



# Chai Lights

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## President's Message

### **Consolidation Will Strengthen Rockville Centre Jewish Community**

*By Marty Skolnick*

Some months back, the treasurers of Congregation B'nai Sholom-Beth David and Central Synagogue-Beth Emeth met to talk about their synagogues and the challenges each community faces in today's environment. Between lagging membership, rising costs, and other external and internal forces, it can be challenging to navigate choppy waters.

With this in mind, these two financial advisors went to their respective leadership groups and proposed a meeting to see if each would want to sit down and talk. Sighting both a stronger Jewish community under one roof and monetary savings for both synagogues, consolidation talks started between the two shuls.

What will this consolidation bring to both communities? It brings two important institutions together and makes an even stronger and vibrant Jewish community here in Rockville Centre. B'nai's current building will house both a Reform and Conservative congregation; additionally, the two Hebrew Schools will come together and bring more resources for our students and their families. In addition, there will be more programming and activity in the building since more folks will be engaged in various projects.

Talks are continuing and there are still issues to resolve. But with hope, understanding, and resolve, our two organizations have a chance to become a beacon of Judaism on the South Shore of Long Island. In the meantime, there are many CBS-BD committees that can use the talents of our members. From communications to the Never Again committee, your time and abilities are essential to a radiant community. Please volunteer. It is a mitzvah to serve.

## **Is It Ever Okay to be That Cozy with Friends?**

*By Jonathan Winderman*

The other day my daughter texted me from school to say that some of the people she eats lunch with every day made some Holocaust jokes. They were not meant to be taken in a threatening way or even thought of as hurtful by the ones telling them. It was more along the lines of "We're all friends here. We can say anything amongst ourselves." The offending party happened to be African American in this case, but that shouldn't matter. She has heard similar things come from Jewish friends as well in recent years.

In my daughter's lunch group, she is the only Jew. The group consists of African Americans, Hispanics, non-Jewish Whites, and my daughter. It is an ethnically diverse group of students at an ethnically diverse high school. In a country that seems to be getting more voluntarily segregated, it is what many of us still like to see.

The question here is when do people become too chummy to realize there are some words or subjects that shouldn't be casually thrown around? It's not just about the Holocaust either. One of the African American boys regularly uses the N-word and has even gone so far as to offer a "pass" to my daughter for her to use the word in this group. Thankfully, she was horrified by the thought.

When did it become okay to use vile words or joke about genocide amongst friends? Is it due to immaturity or something else? Being part of a group is supposed to bring with it a certain level of comfort. However, this behavior has had the opposite effect on her. I don't know a solution other than letting people close to you know that some things are okay to joke about, but this crossed a line. Hopefully, this may serve as a lesson for the future that some subjects are never okay to joke about even with friends.

# Good and Welfare

By Jill Kaplan

## Happy Birthday:

Jay Abrahams, Jules Abramson, Stephanie Ausubel, Sha Batzby, Barbara Colodner, Michael Colodner, Dr. Ira Casson, Rabbi Howard Diamond, Cyd Disler, Dana Friedman, Mel Friedman, Dr. Steven Friedman, Barry Goldberg, Alyce Goodstein, the Hon. Jeffrey Goodstein, Jason Greenberg, Dr. Neil Hammerman, Mindy Kaiser, Dr. David Kaminsky, Steven Kanowitz, Michael Karp, Sheila Kendal, Emil Kesselman, Ilene Knobel, Meryl Krasne, Steven Lander, Lawrence Levine, Martin Levine, William Lieberman, Heidi Lobelson, Sandy Lobelson, Jeremy Melendez, Kala Micillo, Lawrence Mlawski, Carrie Moffett, Nanci Moskowitz, Donna Redler, Miriam Roiter, Robin Sackstein, Connie Salwen, Ira Salwen, Bruce Schreiber, Nancy Schwartz, Rebbetzin Sonia Schwartz, Michael Shenker, Judith Silverman, Mark Skolnick, Howard Stein, Leon Vilinsky, Rita Vilinsky, Cantor Alexandra Weiser, Allen Weiser, Douglas Wikle, Darnell Williams

## Happy Anniversary:

Jay & Susan Adler, Alex & Cyd Disler, Robert & Francine Fish, Mel & Dana Friedman, the Hon. Jeffrey & Alyce Goodstein, Linda & Robert Grossman, Marvin & Virginia Meyers, Howard & Deborah Rubenstein, Dr. Robert & Linda Schwartz, Ellis & Tracey Simon, Marcia & Richard Talesnick, Leon & Rita Vilinsky

## Mazel Tov:

Alice Purus on becoming a great-grandmother - welcome little Alora; to Dr. Robert & Linda Schwartz on marriage of daughter Lainie to David Morgenstern; Bonnie Friedman on son Matthew's graduation from Hofstra University; Emil Kesselman who celebrated his 83rd Bar Mitzversary

## Get Well:

Sandy Friedman; Alice Purus; Sheldon Lazarowitz.

## Deepest Condolences:

- Stephanie Ausubel and family on the passing of her beloved husband, Dr. Herbert Ausubel;
- Barry & Judy Silverman and family on the passing of his beloved mother, Doris Silverman;
- Bernice Stein and family on the passing of her beloved sister, Rita Wallace;
- Janet Winter on the passing of her beloved mother, Evelyn Towba.

## Todah Rabah:

Sisterhood for the festive Purim baskets – may all the Hamans in your life be banished, and may the courage of Esther always inspire you.

We hope you and your family enjoyed a delicious and meaningful Passover. In closing, we wish a BIG Happy Birthday to Israel – 75 years and going strong!! Chag Yom HaAtzmaut Sameach!!

Congregation B'nai Sholom - Beth David  
100 Hempstead Avenue  
Rockville Centre, New York 11570  
www.cbsbdrv.org  
cbsbdooffice@gmail.com  
Main Office: 516-764-4100

**President:** Martin Skolnick

**Clergy:** Rabbi David Lerner, Cantor Xan Weiser

**Rabbi Emeriti:** Rabbi Howard Diamond, Rabbi Barry Dov Schwartz

**Ritual Director:** Richard Perl binder

**Educational Director:** Nina Pasternack

**Chai Lights Staff:** Co-Editors Ellis Simon, Helene Parsons, Lisa Mack

**Contributors:** Steve Lander, Connie Salwen, Jonathan Winderman, Jill Kaplan, Jay Abrahams, Tracey Simon, Barbara Kaplan, Herb Friend, Samantha Berman-Melendez, Nina Pasternack

Comments & suggestions encouraged. Newsletter articles 350 words or less accepted in Microsoft Word. Send to cbsbdooffice@gmail.com  
Attention: Lisa Mack

**CHAI LIGHTS** is generously underwritten by the Sisterhood of Congregation B'nai Sholom - Beth David





## BOWLERS & BASKETS RAISE MONEY FOR THE TEMPLE



From left to right: Ira Salwen, Nanci Moskowitz, Sha Batzby, Marty Greenberg, Larry Mlawski, Lila Mlawski, Fortune Kaufman, Rabbi Howard Diamond, Amy Slavin, Samantha Berman-Melendez, Brandon Melendez, Bonnie Friedman, Nancy Hochhauser, Rabbi David Lerner, Barry Silverman, Michael Shenker, Andrew Stein, Marty Skolnick, Jonathan Winderman, Elisa Matas Skolnick

Fifteen bowlers kicked off Super Bowl Sunday, February 12 at Maple Lanes RVC with the 4th Annual Super Bowl-A-Thon Fundraiser.

**Rabbi Diamond "Diamond in The Rough"**

**Bonnie Friedman "The Bonster"**

**Alyce Goodstein "Gutterless Goodstein"**

**Nancy Hochhauser "Triple H"**

**Fortune Kaufman "Fearless Fortune"**

**Rabbi David Lerner "The Detroit Rav"**

**Lisa Mack & Amy Slavin "The Dynamic Duo"**

**Brandon Melendez "Boulder Shoulder"**

**Larry Mlawski "Larry Munson Mlawski"**

**Nanci Moskowitz "Fancy Nancy"**

**Nina Pasternack "Knock-Em-Down Nina"**

**Ashley Presser "Amazing Ashley"**

**Barry Silverman "The Silver Bullet"**

**Jonathan Winderman "Win-It-All Winderman"**

There was a crowd of congregants cheering on the bowlers and eating pizza from Saul's in West Hempstead. Marty Greenberg once again was our official scorer.

Thank you to everyone who sponsored their favorite bowlers and contributed to the fundraiser. We had an incredible turnout and its generous donors like you, who help make fundraisers a success! Collectively, we raised over \$2,800.

An extra special thanks goes to Samantha Berman-Melendez for designing the T-shirt art and ironing on the T-shirts transfer sheets with Elisa Matas Skolnick.



Our three winners received a gift card from Dunkin Donuts and were announced on Friday, March 4 at Shabbat Across America: Most Money Raised: Rabbi Diamond who raised over \$550, Rabbi Lerner defended his highest scorer title and Alyce Goodstein was the lowest scorer.



Purim 2023 was once again a huge success with Sisterhood's breakfast-themed "Rise & Shine—It's Purim Time!" Shalach Manot baskets to the make-your-own sundaes donated by Go Nuts for Sweets, the Purim Spiel and the costume contest.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who participated this year!

And **A BIG THANK YOU** to all of our volunteers who helped assemble and/or deliver the bags.

This year—we sold over 70 additional bags.

We couldn't have done it without **ALL OF YOU!**



# SEEKING SANCTUARY: 125 Years of Synagogues on Long Island

By Tracey Simon

The towers of the Moorish-style building on the cover of the book, *Seeking Sanctuary: 125 Years of Synagogues on Long Island*, soar into a blue sky. They illustrate the function of a synagogue: a solid foundation that inspires reaching towards HaShem.

Brad Kolodny, the book's author and founder of the Long Island Jewish Historical Society, believes the original home of Congregation Beth David to be the most beautiful exterior of all Long Island synagogues. He said as much at a Sisterhood-sponsored breakfast program on Sunday, March 26, much to the delight of the Beth David contingent of CBS-BD. Considering that there are currently 219 synagogues in Nassau and Suffolk, that is a major distinction.

After a traditional Sunday breakfast of bagels and an assortment of spreads, salads, and pastries, Sisterhood Co-President Linda Schwartz welcomed everyone to the event and introduced the speaker.

The more than 40 attendees listened with fascination as Kolodny spoke of the history of local synagogues. He quizzed the audience about where the first synagogue was built on Long Island. Most guessed it had to be in Nassau County. They were surprised to find out that it was in Setauket in Suffolk County in 1896. They were pleased to learn that the first synagogue built in Nassau was our own Temple B'nai Sholom. (The first building was built in 1915; the current one, in 1949.) He also discussed the different architectural styles, from humble, non-descript buildings to elaborate and elegant, and how some synagogues incorporated features, such as glass ark doors, from ones that either closed or merged.

Co-President Bonnie Friedman thanked everyone for coming, and announced another exciting event coming up on June 8 when Samantha Berman-Melendez will be honored as a "Woman of Achievement" by the Brooklyn, Queens, and Long Island Chapter of Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

## Samantha Berman-Melendez is Sisterhood 2023 Woman of Achievement

By Tracey Simon

Sisterhood of Congregation B'nai Sholom-Beth David has chosen Samantha Berman-Melendez as our honoree for the 2022-2023 Woman of Achievement Gala sponsored by the Brooklyn, Queens, and Long Island Chapter of Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

Samantha was selected because she is a dedicated and valued member of our Sisterhood board who volunteers her time and talent enthusiastically and capably. She conceives and expertly coordinates events such as a Judaica Shop Chanukah sale for the students of our JLC and catering the Oneg for our Sisterhood Shabbat. Samantha also photographs our events, after which she promptly posts a photo-essay to Sisterhood's Facebook page. She brings her creativity and special touch to all she does.

Samantha joined Congregation B'nai Sholom-Beth David in 2015 with her husband, Brandon, and two children, Jeremy Stone and Ayla Grey, who will become b'nai mitzvah in September. She and Brandon moved

to Rockville Centre shortly after they married in 2009 and became involved members of the community. Samantha has worked as a psychotherapist since graduating from NYU in 2007, serving Long Island and Queens. As well as being an active congregant, Samantha serves as vice president on the Board of Trustees, co-chair of the Catering Committee, and member of the Fundraising Committee. She also serves as liaison to the Jewish Learning Center on the Sisterhood Board.

We are fortunate to have Samantha as part of our Sisterhood and are delighted to honor her as a Woman of Achievement. This year's event will start at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 8, at Temple Beth Sholom, Roslyn Heights. It will be both in person and live streamed.

More information to come.





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# May 2023



## Congregation B'nai Sholom-Beth David

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Sisterhood Jewelry Night 7 PM Kneset Room	<b>2</b> Sisterhood Game Night 7:30 PM Kneset Room	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Candle Lighting 7:38 PM Kaballat Shabbat 7:30 PM	<b>6</b> Shabbat Services 9:00 AM Mincha/Mariv 8:10 PM Havdalah 8:55 PM
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Lag B'Omer</b> Sisterhood Game Night 7:30 PM Kneset Room	<b>10</b> Board of Trustees meeting 8:15 PM	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Candle Lighting 7:45 PM Kaballat Shabbat 7:30 PM	<b>13</b> Shabbat Services 9:00 AM Mincha/Mariv 8:15 PM Havdalah 8:55 PM
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Sisterhood Game Night 7:30 PM Kneset Room	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Yom Yerushalayim</b> Candle Lighting 7:52 PM Kaballat Shabbat 7:30 PM	<b>20</b> Shabbat Services 9:00 AM Mincha/Mariv 8:20 PM Havdalah 9:00 PM
<b>21</b> <b>Rosh Chodesh Sivan</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Sisterhood Game Night 7:30 PM Kneset Room	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Erev Shavuot</b> Candle Lighting 7:57 PM Tikun Leil Shavuot (TBA)	<b>26</b> <b>Shavuot First Day</b> Morning Service 9:00 AM Candle Lighting 7:58 PM Kaballat Shabbat 7:30 PM	<b>27</b> <b>Shavuot Second Day</b> Shabbat/Shavuot Services 9:00 AM Yizkor Mincha/Mariv 8:25 PM Havdalah 9:10 PM
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>30</b> Sisterhood Game Night 7:30 PM Kneset Room	<b>31</b>			



# June 2023



## Congregation B'nai Sholom-Beth David

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Candle Lighting 8:04 PM Kaballat Shabbat 7:30 PM	<b>3</b> Shabbat Services 9:00 AM Mincha/Mariv 8:30 PM Havdalah 9:20 PM
<b>4</b> Celebrate Israel Parade	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Sisterhood Game Night 7:30 PM Kneset Room	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Woman of Achievement Gala - Samantha Melendez Honoree 6:00 PM Temple Beth Sholom Roslyn	<b>9</b> Candle Lighting 8:06 PM Kaballat Shabbat 7:30 PM	<b>10</b> Shabbat Services 9:00 AM Mincha/Mariv 8:30 PM Havdalah 9:20 PM
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Sisterhood Game Night 7:30 PM Kneset Room	<b>14</b> Board of Trustees meeting 8:15 PM	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Candle Lighting 8:04 PM Kaballat Shabbat 7:30 PM	<b>17</b> Shabbat Services 9:00 AM Mincha/Mariv 8:30 PM Havdalah 9:20 PM
<b>18</b> Father's Day	<b>19</b> Juneteenth Rosh Chodesh Tamuz	<b>20</b> Sisterhood Game Night 7:30 PM Kneset Room	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Candle Lighting 8:04 PM Kaballat Shabbat 7:30 PM	<b>24</b> Shabbat Services 9:00 AM Mincha/Mariv 8:30 PM Havdalah 9:20 PM
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Sisterhood Game Night 7:30 PM Kneset Room	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Candle Lighting 8:04 PM Kaballat Shabbat 7:30 PM	

# Thank You - Todah Rabah

By Connie Salwen & Pauline Gibney

Thank you for your cooperation in using the donation form printed in this newsletter, large sheets of paper or yahrzeit cards when making your generous donations. The donation form is also available in the temple office. Please be sure to write legibly! Donations received after the list for this issue has been compiled will be included in the next issue of Chai Lights. Acknowledgements will be sent out immediately upon receipt of donation.

You can also make donations online at <https://www.cbsbdrvc.org/payment.php>. A list of funds and opportunities to support CBS-BD can be found at [https://www.cbsbdrvc.org/support\\_opportunities](https://www.cbsbdrvc.org/support_opportunities)

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Don Schiller

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Sheldon Lazarowitz

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Birth of great-granddaughter to Alice Purus;

Birthday of David King;

Birthday of Andy Cohen;

Birthday of Jane Scherer;

Haftorah chanted by Melissa Goldman on

Sisterhood Shabbat;

All the amazing women who participated in

Sisterhood Shabbat

### Emily Berkun

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

"Grandma Lakey"

### Susan & Ira Casson

IN MEMORY OF

Bob Scherer

### Alan Croes & Laurie Musiker-Croes

IN HONOR OF

Our family we love so much!

### Cece & Jack Friedman

IN MEMORY OF

Evelyn Towba

IN HONOR OF

Purim bag, sending Happy Purim wishes to all

### Alyce & Jeffrey Goodstein

IN HONOR OF

Birthday of Bobby Kuman

### Judy & Marty Greenberg

IN MEMORY OF

Rita Wallace, sister of Bernice Stein

### Pearl & Jeff Greenfield

IN MEMORY OF

Doris Silverman, mother of Barry Silverman

### Jacob Inwald

IN MEMORY OF

Doris Silverman, mother of Barry Silverman

### Barbara & Jay Kaplan

IN HONOR OF

Melissa Goldman chanting long, difficult

Shabbat Shira haftorah;

Birth of second grandson to Helene &

Bob Parsons

### Meryl & Martin Krasne

TZEDAKAH

### Fred Levine

IN APPRECIATION OF

Warm welcome at services

### Lisa & Larry Mack

IN MEMORY OF

Dan, brother-in-law of Cece & Jack Friedman

### Michele & Al Morrison

IN MEMORY OF

Bob Scherer;

Bernice Rosenthal

IN HONOR OF

Birth of grandson Boaz Schwartz to

Sonia & Rabbi Barry Dov Schwartz

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

Sheldon Lazarowitz

### Howard Rubenstein

IN APPRECIATION OF

Birthday wishes

### Carol Schulz

IN MEMORY OF

Evelyn Towba

### Sonia & Rabbi Barry Dov Schwartz

IN HONOR OF

CBS-BD office staff





# Thank You - Todah Rabah

(Continued)

## Tracey & Ellis Simon

IN MEMORY OF

Bob Scherer

IN HONOR OF

Melissa Goldman chanting Shabbat Shira  
haftorah;

Birth of second grandson to Helene &

Bob Parsons

## Elisa & Marty Skolnick

IN MEMORY OF

Bob Scherer

## Tova Friedler Usdan

IN MEMORY OF

Evelyn Towba

## Rabbi's Fund

### Maxine & Alan Geller

IN MEMORY OF

Rita Wallace, sister of Bernice Stein

### Barbara & Jay Kaplan

TZEDAKAH

### Sandy & Sheldon Lazarowitz

IN MEMORY OF

Bob Scherer

IN HONOR OF

Birth of grandson Boaz, son of Sara &

Avi Schwartz, grandson of Sonia &

Rabbi Barry Dov Schwartz

### Larry Levy

IN MEMORY OF

Rita Wallace, sister of Bernice Stein;

Uncle, Dr. Oscar Tannenbaum;

Grandmother, Jean Goldstein;

Cousin, Libby Lazar;

Aunt, Mollie Blumenstein;

Evelyn Towba

### Debbie Musiker

IN HONOR OF

Ray Musiker

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IN MEMORY OF

Friend, Janice Fenster

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Birth of great grand-daughter to Alice Purus

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Rabbi and Alexis Lerner

## Cantor's Fund

### Tobi Pilavin Weinstein & Scott Weinstein

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Beautiful chanting of haftorah by Cantor Xan

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### Elaine Serota, Ina Baron, Harlan Ellis & Family

IN MEMORY OF

Father, Jonas Ellis

## Memorial Fund

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Grandmother, Jennie Abrahams;

Father, Sydney Abrahams

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Mother, Esther Kleinhaus;

Father, Jack Kleinhaus;

Husband, Raymond J. Gobetz



## Thank You - Todah Rabah

(Continued)

### **Melissa Goldman**

IN MEMORY OF  
Grandfather, Myron Goldman

### **Claire Gordon**

IN MEMORY OF  
Brother, Kenneth Grossman

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Mother, Esther Greenberg

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IN MEMORY OF  
Bob Scherer

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### **Paul Levy**

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Father, Stanley Levy

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## **Jewish Learning Center**

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Rita Wallace, sister of Bernice Stein;  
Howard Kass, husband of Marilyn Kass;  
Evelyn Towba  
IN HONOR OF  
Nancy Hochhauser and Elisa Matas Skolnick  
for organizing a beautiful Shabbat dinner and  
a wonderful Purim basket fundraiser

### **Connie & Ira Salwen**

IN MEMORY OF  
Rita Wallace, sister of Bernice Stein;  
Howard Kass, husband of Marilyn Kass;  
Evelyn Towba  
IN HONOR OF  
Nancy Hochhauser and Elisa Matas Skolnick  
for all their hard work on the wonderful  
Purim bags and Shabbat Across America  
SPEEDY RECOVERY TO  
Sheldon Lazarowitz;  
Alice Purus



## Thank You - Todah Rabah

(Continued)

### Sisterhood

Joyce Shuppe

IN HONOR OF

Larry Levy sending Purim bag

Tracey & Ellis Simon

IN HONOR OF

Wonderful Sisterhood Shabbat

### Kiddush Fund

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IN HONOR OF

96th birthday of Emil Kesselman

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IN HONOR OF

Anniversary of Phyllis & Sy Entin;  
Birth of great grandson to Phyllis & Sy Entin;  
Birth of grandson to Helene & Bob Parsons;  
Birthday of Andy Cohen;  
Birthday of Linda Grossman;  
Cantor Xan celebrating 20th anniversary of  
her bat mitzvah;

Melissa Goldman chanting long and beautiful  
haftorah on Sisterhood Shabbat;  
Birthday of Rabbi Howard Diamond;  
Bat Mitzvah of Sofie, granddaughter of  
Marge & Sheldon Grossman

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

Jay Abrahams

Helene & Robert Parsons

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IN HONOR OF

Birth of our grandson, Noah Alexander Parsons

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Birth of grandson to Helene & Bob Parsons

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Evelyn Towba

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in September.

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