

Scarsdale family of five killed in plane crash

By CATHERINE FERRIS

SCARSDALE VILLAGE — A family of five from Scarsdale were among those killed in a plane crash in Costa Rica Dec. 31.

Bruce and Irene Steinberg and their sons, Zachary, William and Matthew were traveling in Costa Rica.

Zachary graduated Scarsdale High School in 2016, William graduated the following year. Matthew was a student at Ethical Culture Fieldston School in New York City.

Seven other people were killed in the crash in Punta Islita, a region in northwestern Costa Rica.

Costa Rican president Luis Guillermo Solís said, "The Government of Costa Rica deeply regrets the death of 10 American passengers and two Costa Rican pilots in the aircraft crash ... The government expresses its commitment to doing everything necessary to cooperate with the families of the victims in what they require at this difficult time and conveys the solidarity of the entire Costa Rican people."

Guillermo Solís said emergency services were activated from the time the first alert was received,

which was 12:13 p.m.

The Steinberg family were congregants of Westchester Reform Temple since 2001 and were involved in organizations including the Seeds of Peace, a New York City-based organization dedicated to inspire and cultivate new generations of global leaders in communities divided by conflict, and the American Jewish Committee.

"I know there will be much more to say in the coming days, and that so many of us want to do everything we can to express our grief and to show our support for their bereaved family," Rabbi Jonathan Blake said.

Westchester Reform Temple offered open sanctuary hours Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week. Also, there were social workers from Westchester Jewish Community Services available for group or individual bereavement Tuesday and Wednesday.

According to published reports, Costa Rican investigators said strong winds or mechanical problems most likely caused the plane to crash in the woods.

"We are in utter shock and disbelief right now," wrote Tamara Steinberg Jacobson, Bruce Stein-



PHOTO COURTESY FACEBOOK

The Steinberg family died in a plane crash Costa Rica.

berg's sister, in a Facebook post.

Other members of the Scarsdale community to social media and email and wrote their condolences regarding the tragedy.

"The Steinbergs' recent graduation dates and r

involvement in the district created a variety of connections which intensify the grief we feel," wrote Scarsdale Superintendent Dr. Thomas Hagerman. "School counselors will be available for any students who need support when we return to school ... and we will add resources if the need arises."

State Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, a Scarsdale resident, offered her condolences to the Steinberg family.

"I can't imagine the overwhelming grief the Steinberg family is feeling today," she said. "While I didn't know the Steinbergs personally, they were Scarsdale residents. I know my community — I have lived in Scarsdale for decades — and I know that it is at times like this that we will pull together to help this family in any way possible."

A memorial service is scheduled to be held at Westchester Reform Temple Jan. 7 at 2 p.m. Donations in memory of the Steinberg family can be made to The Steinberg Family Charitable Fund, c/o Morgan Stanley, 15 Independence Blvd., Warren, NJ 07059.

Next week, The Inquirer will remember the Steinbergs through the expressions of residents who knew them.