

U.S. aviation officials, plane's maker will collaborate on investigation into crash that killed Scarsdale family

Michael P. McKinney, mmckinney@lohud.com Published 4:57 p.m. ET Jan. 2, 2018 | Updated 5:26 p.m. ET Jan. 2, 2018



(Photo: Photo by Nina Metviner)

U.S. aviation officials and the maker of the plane that crashed Sunday in Costa Rica, killing a Scarsdale family of five and seven other people, will collaborate on the accident investigation, while the Westchester Reform Temple makes counselors and clergy available for people coping with the tragedy.

According to its Facebook page Tuesday, the synagogue in Scarsdale was awaiting arrangements on a memorial service it hopes to announce soon for Bruce and Irene Steinberg and their sons Matthew, William and Zachary, synagogue members who were among tourists and two pilots killed when the small plane crashed in Punta Islita, some 140 miles from the capital San Jose.

Westchester Reform Temple's posting said "we welcome all who seek spiritual support at this time, especially the personal friends of Bruce, Irene, Zachary, William and Matthew."

In Costa Rica, Civil Aviation Director Enio Cubillo said his U.S. counterparts and representatives from Cessna are expected to arrive Wednesday, the Associated Press reported.

[FAMILY MOURNED: Scarsdale family killed in Costa Rica plane crash mourned as loss for 'whole community' \(/story/news/local/westchester/scarsdale/2018/01/01/costa-rica-plane-crash-steinberg-victims-mourned/994298001/\)](#)

[PLANE CRASH: Scarsdale family dies in Costa Rica plane crash \(/story/news/2017/12/31/scarsdale-family-dies-costa-rica-plane-crash/993933001/\)](#)

Sunday's crash of the Nature Air charter in Guanacaste killed two Costa Rican pilots, nine members of two U.S. families and their trip leader from the Backroads travel company.

Cubillo said Tuesday authorities were collecting the plane's wreckage. He said the plane took off from a private air strip and there was no communication between the pilot and a control tower. Authorities are investigating whether strong winds or some sort of mechanical failure was responsible.

The Scarsdale synagogue's posting said social workers "are especially able and willing to meet with students who are grieving the loss of their young friends."

It's sanctuary was open from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday and will be again Wednesday and Thursday. Social workers from Westchester Jewish Community Services will be available from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The Steinbergs were on their way from the beach back to San Jose to celebrate the New Year. The plane was also carrying a Florida family, a Backroads tour leader from Wisconsin, and the pilot and co-pilot.

Bruce Steinberg was a senior investment associate at Westport, Conn.-based Bridgewater Associates, a major hedge fund. Irene Steinberg was employed in social work but had taken time off to raise her boys.

Zachary Steinberg was a sophomore at Johns Hopkins University who was studying chemical and bio-molecular engineering. William Steinberg, 18, was a University of Pennsylvania freshman.

Matthew Steinberg, 14, an eighth-grader at the Fieldston School in Riverdale, was involved with School of Rock in Mamaroneck. He "was really gifted" on keyboards, sang and could play guitar and drums too, said Vanessa Ridder, the co-owner.

"He has been an integral part of our school since we opened in 2014," Ridder said.

He was in its first show and has been in every one since.

Ridder said she had shared with Matthew recently that he had been made a member of the house band, "which is the best of the best," and something he had been working toward.

Ridder called the Steinberg family "incredible."

"They were just the most amazing, passionate, supportive, loving family," she said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Read or Share this story: <http://www.lohud.com/story/news/local/westchester/scarsdale/2018/01/02/u-s-aviation-officials-planes-maker-collaborate-investigation-into-crash-killed-scarsdale-family/997384001/>