Men’s Club Shabbat Bar Mitzvah

Shabbat Shalom,

Welcome to the Men’s Club Shabbat ‘Bar Mitzvah’ to honor our thirteen years of service to the Temple Israel of Natick Community. For the occasion we even wore our signature orange Bar Mitzvah outfits. What do these dates have in common?: Men’s Club Breakfast, Oct.31, 2012 – Halloween Snow storm – breakfast postponed ; Scotch in the Sukkah 2012 – Pouring rain – ends up scotch in the Religious school classroom ; Men’s club breakfast 2012 – missed hurricane Sandy by 2 days and the Blizzard of 2013 Men’s Club Shabbat – Bar Mitzvah postponed. Is there a pattern here? But Be Happy, it’s Adar, so no worries, especially with the Men’s Club flexible and dedicated members.

There are many people to thank for today’s activities. Thank you to Dan Zwelling, who twice organized the roles and honors for the service and wrote two D’var’s. Thank you to David Singer who coordinated the Tribute book. Thank you to Allen Block who oversaw the food and setup. Thank you to the Rabbi and Cantor for their support. Thank you Zvi and Dalia Ron for preparing today’s delicious Kiddush Luncheon. Thank you to everyone who participated in today’s service. Thank you to everyone that helped in the kitchen, Karen Block, Margie Aarons allowing the Men’s Club members to be at the service and thank you to everyone who contributed to the Tribute book that will allow us to continue the programming to keep our mission of connecting Jewish men and being a service to Temple Israel of Natick.

We have a number of exciting programs coming up. Next week at the Purim Carnival we will be manning a photo booth. On Feb. 27 we are holding our next discussion in our Hearing Men’s Voices series where we meet to discuss common issues for Jewish men . In March we will be holding our next Texas Hold’em Card night and later that month packing and sending the entire congregation the Yom HaShoah candles to be lit on Yom HaShoah. April will begin with our Post Passover dinner and end with the Temple Israel Men’s club having the honor of sponsoring our Regional Kabbalat Shabbat. June brings us our annual regional programs with the ReTreat, which is weekend of fun, spirit and learning at Camp Ramah and the Tour d’Shul bike ride that raises funds for the Tikvah program, the special needs program at Camp Ramah. This July the bi-annual Men’s Club International convention will be held in Danvers, where our own Rabbi Kushner will be one of the speakers. At International, we are eligible for a Quality Club Award for the third year in a row and 3 Torch awards for outstanding programming for our Men’s Club Shabbat ‘Bar Mitzvah’ , our dessert and discussion with Alyse Lichtensteins who reflected on her trip to Germany for 3rd generation holocaust survivors and for the Purim Carnival photo booth.

The tribute book includes a list of all the programs we have held this year. The programs cover a wide variety of areas including social, ritual, service to the Temple Israel Community, Speakers, Men’s Issues and Regional programs. Some are geared to men and some are open to the entire Temple Israel community. If you haven’t experienced the Men’s club, please give one of our programs a try. I joined the Men’s Club 5 years ago. I now know over 40 more men I didn’t know before I joined. Whenever I enter the Temple I almost always see another Men’s club member. We greet each other and strike up a conversation. Jewish men connecting with Jewish men. Mission accomplished.

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