

President's Message December 2012

This certainly has been a November to remember.

I am thankful that no one from our temple was hurt in the storm (at least that I have heard about). Most of us had some sort of property damage that we needed to fix. I hope that no one suffered too badly in the storm and that you are on your way to getting back to normal.

My best friend lives a block and a half from Rockaway Beach and will not be able to return to his house for at least a month, while my brother's brother-in-law owned a house at the foot of the Mantoloking bridge that was one of the most photographed spots of damage at the shore. He now has a vacant lot where his house used to be. So I am grateful that we were not hit harder.

At this time of the year, please remember that there are folks out there who have lost everything they owned, so try to be as generous as you can to the relief efforts of the Red Cross and the United Way, or any other worthy organization that is helping out the victims of Sandy. One of the things you might do during Chanukah is instead of giving gifts for 8 nights, take the funds from one or two nights of gifts and donate that to the relief effort. It will make you and your kids feel grateful for what you have.

On a much happier note, I want to congratulate Gina Berkowitz on her joining the Jewish faith and her being called as an aliyah to the Torah. I am so proud of you, as is the rest of our temple family. I wish you all a very happy Chanukah and a HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

Shalom, Howie