



Sarah Dekelbaum singing the American and Israeli National Anthems



Ryan Milstein speaking on behalf of his dad, Bob Milstein, Rabbi Mendel Dubrawsky and Dennis Mash all speaking in glowing terms about Zelda and Shawn Mash



From left to right, Jeffery Georgatos, Eric Georgatos, Debbie Georgatos, Zelda Mash and Shawn Mash.

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## Bnai Zion brunch held on May 15

By **Avrille Harris Cohen**

The Annual Bnai Zion Brunch, held on Sunday, May 15 once again proved to be a resounding success.

A full house of friends and family gathered to support Ahava Village for Children and Youth, a facility for abused and neglected children in Northern Israel. Participants also gathered to honor Debbie and Eric Georgatos and Zelda and Shawn Mash for their support of Israel and outstanding work in the community.

Greetings were extended by the Texas region's new president, David Eisenberg. Sarah Dekelbaum beautifully chanted the national anthems, and Rabbi Shawn Zell delivered a moving invocation. Cantor Leo Keiles, 98 years young, chanted the Hamotzi with his usual gusto.

A special award, a crystal gavel, was presented by Vice President Diane Benjamin, to Larry Strauss, outgoing president who will continue to serve as chairman of the board.

As is usual at Bnai Zion events,

a family atmosphere abounded as people chatted and ate.

Yoav Apelboim, director of Ahava, spoke from the heart about the urgency of completing the emergency shelter and what was needed for the 200 plus children at Ahava.

Bnai Zion's guest speaker from Israel, Nissim Shem-Tov, a graduate of Ahava who is currently serving in the paratrooper division of the IDF, told his story of living at the village from the age of 11 and what the experience meant to him. He learned, once again, to love and be loved and how to trust those around him.

Bnai Zion's auctioneer extraordinaire, Larry Strauss, once again waved his magic and raised sizeable funds which were sent immediately to Israel for the benefit of Ahava.

Debbie and Eric Georgatos were presented with the Anshe Chesed Award and Zelda and Shawn Mash were presented with the Tikkun Olam Award.