

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.



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

DECEMBER 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

PHYLLIS CHESLER
LUNCH WITH RABBI
COOKING WITH STACEY
REGIFTING BOUTIQUE
FINGERS AGAINST CANCER
LUNCH WITH RABBI
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HANUKAH PARTY
NURSERY SCHOOL HANUKAH PARTY
BIRTHDAY SHABBAT
LUNCH AND LEARN
CANTOR JOSEPH MALOVANY
SISTERHOOD/MEN'S CLUB
LATKAS AND VODKA
LUNCH WITH RABBI
BIBLE'S BEST IDEAS
FAMILY SHABBAT
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
CBT AT THE MOVIES

From the Desk of Cantor Bruce Rockman



\Sunday, December 13, at 3pm
World-Famous
Cantor Joseph Malovany
In Concert
Please Purchase Tickets at
www.bnaitikvah.org/concert
or by visiting our synagogue office

A Great Cantor and a Better Man Joseph Malovany

When peace comes to the world, music, our universal language will be the catalyst, helping to unify the people of the world.

We at B'nai Tikvah have had the opportunity to experience some of the most extraordinary Jewish musical artists of our time at the L'dor Va'dor Concerts and the Rejoice Festival. Each of our guest artists has entertained, taught, and inspired us. It is never fair to compare any of these special people, for me it is like asking to choose a favorite child; we really love them equally, but each is special in his or her own majestic way. So it is when we invite any of the great artists who have graced our bima, Cantor Joseph Malovany's reputation as a teacher and cantor is internationally renowned; soon he will inspire us.

Shortly, on December 13th, we will have the pleasure of meeting one of the finest cantors - - and a remarkable man - - we have ever encountered. I'm sure we will be awed by Cantor Malovany's expert musical presentation, but I am most excited to hear him recount his remarkable life, story I believe that you will be

Mesmerized! This Is a show for all ages, so please bring your children; you will have an outstanding experience.

During the days of the Soviet Union, where life for Jews was so oppressive and rabbis were not permitted to function, Cantor Malovany found a way to provide pastoral and educational services as a visiting scholar and performer.

Cantor Malovany recently returned from Europe, where he has been concertizing and teaching, feverishly restoring our lost musical heritage throughout the continent.

I am profusely thankful to my friend, Dr. Naomi Vilko, whose tireless passion for the Jewish people is unsurpassed. We at B'nai Tikvah are indebted to Naomi for her vision and commitment to share her love for Israel with our community.

“Worship the Lord in Gladness; come before God with joyous song.” Cantor Malovany and all of the singers and players will create a truly joyous song. May our songs soar to the heavens and may God bring peace in our time.

With Joy!
Cantor Bruce Rockman

A personal note:
December 13th is one of the happiest days on my calendar. Stacey, my bride, and I were married 15 years ago at B'nai Tikvah, I have so loved our journey. You, our B'nai Tikvah family, have been with us through it all, sharing joy and sadness, yours and ours. We look forward to sharing so much more with you.

I hope you will enjoy this concert event with us in high spirits!

A Message From Rabbi Robert Wolkoff



Hanukah is coming. The festival of lights. A time of joy and celebration, of family and fressing. And this year, perhaps more than most, a time for reflection. Because Hanukah is not only about light. It is about light and darkness. Without awareness of how dark things can be, we cannot appreciate the significance of the light, the miracles experienced by our ancestors “in those days at this season.” The miracle of light took place in the restored Temple and, equally important, on the battlefield. In fact, two battlefields: the one fought with swords and spears, the other with ideas and ideals.

Two thousand years ago, we were facing an enemy that was interested not merely in political dominance but in cultural destruction. Judaism itself was threatened. Today, we—we as Jews and we as members of the world community—face an enemy with similar goals. I write these words while the city of Paris, the city of lights, is in agony. The blood of innocents is still in the streets. The enemy has engaged us on the physical battlefield (if one can call nightclubs and soccer stadiums “battlefields”). And the enemy has engaged us on the battlefield of ideas as well. The battle before us is a battle between modernity and medievalism.

At our recent “Visions of Peace” discussion, there was one principle on which virtually everyone agreed. It was that as long as people are being indoctrinated in violence and hatred, we will not be able to make progress toward peace. Evidence of such indoctrination is readily available, indeed ubiquitous. Out of the darkness of those who would return us to the Dark ages, though, we can see glimmers of light. Consider the words of Adnan Hussein, executive editor of *Al-Mada*, an Iraqi newspaper: “We cannot shake off our responsibility for the new and terrible terror attack that recently struck Paris, the French capital. We, the Arabs and Muslims, cannot renounce our direct role and our close connection to the terror

attacks that have been flooding all the countries of the world, including our own countries, for two decades or more.... We cannot escape our responsibility for terror, and no excuses will avail us. First we must recognize [our responsibility], and apologize to ourselves and others and correct our ways from now on. We cannot do this without thoroughly rethinking our curricula and changing them from the root, from elementary school to university [level]. There will be no forgiveness unless we change the way religion is presented in the curricula, in universities, in mosques and in *husseiniyyas* [Shiite shrines], and on the radio and television stations. For the religion [as presented there] is not a religion of tolerance, peace, harmony, mutual responsibility and compassion. The religion [presented there] is a barbaric religion characterized by beheadings and bloodshed and which incites to steal, usurp, enslave and rape. The other, [compassionate,] religion, which some claim is the true religion, has no presence in our lives. At best, its voice is feeble and heard almost by nobody, especially among the oppressed new generation that is marginalized and whose humanity is being compromised by poverty, rejection and injustice, and by the crazy curricula and *fatwas*.”

Such words bring light into the world. It takes courage to write such words, courage that deserves to be applauded and supported. Such words underscore the fact that the battle we face is not one between Islam and the world. It is a battle between humanity and inhumanity. And especially at this time of year, we can take comfort in the knowledge born of faith that in that battle, light is ultimately stronger than darkness.

Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff

PS: May you have as many blessings as there are ways to spell Hanukah...Chanukah...Hannukkah....

A Message From Our Co-Presidents



More than eighteen months ago, B'nai Tikvah hosted a phenomenal speaker – Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, the founder and director of Shurat HaDin (Israel Law Center), speaking about her organization's goal of Bankrupting Terror. Shurat HaDin "works with Western intelligence agencies, law enforcement branches, and a network of volunteer lawyers across the globe to file legal actions on behalf of world Jewry." Among their numerous achievements, they have won money judgments in the hundreds of millions of dollars in frozen terror assets and for the victims of terror and their families, and more than \$2 billion against terror organizations and state sponsors of terror.

We have since sponsored one after another world-class speaker on issues affecting Israel and Jews around the world, including: Kasim Hafeez – a Muslim who came to realize that everything he had ever been taught about Israel was a fallacy and thus became an ardent Zionist; Rabbi Ken Spiro discussing the age-old saga of Anti-Semitism, which long predates the founding of the State of Israel; and Body and Soul, which even the New York Times calls a "concise, skillful recounting of the story of the Jewish people and their connection to the land of Israel" and is "straightforward in presenting the historical record."

Last spring, we presented the film, Two Sided Story, which depicts the emotional journey of 27 Israelis and Palestinians who are "not trying to convince each other that their narrative is right, nor...seeking a political solution...but [working] to listen, to clarify the differences between how they grasp reality and how they see the other side." In October, we brought in

Sunni Muslim human rights activist Zebu Jilani, founder of SWAT Relief Initiative in Pakistan. Jilani has dedicated her life to improving the health, education, and welfare of SWATis, who have been besieged by the Taliban, natural disasters, extreme poverty, and brutal male domination.

Have you missed these presentations? There are many more coming up, including two of note in December: legendary feminist activist Phyllis Chesler and world-renowned Cantor Malovany in concert. We note that Shurat HaDin has recently filed a class-action lawsuit against Facebook, "alleging it allowed jihadists to openly recruit and train terrorists and plan terror attacks on its pages." Shurat HaDin "wants to force Facebook not only to remove the terrorists' pages, but also to better monitor and block users who post videos glorifying and encouraging terrorist attacks, and publish messages with instructions on how to carry out an attack." The lawsuit explains, "Since Facebook uses algorithms that match users with personalized ads and connect them to potential 'friends,' the company should have the ability to monitor and block such postings." If successful, similar suits may also be filed against YouTube, Twitter, and other social media outlets.

B'nai Tikvah is proud to be the center for education about these issues, which affect all of us, and our brothers and sisters in Israel. We look forward to seeing you!

Allison Nagelberg, Co-President
Ruth Anne Koenick, Co-President

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The synagogue can earn up to 15% on anything you buy from Amazon. First, go to smile.amazon.com (not amazon.com) and click under the search bar where it says: "Supporting:" Select Congregation B'nai Tikvah and make sure the location indicates: N Brunswick, NJ.

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Connecting you to a community of support

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Why we run this program? The following is an excerpt of one of the thank you notes we received on behalf of a family we sponsored: "This family has never experienced such great generosity. They felt overjoyed and emotional upon receiving the gifts. The mother told me she was happy to see that her children finally have toys to play with so they are no longer bored at home. The teachers were commenting that they noticed the children's self esteem improve when they came to school proudly dressed in their new clothes. The children are now appropriately dressed for the weather and are even wearing socks which were noticeably missing prior to receiving the gifts. They sleep much more comfortably at night with their new blankets and their heater....."

This is why we run this program...to make a difference in peoples' lives.

Who are these families? These families are all in need. They are referred by various sources including Jewish Family Services, local welfare directors, and school social workers.

How does this program work? Each family will fill out a wish list of their needs. The wish lists typically include items like towels, sheets, blankets, clothing, shoes, coats and children's toys.

How can you help?

1. Become a **family coordinator** for one family's wish list. This might involve getting your family, friends, co-workers, and merchants to donate the needed items to fulfill the family's wish list.
2. **Volunteer to obtain one or more** of the items on a family's wish list.
Donate money that will be specifically used to purchase items on a family's wish list. Checks should be made payable to Congregation B'nai Tikvah Holiday Program.

To participate in this worthwhile program, send in the tear-off below, fill out the form at Bnaitikvah.org, or e-mail Janice Baer at Jbbd11@verizonnet or call Janice at 732-940-0268

PLEASE RESPOND BY NOVEMBER 18th

SEND IN THIS FORM

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

I want to be a family coordinator

HAKOL, 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 All articles are subject to available space and editorial constraints.

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Please RSVP your start date to Aimee Weber at aimjweb@gmail.com OR call/text 732-406-9969.



CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH MEN'S CLUB

SERVING THE SYNAGOGUE AND THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1983

MEN'S CLUB NEWS by Andrew Goldberger,
V.P. Communications

The Men's Club Year in Review

The Men's Club has spent the past few months developing friendships, learning, and having fun. Won't you join us at our next events?

August 25th @ Trenton Thunder



Highlights: B'nai Tikvah's name on the scoreboard and the Sons of Tikvah band rocking the house prior to the game. #CantorRockmanRocks



**October 11th
@ Duke Farms**



Highlights: Steve Katz showing the kids how to use a compass, Craig Cohen teaching us all about the birds & the bees, and Mark Rones locating a geo-caching site.

November 11th and 12th @ B'nai Tikvah



Highlights: The Men's Club lived at B'nai Tikvah in November, hosting the FJMC Man of the Year event and the Jets vs Bills game on consecutive nights. #AtB'naiTikvahWeCan

Men's Club News
Check out the NEW Men's Club NEWS! You can catch up on all featured events with an updated news section on our web site, including additional event photos. From the B'nai Tikvah home page, just click on the "Men's Club" tile.

Men's Club Calendar:
See the updated B'nai Tikvah Men's Club Web site for all events and more details. Download a Men's Club application and join today!

- DECEMBER:**
- December 13th:** Men's Club Meeting @ 10 a.m.
 - December 19th:** Latkes & Vodkas with Sisterhood
- JANUARY:**
- January 10th:** Men's Club Meeting @ 10 a.m.
 - January 14th:** Whiskey Night



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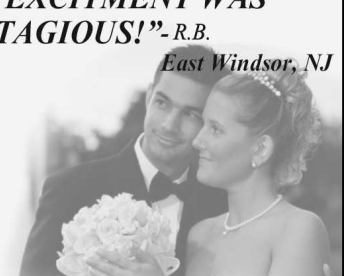
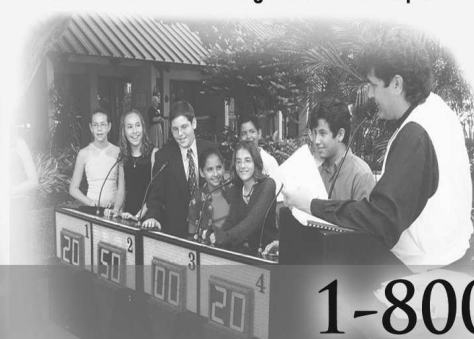
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HAKOL IS ONLINE

Want to catch up with Hakol?
 This issue and older issues of
 Hakol are available online at
 Bnaitikvah.org/hakol

Take another look at our weekly email announcements, aka the CBTNewsletter. The upper right corner has a cover image of the latest issue. Click the image or title to download the pdf.



Men's open basketball
 every Tuesday at 8 pm

New players welcome

Non-synagogue
 members \$7




Our beautiful Jerusalem menorah for sale

This Month

December 19th, 8:00 pm

Vodkas and Latkes. Come nosh with your fellow CBT family. \$5.00 per person; includes latkes, noshes, and a sampling of different vodka and non-alcoholic drinks. We ask that all who attend bring the mixers for their favorite vodka cocktail to share with the party (we'll supply the vodka). Please RSVP by December 11th to Sheryl Levine cdm0710@optonline.net or Marc Rosen marcr58187@aol.com.

Open to all - Sponsored by Men's Club and Sisterhood!

Save the Date

January 23rd - Check out bnaitikvah.org/passoverpoker to sign up and for more information!

Gift Shop

Store Hours

Sunday 9AM-12PM

Wednesday 4:15-6:15

By appointment. Please call Serena Blackin at 732-390-9515.

Hanukah starts at sundown on December 6th.

All clearance: take an additional 50% off new items added each month

The gift shop only accepts cash or checks as payment at this time.

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.

Pins and WL cards are available. For ordering information, please check the Bulletin Board or contact Ann Rosenzweig, 732-249-9141. Cards are \$5 if sent to you or \$4 if hand delivered at a Sisterhood's event.

Visit the B'nai Tikvah website to order your Mitzvah Baskets and Mazel tosses. Please have your forms in one month before your mitzvah.

Mah Jongg cards - Order your Mah Jongg League cards now for you and your friends and be ready to play! For details and order form, please visit the CBT website at bnaitikvah.org

TRIP TO ISRAEL

When you think of Israel - - what do you think about?

Hebrew...the Dead Sea...shopping...Tel Aviv...falafel...
the Kotel...the shuk...Masada...sun...the Sea of Galilee...



Think Israel for July 2018!

Contact Stacey Rockman staceyrockman@yahoo.com for details and to get yourself on our mailing list

Celebrating 15 years of Jewish Music at B'nai Tikvah

**World-Famous
Cantor
Joseph Malovany**
*Sunday,
December 13th
3:00pm*



With

Cantor Bruce Rockman
The Sons of Tikvah Band
Makhelat Hamercz
Hazzan Sheldon Levin & Cantor Anna West Ott

Born in Israel, Cantor Joseph Malovany began his career as a cantor at Tel Aviv's "Bilu" synagogue and in the Israeli army before stints at congregations in Johannesburg and London. While working at Fifth Avenue Synagogue and Yeshiva University in New York City for some 25 years, Malovany has toured extensively, teaching and giving concerts all over the world that have been attended by Presidents and Prime Ministers. Malovany possesses a brilliant spinto tenor voice, described by the London Guardian as "most powerful, beautiful and expressive spinto technique...sturdy and heroic".

**Concert Sponsor-\$500-\$1000 Acknowledgment in Program
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includes Reserved Seating and Dinner Reception for 2 and 1 Cantor Malovany cd

Reserved Seating & Dinner Reception-\$72

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Family Shabbat Dinner and Service DECEMBER 18, 2015

Friday, December 18, 2015 RSVP by 12/16/2015 - PLEASE
6pm in the MULTI PURPOSE room

Bring a friend or
two!!
Everyone is
Welcome

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.

**Cannot attend
the dinner?
Come to
services at 7pm**

Is your child or other family member celebrating a birthday or any other special occasion in the month of December? 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.

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.

NOTE

THERE WILL BE NO SEPARATE JUNIOR CONGREGATION SERVICE IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

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
DECEMBER 16, 2015

Questions? Call Bobbi @ 732-690-4779 or email eemaof3@comcast.net



CELEBRATE CHANUKAH WITH YOUR B'NAI TIKVAH FAMILY!

CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH'S ANNUAL
FAMILY CHANUKAH PARTY

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★ Pizza, latkes and other holiday treats! ★ Bring your family menorah/Chanukiyah
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Sing-along with our Religious School students and The Sons of Tikvah Band

CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH CHANUKAH PARTY RSVP

(PLEASE SUBMIT PAYMENT TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL OFFICE)

FAMILY NAME: _____

ADULTS: _____ # OF CHILDREN: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____ CONTACT ME – I'D LOVE TO HELP WITH THIS EVENT!



The JCC Early Childhood Center At Congregation B'nai Tikvah

Jennifer James, Director of Education

A few weeks ago, our teachers had the privilege of attending an exciting day of professional learning designed specifically for Jewish early childhood educators. Organized by Federation in the Heart of New Jersey, this full-day conference included new Jewish music for our teachers to use in their classrooms and many helpful workshops addressing issues that we encounter every day in our school.

Some of our teachers attended a workshop on having conversations with parents whose children are experiencing challenges with learning or development. This is something we care about deeply and, despite our experience in this area, it was good to get new perspectives on how to approach these important conversations. Other teachers attended workshops on differentiating the learning experience in the classroom, helping students who are struggling with various speech issues, creative new ways to bring Jewish content into our curriculum, and even stress reduction.

In the months to come, those of us who spent the day at the Early Childhood Center with our students instead of attending the conference will learn from our colleagues, so that the information and ideas they gathered can benefit our whole staff and all our students.

And speaking of Jewish curriculum – Chanukah is upon us, which means it is one of the most festive times of the year in our school! Decorations will adorn our hallways, and the sound of Chanukah songs will be ever-present in our classrooms. From our school to your family, we wish you all a *Chag Sameach* – a very happy holiday!

B'shalom,
Jennifer

Chanukah GIFT SUGGESTIONS

Good books always make fine holiday gifts...and these two make the mark. If you thought Jack Cooper's or Harold's was the "emmes"—fagheadaboutit! And if you thought only gentiles like Blackbeard looted and pillaged in the waters south of Florida—you'd be wrong! These two views of the Jewish experience will entertain and amaze you. ...Marty Engel



Pastrami on Rye: An Overstuffed History of the Jewish Deli

For much of the twentieth century, the New York Jewish Deli was an iconic institution in both Jewish and American life. As a social space it rivaled—and in some ways surpassed—the synagogue as the primary gathering place for the Jewish community. ... Google Books

Originally published: September 25, 2015

Author: Ted Merwin



Jewish Pirates of the Caribbean

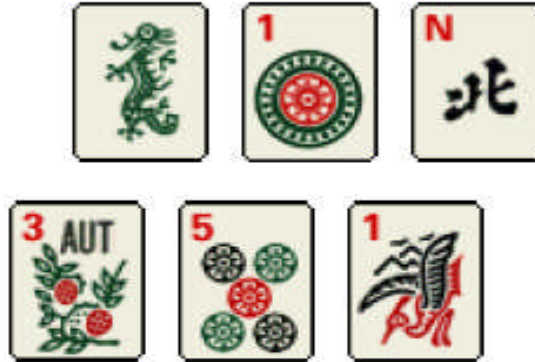
At the end of the fifteenth century, the Spanish Inquisition forced many Jews to flee the country. The most adventurous among them took to the high seas as freewheeling outlaws. ... Google Books

Originally published: 2008

Author: Edward Kritzer

These books are recommended by Marty Engel

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MY BAT MITZVAH PROJECT

In the Jewish religion, becoming a bar/bat mitzvah means becoming a responsible adult. As part of the preparation at my synagogue we complete a mitzvah project. A mitzvah project is a good deed that helps other people.

For my mitzvah project, I want to raise money for cancer, to help find a cure for a disease that touches so many and has touched me and my family. My good friend passed away from brain cancer a couple of years ago. And my aunt is currently undergoing treatment for breast cancer.

Cancer has taken away so many lives from people close to me and people that I don't know. I believe that the money from this project will not only help support cancer research, but it might also help save lives.

I hope to see you on December 6th or if you can't attend you can still support my project by making a donation.

Thank you

Sydney Botnick

*Monies raised will be donated to Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey to support cancer research.

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CBT Religious School and CBT Chai

Jennifer James, Director of Education



***B'tzelem Elohim* means “in the image of G-d.”**

We learn in *B'reisheit* that, alone among all creation, human beings were created *b'tzelem Elohim*, in the image of G-d. This is something that we keep very close to our hearts in the Religious School.

For myself and the teachers, it means that we constantly recognize each child's inherent worth and gifts. Each one is special and unique in his or her own way. It is our responsibility always to look for their unique gifts, to honor their individual insights, and to seek out and guide the spark of G-d that is in all of them. Sometimes this is very easy to do. At other times it can be more challenging - - and yet I believe that it is precisely at the most challenging moments that thinking about *b'tzelem Elohim* is most important.

For our students, *b'tzelem Elohim* is the premise (whether they know it or not!) underlying *Panim el Panim* – the Face-to-Face morning meeting that begins every Sunday morning class. This is a sacred time, because through the exercises, games, and teaching that goes on during *Panim el Panim*, we foster a culture of *kavod* (respect) and *kehillah* (community) based on Jewish values. And at their heart, both respect and community are founded on *b'tzelem Elohim*: you might say that it is that spark of G-d that helps us treat each other with respect and share ourselves with our friends.

But thinking about *b'tzelem Elohim* begs the question: What exactly does it mean to be made in the image of G-d? The even bigger question is: what is G-d? Our children explore this question in many ways, and some of the most profound answers come from some of our youngest children. The First and Second Graders had a fascinating group discussion recently and the thoughts and questions they came up with included these:

- * G-d is a boy
- * G-d is a girl
- * G-d is both!
- * G-d is neither!
- * G-d is big enough to cover the whole world
- * G-d will help everyone but he can't control you
- * Why did G-d make people different?
- * Is G-d all finished with making things?

Over the years, it has been my experience that Jewish parents are not always comfortable talking about G-d with their children. Often, this is because the parents themselves do not know how they feel about G-d, or they are concerned that they do not “know enough” or will give “the right answers.” In reality, however, the questions are more important than the answers. The conversations are more important than the conclusions. And exploring these ideas together can be a richly rewarding experience.

* * * * *

Our CBT Chai students are nearing the end of their first semester electives, with a new sense of how Jewish thought and history intersect with their own lives.

In Active Israel, the teens have learned many new things about early Zionism and the founding of the State of Israel.

They have been particularly interested to learn how the young nation defended itself from those who sought to destroy it, so I have given them information on everything from the Haganah and the Palmach (the pre-State army and its elite striking force) to the origins of the Israeli Air Force. Each week, their learning has included short videos, discussions, and learning Krav Maga – the Israeli-invented martial art that was originally created to fight against anti-Semitic thugs in 1930s Europe and ultimately developed into one of the most effective and successful self-defense techniques in the world. The culture of the IDF, which grew out of the Palmach and the early approach to defense that Krav Maga is based on, is also something that our teens have been interested in learning about. A local Krav Maga instructor, Brandon Alterman from Brunswick Martial Arts and Fitness in North Brunswick, has been a fabulous addition to our staff for these Krav Maga lessons in the gym.

In our Soul Food class, every week we explore a different way in which Judaism elevates mundane tasks like preparing and eating food into a holy experience.

The teens in this class have learned various *brachot* (blessings) for different foods, studied the origins of *kashrut* that are found in the Torah, and explored what Judaism has to say about being a vegetarian and about GMOs. Sometimes the answers are not as straightforward as the teens would like – this can be frustrating, and yet also a window into the vastness and complexity of Jewish thought and history. They have encountered many texts and cooked many delicious foods that tie in with the weekly topics – if only you could have tasted their Israeli salad and cheese blintzes and vegetarian matzah ball soup! Most recently, as they consider the emphasis that Judaism places on helping those who suffer from food insecurity and hunger, this group of teens has made substantial meals to be donated to Elijah's Promise, and visited the Better World Market to see first-hand the work that is done – and still needs to be done, every day – to support those in our community who do not have enough to eat.

* * * * *

Our annual Chanukah Party is Wednesday, December 9, and we are looking forward to a huge celebration! The Religious School Committee has been hard at work making plans. We will gather together as a *kehillah kedosha* – a holy community – to light Chanukah candles and sing the blessings together. We will enjoy a dinner of pizza and salad and desserts and dreidel playing, and the Sons of Tikvah will get us in the holiday mood with uplifting music! Some of our Religious School students will sing along with the band as well. Your whole extended family is invited! Please just let us know how many people will be attending from your family so that we can order enough pizza!

B'shalom,
Jennifer

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A special thank you to Joyce Fishelberg, Bill Greenberg, Beverly Leipzig-Silien, Jeryl Roller, Mae Rubinstein & Jay Scheuer for making November birthday calls.

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

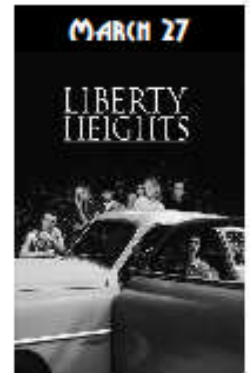
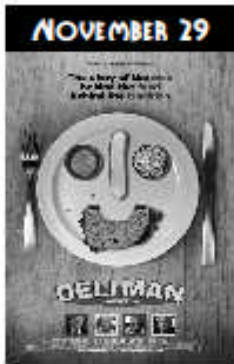
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