

HAKOL • הקול

בני
תקווה | B'nai
Tikvah

THE VOICE OF CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH

THE JCC OF NORTH AND SOUTH BRUNSWICK

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.



Saturday, 4 th	Junior Congregation Latkes & Vodkas
Sunday, 5 th	Rabbi Lecture USY Event
Monday, 6 th	Board of Directors
Wednesday, 8 th	Lunch With Rabbi USY Board
Friday, 10 th	Birthday Shabbat
Saturday, 11 th	Junior Congregation Hagalil USY Prom
Sunday, 12 th	Brunch with Rabbi
Monday, 13 th	Sisterhood Board Blood Drive
Tuesday, 14 th	Rabbi in Monroe
Wednesday, 15 th	Lunch With Rabbi
Thursday, 16 th	Bikur Cholim
Friday, 17 th	Shabbat Together
Saturday, 18 th	Bar Mitzvah of Max Manson Dueling Pianos
Wednesday, 22 nd	USY Event
Saturday, 25 th	Junior Congregation Cultural Evening
Sunday, 26 th	Gimel Class JET School JNF Program School Committee Meeting
Monday, 27 th	Men's Club Breakfast
Wednesday, 29 th	Ritual Committee Lunch With Rabbi
Friday, 31 st	Hagalil USY Convention

From Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff

A New Year



When you read this article, the world will have come together to hold its annual giant *brit milah* celebration. A new secular year will have begun. There is, as usual, a great temptation to look back at the year that has passed in order to make sense of it all.

What were the big stories? Synagogue shootings and other hate crimes against Jews; political hot messes in Israel, the UK, and here in America; measles; and #MeToo accusations against prominent Jews (among others).

In short: not good. When the best thing you've got going for you is a measles epidemic, you know you're in trouble.

But wait. During that same year, thousands of children were born, or came of age, or got married to the people they loved. Torah was learned. Holidays were celebrated. *Mitzvot*—literally millions of *mitzvot*—were performed.

Sounds like a pretty good year to me. So what was it, a good year or a bad one?

The rabbis liked to make the distinction between "*l'sha'ah*"—for the current moment, and "*l'dorot*"—for the generations. Things that are only *l'sha'ah* will fade from memory. Who can even recall the big events of 1919, a mere century ago (answer: pogroms and more pogroms)? But Torah and *mitzvot*, they are *l'dorot*.

So if you want to make 2020 a good year, forget about politics, persecutions, and pestilence. Stick with our enduring tradition instead.

Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff

PS: But get your measles shot.

From our President: Marty Abschutz

My prepared High Holy Day remarks (abridged)



Of course, our religious and spiritual needs are the sphere of Rabbi Wolkoff, Cantor Rockman, and the Ritual Committee. CBT has that and much more. There are programs, events, and activities that meet our educational, cultural, emotional, social, physical, and entertainment needs.

In September, a busload of members visited the Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust - at a very reduced price, thanks to the generosity of Rabbi Wolkoff and Barbra London, a relatively new member, championing the trip. They received a guided tour of the very special "Auschwitz - Not Long Ago. Not Far Away" exhibit. Afterwards, they returned here for lunch and a discussion led by Rabbi Wolkoff.

This fall, we experienced our first Camp B'nai Tikvah. Truly, there was something for everyone from backgammon to kickball. Our members divided into two teams: Blue and White.

CBT has become the "go-to" place for Israel-related programming in Central NJ. This year, we're increasing that commitment through our new Tikvah for Israel Wine Club. Every other month, you can choose to participate by ordering two wines from Israel. Our next offering will be in February; see our Past-President, Adrienne Ross, to place an order.

This past year, our long-running and award-winning Family Shabbat program, championed for more than two decades by Marc and Bobbi Binder, grew into Shabbat Together - for all ages. Our next Shabbat Together is Friday, January 17th. RSVP by Tuesday the 14th.

Back in November, CBT took a Walk in the Park and later that day had our L'Dor Vador annual music celebration.

We have active USY, Kadima, Sisterhood (whose year 5780 theme is wellness, too) and Men's Club at CBT. Look for the Men's Club Breakfast on various Sunday Mornings. New this year, Sisterhood will be sponsoring Shabbat lunch about once a month. And on December 15th, we hosted the Federation of Men's Clubs regional dinner, where we honored our own Charlie Valan and Corey Sookerman.

Among our most important programs is the Passport to Israel. We began this program more than 20 years ago to ease the financial burden on members who were sending their children to Israel for a learning program. Recently, under the leadership of Assistant Treasurer, Marc Rosen, and our Co-VPs of School and Youth, Melissa Kessler and Andrew Goldberger, we have revamped the program.

Part 2

From Cantor Bruce D. Rockman

Just A Part of You



Among our goals in our religious school, one is to imbue our children with an understanding of mitzvot. Tzedakah is one of the most important mitzvot/commandments. During the coming months, our students will become better acquainted with the organizations that work to change and improve the world. We will conduct a Tzedakah fair this spring, where our students will teach us about charitable organizations, Jewish and secular, American and Israeli.

Chesed for Chanukah, the hygiene collections for needy people in New Brunswick, the South Brunswick Interfaith Clergy Thanksgiving Better Together community service project, the holiday Adopt A Family program, and the USY Yom Kippur food drive all are proof of our commitment and passion for doing acts of loving kindness.

Where do you learn to be generous? Where did you learn to value community activism and gain the understanding that we must help those less fortunate than ourselves?

Most likely, your parents taught you this responsibility. Perhaps experience, observation, or a public service announcement caught your attention. And it is even possible that the value of sharing was taught to you in school, Hebrew school, or by an inspirational sermon from the pulpit. Regardless, at this point, it is organic, just a part of you.

In an article in Tzedakah 101 from myjewishlearning.com it states: *“Biblical prophets castigated the Israelites for neglecting and even exploiting the poor, insisting that God has particular concern for those in need. The rabbis of classical Judaism praised tzedakah, calling it, for example, “equal in value to all the other mitzvot combined.” They also praised those who practice it, saying that they attain the level of holiness of someone who brought sacrifices in the ancient Temple.”*

charity in three ways. Charity is done with one's money, while loving-kindness may be done with one's money or with one's person. Charity is done only to the poor, while loving-kindness may be given to both the poor and to the rich. Charity is given only to the living, while loving-kindness may be shown to the living and to the dead.” (Sukka 49b)

Maimonides defines eight levels in giving charity (tzedakah), each one higher than the preceding one. On an ascending level, they are as follows:

8. When donations are given grudgingly.
7. When one gives less than he should, but does so cheerfully.
6. When one gives directly to the poor upon being asked.
5. When one gives directly to the poor without being asked.
4. Donations when the recipient is aware of the donor's identity, but the donor still doesn't know the specific identity of the recipient.
3. Donations when the donor is aware to whom the charity is being given, but the recipient is unaware of the source.
2. Giving assistance in such a way that the giver and recipient are unknown to each other. Communal funds administered by responsible people are also in this category.
1. The highest form of charity is to help sustain a person before they become impoverished by offering a substantial gift in a dignified manner, or by extending a suitable loan, or by helping them find employment or establish themselves in business so as to make it unnecessary for them to become dependent on others.

All in all, the quality of the lives we live and the kindness that we show in our daily lives helps us to teach our children well. Do you have a favorite charity that you think our children should become better acquainted with? Please send your ideas and feedback to me at cantor@bnaitikvah.org. Maybe you would like to make a presentation, too?

Worship the Lord with Joy and Gladness,
Cantor Bruce Rockman

HAKOL

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

Published monthly, except July and August. Submissions are encouraged about events, group activities, and anything relevant to the Jewish community. Submissions, subject to available space and editorial constraints, are due by the 15th of the preceding month. Please address all articles and correspondence to HakoI@bnaitikvah.org and try to avoid use of PDF files. Current issues are emailed via the CBT Newsletter.

“Archives can be found at bnaitikvah.org. Editors: Gary Bergman, Ann Gold, Art Biderman. Advertising: Meryl Harris and Janet Weiss.



NO COST
TO ATTEND

RSVP
REQUIRED

JEWISH BREAKFAST NATIONAL FOR FUND ISRAEL

FEATURING GUEST SPEAKER

Captain (Res.) Libby Weiss



Libby Weiss was a prominent IDF spokesperson on social and traditional media. She told the IDF's story to millions of followers on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, and YouTube in several languages, and oversaw the military's relations with major North American media in high-stress situations such as the 2014 Gaza war.

EVENT CO-CHAIRS

Beth & Jules Cohn
Stephanie & Joel Markel
Allison & David Nagelberg
Adrienne & Andrew Ross
Shelly & Steve Talmud

CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH LEADERSHIP

Rabbi Robert Wolkoff
Cantor Bruce Rockman

For security purposes,
Jewish National Fund reserves
the right to check IDs and all
bags are subject to search.

Sunday, March 22, 2020

10:30 - 11:30 am Featured Speaker

Please arrive at 10:00 am for breakfast and registration

RSVP by March 14 at jnf.org/gardenstate

Congregation B'nai Tikvah

1001 Finnigans Lane, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

More Information: Anna Millstein, Senior Campaign Executive, Central NJ,
amillstein@jnf.org, 973.593.0095 x826



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Shabbat Together

Friday, January 17, 2020 – 6:15pm in the social hall

FAMILY SHABBAT SERVICES 7:10pm IN THE SANCTUARY
REGULAR SERVICES FOLLOWING AT 7:30pm

**Menu includes Baked Ziti
along with salmon, veggie sides, and non-dairy pasta
as usual, veggies to nibble on when everyone arrives**

Number of adults:	_____	@ \$10.00/adult	\$_____
# of young adults (14-18):	_____	@ \$5.00/person	\$_____
# of children 13 and under:	_____	@ \$0.00	\$0.00

of people eating salmon (this will help with our preparation) _____

Names of those attending (please list ages of children):

Celebrating something special this month?

For \$18 we will make an announcement on your behalf, including that you are sponsoring our Kiddush dessert.

{ } Sponsoring Kiddush @18.00 (minimum) Occasion to be announced:

Total enclosed: \$_____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please make check payable to “Congregation B’nai Tikvah” with “Shabbat Together” on the envelope.
Mail to the synagogue or leave in the Family Shabbat slot in the synagogue office
RSVP A MUST by Tuesday, January 14 for dinner prepared for Friday, January 17
Contact: Bobbi Binder 732-690-4779 bobbibinder@gmail.com

NOTE: Family Shabbat Services begin 7:10 followed by regular services at 7:30



Craig Cohen



Josh Oliver

Sunday, January 26th Jewish Comedian Discussion by Larry Wolfert



“Some people write essays, some sermons and some blogs – but Larry crafts his messages by creatively stitching together the words and music of singer/songwriters and comedians from the past half century.”

Join us for a presentation on celebrity Jewish comedians by Larry Wolfert, an award-winning instructor at several Lifelong Learning Institutes. Learn about and see videos of some of the best Jewish comedians of the 20th century. There are even portions directly related to Jewish life. No Yiddish required -- only an appreciation for well-raftered, highly entertaining material.

Breakfast served. \$10.00 per person. Men’s Club members no charge.

Did you know that B’nai Tikvah adopted a one-mile stretch of Route 1?

Did you know that four times a year volunteers walk this mile and clean up litter?

Did you know that Jeff Cadoff is the CBT liaison with the “Adopt a Highway Program?”

We thank Jeff and all the volunteers who have helped us help the Earth this year!



Bar Mitzvah
Max Manson
Son of
Jennifer & Howard
January 18th



sassss Lori Sookerman



Shelly Wistreich

Come join the Sisterhood for 2020 as we focus on our Mind, Body, and Spirit. At each event, you will receive a raffle ticket; a drawing will take place at our last meeting in May. The more events you attend, the more chances you have to win! Prizes will be devoted to your Mind, Body, and Spirit!

January 4th, 8:00 pm - Latkes and Vodka

Enjoy latkes, noshes and samplings of different vodkas or bring your own beverage. Sponsored by CBT Sisterhood and Men's Club. RSVP yesterday to cdm0710@optonline.net. Tickets are \$10 for members and \$14 for non-members (\$15/\$20 at the .)

Mitzvah Baskets

Help us decorate the bima with nonperishable food baskets. We also deliver baskets to other synagogues. Tell your friends about this service. Contact: Teresa Samtur 732-821-8163 or msamtur@comcast.net

Membership

Please visit bnaitikvah.org/sismember and discover the joy of getting involved in our circle. Sisterhood will love to welcome you. See our membership form in this edition of Hakol.

Contact: JessicaZink@optonline.net

Gift Shop

Store Hours: Sunday 9AM-12PM

By appointment, call Serena Blackin 848-702-3445

January Special

20% off all Hanukah items

All clearance items 75% off

Only cash or checks accepted at this time.

Mazel Tosses

Enhance the simcha of your child's special day by having Sisterhood provide these bags of soft candy in order to sweeten the day. Also great for an aufruf. Order your Mitzvah Baskets and Mazel Tosses at bnaitikvah.org at least one month before your mitzvah.

Contact: Marci Abschutz, 732-735-1946.

Torah Fund

The new pins are available with a \$180-or-above pledge. We would love to welcome you as a Torah Fund benefactor, helping the Women's League for Conservative Judaism to support the Jewish Theological Seminary, its teachers, Cantors, and Rabbis. Contact: Ann Rosenzweig 732-249-9141

Anndyapt@optimum.net

Rabbi in Monroe Township

Tuesday, January 14th ... 3 - 4:30

Jewish Family Services / Concordia Shopping Center

**FRENEMIES: Are Israelis & American Jews
Going Their Separate Ways?**

Free: RSVP Meryl: office@bnaitikvah.org 732-297-0696

Latkes & Vodkas

Feel free to
bring your
own beverage

Music, Games,
and Good
Times!

Saturday,
January 4th

8:00PM

Sponsored by CBT Sisterhood &
Men's Club

Enjoy drinks, noshes and
samplings of different
vodkas with your CBT
family

Buy Your Tickets
Now!

\$10 MC/SH members

(SH members the Sisterhood will
pay half of your ticket for this
event)

\$14 non-members

(\$15/\$20 at the door)

RSVP by December 31st
Sheryl Levine
(cdm0710@optonline.net)





Adrienne Ross

Tikvah for Israel

“Wine of the Month” Club

When I say wine, you say....Israel?

Today, there are around 300 wineries in Israel of different sizes and in all areas of the country. Wine is produced in five regions: Galilee (which includes the sub-regions of the Golan Heights, Upper Galilee, and Lower Galilee); the Judean Hills, surrounding the city of Jerusalem; the Samson region, located between the Judean Hills and the Coastal Plain; the Negev desert region; and the Shomron region, which includes the Sharon plain located near the Mediterranean coast and just south of Haifa.

Israel's wine industry produces primarily French grape varieties and thus the most common wines include Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Merlot, and Sauvignon Blanc. Emerging varieties that have recently been increasing in popularity include Cabernet Franc, Gewurztraminer, Muscat Canelli, Riesling, and Syrah.

There are 35 commercial wineries in Israel, and more than 250 boutique wineries. For those who have already participated in the Wine Club, familiar names will include: Teperberg, Tishbi, and Dalton. We also have had a range of wines including Merlot, Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Chardonnay.

Consider joining us on our next order. Each order is \$72 for two bottles of wine. Checks are made out to Congregation B'nai Tikvah, Tikvah for Israel. The next order will be in February.

L'Chaim!

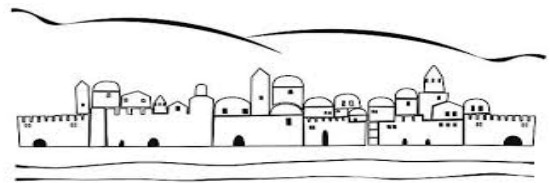


Learn more about the Israeli wine industry: Scan: bit.ly/israel-wines

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*Save the
Date*

**The Roaring
20s are Back!**

Saturday, March 14, 2020

*Gambling. Dancing.
Boozing.*

USY / KADIMA

Upcoming Events



Sydney Sookerman

- Jan 11: Hagalil USY jr-sr prom
- Jan 12: Kadima chapter event
- Jan 19: USY - Kadima iPlay America
- Jan 22: USY chapter event: "Clue Mystery Event"
- Jan 31-Feb 2: USY Hagalil Mid Winter Convention West Orange, NJ



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19

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nsbrunswickusy@gmail.com by January 11
to secure a spot

SUN
2:00-
4:30

Saturday
January 18, 2020

7:30PM

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Buy B.D.S. by Gary Bergman

I recently discovered a website that offers suggestions for great Israeli products. www.bdslst.org/full-list/ provides a long list of reputable and high-quality products from Israel to benefit US consumers. Although it wasn't their intention to endorse these products, I found them to be a valuable resource for products that offer high quality imported items from Israel. I urge you to check it out. Also see bit.ly/buybds



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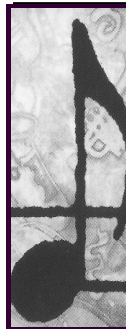
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Lisa Seidman
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Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Ruth Appel, in loving memory of Herman Klein
Nila & David Mason, in loving memory of Gertrude Shapiro
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Cantor's Special Fund

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Flora Cowen, in honor of Marc Dillman's 75th birthday

Bikur Cholim Fund

Shirley & Martin Engel, in loving memory of Esther Ginsburg

Shabbat Luncheon Fund

Debbie Allen on behalf of the Thursday Night Ladies Tennis Group,
in memory of Fran Rein
Andrea & Steven Katz, in loving memory of Sylvia Fischer
Andrea, Steven, Matthew, and Melissa Katz, in loving memory of
Ruthe Groudan
Andrea, Steven, Matthew, and Melissa Katz, in loving memory of
Aunt Dubby Goldstein
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Mildred Spindel, and Gladys Richter
Robert Bilker, in loving memory of Jean Rubin
Phyllis AlRoy, in loving memory of Aileen AlRoy
Howard Kalish, in loving memory of Albert Kalish
Abbey Lorber, in loving memory of Sam Kahn
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Norman Dickert
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Michele & Dave Greenfield, in loving memory of Marsha Thomas and
Ester Tzizes

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Passport to Israel Fund

Adrienne & Andy Ross, in honor of the engagement of Ben Ehrlich
Robert & Serena Blackin and Family, in loving memory of
Abraham Klein

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Marilyn Kfare
Blanche Fruhling, in loving memory of Benjamin Seidenstein

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Nila & David Mason, in loving memory of Milton Mason

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Janice Baer, in loving memory of Alvin Baer and Beatrice Baer
Cindy & Neal Gittleman, in loving memory of Michael Solomon
Bobby & Gary Bergman, Michael Greenfield, Renee & Steven Levin,
Herbert Mars, Larry & Dot Cohen, Janice & David Hoffman, Meryl
Harris, Lynne WeissMarshall, Bill & Ellie Greenberg, Janet Weiss,
Harriet Cohen, Gail & Herb Sussman, Serena & Rob Blackin, Susan
Miller, Sandy & Yitzhah Sharon, Marjorie & Joseph Spindel
Rose & Jeff Berger, Neal & Cindy Gittleman, Myra & Howard
Dickert, for helping with the Needy Family Program.

Arnie Miller Youth Activity Fund

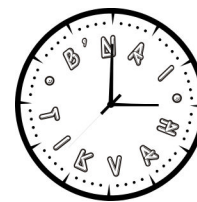
Susan Miller, in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Saul Surrey's granddaughter's
Bat Mitzvah
Susan Miller, in loving memory of Morris Miller
Susan Miller, in loving memory of Harry & Dora Schildkraut

Shabbat Together Fund

Marc & Bobbi Binder, in loving memory of Elaine Cohn

Prayer Book/Chumash

Marvin and Carol Eisenberg, in loving memory of Sylvia Fischer



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

Legacy Circle of Givers

Marty & Marci Abschutz
 Julie Seusserman & Arie Behar
 Gary & Barbara Bergman
 Bobbi & Marc Binder
 Sharon & Craig Cohen
 Gale & Marc Dillman
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 Adrienne & Andy Ross
 Rachel Ruchlin
 Barry & Phyllis Safeer
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 Brenda & Mark Sherman
 Janet Weiss
 Lynne WeissMarshall
 Gary & Marcia Wesalo
 LouAnne & John Wolf
 Ruth-Ann Breitler & Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff
 Tammy & Keith Zimmerman

Plus other friends who wish to remain anonymous

THANK YOU



To Margery Atwater, Jay Scheuer, and Gilda Gildenberg for making birthday calls. Also thanks to Phyllis Pinsky for the beautiful calligraphy on the B'nai Mitzvah and Baby Naming certificates.

Contributions

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This donation is being made by:

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USY

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½ page	3¾" x 10½" / 8" x 5"	\$525	\$90
¼ page	3¾" x 5"	\$400	\$65
Business card	2" x 3½"	\$300	\$50

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Candle Lighting 3 rd 4:25 10 th 4:32 17 th 4:40 24 th 4:48 31 st 4:57			1 4 Tevet Office & School Closed NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 5 Tevet	3 6 Tevet Wine Club Orders Due	4 7 Tevet Jr. Congregation Latkes & Vodkas ROSH CHODESH
5 8 Tevet Religious School Rabbi Lecture: 20-20 Vision USY Event	6 9 Tevet Board of Directors Open Men's Basketball	7 10 Tevet Open Men's Basketball FAST OF TEVET	8 11 Tevet Lunch with Rabbi Religious School USY Board	9 12 Tevet	10 13 Tevet Birthday Shabbat	11 14 Tevet Jr. Congregation Lunch & Learn Hagalil USY Prom w/METNY Dueling Pianos
12 15 Tevet Religious School Brunch with Rabbi Wine Club Pick-up KADIMA Event	13 16 Tevet Blood Drive Sisterhood Board Open Men's Basketball	14 17 Tevet Rabbi Lecture in Monroe Open Men's Basketball	15 18 Tevet Lunch with Rabbi Religious School	16 19 Tevet Bikur Cholim	17 20 Tevet Shabbat Together	18 21 Tevet Bar Mitzvah: Max Manson
19 22 Tevet No Religious School Rutgers Promenaders	20 23 Tevet Office Closed Open Men's Basketball MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	21 24 Tevet Open Men's Basketball	22 25 Tevet Religious School USY Event	23 26 Tevet Executive Committee	24 27 Tevet	25 28 Tevet Jr. Congregation Cultural Evening
26 29 Tevet Gimel JET RSC Meeting School JNF m Men's Club Breakfast	27 1 Sh'vat Ritual Committee Open Men's Basketball ROSH CHODESH	28 2 Sh'vat Open Men's Basketball	29 3 Sh'vat Lunch with Rabbi Religious School	30 4 Sh'vat	31 5 Sh'vat Hagalil USY Convention	Shabbat Ends 4 th 5:34 11 th 5:41 18 th 5:49 25 th 5:57