



Temple Beth Torah

Melville NY

For Immediate Release

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Alan Weinschel to Discuss The Normandy Kaddish Project

Temple Beth Torah Melville Adult Education Committee to Host Speaker Program on Mar 11, 2016

Melville, NY – Temple Beth Torah, an active and diverse Reform Temple in Melville, has announced that Alan Weinschel will be speaking at 8:00 PM Friday Mar 11, 2016 at the temple facility at 35 Bagatelle Rd in Melville. He will be discussing the genesis of the Normandy Kaddish Project that he founded at Temple Sinai in Roslyn in 2014 after visiting the Omaha Beach Cemetery in Normandy in 2013.

"We're very pleased that Alan Weinschel will be speaking to our temple members and friends about his experiences in Normandy and his founding of the Normandy Kaddish Project," said Susie Moskowitz, Senior Rabbi at Temple Beth Torah. "Saying Kaddish each year for fallen Jewish American soldiers is a very worthy endeavor."

In 2013 while touring and photographing Normandy beaches and the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach, Weinschel was overwhelmed by the vast array of 9,000 graves. He noticed that some graves had Star of David markings and also noticed that some, but not all of the Jewish graves, had stones or coins on them signifying a visitor. Believing that these men ought to be remembered, he conceived the idea that American Jews should remember those Jewish soldiers who died in Normandy by saying Kaddish for them each year on the Shabbat that falls closest to June 6th. This has become an annual practice at many temples. Weinschel returned to the cemetery in 2015 and photographed the 149 Jewish graves and has produced a book of photographs and information about the men. He'll be presenting an electronic version of the book at the event.

"It's very important to remember that these men were all young and had their lives cut short," said Weinschel. "We need to personalize this effort, so we remember how much they lost, in a cause so important."

About Alan Weinschel

Alan Weinschel is a retired attorney and accomplished photographer. He is a member of Temple Sinai of Roslyn and the founder of the Normandy Kaddish Project -- a nationwide effort to have American Jews remember those Jewish soldiers who died in Normandy (and elsewhere in WW II) by saying Kaddish for them every year on the Shabbat that falls closest to June 6th. This has become an annual practice at many temples throughout the United States.

About Temple Beth Torah Melville

Founded in 1969, Temple Beth Torah of Melville and Dix Hills is an active and diverse Reform Jewish Congregation of over 600 families serving the Western Suffolk and Eastern Nassau County areas of Long Island. Its extended temple family shares rich educational, spiritual and social experiences through a full spectrum of programming -- including religious and nursery school, religious services, and teen and adult activities. Members come to Temple Beth Torah to pray, to learn and to celebrate. Its culture is diverse and inclusive, and encourages participation by all age groups. For more information, visit <http://www.tbtny.org>.

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