

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!

MONDAY, JANUARY 2

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

MONDAY, JANUARY 9

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

THURDAY, JANUARY 19

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

MONDAY, JANUARY 31

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

FRIDAY-SUNDAY FEBRUARY 3-5

SCHOOL RESUMES

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MEN'S CLUB

SISTERHOOD BOARD

USY EVENT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BIRTHDAY SHABBAT FOR JAN/FEB

WHISKEY NIGHT

SISTERHOOD BOOK TALK

ECC SHABBAT PARTY

FAMILY SHABBAT

JUNIOR CONGREGATION

LUNCH AND LEARN

USY SATO DANCE

CBT MOVIE NIGHT 'HATE SPACES'

KADIMA EVENT

JUNIOR CONGREGATION

REGIONAL KADIMA SNL

K2 HAVADALH SERVICE

USY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE

RITUAL COMMITTEE

GABRIELI TALLIT 3-8PM

USY CONVENTION AT CBT

From the Desk of Cantor Bruce Rockman



Chanukkah at the White House

On December 14th President Barak and Michelle Obama hosted their eighth and final Chanukah party in the White House. It was a strictly kosher event, as this party has been since President George W. Bush hosted it. Although I was not present, I felt as if I was there in spirit. The President's words were inspiring. Presidents Bush's and Obama's embrace of the Jewish people is reassuring and I'm confident that President-elect Trump will continue this important and significant tradition. Events like this are a great diversion from the news and controversies of every day and an example of that diversity is a strength of our great country. I will continue to be optimistic and pledge, like we all should, to do daily acts of loving-kindness. We are so blessed to live in a country where a kosher affair is a big deal.

On a very personal note, I am the proud uncle of Chanan Weissman, the White House Liaison to the Jewish Community, who organized this year's event that brought together some of the most consequential American Jewish leaders to the President's Hanukkah celebration.

As we celebrate Chanukah, Israel and America, we are strengthened by the knowledge that the Jewish people are recognized and appreciated for our very many great contributions to society and the world. We can continue to strive to be the best citizens of the world by being the best Jewish people that we can be, always a light unto the nations.

As the light of the menorah intensifies, so does our resolve to speak out against injustice and teach our children by our words and our deeds.

With Joy and Appreciation,
Cantor Bruce Rockman

I hope you will enjoy these excerpts from President Obama's December 14th Hanukkah speech. The entire poignant and humorous transcript is posted on bnaitikvah.org.

Thank you.

Cantor Rockman,

"Today in the White House, as you will soon do in your homes, we recall Hanukkah's many lessons: How a small group can make a big difference. That's the story of the Maccabees' unlikely military victory, and of great moral movements around the globe and across time. How a little bit can go a long way, like the small measure of oil that outlasted every expectation. It reminds us that even when our resources seem limited, our faith can help us make the most of what little we have. The small State of Israel and the relatively small Jewish population of this country have punched far above their weight in their contributions to the world. So the Festival of Lights is also a reminder of how Isaiah saw the Jewish people, as a light unto the nations.

This is the season that we appreciate the many miracles, large and small, that have graced our lives throughout generations, and to recognize that the most meaningful among them is our freedom. The first chapter of the Hanukkah story was written 22 centuries ago, when rulers banned religious rituals and persecuted Jews who dared to observe their faith. Which is why today we are asked not only to light the menorah, but to proudly display it -- to publicize the mitzvah.

This Hanukkah, let us take Hillel's vision of increasing the light seriously, and work to ignite and fan the flames of justice and freedom within our hearts and hands. May the memories of those we have lost, the commitment to legislative battles yet to be won, and the burden and yoke of our work keep the fire in our souls burning and ascending long after the flames of the Hanukkah Menorah are extinguished.

A Message From Rabbi Robert Wolkoff



In the Talmud (Yoma 69b), there is a stunning and cryptic discussion about how we grapple with our *yetzer hara*, our evil inclination. The rabbis ask why we have an evil inclination at all. The answer suggested is that we receive reward for resisting our worst temptations. To which the rabbis respond, “We want neither the evil inclination nor the reward for resisting it.” And then something extraordinary happens. A written tablet comes down from heaven for them, inscribed with a single word: “Truth.” From which Rabbi Hanina concludes that the seal of the Holy One is truth.

The story goes on to say that the rabbis succeeded in capturing the evil inclination, but the world started to collapse. They “looked in the whole land of Israel for a fresh egg and could not find it.”

To sum up the story: Passions are unavoidable, and even necessary. But they must be balanced, and tempered, by the truth.

This is a view which, under current circumstances, must give us pause. Because if there is anything clear about the state of the world today, it is that truth is in short supply. Instead, in the words of Steven Colbert, we have “truthiness,” things that sound vaguely real but have no relationship with the facts.

There is history here, and shared blame. It starts on the Left, which introduced us to the concept of “narratives.” According to this view—endemic on college campuses—there is no firm, absolute, objective truth. Everyone sees things their own way, and in particular sees things from the perspective of their own power position.

Simply put, “One man’s terrorist is another man’s freedom fighter.”

Which is decidedly wrong, and incredibly dangerous. And—to boot—is a recipe for endless conflict, since it means that narrative “truth” shifts as power shifts, and power always shifts. In other words, instead of fostering restraint of our worst inclinations, transforming truth into self-centered “narrative truth” serves only to aggravate and accentuate those inclinations.

That was bad enough. In recent times, it has gotten worse. Those who propagated the idea of “narrative truth” at least attempted to rely on facts. They interpreted those facts in their own way, based on their own judgments and prejudices, and ignored the facts they didn’t like, (“all the news that fits, we print”), but for the most part they tried to stick to the facts. Now, the buzz-word is “post-factual.” It used to be that truth was based on how well-informed a person was. Now, “truth” is based on how intensely one feels. And that has two perverse consequences. The first is that “fake news” has become just as real as “real” news. The bizarre conspiracy theory about a pizza shop in Washington D.C being a cover for a pedophilic ring led by Hillary Clinton—which almost got people killed when a vigilante walked in with a rifle to “investigate”—is just the latest example of “fake news.”

And the second consequence is perhaps worse. People actually avoid looking for and understanding facts, because facts that contradict preconceptions may be emotionally troubling. Which traps them even further in a world divorced from reality.

This, when put in religious terms, is a good description of idolatry. The seal of the Lord is truth, said Rabbi Hanina. When we cast truth to the ground, either to support our narrative or to coddle our emotions, we blaspheme. We make of our feelings and our prejudices an idol to be worshipped. Everyone has a right to their opinion. No one has the right to distort or ignore the facts. Because to do so allows us to justify evil with some “truthy” explanation, and that is an open invitation to our *yetzer hara*, our evil inclination, to bring out the worst in us.

Continued on page 6

A Message From Our Co-Presidents



Allison Nagelberg



Ruth Anne Koenick

Co-Presidents

In December, we did something we haven't done in months and months – something very decadent, and relaxing and rejuvenating...we got together for coffee to talk about anything except B'nai Tikvah! Not that there is anything wrong with talking about CBT, but we do that all the time: mornings on the way to work; nights long after the meeting at shul is over; emails and texts on and off during the day; even during Shabbat on the bima or at lunch.

We used to squeeze in coffee first thing in the morning at Dunkin Donuts every few weeks. We prioritized these dates on our calendar, and they sustained us – during long work days, and trying personal moments, and many happy times too. Then, somehow, life and other responsibilities got in the

way. Our morning coffee routine fell apart, until one day early in the month when we decided that it was time to get back to the good old days. We missed this!

With 2016 fading into the rear view mirror and 2017 out in front, let's try to reinvigorate some of the community activities we may have let slide. If you haven't been to Shabbat services in a while, it's time to come home. If you've never been to Sundaes on Saturday, don't put it off anymore. If you've been meaning to get involved in a committee, give us a call to see what would work best. If you've missed some of our great events and educational programs, there are any number of opportunities coming up. And if you have never been to an AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington D.C., make this your inaugural year!

Good friends are forever, and B'nai Tikvah is too! We look forward to connecting with you in 2017, and we wish you a happy, healthy new year!

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



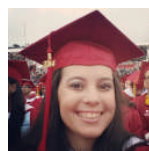
Men's open basketball
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New players welcome

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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 anything relevant to the Jewish community. Submissions are subject to available space and editorial constraints.

All Submissions are due by the 12th of the preceding month. Please send submissions and correspondence via e-mail to: hakol.cbt@gmail.com. View online at bnaitikvah.org and CBT Newsletter.

Editor: Michael Weiss

Advertising: CarolAnn Harkavay

AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE 2017

Many CBT members attended last year's AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) Policy Conference in Washington D.C. What a fantastic experience we had, together with almost 19,000 of our new friends! The pro-Israel community made its voice heard loud and clear, advocating bi-partisan legislation on Capitol Hill for the security of Israel and the strength of America!

AIPAC Policy Conference is not just about politics. It is an incredible demonstration of boundless Israeli innovation, expertise and spirit:

- *groundbreaking technologies that afford mobility to those who are paralyzed
- *life-saving and quality-of-life enhancing medical inventions that are being implemented everywhere
- *revolutionary solutions to the world's water shortage
- *compassionate first-response to global disasters
- *unparalleled integration of people with disabilities into the armed forces
- *art, music, culture, diversity and tolerance
- *plus amazing interactions with people from every state and many countries, including some 4,000 students who inspire everyone with their knowledge, passion and dedication. The Start-Up Nation is a tremendous source of pride and we hope that many more of you will join us next year, when the Policy Conference will be held March 26-28, 2017.

We have again purchased a synagogue block of discounted tickets and are certain to increase our B'nai Tikvah delegation next year. Many of us have already purchased our tickets for this year. This is truly an unforgettable opportunity to make an impact.

Feel free to contact me at nagelberga@aol.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards,
Allison Nagelberg



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.

Membership Corner

We are excited to welcome the following new members to our B'nai Tikvah family in 2016:

Michael & Alyson Chananie
 James & Sharon Decker
 Reisa Diamond, and Noah
 Joanne Ferstan
 Samuel & Yasmin Fisher, Jared
 Kenneth & Norma Freedman
 Jeremy & Hannah Friedman
 Irwin & Sherry Gerszberg
 Joel & Eileen Goldman, Joshua
 Steven & Cheryl Goldstein, Ethan,
 Justin, and Cody
 Andrew & Cindy Green, Alex and
 Harrison
 Gary & Kerry Halpern
 Jonathan & Brittany Hefetz

Daryl & Rochelle Kipnis, Emma,
 Ethan, and Sophia
 Jonathan & Allegra Kipnis
 Francine Kravitz
 Claire Lazar
 Andrew & Michele Levine, Derek
 and Sarah
 Justin & Dori Saler
 Ian & Natalie Schneider
 Craig & Helena Sherman,
 Alexander, and Aaron
 Frances & Harvey Sherman
 Harry Uniman
 Carol Zdan



Looking for something fun to do? Consider joining our Membership Committee. For more details, reach out to Tammy or Renee.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy 2017!! Hope to see you soon!!

Tammy Zimmerman, tzimmerman6@gmail.com, 732-690-9390

Renee Juro, rsjuro@verizon.net, 732-688-7501

Rabbi continued from page 3

As Jews, who have the world's longest association with "the G-d of Truth, whose Torah is Truth, whose prophets are Truth, and who abounds in deeds of goodness and Truth" we have a special obligation to make sure that doesn't happen.

Truth matters.



Family Shabbat Dinner and Service JANUARY 20, 2017

Friday, January 20, 2017 RSVP by 1/18/17 - PLEASE

**6pm in the MULTI PURPOSE room
7pm JUNIOR CONGREGATION SERVICE IN THE
BET MIDRASH**

**Baked ziti dinner with salad and challah.
Fresh veggies to nibble on beforehand.
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 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.

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.



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
JANUARY 18, 2017

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

Gabrieli Tallit Coming to B'nai Tikvah



February 1, 2017

3-8pm

**Jewelry, Tallit, Artwork and other items made in
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Any Questions call Serena Blackin 732-390-9515



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THIS MONTH

Thursday, January 19th at 7:30 pm – Join us for a Book Talk: Outwitting History by Aaron Lansky: The Amazing Adventures of a Man Who Rescued a Million Yiddish Books.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, February 25th, at 7:30 pm – Passover Poker is back! Open to the entire community. Bring your friends for a great time. More details to follow. Any questions, please contact Sheryl Levine, cdm0710@optonline.net

Membership - It's never too late to join Sisterhood. Please visit the CBT website at <http://bnaitikvah.org/community-2/sisterhood/sisterhood-membership-application/> if you are interested in getting involved. Sisterhood would love to welcome you. For more information please contact Melissa at 617-869-1422 or at Melissa.dara.kessler@gmail.com.

Gift Shop

Store Hours
Sunday 9AM-12PM

By Appointment contact Serena Blackin at [732-390-9515](tel:732-390-9515) or serena@blackin.org

January Special
20% off all Hanukah items

Please save the date

Gabrieli and other Israeli Vendors are coming to B'nai Tikvah
February 1, 2017
3PM-8 PM in the Social Hall

Please remember the gift shop only takes checks and cash at this time.

Torah Fund

The new pins are here. They are meaningful and beautiful. Join us in supporting the Jewish Theological Seminary and its parts by pledging \$180 and receive a pin as a gift for your donation. Contact Ann Rosenzweig at Anndyapt@optimum.net or by phone at [732-249-9141](tel:732-249-9141). Watch the bulletin board for pix as well as beautiful new Torah Fund Cards that are available soon.

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 mitzvah baskets, contact Teresa Samtur, msamtur@comcast.net

Mazel Tosses

Enhance the simcha of your child's special day by having Sisterhood make soft, candy-filled bags to sweeten the day. Also great for an ufruf. Contact: Bonnie Kudwitt Beedirect@aol.com

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

Please look for the new 2017 Mah Jongg League cards order form on this edition of the Hakol.



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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

Presents the New Jersey Premier Screening of:

'HATE SPACES':

THE POLITICS OF INTOLERANCE ON CAMPUS



[Americans for Peace and Tolerance](#) has released a new documentary called *Hate Spaces: The Politics of Intolerance on Campus* that addresses the increasingly anti-Semitic environment on our country's college campuses. Avi Goldwasser is the executive producer, director, and writer of the film.

Hate Spaces illustrates how anti-Semitism is being made fashionable at many American colleges and universities through the on-going academic de-legitimization of Israel, the normalization of hatred in the name of social justice, and massive donations of Arab oil money to universities.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Charles Jacobs, President of Americans for Peace and Tolerance will be joining us for the screening of this film.

Place: Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 1001 Finnegans Lane, North Brunswick, NJ

Date: Sunday January 22, 2017

Time: 10:00 AM

Register: There is no cost to attend but please register by emailing Joshuasoliver@yahoo.com

There are many proven, effective ways to volunteer.
Doing nothing is not one of them.
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Gala March 18, 2017
Contact Jeff Schwartz
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CBT Art Auction - May 2017
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World Wide Wrap XVII

Sunday, February 5th 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

Please join Rabbi Wolkoff, Cantor Rockman, and fellow congregants in this international, enjoyable, family event.



After the Wrap, join us for a bagel and drash on the Mitzvah of Tefillin.

Be with our Men's Club as we join with tens of thousands of Jews around the world to celebrate the Mitzvah of Tefillin. Afterwards, please join us for a bagel (and more) and learn more about this wonderful mitzvah from the Rabbi and others.



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DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT



Wheelchairs, walkers, and canes are available to congregants in need of short-term assistance, compliments of the Bikur Cholim Committee. Contact the synagogue office or any of the ushers during services.



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SUNDAY
MARCH 12



I WANT YOU

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For more information, contact Jennifer at Morah.jen@bnaitikvah.org

I would like to host USYers during Winter Convention.

Host responsibilities are: *Provide sleeping space (they will bring their own sleeping bags) on Friday and Saturday nights; provide transportation (if you are not within walking distance of the synagogue) Friday night to your home and Saturday morning to CBT; pickup and return to CBT Saturday afternoon; pickup Saturday night; drop off at CBT Sunday morning; provide breakfast Saturday morning.*

Name _____ # of USYers you can host _____

I prefer to host (please circle one) MALE FEMALE

Please send this form to the synagogue office or email Jennifer James at Morah.jen@bnaitikvah.org



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BLOOD DRIVE

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Gary & Bobby Bergman

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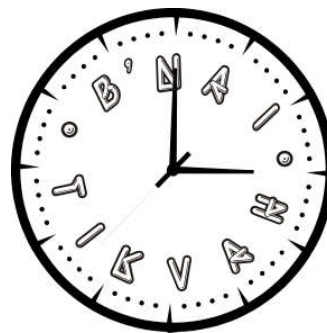
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Monday	7:30 pm
Tuesday	7:30 pm
Wednesday	7:30 pm
Thursday	7:30 am & 7:30 pm
Friday	8:00 pm
Saturday	9:30 am



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Continued on next page

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A special thank you to Bill Greenberg, Norman Berens, Patricia Rosen and Jay Scheuer for making December 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



Bar Mitzvah
Jacob Feltquate
Son of
David & Anne Feltquate
January 7

Hakol Donations

November 13 – December 12, 2016

Continued

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- Susan Miller in loving memory of beloved father-in-law, Morris Miller
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Youth Committee	Doug Smoller	732-254-2313	dsmoller@comcast.net

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 3 Tevet HANUKAH NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 4 Tevet ECC Resumes	3 5 Tevet Men's Basketball	4 6 Tevet Religious School	5 7 Tevet	6 8 Tevet	7 9 Tevet Bar Mitzvah Jacob Feltquate
8 10 Tevet School Committee Religious School Men's Club FAST DAY	9 11 Tevet Sisterhood Board	10 12 Tevet USY Event Israel Stamp Club Board of Directors Men's Basketball	11 13 Tevet Lunch with Rabbi Religious School	12 14 Tevet Gala Meeting	13 15 Tevet Birthday Shabbat For Jan & Feb.	14 16 Tevet Whiskey Night
15 17 Tevet Office & School Closed No Religious School	16 18 Tevet Office & School Closed MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	17 19 Tevet Men's Basketball	18 20 Tevet Lunch with Rabbi Religious School	19 21 Tevet Sisterhood Book Discussion 'Outwitting History'	20 22 Tevet ECC Shabbat Party Family Shabbat USY Freshman	21 23 Tevet Junior Congregation Lunch & Learn USY SATO Dance Shabbaton
22 24 Tevet Religious School CBT Movie 'Hate Spaces' KADIMA Event	23 25 Tevet	24 26 Tevet Men's Basketball	25 27 Tevet Religious School	26 28 Tevet Gala Meeting	27 29 Tevet	28 1 Sh' vat Junior Congregation Lunch & Learn K2 Havdalah Service ROSH CHODESH
29 2 Sh'vat Religious School Parent/Teacher Conference USY Basketball Tournament	30 3 Sh'vat Ritual Committee SIP Study Group	31 4 Sh'vat Men's Basketball		Candle Lighting 6 4:29 pm 13 4:36 pm 21 4:44 pm 27 4:52 pm	Shabbat Ends 7 5:35 pm 14 5:39 pm 21 5:50 pm 28 5:58 pm	



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