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TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER TOURNAMENT

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A Message From Rabbi Robert Wolkoff



So help me out with this, because I really want to understand. Right now, I'm recovering from acute exhaustion after having seen almost every film in the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival. (Watching the films, and then coming home to watch the recorded World Series Games until 3:30 in the morning didn't help, I admit).

The films had everything you could want: a broad range of topics and styles, powerful emotional impact; great humor; and thought provoking ideas. As far as quality is concerned, at least one of the films was nominated for an Oscar, many had won the Israeli equivalent of an Oscar, and almost all of them had won prizes from other film festivals around the world. A few of the films had direct contemporary relevance, like *The Gatekeepers*, an astounding series of interviews with the leaders of Israel's famed Shin Bet secret service, and a must see for anyone who wants to understand Israel today. And other films revisit classic controversy, like *Hannah Arendt*, whose *Eichmann in Jerusalem* was the most hotly discussed Jewish book of the 20th century.

Keeping a long story short, there is not much you could have chosen to do at the end of October that would have been more Jewishly enriching than attending the film festival until you dropped from fatigue. Oh, and did I mention that this whole extravaganza was happening 2 minutes from our synagogue?

So why am I telling you this? Not because I'm trying to shill for the next film festival—although I am. It's because you would think that all the viewings would be packed with our congregants, young and old. And they weren't.

Sure, I was happy to see a minyan or two of CBT members at each film. But there should have been entire rows reserved for us. We missed a great possibility for education, enjoyment, and enrichment. And it's not only about the film festival. I fear that I will be asking myself, and you, the same question after the L'dor Vador concert—which each year brings in “the best in the business” as regards Jewish music; or after the Chanukah party, which is always such a great celebration; or after our masquerade ball in February, where we will be honoring the Binders, who have been pillars of our community for decades and whose Family Shabbat has won national recognition, over and above the sincere appreciation of the hundreds of us who have been nurtured by it.

And I say to myself: what in the world are we supposed to do? It doesn't get any better. You can't find better films, you can't find better music, you can't find a more joyous celebration, you can't find more wonderful people. So what in the world are we supposed to do?

I'm asking. I really am, because I don't get it. Thinking out loud, I imagine there are some structural problems (young kids, can't get out on a school night; older family, can't drive at night, etc.). And we will address them. We should have as parents' night out, with communal babysitting here at shul while the grown-ups are doing dinner and a movie. And we should arrange transportation for those who don't feel comfortable driving by themselves. And I'll be glad to listen to any similar suggestions that will help us come together as a learning and celebrating community. Seriously, let me know what you think. But ultimately, it's about having the goal and the desire to come together and to be enriched together. And if that desire is lacking, we are in serious trouble. We need to examine ourselves, and reorder our priorities.

When we finish a book of the Torah, we say, “Chazak, chazak, v' nit-chazek” “Be strong, be strong, let us make each other strong.” Isn't it marvelous that while we are making each other strong we can have such joy and such stimulation! The richness of our Jewish life here at B'nai Tikvah is truly a gift from Hashem (not to mention all the people doing Hashem's work in our community). Let us appreciate it, and fulfill the mitzvah of “serving the Lord with joy!”

Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff

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:
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All e-mail submissions are acknowledged via e-mail or put submissions in the HAKOL Box in the synagogue office.
 All articles are subject to available space and editorial constraints.

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From the Desk of Cantor Bruce Rockman



One Step at Time

Building a consensus can be a challenge. I was reading an article about how different Jewish denominations have splintered over the years. From what we call Orthodox Judaism was born Reform Judaism and then Conservative Judaism was created from the Reform movement. Our Conservative movement bore Reconstructionist Judaism and then Traditional Judaism. Now Orthodoxy is living through its own internal challenges from newer liberal and more inclusive groups, which may become an additional denomination of Judaism.

The question being asked is: Can a group as small as we survive if we continue to splinter?

The merry-go-round continues. When we look in the mirror, who are we? Although the Conservative movement is based in Jewish law and traditions, for the most part, we Conservative Jews choose to practice from our hearts and souls, following respectful personal and family traditions more than rabbinical tradition.

As you know, I am very positive and, if something seems askew to me, I will address the issue in the kindest way that I can. I try to understand others' points of view and, in an area where I lack full knowledge, I will take my lead from our rabbi.

I clearly know that I am not the judge of Jewish practice; I try to be a consistent exemplar of Jewish tradition through my Jewish observance. So while I am not going to tell you what to do, if you ask, I will tell you how, to my knowledge, you can observe Judaism appropriately and I'll continue to try to excite you by joining you to joyfully celebrate our Jewish lives and transitions.

Oh, you do really want to know what I think we should be doing? L'dor Vador, from generation to generation, we need knowledge. First of all, try to do more mitzvot, one step at a time. We, as adults, need to engage in Jewish study. Take refresher classes or read about Jewish history, Hebrew, Yiddish or anything Jewish that excites you. Engage in Jewish home rituals, listen to Jewish and Israeli music, and make your life a spiritual habit.

I think B'nai Tikvah could have an adult Hebrew School where we can refresh our understanding of Judaism. I think this all would be much easier if we knew what we were doing.

"L'dor Vador means that we learn to be Jewish from our parents and our grandparents, so everything Jewish will always be".

*"We are gifts, we are blessings, we are history in song....L'dor Vador.... we protect this chain and praise God's name." Josh Nelson
Worship the Lord in Gladness and Joyous Song!*

With Joy, Blessings, and Appreciation,

Cantor Bruce Rockman



More pictures on page 8

Men's Club

Celebrating our CBT Men's Club Man and Youth of the Year Dinner.

On Wednesday, November 13th, the Federation of Jewish Men's Club of Northern NJ held their annual Man and Youth of the Year award dinner at the Grand Marquis in Old Bridge. Our B'nai Tikvah friends and family came together to honor Allan Katronetsky and Jason Shindler as our CBT Man-of-the-Year and Youth-of-the-Year.

The event was attended by over 200 people. Our celebration started off with a great 90 minutes of eating, drinking and camaraderie. After, we then entered into the main Sanctuary where we davened Maariv, which was then followed by our award ceremony. Both Allan and Jason were called to accept their respective award along with the other respective Men's Club honorees Mazel tov to both Allan and Jason!!

Upcoming meetings:

January - Let's brew some beer.

February - World Wide Wrap
(Sunday, Feb. 2nd)



From the Webmaster



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Mary Bergman

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 RSVP a must for dinner by December 18, 2013

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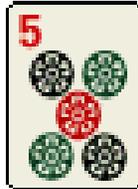
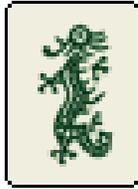
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A Message From Our Co-Presidents



As we write this column, Boston is celebrating – the Red Sox have just won the World Series at Fenway Park! What a difference a few months can make: just this past April, at the beginning of baseball season, the residents of Boston were coping with the tragic events that took place at the Boston Marathon; and today, that city stands strong.

The last few months have brought many changes to B'nai Tikvah, as well. We successfully closed on the sale of our parsonage and we've made other significant strides in improving our financial condition. We also welcomed almost 25 new families to our congregation. And, on a personal note, we are delighted to report that over the last few months, I (Ruth Anne) have seen a marked improvement in my Lyme Disease symptoms and I continue to feel fortunate to have the support of B'nai Tikvah through this challenging time. And yet, during this time, we said good-bye to our dear congregant – our friend, founder, mentor and mensch – Aaron Rosloff (z"l). While we mourn Aaron's passing, we celebrate his extraordinary life and the many blessings he brought to our congregation.

And what a difference a few years can make: not too long ago, 1918 signified the last Red Sox championship...and back in 1918, the Big Green Monster was not even green. During 1918, due to the war in Europe, the major league baseball season was shortened, and the World Series was held in early September. In 1918, there was no such thing as a television. And during 1918, the House of Representatives passed an amendment giving women the right to vote, followed by the Senate and then ratification by the states in 1920.

Now 95 years later, Major League Baseball has 30 teams, which each play 162 games a season. We can watch television without a TV, and we can even watch it on our phones. Women hold positions in every level of the public and private sectors; and two women now share the presidency of this synagogue.

Only time will tell what the coming months and years hold in store. Some of our teams may make it to the next Superbowl. We will watch awe-inspiring athletes compete at the Olympics in Russia. The two of us will, G-d willing, celebrate another joint birthday – probably with our time-honored morning coffee at the Highland Park Dunkin' Donuts, and almost certainly this year with a B'nai Tikvah committee meeting. And we hope to gather together for Texas Hold'em, Passover Poker, Meshugenah Masquerade, and other events that, with your participation, will be the most successful in our history. We welcome you to join in the fun: make friends, make memories and make a difference.

Warmest regards,

Ruth Anne Koenick, Co-President

Allison Nagelberg, Co-President

L'dor Vador with Sam Glaser
November 17th, 2013



Photos by: Bobbi & Marc Binder and Michael Weiss

It will be a Royal Extravaganza! Save the date – February 15, 2014

Let the official trumpets declare:

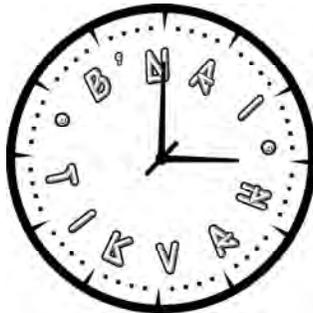
The King has decreed that there will soon be a Royal Party! It will be the greatest event of the year with a sumptuous meal, incredible drinks from far and wide, and beautiful dancing ladies (with their handsome men, of course).

As you would expect with a Royal Event, only the finest offerings in the land will be presented, including delicacies from the royal caterers – Sir Evan and Sir Robert, otherwise known as Ye Olde Classical Caterers. Spirits will be drawn from the King's own special collection and shared with all.

Special honors will be bestowed on those who have pleased the court for their outstanding service and general merriment.

You do not want to miss this event (or risk losing your head)! All subjects are expected to attend and raise a chalice with your friends, family, and neighbors. Be assured to note February 15th on your personal calendar, iThing, rock, refrigerator, or whatever you use to keep track of your events.

King Achashverosh



Daily Schedule of Services

Sunday	9:00 am & 7:30 pm
Monday	7:30 pm
Tuesday	7:30 pm
Wednesday	7:30 pm
Thursday	7:30 am & 7:30 pm
Friday	8:00 pm
Saturday	9:30 am

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Ann Ruth Nimberg
Religious School Principal



It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving and Hanukkah have come and gone and this school year is approaching the mid- way mark. At this time of year, it is interesting to look back and see what has been accomplished so far.

The CBT Chai is moving along at a great pace. The students are engaged and appear to find the subject matter interesting. The CBT Chai program has been revamped and one of the new pieces for the second session is titled "People Who Inspire." We thank Cantor Rockman and co-presidents Allison Nagelberg and Ruth Anne Koenick for their well-received contributions. The Rabbi is teaching a wonderful history course to the students. The parent meetings have been well attended and the feedback was very helpful.

The primary and elementary grades are also seeing success. The Hebrew evaluations have been completed and, if your child needs additional help with his/her studies, we will contact you; otherwise, assume your child is on level. In grade one and grade two, Morah Rachel has extra help in her classroom. All the students have mini dry-erase boards available to them for use in the classrooms. I trust you have been enjoying reading the classroom letters your child's teacher has been emailing home. Classroom visitations as well as the Rabbi's discussions with parents have been going well. The aleph parents will be given the new date for their Rabbi discussion meeting.

The month of December is a short month, but one with a full calendar of events. On Wednesday, December 4th, at 6:00 p.m., the annual Family Hanukkah Party will be held in the Social Hall. Students will not be dismissed into the parking lot. You will need to come into the Social Hall to pick them up. We hope you will stay and join the festivities- - food, candle lighting and singing. The cost is \$10 per family and, if you wish, you can sponsor a pizza for \$18. Please R.S.V.P. to the Religious School and make all checks payable to Congregation B'nai Tikvah Religious School.

The Aleph Family Education Program will be held on Sunday, December 8th, at 9:30 a.m., in the gym. Please send in a plain white t-shirt to be decorated. In addition to learning about who the aleph students were named after, we are hoping to learn the same about the aleph parents.

On Sunday, December 15th, CBT Chai students will be having breakfast with the Rabbi at 10:00 a.m. in half the gym. Also on December 15th the first Dalet Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program will be held in the second half of gym at 9:30 a.m.

Enjoy the winter break! Happy and Healthy New Year!!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- *December 1 Thanksgiving (No School)
- *December 4 Family Hanukkah Party
- *December 8 Aleph Family Education Program
- *December 15 Dalet Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program & CBT Chai Breakfast with the Rabbi
- *December 22- January 1 – Winter Break (No School)

November - Mensch of the Month

kindergarten - Alyssa Buckwald
grade one and grade two - Seth Smoller
Aleph - Hannah Cadoff
Bet - Brandon Weber
gimmel - Jeremy Oliver
Dalet - Ethan Feltquate
hei - Gillian Miller



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The second-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking with the minority.

The first-rate mind is only happy when it is thinking." -

A.A. Milne



Please check out our 2 bulletin boards in the Synagogue. Pictures from events are always added & updated.

Our annual Bounce U event with Pre-Kadima was fun by all who attended. The kids bounced the entire time. Check out the group picture.

We had a pajama night while we ate breakfast for dinner. The kids afterwards played a few games; one included decorating a Kadimanik with toilet paper as a mummy. Check out the picture included.

By the time you read this, we will have had the following event –

November 27th

Going to the Pottery Place in West Windsor, making a gift for someone special for Hanukkah!

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 2nd

Kadima's Hanukkah Party in the Youth Lounge from 6:45-8 pm. Bring your dreidel from home for a fun contest and eat some delicious snacks! RSVP by 11/29.

December 6-8th

Regional Shabbaton in Highland Park for those attending. From the 7th-8th is the 8th grade Lock-In.

December 16th

BINGO in the Youth Lounge from 6:30-8 pm. I will have prizes for the winners! Snacks will be served, any requests? RSVP 12/12.

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

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

Contact me with questions or concerns throughout the year! If you need another application, just ask & always accepted.

I wish all my Kadima families a Happy Hanukkah! Keep checking our weekly emails for all the fun in the New Year!

Jordana Andersen [\(732\) 422-7457](tel:732-422-7457)
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SISTERHOOD

Sunday, December 15th

We will be having a book review at 10:00 am. The book is Unorthodox by Deborah Feldman. Please read this brave and well-written memoir into a culture most of us know little about. Then come and discuss it with us. Whether you participate or observe and listen it will be fun for all. Breakfast will be served. If possible, please RSVP to lorisookerman@comcast.net. The last book discussion was a hit and we know this one will be too. Join us!

Delicacies for the Devoted!!

Let's show our local heroes that we are thinking about them! If you are interested in baking and helping to distribute cookies, candy and cake platters to local emergency rooms and police stations on December 24th, 2013; please let us know. We are looking for bakers and distributors as well as people able to platter. Contact Caryl Greenberg at 908.216.7616 or carylgreenberg@verizon.net

December Specials

- *All Hanukah items 20% off
- *Take 10% off any Tallit
- *50% off all clearance items
- *New Cookbook "Joy of Kosher" by Jamie Geller, dubbed "Jewish Rachael Ray" by N. Y. Times, \$25

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Pins and WL cards are available

For ordering information, please check the Bulletin Board or contact Ann Rosenzweig. Cards are \$5 if sent to you or \$4 if hand delivered at a Sisterhood's event.

Mitzvah Baskets

Having a B'nai Mitzvah or other simcha? Let Sisterhood decorate the bima with two non-perishable food baskets. We also deliver the baskets for use at other synagogues so tell your local friends about this service! For more information or to order your bima baskets please contact Jill Eisner:

Mazel Tosses

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Another Viewpoint My Tribute to Aaron Rosloff An Editor's Story

Early in 2007 I read an article published in the Hakol titled "Sometimes on a Saturday Morning". It really touched me. Although we were both members of the B'nai Tikvah Board of Directors, I had never spoken to Aaron Rosloff. But when I read that article I knew I had to introduce myself to the man who wrote it and tell him how much I enjoyed his story.

I asked Aaron whether he would be publishing any more stories in the Hakol. He told me that he would consider it but that he was not good at typing or editing stories on his computer. I'm not sure what came over me since I had just made his acquaintance, but I blurted out "If you write them, I'll type them". For more than six years Aaron wrote, and I typed.

From the beginning, Aaron introduced me to people as his friend and his editor. He was so gracious, so humble, so appreciative, he never failed to thank me for my minor efforts. Some months he'd drop the stories off at my house, occasionally I'd drop by his home, and most of the time I'd get an envelope in the mail. I always ripped the envelope open immediately to see what he had written.

I always loved to read his ending tagline - every story had one. And without fail, there was a small post-it note attached sending his thanks or a thought he had. Amazingly, he always made it seem like I was the one who made it happen.

Each month I would call Aaron to say I had e-mailed him the draft of the article for the next Hakol and we would discuss possible changes, all of them minor. At the beginning I had some difficulty reading his handwriting, but before too long I could read it better than I could my own.

However, I must say that the best part of being Aaron's editor was when he'd tell me more details about that month's story or share other memories he'd think of while we were chatting. I'd often ask him to write them down for future articles. Sometimes he did. I don't mind admitting that there were many occasions when he or I or both of us shed a few tears over the memories evoked from his personal anecdotes. It took me many years to confess to Aaron that I'm a pretty slow typist myself. But I never regretted my offer.

Several years ago, Aaron handed me a pad of paper with a story titled "Mili Rosloff - A Happy Life and a Sad Story". It was quite long. He asked me if I would type it up for him some time when I had the time. I'm sorry to say I never did. But now I have.

The entire story will be published in the Hakol in chapter format over the next several months. Beginning with next month's issue, I will submit to you the first of many chapters of Mili and Aaron's life together - one which, as his editor, I will sub-title simply "A Love Story". I think Aaron would approve.

Aaron, it was my pleasure to be your editor, but it was my honor to be called your friend. You will be forever in my heart.

With love and gratitude,
Linda Kohn



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NURSERY SCHOOL

Phyllis Denenberg
Nursery School Director



Thank you to everyone who made donations to our Chanukah Regifting Boutique. Any items that did not sell were donated to various local charities including Elijah's promise and Jewish Family Services.

On the last day of Chanukah, Thursday, December 5th, the Pre-K class will be going to the Regency Heritage Nursing Home to sing Chanukah songs for the residents. The children will also draw pictures for the residents to hang up in their rooms. What Mitzvah children we have here! We are so proud of them!!

Monday, December 9th will be Picture Day for our school.

In conjunction with our unit on community helpers, we will be visited by Sally Earles, a postal worker on **Wednesday, December 11th**. On **Thursday, December 12th** our Pre-K class will visit Magyar Bank and on **Friday, December 13th**, Denise the hygienist from Dr. Sulla's office will show us how to take proper care of our teeth.

Conferences for all classes will take place Monday December 16th and Tuesday, December 17th. There will be regular sessions for all classes on those dates. Parents will sign up for conferences a week or so before the scheduled dates.

Reminder: School will be closed for Winter Break from Monday December 23rd through Wednesday, January 1st. Classes will resume on Thursday, January 2nd.

See you in 2014!

Phyllis G. Denenberg, Director

ELECTION RESULTS

On Election Day, the ABC Square Cookies won the Pre-K election over Animal Crackers by over a 2 to 1 margin!



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USY YOUTH

This past summer, I went on United Synagogue Youth (USY)'s Poland/Israel Pilgrimage. I spent a week in Poland, visiting the concentration camps and ghettos of the Holocaust, as well as seeing firsthand the rich Jewish life that remains in Poland. Afterward, I spent an incredible month in Israel. I met amazing people, saw all the sights the country has to offer, and grew as a Jew. The entire trip was indescribable. However, one particular experience stands out for me.

Krakow is a bright, vibrant city, and where my group spent our first Shabbat together. All this, along with Krakow's long Jewish history, made that Shabbat extra-special.

When it came time to sign up to lead services, I confidently volunteered to lead Shabbat mincha. Leading mincha for forty-four of my peers from across the country, in a strange-but-beautiful city, a pulse of European Jewish life, was a defining moment of my summer. And the funny thing is, without USY right at home at B'nai Tikvah, that wouldn't have been possible. I had learned mincha about three months before Pilgrimage for North/South Brunswick USY's USY Takes Over Shabbat. That allowed me to have a pivotal Jewish experience, one that will always be with me. And I look forward to continuing to learn and grow, right here in the USA with USY and B'nai Tikvah.

Hallel Yadin

PARTY POEMS

Some events in our lives our memories spark.
The dates on our calendars we want to mark.
Birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, too,
Can seem truly historic when they happen to you.

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Continued next page

Donations continued

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Anne Kroll, in appreciation of Rabbi & Ruth Ann Wolkoff, for inviting her to our awesome picnic

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THANK YOU

We want to thank, Joyce Fishelberg, Mae Rubinstein, Beverly Leipzig-Silien & Bill Greenberg for making November birthday calls.

A special thank you to Jay Scheuer for his amazing prayer book repairs and to Phyllis Pinsky for doing her beautiful calligraphy for B'nai Mitzvah and Baby Naming certificates.

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Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 28 Kislev No Religious School HANUKAH	2 29 Kislev Nursery School Pictures KADIMA Hanukah Party HANUKAH	3 30 Kislev Men's Basketball HANUKAH	4 1 Tevet USY Hanukah Party Hanukah Family Party Last night of HANUKAH	5 2 Tevet Last day of HANUKAH	6 3 Tevet KADIMA Shabbaton	7 4 Tevet Texas Hold'em
8 5 Tevet Aleph Family Activity	9 6 Tevet Board of Directors	10 7 Tevet Sisterhood Board Israel Study Group Men's Basketball	11 8 Tevet	12 9 Tevet	13 10 Tevet Birthday Shabbat FAST DAY	14 11 Tevet
15 12 Tevet KADIMA Rock Climbing Dalet Program Chai Breakfast Sisterhood Meeting	16 13 Tevet KADIMA Meeting Nursery Conferences School Board	17 14 Tevet Nursery Conferences Men's Basketball	18 15 Tevet USY Event	19 16 Tevet Bikur Cholim	20 17 Tevet School Shabbat Party Family Shabbat	21 18 Tevet
22 19 Tevet Start of Schools' Winter Break	23 20 Tevet No Nursery School Congregational Meeting	24 21 Tevet No Nursery School	25 22 Tevet Office & Schools Closed	26 23 Tevet No Nursery School	27 24 Tevet No Nursery School	28 25 Tevet
29 26 Tevet	30 27 Tevet Palestine Study Group No Nursery School	31 28 Tevet No Nursery School NEW YEAR'S EVE			Candle Lighting 6 4:13 pm 13 4:14 pm 20 4:16 pm 27 4:20 pm	Shabbat Ends 7 5:16 pm 14 5:17 pm 21 5:20 pm 28 5:24 pm



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