

**Our Mission: To foster a vibrant egalitarian Jewish community founded in the religious customs and traditions of Conservative Judaism; offering excellent Jewish education and community activities for all ages with commitment to Israel and Jewish communities throughout the world.**

## HAPPY NEW



## YEAR

## 2012

### THINGS TO DO

**SCHOOLS RESUME**

Monday, January 2

**USY SEUDAH & STUDY**

Saturday, January 7

**BIRTHDAY SHABBAT**

Friday, January 13

**LUNCH & LEARN**

**KADIMA LOCK-IN**

Saturday, January 14

**“JEWISH LAW”**

Wednesday, January 18

**FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICE**

Friday, January 20

**Kadima Lock-In**

Saturday, January 21

**BLOOD DRIVE**

**Kadima Chocolate Lovers Event**

Sunday, January 22

**PASSOVER POKER**

**SEUDAH & STUDY**

Saturday, January 28

**BT DAYTIMERS  
ARE COMING**

Page 4

Support the Nursery  
School:  
“Little Lambs  
Cookie Dough”  
January 13 through  
February 3

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

	page
Comforting Mourners	2
Hazzan's Voice	3
Another Viewpoint	6
Webmaster	7
Kadima	8
USY	9
Religious School	11
Schedule of Times	15
Men's Club	18
Sisterhood	19
Nursery School	25
Bikur Cholim	31
President's Message	33

### Torah Trivia

**When is baseball mentioned in the Torah?..... In the BIG INNING.**

**When is Tennis mentioned in the Torah?.....When Joseph goes to Pharaohs' COURT**

**What is the shortest prayer in the Torah ( HINT—Only 5 words! )**

**continued on page...5**

## From the Religious Committee

### COMFORTING MOURNERS

In the October issue of Hakol, President Gary Bergman wrote eloquently about the mitzvah of visiting a shiva house. The shiva period has been shown to be wonderfully cathartic when the community demonstrates its support for the mourners. In his article, Gary noted that this can be uncomfortable, particularly if the mourner is not well known to you. Mourning for a loved one is emotionally stressful; add to this emotional strain sitting shiva for a week and you can have a very difficult situation. Visitors can help to make this period easier, as anyone who has had to sit shiva knows, yet many people feel uncertain of themselves when a neighbor or friend or fellow congregant is sitting shiva. It is important to realize that your relationship with the mourner does not matter; your visit will be appreciated. It is truly a sign of communal caring when you attend a house of mourning, and helps ensure a minyan so that the family may say Kaddish.

Some people are uncomfortable because they do not know what is expected of them at a house of mourning. There are certain rules of shiva etiquette; here are some of the major ones.

Listen for an announcement at the funeral service for the times that the mourners will be receiving guests or check the website ([www.bnaitikvah.org/shivah.html](http://www.bnaitikvah.org/shivah.html)). Usually, the options are immediately after the funeral, around the minyanim in the evenings and mornings, or during the daytime. Should you wish to visit at some other time, you may want to call ahead, so that family meals and rest are not interrupted. Some experienced shiva visitors choose to visit toward the end of the seven days, when it is frequently more difficult to gather a minyan. It is equally important to understand when you should leave; the visitation is not a social occasion, and the family should be allowed to retire at a reasonable hour. Do not stay too long. A shiva visit should be no more than an hour. You might come a few minutes before the minyan or stay a bit after. Mourners uniformly report how exhausted they are by the shiva experience;

do not overstay your welcome.

It is customary to enter the house of mourning without knocking or ringing the bell. The mourners are not supposed to greet you, so you should approach them. Find the mourners, and go to them as soon as possible. What do you say? The tradition suggests being silent, allowing the mourner to open the conversation. Simply offering a hug, a kiss, a handshake, an arm around the shoulder speaks volumes. It is best to let the mourner talk about the person who just died. Try to be focused on their loss and not discuss events happening in the world or in the community. If you do want to open a conversation, start with a simple "I'm so sorry" or "I don't know what to say. This must be really difficult for you." Do not tell people not to cry or that they will get over it. Crying is a normal part of the grieving process. And, as most people who have been bereaved will tell you, you never "get over" a loss, you only get used to it. Spend anywhere from a few moments to 10 minutes with the mourners. There will be others who also want to speak with them, and you can always come back. If you are the only visitor, then, of course, spend as much time as you wish.

You may see other congregants or family members whom you haven't seen for a while at the house of mourning and so there is a tendency to make the shiva call an occasion to catch up, often around a table laden with food. This can make the atmosphere more festive than reflective. Always remember that shiva is not a social event; your conduct should be appropriate to the occasion.

As Gary noted, the minyan should be the focus of communal action, for this allows the mourners to say Kaddish. Your presence at the minyan lends comfort to the mourners, and sends a powerful message that the congregation cares for all its members. Indeed, the traditional words of condolence — which should be recited just before leaving the shiva house — “May God comfort you together with the rest of those who mourn for Zion and Jerusalem” stresses that the mourners are not alone in their grief. Personal bereavement is thus seen in the total broader context of the community.

Continued on page 7

## From the Desk of Cantor Bruce Rockman

You can't always trust spell check! A number of people noticed that I wrote the word "souring" instead of "soaring" in my greeting for the L'dor Vador program. Yikes; well I hope you figured out my intention. There was nothing sour about Craig Taubman's performance and especially the audience on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Craig soared and reached many of you like never before. Craig connected with us like I have rarely seen. My pride was obvious, and what heartened me so much is that our congregation knows the music well enough to participate. Making a greater commitment to synagogue life has meant that more and more of us know the songs of our generation.

Among our many purposes, B'nai Tikvah has become a destination where Jewish music lovers can gather and express their spiritual aspirations; at B'nai Tikvah you can!

We all know that there is much more work to do. If you volunteer at B'nai Tikvah, you have to be able to wear many hats, balancing family, work, and your Jewish connections. One thing is for sure, when you "help out" at B'nai Tikvah, you make a difference in peoples' lives.

I hope you had a great time and continue to celebrate L'dor Vador for years to come. We promise to present amazing performances and provocative lectures. We will always aim high and plan to inspire you.

In the book of Isaiah, G-d reminds us of the covenant He made with the Jewish people: *"My Spirit which is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your offspring, nor from the mouth of your offspring's offspring," says the LORD, "from now and forever."*

Thank You!

Thanks you to all our volunteers who worked so hard on L'dor Vador this year and each year. To Chairperson Jeff Cadoff, and publicist Doug Smoller, you were our chief jugglers; I would have been lost without you.

As you may know, Jeff and Doug are each taking on major responsibilities for our upcoming annual big party and major fundraiser, Viva Las Vegas. We'll all be there to help you celebrate another job well done.

The guidance and experience of all-around organizational mentor, Cindy Gittleman, was also appreciated. You guided our committee to a smooth landing! Stacey Cadoff & Stacey Rockman, thanks for your help with publicity and being the best supporters for Jeff and for me. Caroline Scharf and Stacy Rosenthal, thank you for spending Sunday mornings in our school wing pushing the tickets; we sold more than 300!

...and to Webmaster/President Gary Bergman, your kind assistance is a blessing; thank you for all of your resourceful work that appeared on our website. Our artist, David Spivak, you are always so creative; thank you for the very cool posters, they are always right on target. Thanks to Mr. Hakol Editor Michael Weiss for making sure that everyone was well informed. Thanks to Mitch Frumkin for your generosity, printing all of our programs and flyers.

To our USY volunteers, your presence always brings a smile to us all and thanks for working so hard. I hope you had a good time!

**"Song is an expression of the soul, an expression of the heart, and speaks louder than any words."**

*Craig Taubman*

*With Joy!*

*Cantor Bruce Rockman*



The Newsletter of  
**Congregation B'nai Tikvah**  
**JCC of North & South Brunswick**  
 1001 Finnegan's Lane  
 North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Published monthly, except for July and August.  
 Submissions are welcomed about Congregation  
 events, group activities, and other material relevant  
 to the Jewish community

All Submissions for **HAKOL**  
 are due by the **12th** of the  
 preceding month

**Please send submissions and correspondence  
 via e-mail to:**

**Hakol.CBT@gmail.com**

All e-mail submissions are acknowledged via e-mail.  
 You may also put submissions in the HAKOL Box in  
 the synagogue office. All submissions are subject to  
 available space and editorial constraints. Please call  
 Michael Weiss, editor at 732-246-0306 or email at  
 meweiss@optonline.net if you have any questions

#### **SUBMISSION FORMATS**

##### **TEXT:**

Editorial submissions should be in MS-Word, plain  
 text, rich text format or typed directly into the body  
 of an e-mail. No special fonts will be used without  
 prior arrangement. Graphics embedded in a text file  
 will not be used. Graphics and photos must be  
 submitted separately, rather than inside other files  
 or documents.

##### **GRAPHICS & IMAGES:**

Advertisements should be submitted in one of the  
 following formats: PDF, TIFF, or BMP. JPEG files  
 may also be used, but may print as lower quality.  
 All text should be converted to black and white. All  
 images should be converted to grey scale. All im-  
 ages submitted for scanning must be photo or photo  
 quality images.

##### **ORDER FORMS & FLYERS:**

In most cases, full-page flyers will be reduced to  
 half page or less, at the editor's discretion.

##### **FOR ADVERTISING INFO:**

[www.bnaitikvah.org/hakol.html](http://www.bnaitikvah.org/hakol.html)

Hakol.CBT@gmail.com

Or

Michael Weiss, editor at 732-246-0306

CarolAnn Harkavy, advertising at 732-438-0796

## **NEW ORGANIZATION!**

### **“BT DAYTIMERS” START UP**

A new group is starting up at B'nai Tikvah in North  
 Brunswick. An organizational meeting was held on  
 Tuesday, November 29, 2011, at 1:00 pm. It was  
 decided at the meeting that the group was going to be  
 for adults of all ages and its name is going to be BT  
 Daytimers. You do not have to be a member of B'nai  
 Tikvah to join.

It was discussed and approved that the group would  
 meet once a month, as would its Board of Directors.  
 The 1st Tuesday of the month will be for Board  
 Meetings and the 3rd Tuesday of the month will be a  
 General Meeting. At the present time, there will not  
 be any dues.

Another organizational meeting was held on Tuesday,  
 December 6, at 1:00 pm, to discuss programming. At  
 the first general meeting, January 17th, there will be a  
 Greet and Meet, with light refreshments and a business  
 meeting for the first half hour, then a musical program  
 with a musician/singer Don Anthony. Plans are under-  
 way for future programs that will include guest speak-  
 ers, cultural events, adult education classes, and trips to  
 such place as museums and plays by ourselves or with  
 other area groups. Plans are being made to become  
 involved with internal groups, such as the B'nai Tikvah  
 Nursery and Religious schools, Bikur Cholim (to help  
 people in need), and with outside groups of adults that  
 meet during the day. A committee is looking into a  
 constitution for BT Daytimers.

The first board meeting will be held on Tuesday,  
 January 3rd. Join us at the first General Meeting, on  
 Tuesday, January 17th, starting at 1:00 pm .

All adults are welcome and there is no cost.

Come to the meeting.

Get there anyway you can.



## Torah Continued from front page

**When Moses finds out that Miriam has Leprosy (Numbers 12:13) He says:**

*Eil na refa na la  
O G-D, pray, heal her.*

When Rabbi Wolkoff walks around the sanctuary on Shabbos morning during the Misheberach (prayer for healing), Cantor Rockman sings a beautiful rendition of Craig Taubman's and Debbie Friedman's Misheberach. If you notice, the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse is a little different than what's in your prayer books (on the inside back cover). The Cantor adds – Eil na refa na la. The next time you're standing and waiting for the Rabbi to come around to you – listen to the words – say them to yourself- sing along with the Cantor - beautiful words – powerful meaning.

Elliott Danto (just thought I'd share .....

## ROOMS FOR RENT

If you or anyone you know is looking for a place to have a birthday party, anniversary celebration, basketball/volleyball game(s), soccer practice, dance classes, etc. think of B'nai Tikvah.

We have a 4,000 square foot multi-purpose room/gym with a basketball court, stage, and kitchen. The room has a folding wall so it can be made into two rooms. There also are six classrooms available (desks and chairs can be removed). The classrooms can be used for small parties, to hold a class, or have a meeting.

We have round and rectangular tables and chairs for your function. Our rates are reasonable and you can use Classical Caterers for kosher meals or pick from our list of acceptable restaurants.

For more information, please contact our Rooms Rental Manager:  
Sherry Valan at 732-297-0696  
sherry@bnaitikvah.org

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# ANOTHER VIEWPOINT

## Brainstorm

With thunder crashing and lightning overhead, the rain came down like Niagara on a stormy day. In the 30 seconds that it took to go from my house to my car, I lost my hat in the 30-mile wind, and even with my coat collar turned up, my neck and shoulders were soaked. Inside the car, I unbuttoned my coat to reach into my pocket for a dry handkerchief to dry my glasses, when I saw a note on the dashboard.



The above may be the starting paragraph of the great mystery thriller that I will write someday, if I ever get around to it. When I took a course in creative writing years ago, I was taught that the opening sentence of the book or story must be the hook that will make or break the success of the book. So I practiced writing opening lines that I hoped would excite the mind of a potential reader. The problem that I created for myself is that, after writing an eye catching opening sentence, I must then write a story that logically proceeds from there.

I now have a whole series of exciting openings and no place to go with them-- and puzzling questions I must find answers to. For instance, how did the envelope get onto the dashboard of my locked car? Sherlock Holmes might have had no problem coming up with an answer to how or to who dunnit, providing (of course ) if he had had a car. But good old Sherlock got around in a hired horse & buggy. No dashboard. His mind was on cruise control. But no dashboard.

How about “In the second that he heard the click of the land mine before it exploded, Charles knew that his life as he had known it was over.” Or, “With his foot stuck under the rail, Tom waves frantically at the train as it bore down on him.” Or, how about this one, “The shark’s mouth was open with its rows of pointed teeth exposed as it rushed toward him.”

So, dear reader, creating the setup for the story is easy. Creating the rest of the story is the hard part.

I think that I should go back and take another course in creative writing so I will have something to add to finish those stories. It was a dark and stormy night.....”

Aaron Rosloff



Pictures from the Concert

## Live Music And Singing

Don Anthony will be appearing  
at



**B'nai Tikvah**  
**Tuesday, January, 17th, 2012**  
**at 1:00 pm.**

He will be performing at the first meeting of the BT Daytimers Club. There is **no charge** for this event.

The meeting will begin with a meet and greet with light refreshments followed by Don Anthony who does Yiddish, Hebrew, and English songs.



# The Jewish Connection 411



## FROM THE WEBMASTER

I recently reviewed our home page ( bnaitikvah.org ) to optimize the peripheral links that are all up and down the borders of the page. There are more than 38 links on the home page, not including the pull-down menus and center stage articles. Some links are not apparent until you hover the mouse over words with dotted underlines, such as "Events at a Glance," that reveals a link to our photo albums.

Starting from the top left column (Spiritually Speaking), we have links to the Rabbi's articles and sermons, the Shabbat Service schedule, the week's Parsha, the Torah reading schedule, and the upcoming Family Shabbat and Nursery Shabbat Together programs. Just below that are various links for mitzvah opportunities outside of B'nai Tikvah, such as the Gift of Life and Amy Foundation, amongst others. Below that are links to current Israel news and downloads of Hakol in pdf format.

The newest addition at the top right column is the "The Jewish Connection 411". Their newly redesigned newsletter contains our B'nai Tikvah video under their "featured Organization" link.

*Gary Bergman*

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I normally don't look at my horoscope, but I happened to see what it said for December 7, 2011, and it fit perfectly with my position as Hakol Editor.

"You can rely on other people to do what they said they would do, though you may have to issue friendly reminders.

Michael Weiss

### Comforting Mourners continued from page 2

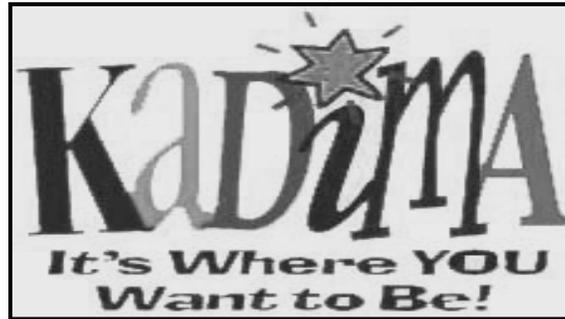
After the minyan or when leaving the home, if the family has put out a container for donations to a favorite charity, it is traditional that you contribute a small amount.

The great genius of Jewish bereavement is to empower the community to be God's partner in comforting those who mourn. In making a shiva call in an appropriate and traditional way, we are the medium through which God's comfort can be invoked.

In learning the art of coping with dying, we are, in fact, learning an important aspect of the art of Jewish living.

To help further understand the Jewish laws and customs regarding the mourning process, you can pick up a copy of the CD recording of Rabbi Wolkoff's Adult-Ed lecture on this topic at the synagogue office. You might also obtain a copy of Dr. Ron Wolfson's book, *A Time to Mourn, A Time to Comfort*.

Allen Pinsky



Congratulations to David Juro, Marisa Katz, Eve Cukor, & Rachel and Leah Blackin who have attended 10 events so far this year! They are going to receive a reward from our Incentive Program at our Closing Event. For every 10 events you attend, including Chapter & Regional, you will receive credit toward a reward. You can receive multiple rewards. Many of you also are close to winning your 1<sup>st</sup> award !

**January 14** - Our Annual Lock, 7 pm until 10 am on 1/15, in the Gym. If you don't want to sleep over, you can be picked up by 1 am! This year, we invited the Cranford, East Windsor, & East Brunswick Chapters to join us. I hired Ross The Entertainer who was at both Encampment & the Opening Regional Event. The charge to our Chapter is only \$5 & the Youth Fund will pick up all other charges for our Chapter! Snacks & breakfast will be served. RSVP ASAP & don't miss this fun event! Wear comfortable clothes to sleep in & don't forget your sleeping bag & pillow.

**January 21** – Regional Saturday Night Live in South Orange! We will be sharing a bus once again w/ the Marlboro Chapter. Check your weekly emails for all bus details. The bus is \$5 & the event is \$15. RSVP ASAP for the bus, space is limited.

**January 23** – Mr. Mike the Chocolate Guy will be coming to B'nai Tikvah. Together, we'll be having fun in the Gym from 7-8:20 pm. Some of you may know him from Encampment. We will be making chocolate bars & also an Israel surprise! The cost is \$5 for you & the Youth Fund will pick up all other costs. RSVP by 1/17.

All communication --in addition too the Hakol articles each month --will be going out through weekly emails. Please make sure to let me know if you change your email address during the year.

Scholarships are available to help with some of the costs for programs. Please contact Steve Juro at 732-960-1215. All conversations are confidential.

Contact me with questions or concerns throughout the year! Applications are always accepted and are available on <http://www.bnaitikvah.org/app-usy-kadima-2011-12.pdf>.





From Ruth Shindler, Youth Committee Chair – Kim Syvarth has stepped down as the USY Advisor as of November 30, 2011. She had too many commitments and could not devote the time needed for the position. I am very pleased to introduce our new USY Advisor who writes:

“My name is Amanda Dillman and I am so excited to be the new USY Advisor! I am 24 years old, a graduate of the University of Hartford, and a lifetime member of BT. I work full-time at a staffing agency in East Brunswick and, most importantly, I am a former USYer!

USY was a huge part of my life when I was in high school and I am thrilled to be involved again. It’s nice to know that it doesn’t have to be only 4 years long and that you can come back! I can’t wait to get started working with the USYers to plan some fun programs, introduce them to events I attended when I was in USY, and learn some new things from them. My e-mail is nsbrunswickusy@gmail.com and cell is 908-930-2526.”

I am looking forward to working with Amanda and have known her for many years. She is fun, dedicated, and organized, and she will bring her experience and great energy to our teens!

Here is what has happened since the last HaKol –

November 29<sup>th</sup> was a night of bowling and fun at Brunswick Zone. It was a terrific night and we had 17 USYers attending!

We have started our incentive program, beginning with the bowling-night event. The more events you attend, the more chances you have to win one of four \$25 gift cards at the end of the year!

December 10<sup>th</sup> - USYers were invited to attend services, but only a few came because it wasn’t well communicated. We are getting the word out much earlier for this next time! Please see January 28<sup>th</sup> event and come to BT to be with your friends!

### Here is what’s coming up!

**January 7, 2012 – 7-11pm - Bedouin Night** – Starting with the traditional “tea” used to welcome guests, enjoy a meal in a Bedouin tent and learn all about their history. Share in campfire songs/ruach and much more! We will also have an Israeli Army obstacle training course. We are inviting our friends from neighboring chapters, East Brunswick, East Windsor, Bridgewater and Highland Park to attend. Cost is \$5 for BT chapter members. Please RSVP to Amanda so we can make sure we have enough food.

**January 14th - Regional SATO Dance in Rumson** – cost is \$7. There will be a bus with limited seating because we will be sharing with other chapters so please RSVP to Amanda to reserve your seat. Cost is \$10. Snow date is January 21<sup>st</sup>.

Continued on page 35

# THE ROAD TO AN UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER...

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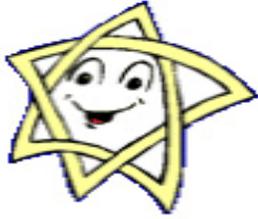
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Congregation B'nai Tikvah Religious School

Dear Religious School Parents:

Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year, I hope all of you enjoyed your winter break and are ready to begin the second half of the school year.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered and supported the fundraisers and Mitzvah Projects that we held in December.

The Religious School is excited to welcome another staff member, Josh Denenberg. Josh is a teaching assistant in the Hei class.

Each Dalet student will design his/her Tallit on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, during class time. The Tallit Presentation will be held on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. You will receive specific information about the presentation via email.

I will continue to send out homework, news about school events, and monthly updates for each class via constant contact. You will also be able to find this information on Facebook and Twitter.

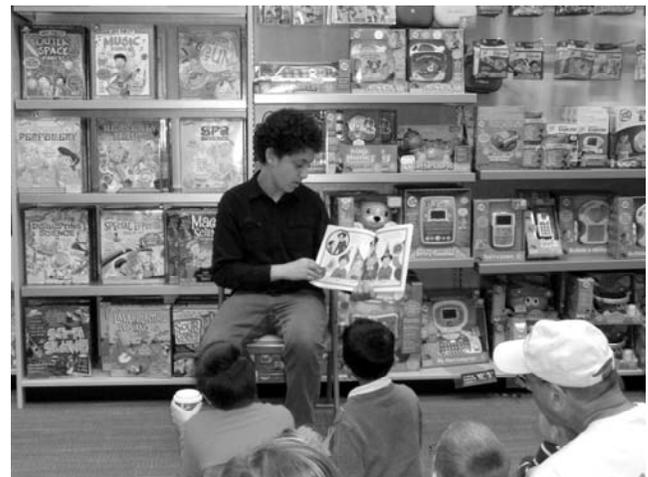
Mark your calendars for another wonderful Chai Breakfast with the Rabbi on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Check your email for the schedule for the day.

#### THINKING AHEAD:

**Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Wednesday evening, February 1<sup>st</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. Prior to the conferences, a schedule will be sent home. We will hand out report cards at the conferences.**

#### JANUARY EVENTS

	January 1	Winter
	Break (No School)	
January 8	Dalet Students Design Tallit	
January 15	Martin Luther King Weekend (No School)	
January 16	Martin Luther King Day (Office and School Closed).	
January 23	Religious School Committee Meeting 8 p.m.	
January 29	Dalet Tallit Presentation, Chai Breakfast with the Rabbi	



Adam Seidman of the Religious School reads to children at the Barnes & Noble Book Fair.

Each issue of Hakol reaches more than 400 Jewish households. It is one of the most cost effective ways to reach our community. Hakol is published monthly, except for July and August. Advertisers get free hyperlinks to their websites at bnaitikvah.org.

## Advertising rates for 2011-2012

Size	Artwork (W x H)	Annual Contract (10 Issues)	Single Issue
Full page	8" x 10.5"	\$675	\$100
½ page	3.75" x 10.5" or 8" x 5"	\$525	\$80
¼ page	3.75" x 5"	\$400	\$60
Business card	2" x 3.5"	\$300	\$45

Contact: CarolAnn Harkavy 732-438-0796 CaHarkavy@aol.com  
or Michael Weiss 732-246-0306 meweiss@optonline.net  
The deadline for your submissions is the 12<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.

## WE'RE HAVIN' A BLOOD DRIVE

Beetle Bailey by Mort Walker



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Donors 17 and up (16 with parent/guardian written Okay), be in good general health and weigh at least 120-lbs. No need to make an appointment. Eat before you donate and have ID with your signature. A donor, or social security, number is needed on your registration.

Bring some friends...we need a lot of donors to beat the winter "Blahs"!

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Thanks,  
Marty Engel

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**Albert Einstein**

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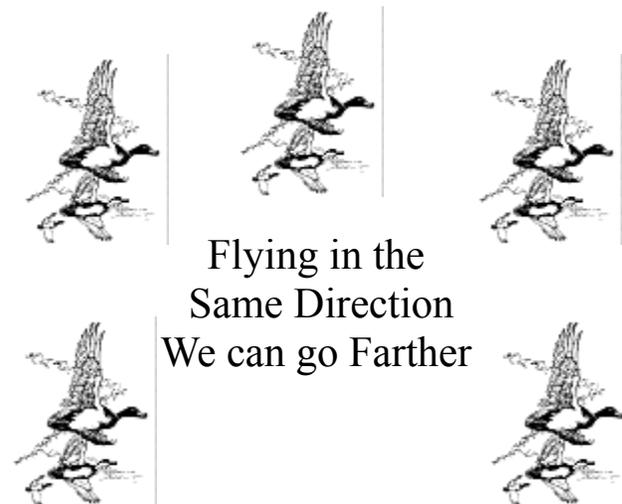
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## Notes of Board of Directors Meeting December 5th, 2011

Adult education will start in January. It will include a Beginner Talmud Study Group, "What You Always Wanted to Know About the Saturday Morning Service but Were Afraid to Ask"; a Yiddish Club, and a Beginner Minyan Class. The Talmud Class will meet once a month on a Sunday, from 10:00 to about 11:15.

The unit that heats the sanctuary has cracked. It will be replaced as soon as possible. Looking into refinancing the mortgage to get a better rate. New security cameras have been installed in the school wing.

A new group has been started for adults called BT Daytimers. The first regular meeting will be on Tues. Jan. 17, at 1:00, with light refreshments followed by an entertainer with music.

B'nai Tikvah won a \$500 award for a film about Aaron's jump; it can be seen on myevent.com. Looking into accepting credit cards and direct transfers from checking accounts for people who want to pay monthly.

Casino Night will be held on Sat., March 31, at 8:30 pm. Rob Blackin is looking for volunteers for the committee.

The Torah Fund is moving forward.

The USY Convention was a success with 220 USYers and 20 staffers in attendance.

Religious School is planning a trip to New York City to see the Dead Sea Scrolls on Sunday, March 11th.

The Barnes & Noble fundraiser was a success.

We now have 391 member families.

Come join us at the next Board meeting on Monday, January 2nd, at 8:00 pm

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## COMING NEXT MONTH

Feb	4	Shabbat Shirah
Feb	5	World Wide Wrap Tu B'Sh'vat Seder
Feb	6	Camp Registration Begins Board of Directors
Feb	8	Tu B'Sh'vat
Feb	10	Birthday Shabbat
Feb	11	Dalet Jr. Congregation Service
Feb	12	Kadima Rock Climbing
Feb	13	Sisterhood Board School Board Budget Meeting
Feb	15	Adult Education Class
Feb	25	Seudah & Study
Feb	26	Kadima Regional Day
Feb	27	Kadima Game Night Ritual Committee

### Out-of-the-Mouths of Babes

When the children were asked who was waiting for Christopher Columbus when he came to America, Matthew answered "President Clinton!"

During a review of Thanksgiving, the teacher asked the children, "What boat did the Pilgrims come on?" Jody replied "Potflower!"

Reprinted from Hakol, 's predecessor, The Voice,  
 January, 1994, volume 16, number 5

## **Religious School's Passover Candy Sale Is Coming**



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 Sunday 9:00am - noon (when school is in session)



If these hours are inconvenient for you, please call Sherry Valan in the office and we'll work something out.



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# Men's Club

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

from Steve Katz, Men's Club President, and 2011 CBT Men's Club Man of the Year.

Unbelievable is the only word I have to describe the love and support received from my family, Andrea, Matthew, and Melissa, as well as my friends from Congregation B'nai Tikvah. Being recognized as the FJMC CBT Men's Club Man of the Year was totally unexpected, but a great honor. I am truly humbled. The award reception and ceremony was held at the Grand Marquis of Old Bridge on a rainy November 16th evening. That did not deter its being attended by about 3 dozen people from CBT and many others in spirit. There were more than 300 people in attendance from 17 other New Jersey Conservative Synagogues, too. Of those, we had the largest and most vocal turnout of any attending shul. Rabbi Wolkoff, Cantor Rockman, my son Matthew, and FJMC President Dave Mandell presented me with my award.

I have been involved with Men's Club for more than 10 years, and its President for the last 3. For those who know me, I love to schmooze. The Men's Club gives me a great opportunity to do that and I hope I have touched the hearts and souls of many in a positive way. That said, running an effective Men's Club is not a one-man show. I would also like to acknowledge the great job done by: Bill Greenberg, who is the Men's Club Board representative and organizer of this event. Aaron Rosloff, whose kindness and wisdom always serves as the voice of reason. Allan Katronetsky, who is our current Treasurer. Gary Bergman, who is a great supporter and current CBT President. And, of course my wife, Andrea, who has always been there to help me prepare for meetings and our great breakfasts. Through the years, there have been many more (too many to name) who have volunteered and assisted in various capacities: serving as MC Board members, building our sukkah, Yom Kippur breakfast, CBT Softball team, Pancake Breakfast, Yom Hashoah candle drive, and Holocaust Gar-

educational programs, support for our youth, our CBT Office Staff and Board, and always having full support from the Rabbi and Cantor.

Without your help, Men's Club would not have been able to be the effective and fun organization that it has been over the years. We require and need continued support to help sustain the Men's Club into the future. I look forward to working with our future leaders to keep this organization strong for years to come. XIII Annual World Wide Wrap will be on Sunday, February 5th, at 9am, in the sanctuary.

What is a World Wide Wrap? On this day (also known as Super Bowl Sunday), the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs tries to have all Jews everywhere put on TEFILLIN! Cantor Rockman along with Rabbi Wolkoff will lead and help those in need in laying Tefillin. So if you are a rookie or veteran, come join us in this fun and spiritual mitzvah. Breakfast will be served, compliments of the Men's Club.

Up coming is a joint meeting with Sisterhood. Join us for an educational, interactive discussion on "Sex after 50." Dr. Theresa Schaer has more than 21 years' experience as Chief of the Division of Geriatrics at St. Peters University Hospital. So even if you are not quite 50 yet, you will be one day! Please join us for this very special opportunity to learn and ask questions about the process of aging and how it relates to intimacy.

"Sex after 50," Thursday, February 16th ,at 8pm.

For more information about Men's Club, please call Steven Katz, MC President at [katz56@aol.com](mailto:katz56@aol.com)

Thank you,

More pictures are on page 32





### Save the Dates:

**Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9AM-12PM:** Join us for a really fabulous time at Chico's for a Wardrobe Party. We will be having breakfast, a lot of fun and retail therapy!!

**Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:30PM: Passover Poker** is back!! Grab your spouse or a friend and join us for fun and desserts and socializing with all who attend.

**Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>:** This is a joint meeting with the Men's Club. Join us for an educational, interactive discussion on "Sex after 50.: Dr. Theresa Schaer has more than 21 years' experience as Chief of the Division of Geriatrics at St. Peters University Hospital and now has a private practice: Signature Health Solutions. Even if you are not quite 50, you will be one day!! Please join us for this very special opportunity to learn and ask questions about the process of aging and how it relates to intimacy.

**Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00PM:** Martini Mixology. Learn the history, the recipes, and good ideas for entertaining.

**Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Rosh Chodesh with Bobbi Binder. Don't miss our very special event when our very own Bobbi Binder will facilitate this morning's program. What a great opportunity to have fun, be inspired, and perhaps learn something new!

**Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>:** Please join us for this very important meeting on the Torah Fund. Our own Ann Rosensweig will be instrumental in overseeing and presenting this program to us.

**Membership** - We encourage and invite all B'nai Tikvah women to join Sisterhood and help make your Sisterhood even stronger. Please contact Phyllis Safeer: [pbjsr@comcast.net](mailto:pbjsr@comcast.net) or 732-432-9622 with any questions. To join, please send or drop off a check in the BT office.

Dues are as follows:

Synagogue members- \$36      Seniors- \$26

Non-synagogue members- \$46

*We look forward to sharing fun times together with old friends and new!*

**Social Action** - For the month of January, Social Action is collecting the following items for Woman Aware:

\$5.00 supermarket, Target, Walmart gift cards, and gas cards.

Bathroom items: washcloths, hand/bath towels.

Cleaning supplies: Windex, garbage bags, bleach, dish soap, detergent, Lysol wipes.

Paper Products: paper towels, toilet paper, disposable cutlery, napkins, and plates.

These items can be brought to any Sisterhood meeting/event or contact Caroline Scharf (732-735-1345) in order to arrange a convenient collectiotime. Thank you for your support!

**Gift Shop** - Hours are Sunday, 9AM-12 noon, & Wednesday, 4:15PM-6:15PM, or by appointment. Contact Serena Blackin at 732-390-9515.

January specials:

20% of all Hanukah items.

Tallit of the month: all in-stock Eretz Men's tallit 20% off.

Please stop by and see all our new jewelry and expanded clearance section.

**Mah Jongh Cards** - Look for the order form in this Hakol, and on the website, for the 2012 Mah Jongh Card. Prices, once again, are being kept at the same rate. By ordering your card through Sisterhood, you are helping both Sisterhood and B'nai Tikvah. If you know anyone who will want a card to play in 2012, start collecting the names, addresses, and quantities. For questions, contact Fern Katronetsky.

**Purim Baskets** - Let us help you continue the tradition of Mishloach Manot--sending baskets of goodies to family and -- for Purim. Look out for the Purim Baskets letter in the mail. Any questions, please call Andrea at 732-329-0687, [macysmommm@aol.com](mailto:macysmommm@aol.com). Orders must be received by February 8, 2012.

**Torah Fund** - Your Torah Fund contribution strengthens and perpetuates Conservative Judaism throughout the world. For information on ways you can support Torah Fund, contact Ann Rosenzweig, 732-249-9141.

## B'nai MITZVAH January 2012



Rachel Blackin  
Daughter of  
Robert and Serena Blackin  
January 7



Haley Mosseri  
Daughter of  
Jerry and Jodi Mosseri  
January 14

Thank you to all of the hosts who helped make the Fall Kinnus during November 18-20 a huge success! We had 220 USYers and 20 staffers from all over the Hagalil region, including 25 from our B'nai Tikvah chapter, come together for 3 days of prayer, activities, and fun.

There were 47 host families, including our Rabbi Wolkoff and Cantor Rockman. We could not have done this without all of you opening your homes and being so generous with your time.

I'd also like to note that hosts included old and new members, the parents of one new member, and several families from East Brunswick.

Many of you also helped chaperone the dance and/or help with meal set up and we were very appreciative of the time and energy that you devoted.

I hope you found it to be a very positive and rewarding experience. Thank you again.

Best regards,

Ruth Shindler  
Youth Committee Chair



**blogtalkradio**<sup>sm</sup> 

Tune into Rabbi Wolkoff's Adult Education  
lecture series on: **"Jewish Law"**

Call in during a live session or text your questions and opinions in order to elicit responses from the rabbi during the broadcast.

Click the icon wherever you see it on the website so you can catch up on previous lectures or participate with us from the comfort of your home or wherever you happen to be.

**Next session:**

**Wednesday, January 18th, at 8 pm**

## Top 10 Reasons to Volunteer

(<http://www.state.nj.us/helpoutnj/reasons.html>)

- 10. Challenge and Success** - You can challenge yourself and others to make a difference in your work place, school, and community. The best way to experience success is by overcoming a challenge. Let your creativity shine through and discover how to find solutions to a million problems.
- 9. Take Action and Make an Impact** - It Beats Being a Couch Potato. Get out of the house and learn about your own skills and talents without someone telling you. You have a voice and it needs to be heard, but if you sit on the sidelines nobody will listen to you.
- 8. Leadership** - You can gain leadership skills and be the boss of your own community service project.
- 7. Experience** - Community service looks great on resumes, and college applications-get "real world" experiences.
- 6. Guilt** - Hey, is there anything wrong with a little soul cleansing? Besides, if you don't do it, who will?
- 5. IT'S FUN!**
- 4. Friends** - Meet new and interesting people. Who knows who you might meet?
- 3. Adventure** - Go to new places, learn and do different things.
- 2. Get Out of School** - Service projects make excellent field trips.
- 1. IT'S FREE !!** - New roller blades cost more than \$100, video games are \$50, a CD is \$15, and movies are \$9. Volunteer and you can have a great time for free!

### ***WE NEED TATTLE TALES...***

**Please let us know when a congregant can use  
our caring support.**

**Contact Rabbi Wolkoff  
or the Bikur Cholim Committee  
at [bikur@bnaitikvah.org](mailto:bikur@bnaitikvah.org)**



Bring a friend or Two!!  
Everyone is welcome

# Family Shabbat Dinner and Service JANUARY 20, 2012

**6pm in the Multi-purpose room**

Baked ziti dinner with salad and challah. Fresh veggies to nibble on before hand. Cost \$8 per adult, \$0 for children 2-12

**Peanut Free** dinner and dessert.

RSVP Deadline: January 18, 2012

Services Begin at 7pm

*A unique Shabbat experience geared towards families with children between the ages of 2 and 7. You need not attend the dinner to attend services.*

Is your child or other family member celebrating a birthday or any other special occasion in the month of January? Please let us know so that we can make this announcement. For \$18 you can **SPONSOR** the Kiddush in honor of that event or any other special occasion. See order form below.

# of adults \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$8.00/adult Amount due\$ \_\_\_\_\_

# of children \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$0.00/child Amount due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Kiddush \_\_\_\_\_ @\$18.00

Total due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I/We would like to sponsor the Kiddush and have enclosed **\$18**. Please announce the following:

Make your check payable to "Congregation B'nai Tikvah" with "**Family Shabbat Dinner**" on the envelope. Mail it to the synagogue or leave your payment in the Family Shabbat Slot in the synagogue office

**PLEASE RSVP BY JANUARY 18, 2012**

Questions? Call Bobbi @ 732-274-2797 or email eemaof3@comcast.net

## NEW ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES FOR ALL TO ENJOY IN THE NEW YEAR LEARN-LIVE-AND-CONNECT AT CBT

### *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Prayer Services but were Afraid to Ask*

Minyan Class: Stacey Rockman will lead a Minyan class on Jan. 25, Feb. 22, and Mar. 21, at 8 PM, following regular evening Minyan, in Beit Midrash.

Basic Prayer Class: Rabbi Wolkoff will lead a Junior Congregation for Grown-Ups on the following Saturday mornings from 9:30 am (sharp) to 10:30 AM: Jan. 21, Feb. 11, Mar. 10, April 21, and May 12.

### *New Club*

Yiddish Club: Want to have fun building community by sharing our common interest in the Yiddish language, culture, timeless expressions, and heartfelt memories that connect us??? Then please attend the organizational meeting of our new Yiddish Club. Arthur Biederman, a CBT congregant, learned his Yiddish from his grandparents and parents on the streets of the Bronx and can't wait to meet you on Sunday, January 29, 2012, at 10:00 AM in the CBT Library.

### *New Rabbinic Literature Class*

Mishnah, Midrash, and Talmud: Taught by Rabbi Wolkoff, this class will explore the beauty of Rabbinic literature. Oral law and tradition is the basis of the teachings which when presented by a learned teacher, can provide its students with inspiration and insight into the world that we live in. Some teachings are timeless and with patience and maturity the text and poems in these works can lead to personal growth. So come join Rabbi Wolkoff and challenge yourself to think and connect with something bigger than yourself and learn from those who came before us.

### *New Jewish Law Classes*

Each month Rabbi Wolkoff will discuss different aspects of Jewish Law of interest to our congregants. We seek to understand not only what halachah requires of us, but also why it requires it. And further: when halachah offers us contradictory options—as it often does—how do we decide which of G-d's paths we shall follow?

This class meets in the Beit Midrash after Minyan on the following dates: Jan. 18, Feb. 15, Mar. 28, Apr. 28 and May 16

PLEASE ATTEND ANY AND ALL CLASSES.  
A MEMBER OF THE ADULT  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE WILL ATTEND  
ALL CLASSES AND WILL BE  
LOOKING FOR YOUR FEEDBACK.  
A SURVEY TO PARTICIPANTS WILL  
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YOU LIKED BEST AND IDEAS YOU MAY HAVE  
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# SCHOOL

by Phyllis Denenberg,

**New My Kid & Me and Toddler Fun classes are starting Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.**

My Kid & Me is a FREE class! Space is limited. Parents, grandparents, and caregivers are welcome.

Do you or anyone you know watch a grandchild during the day while your son and/or daughter is at work? Want socialization for both you and your grandchild? Come to Bnai Tikvah/JCC of North & South Brunswick Nursery School for

**My Kid & Me** (parents/grandparents/caregivers and children aged 12-24 months) or

**Toddler Fun Club** (child/parent/grandparent/caregiver separation class for children 24 months to 30 months).

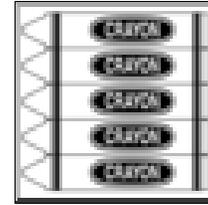
**Toddler Fun Club** runs Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:15-10:45 AM.

**My Kid & Me** runs every Thursday from 11:00 AM-12:00. Mrs. "P" (Jennifer Pollack) has room available in her classes. There is a discount for B'nai Tikvah members who enroll in the Toddler Fun Class. The applications can be found on the B'nai Tikvah website under Nursery School. Come for a tour or, if you have any questions email me at [nursery@bnaitikvah.org](mailto:nursery@bnaitikvah.org), or call me at 732-297-0295 extension 22.

**Please support our school.**

Our next fundraiser -- selling Little Lambs cookies-- will begin on Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. The frozen cookie dough is divided into cookie-size portions. When your family craves home-baked cookies, all you have to do is pop them into the oven and they are ready in 10 to 12 minutes! New this year: cheesecakes, too!

School is closed Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, in honor of Martin Luther King's birthday.



**Registration for school (2012-2013) begins this month.**

The schedule is as follows:

Monday January 9<sup>th</sup> –registration for current students

Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup> –registration for the community at large

Register by Monday, February 13th and get our Super Early Bird Special!

**For those families whose children attend school 5 full days, 9:00 AM-3:15 PM, there will be a monthly discount on tuition.**

Registration for our **summer day camp** will be next month, February 6<sup>th</sup>. We are trying to make it easier for parents by staggering the registrations.

**Register for camp by February 29<sup>th</sup> and save \$50.00 off the registration fee.**

Until next month..

Phyllis

Phyllis G. Denenberg  
 Director of Early Childhood  
 JCC of North & South Brunswick Nursery School  
 1001 Finnegans Lane  
 North Brunswick, NJ 08902  
 732-297-0295  
<http://bnaitikvah.org/nursery.html>  
 Like us on Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/JCCNursery>

## TORAH FUND

The first time I had an aliyah was at my oldest nephew's bar mitzvah over 30 years ago. My brother had the service at his home and outside, overlooking the Potomac River. For the readings we used a borrowed Torah and his good friend Sue Romer z"l lead the service. I had never really been that close to an open Torah and I was fascinated by the look of the letters and the style of writing. Not long after that, my mother, of blessed memory, was at Simchat Torah services at the synagogue I grew up in and someone put the Torah in her arms, the first time a woman held a Torah in that synagogue. She was the oldest of 13 children, had four of her own, and already had several grandsons. To her, holding the Torah was as precious as all those children. I remember her retelling the story of holding the Torah on that occasion over and over because it was such a point of pride.

For most of my life the Torah has been something distant, something studied by others, held by others and read by others. It wasn't until B'nai Tikvah became my home, just 13 years ago, that the Torah became something real, something personal and something within my reach. Two weeks before my daughter Molly's Bat Mitzvah, she asked me to read Torah. Cantor Jodi Sered-Lever told me that she would teach me the three sentences I need to know, in essence help me memorize them, but I had to promise to come back and learn Trope, learning to read the right way. No surprise, I wept through most of those sentences, not just because it was my daughter's Bat Mitzvah, but because of how proud my parents would have been, and how personal Torah had now become. Since then I have read Torah many times and chanted Haftorah, but the greatest joy I have is the honor of serving as Gabbai. Being that close to the Torah for such an extended period of time, helping a proud grandmother wrap and dress the Torah at her grandchild's simcha, and helping assure its safety when a bride and groom are honored, an anniversary is celebrated or a baby is named is almost indescribable. When I do this, the Torah, becomes something close, something personal, something I can study. With all the love and celebrations that surround the Torah also comes the knowledge that they are temporal too, and they wear out. Our Torahs are in need of repair and we need a new one.

Each week I can see the letters become less clear and the stitches that hold the panels together become less perfect. It is for all of these reasons that I have taken on the honor of helping raise funds for a new Torah. In the coming weeks, you will receive information about how you can contribute to this "once in a lifetime experience" and I hope and pray that you will join in this mitzvah.

Ruth Ann Koenick

## L'dor Vador Concert Sunday, December 11, 2011

Craig Taubman and his band provided the entertainment at this year's L'dor Vador Arts Concert. Cantor Bruce Rockman was invited on stage to lend his voice and Aaron Rosloff impressed the audience with his harmonic whistling. The audience was treated to traditional Jewish themed music with a folksy, sometime klezmer, flavor that kept the tradition of Generation to Generation.

The audience hailed from neighboring congregations and communities and ran the gamete of all ages.

In the spirit of sing-a-longs of the past, the audience was encouraged to stand, clap, dance, join in and participate in the lively experience.

The congregation would like to thank:

Endowment Director

Cantor Bruce Rockman

2011 Chairperson

Jeff Cadoff

Concert Volunteers and Sponsors

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Gary Bergman

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Stacey Rockman

Stacy Rosenthal

David Spivak (Design Solutions)

Mitch Frumkin (Kipcon Inc.)

and all of the teen and other volunteers.

Congregation B'nai Tikvah

## Sisterhood Shopping Event

Great Friends  
Great Times  
Great Fun  
Great Clothes

# Shop Chico's

At The Shoppes at North Brunswick

Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>  
9:15-11:30 am

Enjoy coffee, bagels, sweets and shopping!

A percentage of what is spent goes directly to Sisterhood and you can still use any/all coupons you have.

**PLEASE RSVP BY TUESDAY, JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>.**

In order to properly prepare and have enough staff we must know how many of you will attend.

Caryl Greenberg, [Carylgreenberg@verizon.net](mailto:Carylgreenberg@verizon.net), 908.216.7616  
or LouAnne Wolf, [Lawolfie@gmail.com](mailto:Lawolfie@gmail.com), 732.895.5575.

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!**

# “Passover” Poker

Same game — better food



*Passover Poker  
In January??  
Oy Vey!!*

...because it's not really Poker  
...and it's not Passover either!

*Please join us on*  
**Saturday night, January 28th, 2012**  
**at 7:30PM\***

You don't need to know how to play poker to play Passover Poker.  
It's an easy, fast paced trump game in which you play  
each hand against a different pair of players.

*Grab your spouse or a friend and join us for fun and  
desserts and socializing with all who attend.*

**Great Raffle Prizes — Silent Auction Excitement**

***Open to the entire community!***  
***Bring your friends for a great time!***

**Advance Couvert \$36.00 per couple, \$18.00 per person**

RSVP is strongly suggested: space is limited and a high demand is expected.

Couvert at the door will be \$50.00 per couple, \$25.00 per person.

**\*Please arrive on time. We can't begin until everyone is seated.**

Please send your check by Jan. 24, 2012 to Serena Blackin, 3 Pilgrim Run, East Brunswick, NJ 08816



Names of persons attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_  
Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$36.00 per couple, 18.00 per person)

Please make checks payable to: Congregation B'nai Tikvah and indicate **Sisterhood-Poker** in the memo.



## **A HISTORY OF EXTRAORDINARY BEGINNINGS.**

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## Combating The Winter Blahs

The Winter and holiday seasons are a difficult time for many people. They are especially troubling for people who may be elderly, ill, and/or alone. There are many reports that feelings of depression and sadness are heightened at this time of year. The high rate of suicide during these months is astounding and, according to some sources, higher than at any other time of the year.



Hilary Friedman

Since the end of Thanksgiving, I have not been able to check out of a store without being asked for something. One store is asking me to buy an item with a certain percentage of the proceeds going to a charitable organization; another store is asking me for money to donate directly to a charity. There are requests for financial donations everywhere. What I have chosen to do in each of these situations is both personal and irrelevant. What is relevant is that we are not asking you for money. We are asking for something so much simpler and so much more rewarding.

Our own schedules are full; time is a precious gift. However, it is our responsibility to pay attention, to see what is happening around us. A small and simple act of giving can bring the greatest joy. It is the giving of ourselves, the gift of time which will help to repair the world - Tikun Olam.

It is surprising what impact a simple phone call can have. Taking the time to let someone know that he or she is thought of, cared for, and remembered. We are not asking you to offer any assistance that you are not able to provide. We are asking you to simply pay attention and be a part of the solution of taking care of our own people, our own congregation.

If you know of anyone who is feeling down, has become ill, or is alone, please let us know. We would like to let each and everyone of them know that we are here for them and that we care.

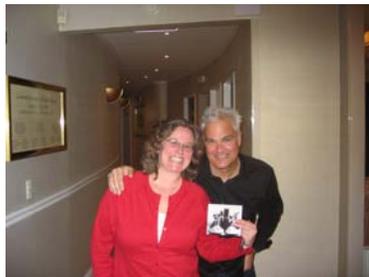
If the needs turn out to be greater than a phone call, please let the committee know and we will try to fulfill those needs.

If you would like to participate in the Mitzvah that is Bikur Cholim, then please contact us. You do not need to join our committee and you are not obligated to anything. We are only asking that you help us make phone calls – you can make just one and brighten the day of a member of our congregation.

Thank you,

Hilary Friedman,  
Bikur Cholim Committee chair

### Pictures from the L'dor Vador Concert



# USY CONVENTION (KINNUV) NOVEMBER 18-20 at B'NAI TIKVAH



Man of the Year Award



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### It's an open meeting



There are times when it is proper for the Board of Directors to meet in closed session, such as when personnel contracts and situations need to be discussed. But, the great majority of our meetings revolve around the reports given by the president, the five vice presidents, our treasurer, financial secretary, and clergy.

Most of what transpires involves just letting the rest of the board know what's going on but, sometimes an issue arises where the board engages in an open discussion to decide on a course of action. It has always been the policy at B'nai Tikvah that our board meetings are open to the congregation. That being said, in practice, it is very rare for congregants to sit in at a board meeting unless they have an agenda item to propose.

It is expected that if someone has an issue to raise with the board, he or she first takes that concern to the appropriate VP or directly to the president. However, much can be learned about the goings on at B'nai Tikvah just by observing your synagogue representatives in action. You don't need a special invitation to attend a board meeting as an observer. It is your right as a congregant to observe what goes on in these meetings.

Gary Bergman

## GREEN EGGS AND WHAT?

The National Education Association is celebrating "Read Across America" by encouraging adults to read to children.

Of course, "Green Eggs and Ham" is one of the most popular Dr. Seuss books. And, there's the dilemma ---  
How can Jewish kids celebrate with Green Eggs and...HAM?

So, in honor of (and with apologies to the estate of ) Dr. Seuss, here's a new ending for the story:

Will you never see?  
They are not KOSHER, So let me be!  
I will not eat green eggs and ham.  
I will not eat them, Sam-I-am  
But I'll eat green eggs with a biscuit!  
Or I will try them with some brisket.  
I'll eat green eggs in a box.  
If you serve them with some lox.  
And those green eggs are worth a try  
Scrambled up in matzo brie!  
And in a boat upon the river,  
I'll eat green eggs with chopped liver!  
So if you're a Jewish Dr. Seuss fan,  
But troubled by green eggs and ham,  
Let your friends in on the scoop:  
Green eggs taste best with chicken soup!

AND.....

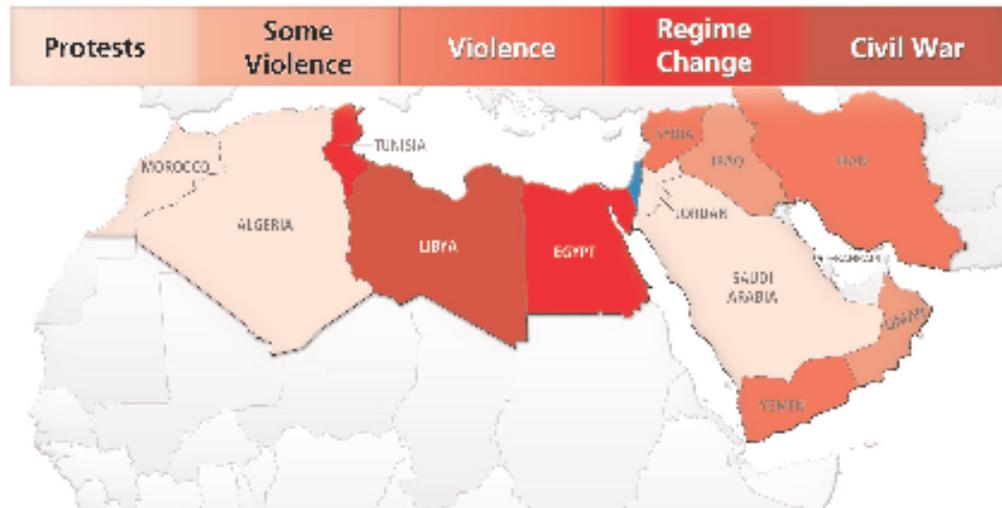
Ben & Jerry's ice cream is now available in Israel...In the following flavors:  
Wailing Walnut      Moishmellow  
Mazel Toffee      Chazalnut  
Oy Ge-malt      Mi Ka-Mocha.  
Soda & Gamorra      Bernard Malamint  
Berry Pr'i      HagafenChoc-Eilat Chip

and finally (drum roll, please).....  
SimchasT'oreo.

It also should be noted that all these flavors come in a (ice cream) Cohen.

Risa Lotto

**THE AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (AIPAC)  
PRESENTS THE 2012 MIDDLESEX NEW JERSEY COMMUNITY EVENT**



**TURMOIL IN THE MIDDLE EAST:  
*Ramifications of the Arab Spring  
& The Role of the United States***

Featuring

**Dr. Sharon Goldman**

AIPAC Northeast Region Political Director

**Tuesday, January 17, 2012**

**7:45 PM**

**Congregation B'nai Tikvah**

1001 Finnigans Lane • North Brunswick, NJ

**Co-Sponsors:\***

Congregation B'nai Tikvah, Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County, Rutgers Hillel

\*List in formation

**Free and open to the community • Advance registration strongly advised**

To RSVP, please contact Emily Rubenstein at [erubenstein@aipac.org](mailto:erubenstein@aipac.org) or 212-750-4110

**ABOUT OUR SPEAKER**

Dr. Sharon Goldman currently serves as the AIPAC Northeast Region Political Director. In this capacity, she is responsible for recruiting and training AIPAC members to build effective relationships with their elected officials; managing AIPAC's legislative mobilizations; conducting educational briefings with candidates for federal office; and tracking and analyzing local campaign activity. Prior to accepting the Political Director position, Goldman served for two years as AIPAC's Area Director for Northern NJ, Rockland County and Riverdale.

Goldman received her doctorate in political science from Yale University in 2001. From 2001-2006, she was an assistant professor of political science at Ramapo College of New Jersey. During her academic tenure, Goldman presented papers and chaired panels at the annual conferences of the American Political Science Association, the New York Political Science Association, and the Northeastern Political Science Association; and served as an executive board member of the New Jersey Political Science Association, and the Northern NJ Hillel.

Save the Date...

*March 31, 2012*

*Viva Las Vegas Casino Night*  
at  
*B'nai Tikvah*



Entertainment for gamblers and non-gamblers

Loads of Prizes

Delicious Food & Open Bar  
Music



Help make the event a great success...join the team!  
Contact Rob Blackin at [rblackin@comcast.net](mailto:rblackin@comcast.net)



Continued from page 9

**January 22nd** - Please reserve this date for an enjoyable chapter event. Details to follow.

**January 28th** – USY Services in the Youth Lounge

- Once a month, beginning in January, USYers are invited to attend part of the Saturday morning service, Shacharit and Musaf, in the Youth Lounge, praying with the USY alongside their friends.

Between those parts of the service, USYers will attend services in the main sanctuary for the Torah reading. A Dvar Torah, based on the weekly Parsha, will be presented with ideas, stories, and thoughts submitted by **YOU**. The Parsha for this date is “Bo” and the theme is bondage vs. freedom, from physical and emotional perspectives.

Send your ideas to Lauren Wistreich, Religious Education VP, at [lwistreich613@aol.com](mailto:lwistreich613@aol.com).

Please bring a friend to try a USY event and see what it is all about!

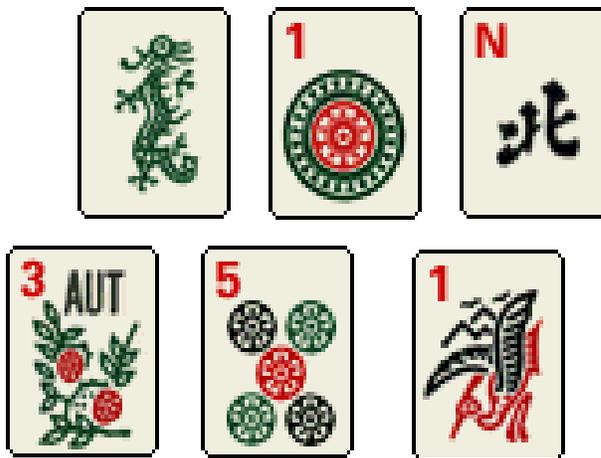
Applications are always available at <http://www.bnaitikvah.org/app-usy-kadima-2011-12.pdf>

Scholarships are available to help defray some of the costs for USY programs. Please contact Steve Juro at 732-960-1215. All conversations are strictly confidential.

Ruth Shindler  
Youth Committee Chair  
[ruthshindler@comcast.net](mailto:ruthshindler@comcast.net)  
(H) 732-238-6893  
(C) 732-259-9140



# ORDER YOUR 2012 MAH JONGH LEAGUE CARDS TODAY AND HELP SUPPORT SISTERHOOD!



Order your Mah Jongg League cards now for you and your friends and be ready to play with your new 2012 cards by April. Once again, and for the fourth year in a row, prices have not increased. Orders will be only be accepted by Sisterhood until January 25th. Checks should be made payable to B'nai Tikvah Sisterhood and sent to:

B'nai Tikvah Sisterhood  
c/o Fern Katronetsky  
10 Donald Avenue  
Kendall Park, NJ 08824

STANDARD CARD:      # of cards \_\_\_\_\_ X \$7.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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TOTAL AMOUNT      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Ruth Shindler

### New Youth Committee Chairperson

It is a very exciting time to be coming on board as the new Youth Committee Chair. First I would like to thank Dorothy Cohen very much for the 6 years she has served as Youth Committee Chair for Kadima and USY. Her leadership and commitment to the BT youth has been strong and steady. Through chapter and Regional events, including the Purim Carnival each year, she has been a hardworking, energetic and dedicated leader. And of course, we will never forget the image of a room full of Where's Waldos during Purim a few years ago in trying to break the Guinness Book of World Records! This was her fun idea that brought members of all ages together.

A very heartfelt thank you to all of the host families, chaperones, and other volunteers who helped to make the USY Fall Kinnus (Convention) from November 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> such a big success! We had 220 USYers + 20 staffers attend from all over the region, including 25 from our chapter! 47 families hosted, including our Rabbi and Cantor. It was a joy to work with Dorothy and other members of the Youth Committee through the weekend. A special thank you to Lynne WeissMarshall and Dave Cukor for their time in coordinating the logistics of the event, and to Gary Bergman for his support.

As Rabbi Wolkoff beautifully wrote after the event, "I would like to take this opportunity to add my voice to those who are celebrating the great work done by all of you for the USY kinnus. What a wonderful congregation we have!! It was so beautiful to see family after family devote their time and energy as hosts and as workers for the event. It truly does us proud to showcase our synagogue and our community this way. My strong impression is that the staff and the USY'ers were virtually unanimous in their appreciation for the facilities and the hospitality we provided...Most important, our own children had a chance to celebrate with other Jewish children, and to experience a beautiful, meaningful Judaism that hopefully will have an impact on the way they live their Jewish lives."

I received very positive feedback from the Regional Director who appreciated all of the work it took to put the Kinnus together. I also heard from several hosts who found the experience to be very rewarding. There were some minor glitches, as could be expected, but overall, it was an extremely successful event and a wonderful representation of what makes B'nai Tikah so unique and special. In addition, what started with an idea by one of our congregants, Mark Surks, to collect food for the South Brunswick Food Pantry, resulted in a flood of donations!

In getting ready for the Convention, the Youth Lounge was renovated with help from a lot of members. Ken Wistreich continued to do great work by adding locks to the cabinets, fixing the ping pong table, and hanging a Shalom sign and matching mirror that were donated by the Sisterhood Gift Shop, as well as a new clock. Sisterhood generously donated the proceeds of the 50/50 raffle at the Paid Up Membership Dinner to help with the renovation costs. Andy Jackenthal replaced some outlets and covered an old switch, and Laura Waksman donated brand new ping pong paddles and balls. Thank you to everyone for their support, hard work and thoughtfulness. My new motto has become "GO TEAM TIKVAH!"

I'm excited to be working with Jordana Andersen who is a very dedicated and caring Kadima Advisor, now in her 6<sup>th</sup> year. Kim Syvarth has officially stepped down as the USY Advisor as of November 30<sup>th</sup> and Amanda Dillman is taking over her position (please see the USY page for more details.)

I look forward to creating many more memorable experiences to strengthen our youth's connection to Judaism at BT through Kadima and USY. For those parents whose kids have not tried Kadima, for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders, or USY, for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders, please consider having them attend one or two events to get a taste of what it's all about. I can tell you from my own children's experience, it can change their world!.

Warmest regards,

Ruth

ruthshindler@comcast.net

# Tu B'Shevat Seder

*The earth brought forth vegetation: seed-bearing plants of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it.*

*And God saw that this was good. (B'reishit 1:12)*



## Come celebrate the birthday of the trees

An interactive seder program for all ages

~ **Wednesday, February 8**

~ **6:15 PM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ # Adults (\$3.00 each)

\_\_\_\_\_ # Pre-bar/bat mitzvah children (free)

I wish to sponsor a seder plate for \$18 in honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed

Sign up online at [www.bnaitikvah.org/tubshevat.html](http://www.bnaitikvah.org/tubshevat.html) or send a check payable to: "Congregation B'nai Tikvah" to 1001Finnegans Lane, North Brunswick, NJ 08902 (or place it in the Ritual Committee box in the synagogue office).

Mark your envelope: "Tu B'Shevat Seder"

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Brick and stone and wood do not make a Synagogue. They make a building. People make a Synagogue. The three most important letters in the word Synagogue are-you. For it is the people that gives the brick and stone character and personality. It is people that make the Synagogue and Sanctuary, for we cannot ask God to dwell in an empty house.

Rabbi Harry Lawrence.



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### Resources for Israel

Camera.org

Jpost.com

Haaretzdaily.com

Memri.org

JCPA.org

JINSA.org

Honestreporting.com

StandwithUs.org

## ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

In November, the AEC sponsored a movie about Israel that presented the misinformation-- and articulated the truth-- of Israel's historical link to the land it calls home. The Rabbi led a wonderful discussion afterwards. It was a substantive event. We will try to do more programs like this one.

Mirah Becker

## Coming in February

Feb 5	World Wide Wrap Tu B'Sh'vat Seder
Feb 6	Camp Registration Begins Board of Directors
Feb 8	Tu B'Sh'vat
Feb 10	Birthday Shabbat
Feb 11	Dalet Jr. Cong. Service
Feb 12	Kadima Rock Climbing
Feb 13	School Board Sisterhood Board
Feb 15	Adult Education
Feb 16	Sisterhood/Men's Club
Feb 17	Family Shabbat Service
Feb 21	BT Daytimers
Feb 25	Seudah & Study
Feb 26	Kadima Regional Day Hei Family Education
Feb 27	Kadima Game Night Ritual Committee

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central jersey's premier kosher deli



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of rabbi robert wolkoff

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Hope to See You Soon!  
patty, rick, erica & allie

# W W W



## Sunday, February 5

Conservative Jews from around the world will celebrate the mitzvah of Tefillin at morning minyan, joining thousands of others in the seventh annual "World Wide Wrap" sponsored by the Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs.

## Hakol Donations    November 12 – December 12

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sofiya Makukha  
 Janice & Barry Kipnis, in memory of Frances Kipnis  
 Helene & Gary Tinkel, in memory of Harold Reimer  
 Elaine & Alvin Brackup, in memory of Anna Rubin  
 Connie & Rob Rizick, with appreciation for helping Jake prepare for his Bar Mitzvah

### Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Bonnie & Rob Rizick, with appreciation for helping Jake prepare for his Bar Mitzvah

### General Donations

Ilene & Gary Austin, in honor of their children Joshua & Emily Austin getting married  
 Rosy & Raymond Beno, in memory of Joseph Cohen  
 Arlene Bacher, in memory of her beloved brother, Joel Forster

### Bikur Cholim Fund

Adrienne & Andrew Ross, in memory of Molly Kaufman  
 The Spigner Family, in memory of Irving Spigner

### Arnie Miller Memorial Fund

Renee & Steve Juro & Family  
 Andrea & Steve Katz  
 Barbara & Saul Surrey  
 Congregation B'nai Tikvah Men's Club  
 Tricia Foose  
 Linda Milton  
 Toni Bloom  
 Stephanie Capasso  
 Bobbi & Marc Binder

### Family Shabbat Fund

Bobbi & Marc Binder, in memory of Elaine Cohn

### Religious School Education Fund

Bonnie & Rob Rizick, with appreciation to Barry Safeer for running an outstanding youth services program, and for helping Jake prepare for his Bar Mitzvah

### Allen Karp Memorial Fund

Ilene Karp & Family, in memory of Pauline Karp

### Yartzeit Donations

Gloria & Fred Landsman, in memory of Molly Landsman  
 Diane & Jordan Rosuck, in memory of Max Rubenstein  
 The Spigner Family, in memory of Cynthia Spigner  
 Gladys & Sidney Kalman, in memory of David Kalman  
 The Plotnicks, in memory of Carl Plotnick  
 Wendy & Ira Heisler, in memory of Emanuel Heisler  
 Joyce & Joel Gerbman, in memory of George Weinstein  
 Caryl & Dave Distel, in loving memory of their son, Steven  
 Ruth Rakowitz, in memory of her parents, Sarah & Eli Samwick  
 Ruth Rakowitz, in memory of her in-laws,  
 Bessie & Abraham Rakowitz  
 Ruth Rakowitz, in memory of her beloved husband, Rubin  
 Abbey & Bernard Lorber, in memory of Charles Lorber  
 Abbey & Bernard Lorber, in memory of Sam Kahn

### Shabbat Luncheon Fund

Adrienne & Andrew Ross, in honor of the birth of Ari Meyer Fishelberg  
 Aaron Rosloff, in honor of the marriage of Neal & Janine Dillman  
 Joyce & Leonard Mandelblatt, in memory of David I. Mandelblatt  
 Joyce & Gerald Fishelberg, in honor of Steve Katz being named "Man of the Year"

### Mitzvah 613

Sherry Valan, in honor of Steve Katz being named "Man of the Year"  
 Susan Miller, in memory of her beloved father-in-law, Morris Miller  
 Susan Miller, in memory of her beloved parents,  
 Harry & Dora Schildkraut  
 Susan Miller, in honor of the marriage of Neal & Janine Dillman  
 Chelli & Martly Haller, in memory of Diane Stroh

### Son's of Tikvah

Dotty & Norman Politziner, in memory of Joseph Autovino

### Youth Fund

Dot, Larry, Margot & Elliot Cohen, in honor of the marriage of Neal & Janine Dillman  
 Dot & Larry Cohen, with appreciation to David Eichen for the printing of the condolence prayer

**The office thanks:**

Joyce Fishelberg                      Bill Greenberg  
Jeryl Roller                              Mae Rubinstein  
Sandy Scharf                            Beverly Leipzig-Silien  
for making December birthday calls.

As always we thank Sherry Valan for helping in the office.

A special thank you to Susan Shapiro for her beautiful calligraphy for the B'nai Mitzvah and Baby Naming certificates.

Thanks to Elliott Danto for calling people to help make Minyan.

**New Year's Resolution:**

To tolerate fools more gladly, provided this does not encourage them to take up more of my time.

James Agate

**If you would like to be a part of our marketing Committee**

**Please contact Gary Bergman**

**732-246-7285**

The Jewish people, ever since David slew Goliath, have never considered youth as a barrier to leadership.

Theodor Herzl was only thirty-seven when he proclaimed the "inevitability" of a Jewish state's "triumphant reality."

John F. Kennedy  
during the 1960 presidential campaign  
addressing the Zionist Organization of America

**Contributions:**

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

On the occasion of: \_\_\_\_\_

**This donation is being made by:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send an acknowledgment to:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount of your donation:**

\$18    \$36    \$54    \$72    \$118    Other

**Please Allocate Donations to:**

- Building / Capital Improvement Fund
- Shabbat Luncheon                       Yahrzeit Fund
- Prayer Book Fund                         General Fund
- Cantor's Special Fund\*                 Library Fund
- Passport to Israel                         Youth Fund
- Religious School                          Nursery School
- Bikur Cholim                               Tzedakah Fund
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund\*         Sons of Tikvah
- Social Action                               Family Shabbat
- L'Dor Vador Fund                         Ritual Fund
- Rejoice Fund

Other \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please send separate checks for these funds.

You can make your contributions online by clicking the "Giving" link at bnaitikvah.org

## B'NAI TIKVAH DIRECTORY

TITLE	NAME	PHONE #	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Rabbi	Robert Wolkoff	732-297-0696	rabbi@bnaitkvah.org
Cantor	Bruce Rockman	732-422-0963	cantor@bnaitkvah.org
President	Gary Bergman	732-246-7285	president@bnaitkvah.org
VP Activities	Mirah Becker	732-967-9791	mirahb@comcast.net
VP Administration	David Cukor	732-690-6714	lpcushionsales@aol.com
VP Membership	Marcie Kfare	732-328-3819	kfare@comcast.net
VP School and Youth	Jeff Schwartz	732-297-6365	jschwartz@auerpak.com
VP Ways and Means	Jeffrey Cadoff	732-398-3769	cadoffj@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Howard Hoffman	732-940-7269	howard.hoffman@wsj.com
Financial Secretary	Mark Kasdin	609-336-7068	eagles242@aol.com
Treasurer	Gary Wesalo	732-821-0588	gwesalo@aol.com
Asst. Treasurer	Andrew Ross	732-422-0637	adr CPA@comcast.net
Past President	Ruth Anne Koenick	732-828-8141	koenick@echo.rutgers.edu
<b>TRUSTEES</b>			
	Rob Blackin	732-390-9515	rblackin@comcast.net
	Arthur Cederbaum	732-821-8162	arlceder@optonline.net
	Lauren Cohen	732-438-8079	andrewlauren3@gmail.com
	Linda Fellen	732-651-7953	linda.fellen@gmail.com
	Wayne Gonchar	732-238-5564	wgonchar@aol.com
	Ben Gottesman	732-651-7953	ben.gottesman@gmail.com
	Renee Juro	732-960-1215	rsjuro@verizon.net
	Daniel Reninger	609-309-5031	daniel.reininger65@gmail.com
	Douglas Smoller	732-254-2313	dsmoller@comcast.net
	Michael Weiss	732-246-0306	mweiss@optonline.net
VOTING	Aaron Rosloff	732-297-2233	msro8@aol.com
BT Daytimers	Bill Greenberg	732-297-6953	sailor449@optonline.net
Men's Club	Bonnie Kudwitt	732-422-7276	beedirect@aol.com
Sisterhood			
Administrator	Lynne WeissMarshall	732-297-0696	admin@bnaitkvah.org
Administrator Assistant	Roz Fischman	732-297-0696	office@bnaitkvah.org
Adult Education	Mirah Becker	732-967-9791	mirahb@comcast.net
Bikur Cholim	Hilary Friedman	732-274-2154	bikur@bnaitkvah.org
Blood Drive	Marty Engel	732-297-3198	martinengel@verizon.net
Book Club	Shirley Engel	732-297-3198	shirleyengel@verizon.net
BT Daytimers	Aaron Rosloff	732-297-2233	msro8@aol.com
Catering Committee	Irwin Millinger	732-297-6477	imillinger@comcast.net
Cemetery	Arthur Cederbaum	732-821-8162	arlceder@optonline.net
College Connection	Phyllis Safeer	732-432-9622	pbjsr@comcast.net
Ebay Fundraising	Bonnie Kudwitt	732-422-7276	beedirect@aol.com
Gift Cards and Room Rentals	Sherry Valan	732-297-0696	sherry@bnaitkvah.org
Hakol Editor	Michael Weiss	732-246-0306	hakol.cbt@gmail.com
Hakol Advertising	CarolAnn Harkavy	732-438-0796	CaHarkavy@aol.com
Historical Committee	Bill Greenberg	732-297-6953	sailor4498@optonline.net
House & Grounds	David Cukor	732-967-0866	lpcushionsales@aol.com
Israel Bonds	Larry Cohen	732-821-4376	Licdac@optonline.net
Israel Taskforce	Alan Kane	732-418-1913	akane@optonline.net
Judiaca/Gift Shop	Serena Blackin	732-390-9515	serena@blackin.org
Junior Congregation	Barry Safeer	732-432-9622	safeer@comcast.net
Kadima	Jordana Andersen	732-422-7457	Jorde1174@aol.com
Leagrams	Lori Sookerman	732-274-9599	Lorishookerman@comcast.net
Men's Club	Steve Katz	732-329-0687	skatz56@aol.com
Nursery School Director	Phyllis Denenberg	732-297-0295	nursery@bnaitkvah.org
Parent Advisory Committee Co-Chairs	Dana Chalson	732-438-8853	penndana@gmail.com
	Marlene Buckwald	732-951-9519	marteach819@aol.com
Passport to Israel Program	Keith Zimmerman	732-398-1420	keith@kzplanning.com
Religious School Committee Co-Chairs	Lauren Cohen	732-438-8079	andrewlauren3@gmail.com
	Aimee Weber	732-940-2477	aimjweb@gmail.com
Religious School Principal	Ann Ruth Nimberg	732-297-0295	school@bnaitkvah.org
School Administrator Asst.	Terez Slim	732-297-0295	school@bnaitkvah.org
Shabbos Luncheons	Lynne WeissMarshall	732-297-0696	admin@bnaitkvah.org
Supermarket Gift Cards Manager	Barry Safeer	732-432-9622	safeer@comcast.net
Sisterhood Co-Presidents	Bonnie Kudwitt	732-422-7276	beedirect@aol.com
	Teresa Samtur	732-821-8163	msamtur@comcast.net
Softball League	Mark Kirsch	609-356-0490	markkirsch@comcast.net
Tree of Life	Sherry Valan	732-297-0696	sherry@bnaitkvah.org
Transportation	Toby Ehrlich	732-329-1082	tgehr18@yahoo.com
USY	Amana Dillman	908-930-2526	nsbrunswickusy@gmail.com
Webmaster	Gary Bergman	732-246-7285	webmaster@bnaitkvah.org
Youth Committee	Ruth Shindler	732-238-6893	ruthshindler@comcast.net

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 6 Tevet  No Religious School New Year's Day	2 7 Tevet  Schools Resume USY Meeting Board of Directors	3 8 Tevet  BT Daytimers Board Men's Basketball	4 9 Tevet	5 10 Tevet  2nd Generation	6 11 Tevet	7 12 Tevet  Bat Mitzvah Rachel Blackin USY Seudah & Study
8 13 Tevet	9 14 Tevet  Sisterhood Board	10 15 Tevet  Book Club Men's Basketball	11 16 Tevet  PAC Meeting	12 17 Tevet  Hakol Deadline Youth Committee	13 18 Tevet  Birthday Shabbat	14 19 Tevet  Bat Mitzvah Haley Mosseri Kadima Lock-In Lunch & Learn
15 20 Tevet  Men's Club Road Trip No Religious School	16 21 Tevet  Office & Schools Closed Martin Luther King Day	17 22 Tevet  AIPAC Meeting BT Daytimers Meeting Men's Basketball	18 23 Tevet  Rabbi's Class "Jewish Law"	19 24 Tevet  B'nai Mitzvah Meeting	20 25 Tevet  Family Shabbat Service	21 26 Tevet  Prayer Class Kadima Saturday Night Live
22 27 Tevet  Mitzvah Day Sisterhood/Men's Club Breakfast & Program Kadima Chocolate Lovers Event BLOOD DRIVE	23 28 Tevet  School Board	24 29 Tevet  Men's Basketball	25 1 Sh'vat  Minyan Class ROSH CHODESH	26 2 Sh'vat	27 3 Sh'vat	28 4 Sh'vat  Seudah & Study Passover Poker
29 5 Sh'vat  Yiddish Club Parent/Teacher Conferences Dalet Talit Program	30 6 Sh'vat  NS Registration Begins Israel Stamp Club Ritual Committee	31 7 Sh'vat  Men's Basketball			Candle Lighting 6th 4:28 pm 13th 4:35 pm 20th 4:42 pm 27th 4:51 pm	Shabbat Ends 7th 5:32 pm 14th 5:38 pm 21st 5:46 pm 28th 5:53 pm



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