiration for each other, they have also chosen to lead lives together that are steeped in religion.

In his presentation to our honorees, **Rabbi Katz** extolled the innumerable and wonderful virtues that the Steinbergs possess and explained why they were so deserving of this honor. He said, "When we honor people we do so to point to them as a symbol of what to emulate."



Surely, they are befitting of this model. Rabbi Katz spoke of Diane as a patient, wise, loving mother and wife. Arnie personifies Yiddishkeit and magically makes all that he does for our temple seem effortless – serving as head gabbai,

assigning aliyot, leading parts of the service on the High Holidays as well as Maariv services, and at other times when he's needed. The Rabbi referred to him as TBT's "stage manager" – working behind-the-scenes, bringing fluidity and order to all our services. He also acknowledged Arnie's humility, pointing out that he's never gotten carried away with the power his position as head gabbai affords him. In his own quiet way, Arnie also makes a point of being inclusive to new and young members, doing his utmost to make everyone feel a part of TBT and our services.

Arnie is very fortunate to lead a "brigade" of very committed, dedicated, hard working gabbaim who also serve our temple selflessly and with great humility. **Bobby Schleicher** presented the **Ray Schleicher Community Service Award** to our gabbaim: **Joel Glantz, Robert Lusthaus, Harry Rapaport, Marvin Rembo, Richard Rothstein, Harvey Schaffler, Ben Schwartz, and Marshall Zakarin**. Recognizing all that they do for our temple, many of our gabbaim were reluctant to be honored, mak-



ing the claim that being gabbaim at temple is an honor unto itself. While that may be true, we are most grateful for their service, guidance, and leadership.

As is customary at fundraisers for UJA, **Michael Cohen** gave a touching and heartwarming speech, imploring and encouraging everyone to donate to UJA, whether on behalf of a simcha, a special event, a passing, or even as a result of being witness to an act of kindness. His powerful words drove home the point that we should not wait for "someone else" to do the right thing – we must act.

The keynote speaker of the evening was **Peter Brest, Chief Operating Officer of the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty**. Mr. Brest explained in great detail how impactful the Met Council programs are for low income and indigent Jews, and why the ongoing need for funds remains so urgent. According to Mr. Brest, approximately 250,000 Jews in the greater New York area live at or below the poverty line, including elderly on fixed incomes; émigrés from foreign countries; large ultra –Orthodox

(Continued on page 11)

Press From The President

By Rich Rothstein

Each week on Friday night and Saturday morning, I announce the times for services for the upcoming week. I end the announcements by saying “Your participation is important to us. We look forward to you joining us at one or more minyans each week.”

Someone asked me why I felt it was important to announce that each and every week. They wondered if most people would even know what I meant by minyan -what it entailed, and why it was important. I’d like to share some background, and why attending minyan has become, and continues to be, important to me.

First – a definition. From Merriam Webster:

min·yan

noun \min-yən\

plural **min·ya·nim**

\min-yə-nēm\ or **min·yans**

Definition of MINYAN

: the quorum required for Jewish communal worship that consists of ten male adults in Orthodox Judaism and usually ten adults of either sex in Conservative and Reform Judaism

Origin of MINYAN

Hebrew *minyān*, literally number, count

As you can see, the term minyan refers to a quorum for prayer. Jewish law dictates three daily prayers – the morning service (Shacharit), the afternoon service (Mincha) and the

evening service (Ma’ariv). At Temple Beth Torah we have weekday Ma’ariv services. The Ma’ariv service is amongst the shortest, lasting about 10 minutes. Ma’ariv services are typically attended by a small number of “regulars” and people who are reciting Kaddish (either those in mourning or those observing *yahrzeit*).

I began attending minyan regularly while saying Kaddish after my mother passed away. Each day, no matter what was going on, I took the few minutes to attend. The “regulars” welcomed me and made me immediately comfortable. Soon my family members started to accompany me. Be it my wife, my daughter, or my son, everyone was welcomed warmly. It quickly became apparent to me that “communal” was a key part of the definition – because that is what we had become - members of a community. In no time at all we were met each day with “Hi! How was your day?” or “Did you hear what happened on the market?” or “Can you believe those Mets?” The few minutes we all spent waiting for everyone to arrive became a time to spend with friends – new friends. During this period, I formed many new – and close friendships.

Attending minyan also “forced” me to take a few minutes out of my harried day – to not only spend it with family and friends – but with myself. It gave me an opportunity to reflect on the day past and look forward to the day ahead. Very often we are too caught up in the craziness of the day to take the few minutes – a time out - to think about the good the day brought and how to maximize it, as well as the bad, and how to minimize it. It gave me – and continues to give me, a moment to pause and get or retain perspective.

Up to now, I have been talking about how going to minyan allows you to connect with others and yourself, but there is also another important connection – and that is the spiritual connection - connecting with God, and our heritage. We always find the time to talk to God when we’re in trouble or when we need something, yet we rarely take a moment to thank or think of God in times of good. Praying to God each day, surrounded by my family and friends, is a daily reminder of how blessed and lucky I am.

It is now close to five years since I completed saying Kaddish for my mother, yet I, and my family, still attend services daily. It has become just that important to us. I rarely miss a day – but that is just me. There are regulars that come once a week. Or once a month. Some, just once in a while.

Now you may think there are reasons to not attend: I’m too busy; I don’t know Hebrew; I can’t lead services; or I just forget. To that, I will say we are all busy – but are we all too busy to take 10 minutes every once in a while to connect with friends? With family? Our heritage? God? Yes, the services are in Hebrew, but our Siddur also has the English translation. Not comfortable with that? As Rabbi Katz has mentioned it is just a script – don’t like the script? You can make your own. Can’t lead services but want to? Speak to Joel Glantz – head of our new Minyan Club whose goal is to teach people how to lead the evening service in a self-paced manner. Just forget? It’s easy to remember. Any weeknight at 8:30.

So become a regular. Attend minyan – be it once a month, once a week, or once a day. Where else could you connect with God, your heritage, your family, your friends and yourself – all in the course of 10 minutes?

Temple Beth Torah Services

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Off The Bimah

By Rabbi Michael Katz

Shabbes Candle Lighting

(Another in a continuing series on Home Rituals)

Every Friday evening, candles are lit in the Jewish home to signify the onset of Shabbat. It is generally the women who light the candles, though in the absence of a female, a man should do the lighting.

Most often, we see two candles lit- some connect this with the two times that the Ten Commandments (in the Fourth Commandment, which speaks of Shabbat) are mentioned in the Torah (first in the Book of Exodus, and then again in the Book of Deuteronomy.) In Exodus, the command is: "Remember the Sabbath day..." while in Deuteronomy it says: "Keep the Sabbath day..." The two candles are said to highlight "Remember", and all the positive we add on Shabbat (like Candles, Kiddush, Challah); "Keep" highlights all the things we try to avoid on Shabbat (like work, money, and writing.)

Some families light ten candles- to recall the Ten Commandments; others light one candle for each member of



Rabbi Katz

the household.

A Jewish calendar tells us the proper time for candle lighting each Friday. Since we are not permitted to light a fire on Shabbat, and since Shabbat begins at sunset, the Friday times have a built in "safety-valve" of 18 minutes, to make sure we don't begin Shabbat by breaking it.

Candles are often lit at the place where the family will gather for the Shabbat meals.

We light the candles. It is a custom to make three circles in the air with the hands- as if we are drawing the physical light of the candles- and the spiritual light of Shabbat- towards us. We then cover our eyes with the palms of our hands. (Generally, we say blessings first and then do the act- for example, we say Motzi and then eat the bread. But once we say the blessing over the candles, it is already Shabbat, and we are then not allowed to light a match. Thus, we light Shabbes candles first, without looking at the flame, say the blessing, and THEN we gaze at the candles).

Many women take this moment to add their own silent prayers- about the week that has passed, or about the people in their lives.

The blessing is then said (or sung):

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What things do you do to lighten up
the hearts of others?

What acts do you perform to bring
light/ hope into the world?

What are some things you do or could do
to combat darkness in the world?

The Next Step...

By Eric Pesner

Temple Beth Torah is pleased to showcase this year's bar/bat mitzvah students at their proudest moments. We feature them in order to gain their personal insights into the meaning of this momentous and significant Jewish event in their lives.


Each student was asked the following questions:

What activities are you involved in and what accomplishments are you proudest of?

What does becoming a bar/bat mitzvah mean to you?

What mitzvah project did you undertake for your bar/bat mitzvah?

KYLE MARGOLIS
(September 11)



I play on the soccer team in school and on lacrosse teams both in and out of school. I am very proud of myself for being able to read the Torah and I am also proud of the good grades I get in school.

As a result of my bar mitzvah, I feel older and wiser, and I know what it feels like to work hard.


As a mitzvah project, I chose to help an organization called

Stack the Caps. This organization collects baseball caps and donates them to kids with cancer. I collected 115 baseball caps and donated them.

SAMARA CHAFITZ
(October 9)

I very much enjoy being on the swimming, volleyball, and track teams at school.

I was very excited about my bat mitzvah (and nervous too!) and feel very accomplished because of the work I did to prepare for all the readings. I enjoyed celebrating these great accomplishments with my family and friends.



As a mitzvah project, I donated bags of art supplies to Israeli children in the hospital because I hoped that it would help them to feel less isolated and would make them happy.

MIKAELA ADWAR
(October 16)

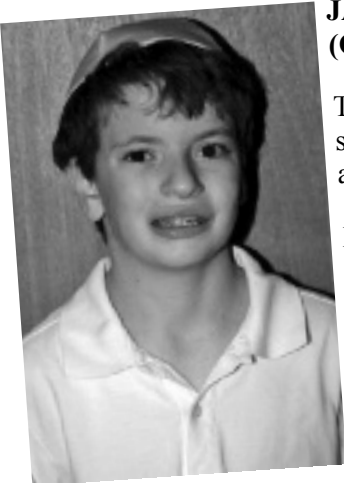
I am an avid reader and I also enjoy being on the softball and tennis teams.

I feel very accomplished at having a bat mitzvah and especially because I did all the readings. It makes me proud to know that all that hard work paid off.

As a mitzvah project, I chose to share my love of reading by donating books to children in the hospital.



JAKE STROBEL
(October 23)



Two of my favorite activities are spending time with my friends and playing baseball.


I believe that after my bar mitzvah I will become more independent, I will take on more responsibilities, and will be more generous. My service was beautiful and I loved learning with Rabbi Katz and Cantor Fliegelman.

As a mitzvah project, I donated money to schools for disabled kids both in New York and Israel.

ALYSSA DELOTT
(October 30)

I am very involved in softball in the summertime and am interested in music and guitar. I am proudest of the good grades I get, especially in all my advanced classes.

I feel very accomplished by all the preparation I did for my bat mitzvah and was extremely proud of myself when I finished my haftorah. It was the longest one!



Becoming a bat mitzvah means growing up and being more responsible for my actions. It's important to think about what you do before you do it.

Best wishes to the
members
of
Temple Beth Torah

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Energy....Change....Vision

By Dr. Robert Spitz

I am pleased to report that a lot of exciting events have been happening at our Hebrew School and we are on an energizing high. On November 21st, over 100 people attended our **DNA Shoah Project** program. **The DNA Shoah Project** is an innovative program whose aim is to unite families that were torn apart by the Holocaust by creating a database of DNA samples that can help match displaced relatives and assist with Holocaust investigations. We are proud to say that we gave forty DNA samples, and twenty kits for mailings were distributed. Our congregation came through with enthusiasm and our participation could prove to be most helpful.

In keeping with our focus on the Holocaust, on November 25th and 26th, a Holocaust survivor, Irving Roth, came to speak with our Hebrew School students. Mr. Roth shared stories and experiences about his childhood during the Shoah and shared his book, **Bondi's Brother**, with us. We are trying to keep alive the tradition of passing down first-hand information about the Holocaust to our children.

Energizing our teachers and colleagues from all over Long Island, on Election Day, TBT hosted a **Yom Iyun Teachers' Seminar** that was a huge success. The reviews are in and the overall consensus was that it was the most unique program that has been offered and request for extensions are coming in. Debbie Fink, an educator, performer, and author of **The Growing Tree**, presented a one-woman show. The title was "Nurturing our Children's Roots and Limbs." We were praised for our decorated hallways and thematic bulletin board.

The program was a series of interviews with:

1. The Hebrew Teacher
2. The Frenetic Mom
3. The Daughter who actually wanted more Jewish education
4. The Religious School Director

It was designed to stimulate thought, touch on issues facing our staff, and inspire change.

A cultural program that our children constantly request is **Hebrew Dance with Rak-Dan**. For the third time, it is always a joy to see our children participate in Israeli folk dances and move to some of the modern beats. It is a real "Jewish Hoe Down"!!! What a way to celebrate Chanukah!

Of course, the **Men's Club Annual Chanukah breakfast** is always a fun way to celebrate the joy of Chanukah with food cooked and served by our Men's club, and featuring games, entertainment, and prizes.

Most importantly, one of the most serious focuses at our Hebrew School is the attention we pay to **improving the students' reading of Hebrew**. Our Gimel and Daled students are working with materials developed especially for them. Although it is still early into the school year and with many days off for Yom Tovim, the Gimel class is already halfway through the aleph bet and we "shep nachas" listening to them recite and read. The Daled students are using a review tutorial and they are already reading with a high level of fluency.

Moving ahead to our other upcoming events, we encourage you to read the calendar as well as your e-mails. Encourage your children by listening to them read out loud each night. Help us achieve our vision, energize our families with Jewish life, and help us keep changing for the better.

Dr. Bruce L. Friedman

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TBT Men's Club Family Breakfast

By Marc Balizer

On December 5th, our very own Men's Club hosted our annual Chanukah Family Breakfast. The festivities were kicked off by a wonderful family sing-along led by **Rabbi Katz**. After the sing-along, the **150 participants** moved into the ballroom to be served breakfast by members of the Men's Club. Yes, that is correct – the Men's Club cooked and served breakfast to 150 of our closest temple friends and family! Many thanks to our cooks: **Mark Lippman, Joe Lorintz, Ben Chafitz, Jack Schnitt and Ira Checkla**, and to our servers: **Jeff Grossman, Lyle Zuckerman, Keith Adwar, Barry Margolis,**



Andy Silverman, and David Damon. We never cease to be amazed at how quickly latkes, bagels, french toast, pancakes, and doughnuts can be consumed! But the party did not end there - once everyone was finished with their delicious breakfast, **Robert Shapiro** from **Unforgettable Entertainment** led the kids in some fun games. We ended the breakfast with our traditional raffle in which twenty five lucky families went home with some of the coolest gifts of the Chanukah season! In addition to that, each child also got a present from Men's Club so everyone went home happy, as well as stuffed! It was a great event and a great way to celebrate the holiday of Chanukah.

As always, I would like to thank the Men's Club committee for helping make this event such a success and I am looking forward to seeing you at future events. Have a happy and healthy Chanukah and New Year!!



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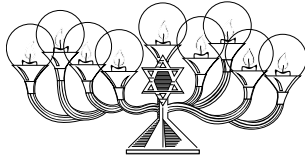
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“Sharing the Spirit of Chanukah”

One of the greatest ways of celebrating Chanukah is by sharing the joy of the holiday with others. Such is the tradition here at Temple Beth Torah. So, on December 7th, members of our Social Action Committee, along with temple members and their families, visited the Arbor Home for Assisted Living in Westbury. The faces of the residents, as well as the candles on the menorah, were lit up, as the youngsters from our Junior Choir and Hebrew school, under the direction of **Cantor Fliegelman**, beautifully sang Chanukah songs and the residents joyfully joined in. **Rabbi Katz** spoke about the miracle of Chanukah, and lovely gift bags, which had been festively decorated by the children of our Hebrew school, were given to the residents of the home.

Special thanks to **Dr. Spitz** and to **Bobby Schleicher**, chairperson of the Social Action Committee, for organizing this wonderful event. At the end of the evening, the essence of the holiday was felt by all.

Connecting With Our College Kids

By Robin Rothstein

TBT’s newest committee – **The College Connection Committee** - has sprung into action. With the mission of keeping our kids, who are away at college, connected to both TBT and their heritage, the new Committee sent Chanukah presents to 22 of our college students.

The present, consisting of Chanukah decorations, chocolate gelt, Chanukah cookies, a dreidel, and other tidbits of fun, went to the college kids that have submitted their email and postal addresses to TBT.

To kick-start this new committee, this year’s Chanukah “connection” was generously sponsored by Rabbi Katz’s fund. **Rabbi Katz**, who already keeps in contact with our college kids through email, plays an integral role in the new “connection” opportunities.

The College Connection committee will be sending out other Judaic related packages throughout the school year. Parents can participate and enroll their kids in the program or select to send specific packages during the year. Package costs will be determined by the package contents and shipping costs. The next two packages planned at this point will be for Purim and Passover.

For more information contact **Robin Rothstein**, committee chairperson, at 827-5313, or the TBT office.

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ENERGY

By Marilyn Reich

I sit in my den staring out of my window. The clouds drift by in a beautiful blue sky. Trees dance and sway in the wind. Cars are quickly rushing by. Two men briskly walk down the street. They are all powered by some energy. All around me there is motion, yet I sit, unmoved. Wait a minute. I look down and see my leg swaying back and forth - my eyes are blinking, my hands are moving. I have energy! I am alive! I need to run. I need to be with people. I need the energy of others to help me live.

To know me is to know that I am always in perpetual motion. It means nothing for me to drive to the city to be with my children or with friends. I ask myself, "Why do I always have to be on the run?" The answer is: I want to use the energy now, before it fades away.

The innocence of youth has figured out the secret to life and energy. When my granddaughter was born early, my grandson (age 10) said, "She is so lucky to have been born early. She has extra time to look around and see the people that love her. She can use her energy to stretch out her arms and legs." When you think about it, isn't life simple?

All we need to do is use our energy to see, touch, smell, and to keep going. Use it for positive things, like to bring joy to others. Do something that will charge your own energy. But for now, my energy has moved me to put down my pen, to stop being a philosopher, and move on to the next thing.

(Continued from page 1)

families; mentally and physically ill; even the new emerging poor (some of whom used to be donors to UJA) who, as a result of economic times, are now facing foreclosures, loss of jobs, businesses, and even eviction.

Met Council on Jewish Poverty provides:

A food distribution center that warehouses and distributes food packages for the poor; food vouchers; Kosher meals for shut-ins; restaurants with prepared meals provided in dignified settings

- Crisis intervention; food and cash assistance; employment and training programs; career counseling, training, and job placement
- Help with home repairs for Seniors; furniture and clothing donations; housekeeping for the ill and elderly; 1500 housing units for Seniors with support staff
- The Connect-to-Care program - a human services network that has provided legal, medical, and other services to some 30,000 people facing challenges in today's difficult world.
- They are currently in development on an affordable assisted living program.

It is evident that UJA- Federation of New York is a critical and vital organization whose work is ever expanding in the face of greater and greater need. The challenges are enormous and they strongly need everyone's support.

Yasher Koach to our event Chairs, **Suzanne and Marty Auerbach**, to Vice Chairs **Debbie and Harold Wanderman**, and to Honorary Chair, **Bobby Schleicher**, for organizing and leading such a successful and well-attended event. If you'd like to make a donation to UJA-Federation, or for more information, contact Amy Kulchinsky at 516-677-1854 or kulchinsky@ujafedny.org

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

New at TBT: The PJ Library Program

PJ Library will send a free Jewish book (each month!) to the homes of kids from 6 months to 8 years of age. In addition, there will be monthly programs geared to Jewish life and the Jewish holidays!

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How TBT Solved the M & M Puzzle

By Evelyn Seelig

On Shabbat Lech-Lecha, the attendees at TBT's Shabbat services had a wonderful opportunity to hear from Rabbi Jeffrey Cymet, spiritual leader of his **Masorti (First M)** congregation in a Tel Aviv, Israel suburb, thanks to the sponsorship of **MERCAZ USA, (Second M), the Zionist organization of the Conservative Movement.** Rabbi Cymet spoke of the impact of Masorti Judaism (the name that Conservative Judaism is known as in Israel and some other areas) upon the Israeli community.

Many of you know that the Israeli Orthodox movement receives most of its religious power in government funds, conversions, and kashrut. Although this is so, the majority of Jews in Israel are considered secular and do not attend any synagogue. Slowly, the Masorti synagogues are bringing the Jewish traditions back to these Jews. Rabbi Cymet described a Simchat Torah celebration he brought to his neighborhood square where men and women were able to dance with real Torahs and understand the significance of the holiday. His shul is filled beyond capacity for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, showing that these secular Jews have found a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere.

On Saturday morning at our shul, he gave a most moving Dvar Torah by comparing the binding of Isaac to every Israeli family's struggle with sending their children off to military service. His message made it clear that support for synagogues like his, through the Masorti Foundation donations, and through MERCAZ USA activism at the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization, is vital. We at TBT are proud to be a "check-off membership" congregation for MERCAZ USA and hope that if you are not already a member, you will consider joining by including the membership on your synagogue bill. We thank Rabbi Cymet so much for being here and for being our teacher and hope that he and the Masorti synagogues will go from strength to strength.

SAVE THE DATE:
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The Touro Synagogue

By Stanley Greenberg

The Touro Synagogue, founded in 1763, sits on a hilltop in Newport, Rhode Island and was to the colonial Jews what our Temple Beth Torah is to us today. It is named for Isaac Touro, America's first rabbi, who in those early times was known as Reverend Touro. The building houses two weighty items that are treasured equally. One is a 500 year old Torah scroll, dating from the Spanish Inquisition, and a deeply significant letter from George Washington codifying this nation's belief in the freedom of religion.

When I first gazed upon the letter written in 1790, I marveled at the honesty and forthright values that were scripted by our first President, the father of our great nation.

The letter states categorically that "this government would give to bigotry **no** sanction, to persecution, **no** assistance." Two hundred years have elapsed and we here at Temple Beth Torah are still thankful as we remain under the umbrella of those long ago words.

The early Jews in Newport were survivors of the Spanish Inquisition that took a circuitous route to Portugal, North Africa, Italy, Amsterdam, Brazil, and finally to Newport, Rhode Island. Roger Williams was known for his granting of religious freedom for all. For the first time, Jews were allowed to buy property, and they established the first cemetery in America.

The Touro Synagogue is simple and almost bare in its design. Its architect was a Quaker. During the Revolutionary War the British used the building as a military hospital and thankfully, it was not destroyed.

Today, although we are often confronted by the longtime scourge of religious intolerance and bigotry, we too, have a refuge. Like the Touro Synagogue, our refuge lies in the sanctity of our beloved Temple Beth Torah. Within these walls, we can practice our religion and celebrate the religious freedom that was long ago granted to us by our forefathers and by our Constitution.

**God bless America and our wonderful
Temple Beth Torah!**

Words & Music:



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"Sisterhood Offers Great Books and Conversation"

by Wendy A. Marx

Not even the cold driving rain on Thursday night, November 4th could stop the women of Temple Beth Torah from attending a book discussion sponsored by our Sisterhood. Described as historical fiction, Pictures at an Exhibition by Sara Houghtling, offered an insight into the art world of Paris during World War II. It tells the story of how art was looted from Parisian galleries and museums under Nazi occupation, and was ultimately destroyed or smuggled out of France. This sweeping novel and love story dealt with a son's quest to recover his family's lost masterpieces during the war. Another recommended book on a similar subject is After the Auction, by Linda Frank.

With camaraderie, conversation, coffee and cake, a most congenial evening was experienced by all.

We are looking forward to the next Sisterhood book talk which will be based upon Wherever You Go, by author Linda Frank. This book deals with Jewish political and religious extremism and its threat to Israeli democracy.



Temple Beth Torah Times

A Publication of Temple Beth Torah
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Westbury, New York 11590

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Mazel Tov to **Barry and Laurie Margolis** on the bar mitzvah of their son **Kyle**...to **Benjamin and Alisa Chafitz** on the bat mitzvah of their daughter **Samara**...to **Keith and Lila Adwar** on the bat mitzvah of their daughter **Mikaela**...to **Alan and Tammy Strobel** on the bar mitzvah of their son **Jake**...to **Jeffrey and Joanne DeLott** on the bat mitzvah of their daughter **Alyssa**.

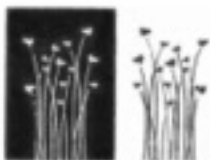
We extend our deepest condolences to **Carolyn Newman and Marjorie Elbaum** on the passing of their mother **Anne Gluck**...to **Marty Silberg** on the passing of his sister **BettyLou Lipscher**...to **Stacie Gross** on the passing of her brother **Jerry Solomon**.

Get Well **Harry Rapaport, Randie Mishan, Marjorie Elbaum, Michael Cohen, Nat Kammerman, Michael Franklin, Robert Misthal, Mitchell Siegel, Myron Calderon, Ben Schwartz**.

Mazel Tov to **Marilyn Reich** on the birth of her granddaughter **Samantha Nicole**, born to her children **Erika and Jay Reich**...to **Janet and Ed Katzin** on the birth of their grandson **Ryan Elan**, born to their children **Lisa and Douglas Herman**...to **Vicki and Harvey Schaffler** on the birth of their grandson **Gavin London**, born to their children **Meredith and Jacob Black**...to **Donna and Jack Abramowicz** on the birth of their grandson **Brody**, born to their children **Rachel and Howie Abramowicz**.

Mazel Tov to **Marjorie and Marty Elbaum** on the engagement of their son **Adam** to **Sarina Kaplan**...to **Shelley and William Goldstein** on the engagement of their son **Jeffrey** to **Rebecca Finifter**...to **Linda and Mitch Pochtar** on the marriage of their daughter **Jessica** to **Geoffrey Gordon**...To **Stacie and Fred Gross** on the marriage of their daughter **Sara** to **Scott Daniels**...To **Susan and Norman Toline** on the marriage of their son **Bradley** to **Sara Jacobs**...to **Claire and Marty Sass** on the engagement of their son **Russell** to **Jennifer Coron**.

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Read & Chat with Sisterhood

Book:

Wherever You Go

Author:

Linda Frank

When?

Tuesday, January 11th, 7:30 p.m.

Calling All Grandmas, Grandpas, Mommies and Daddies!

By Claire Sass

We've all witnessed the "qvelethon" that occurs whenever young children or grandchildren are present in the sanctuary. Children will always be welcome at Temple Beth Torah. However, when the need arises, families might enjoy the availability of a children's playroom. The goal would be to provide a comfortable place for the little one and his chaperone while other family members participate in the service, as was the model many years ago at our synagogue.

We are asking for donations of gently loved toys that are attractive and intact. Keeping the area safe and clean is of utmost importance. To that end, only toys that can be cleaned in a dishwasher will be accepted. The following are suggestions for appropriate toys:

- Lego, duplo, or bristle blocks (large enough for toddlers)
- Plastic dolls (no removable clothes)
- Plastic animals- with habitat accessories
- Washable Books
- Manipulative shape sorter type items
- Play kitchen dishes and play food (kosher, of course!!!)
- Washable Puzzles

***All items need to be large enough so that they cannot be swallowed!**

We have formed a committee to see this project through its various phases. So far, Vickie Schaffler and Robin Schaffler have volunteered to help. Anyone interested in joining our committee, please feel free to contact us.

Toys can be delivered to my house at: 24 Westchester Avenue. If I am not home, it is OK to leave labeled bags on my porch. The toy room committee will determine if the toys are appropriate or should be donated elsewhere. Please consider the above criteria before making a gift.

Once upon a time, there was a toy room at our temple. Perhaps the time is now to encourage our tiniest members to feel more at home.

"If we build it, they will come!"



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your canned or boxed foods...

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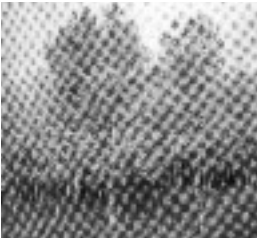
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Tu' B'Shevat is Coming...

Time to Enjoy A Different Kind of Seder

(January 20th)



Tu' B'Shevat, traditionally known as the birthday of the trees, is a time to think about relating to the natural world. This holiday can be celebrated by planting trees, eating fruits, and having a Tu B'Shevat Seder, a ritual that began with the kabbalistic masters of the 15th century. This ritual seder involves drinking 4 cups of wine/ grape juice and partaking of 4 different kinds of fruit.

The first cup of white wine or grape juice symbolizes God's energy infused in the creative process of initial life. **The second cup of wine / juice** is mostly white with a little red mixed in to symbolize the passing of the seasons and the mystical concept of formation and birth associated with water. **The third cup of wine** is mostly red with a little of white mixed in to symbolize once again the change of seasons and the mystical concept of creation. The **last cup of wine** is all red and symbolizes the mystical concept of fire

and the idea that within all living things dwells a spark of God. Between each cup of wine a different fruit is served. **The first fruits** served are hard on the outside and soft on the inside, such as walnuts, coconuts or almonds. The hard shell symbolizes the protection that the earth gives us and reminds us to nourish the strength and healing power of our bodies. **The second fruits** served are soft with a pit in the center- such as olives or dates, peaches or apricots etc. to symbolize the life-sustaining power that emanates from the earth. **The third fruits** served are soft throughout and completely edible such as grapes, and raisins. These fruits symbolize Gods omnipresence. **The last fruits** served have tough skin on the outside but sweet inside- mangos, bananas, avocados etc. to symbolize the mystery of the world that we seek to uncover. Excerpted from: **Jewish Family and Life: Traditions, Holidays and Values for Today's Parents and Children**, by Rabbi Susan Silverman



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