



THE VOICE OF CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH

THE JCC OF NORTH AND SOUTH BRUNSWICK

June 2017 7 Sivan - 6 Tammuz 5777

volume 38 issue 10

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.



THURSDAY, JUNE 1 SUNDAY, JUNE 4 MONDAY, JUNE 5 THURSDAY, JUNE 8 FRIDAY, JUNE 9

TUESDAY, JUNE 13

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

SATURDAY, JUNE 17 MONDAY, JUNE 19 TUESDAY, JUNE 20 THURSDAY, JUNE 22 **SHAVUOT**

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LIFE LINE SCREENING

FAMILY SHABBAT

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER LAST DAY AND

GRADUATION

LUNCH AND LEARN

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING PRE-KADIMA SWIM PARTY

CALENDAR MEETING

From the Desk of Cantor Bruce Rockman



June 2017

On Not Being Afraid of Greatness

It seems too me that this has been a very trying and difficult year. This is not an uncommon sentiment. On the other hand there has been plenty to celebrate, babies, weddings, graduations and our children becoming b'nai mitzvah. In reality, life is good and we are overflowing with blessings.

I realize that I must confess that I have become a bit addicted to the news. It's been crazy, like nothing we've ever experienced. It has been the greatest show on earth, and just in time, as Ringling Brothers Circus is about to fold their tents!

As we have learned, the Torah is our book of life lessons. Rabbi Jonathan Sachs, one of our modern teachers and interpreters of the Torah, offers great insights into Judaism and Torah, his book Essays on Ethics: A Weekly Reading of the Jewish Bible is great bedside reading. Rabbi Sachs' work is also widely available on the net at www.rabbisachs.org

In the moment, it is easy to embrace the power of God's gifts, but when you're stuck in the traffic of your life, it can be difficult to find the correct pathway. Which way should I go?

I've selected a portion of Rabbi Sachs' Torah commentary to share with you. I believe it contains the essence of how a Jew can successfully approach a

meaningful life. It helps to inform our relationship with God and our responsibility as citizens of the world. Please take a few minutes to reflect on these passages, I think you'll want to read more.

As a congregation we attempt to be welcoming. And although some people may disagree with my assessment, we are not very judgmental in the way each congregant chooses to observe the mitzvoth. We offer guidance and suggestions, but should our approach be stronger and more forceful? We are all on a path, but where are we going? Are you making progress? Are you afraid of greatness?

Worship the Lord with Joy! Cantor Bruce Rockman

Please send me your comments. cantor@bnaitikvah.org 732-297-0696 ext. 15

Ask now about the former days, long before your time, from the day God created human beings on the earth; ask from one end of the heavens to the other. Has anything so great as this ever happened, or has anything like it ever been heard of? Has any other people heard the voice of God speaking out of fire, as you have, and lived? Has any god ever tried to take for himself one nation out of another nation, by testings, by signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, or by great and awesome deeds, like all the things the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes? (Deut. 4: 32-34)

Cantor continued on page 15

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 3 Page HAKOL www.bnaitikvah.org June 2017 7 Sivan - 6 Tammuz 5777 Volume 38 Issue 10

A Message From Rabbi Robert Wolkoff



Har habayit b'yadeynu!

The Temple Mount is in our hands!

These were the words that electrified the people of Israel exactly 50 years ago.

They signaled the reunification of Jerusalem after its forced, and historically unprecedented, 19 year division. [Please note: Whenever anyone uses the expression "Arab East Jerusalem," they are acquiescing to an act of aggression and ethnic cleansing. The only reason anyone could think of "East Jerusalem" as "Arab" is because all the Jews living there were murdered or expelled in 1948. Why anyone—least of all, Jews—would passively accept, or even justify, that cruel reality is beyond me.]

And even more important, it signaled the return of Jerusalem to Jewish sovereignty for the first time in nearly 2,000 years—an event triggering theological tidal waves that have not stilled to this day.

Finding words adequate to describe the significance of this is a challenge. It is a transcendent moment, an historic event on a par with, or even exceeding, the great events of the past, both Jewish and secular—the destruction of the Temple, the Magna Carta, the printing press, the expulsion from Spain, Columbus, 1776, D-Day, and so forth.

Truly, we have lived in historic times!

The irony, though, is how often we forget this, how easily we lose sight of the miracle we have witnessed. On the one hand, there are repeated challenges to Jewish sovereignty. UNESCO recently ignored the connection between Jews and Jerusalem; the Obama administration did not veto a UN

resolution describing the *kotel* (the Western Wall) as "occupied Palestinian territory"; and American officials at the consulate in Jerusalem, planning President Trump's visit to the *kotel*, recently said to the Israeli officials that were accompanying them: "We're asking you to leave, and we need to be left alone. Israeli officials cannot be here; this is not your territory, it's the West Bank." Right.

We note in passing that Trump administration officials backpedalled furiously from this position. And, truth be told, long before the Trump administration, it was widely known that the American consulate in Jerusalem is the most viciously anti-Israel/anti-Semitic bastion of the State Department—and that's saying a lot! For the fun of it, just compare the home pages of the Consulate in Jerusalem with the Embassy in Tel Aviv). But be that as it may, the deafening lack of support for the Jewish return to Jerusalem is, if hardly surprising, uniquely disappointing.

And even if we ignore the refusal of the world to celebrate our return (what, after all, did we really expect?), the day-to-day tensions in Jerusalem get in the way of our appreciating its transcendence. We all know the stories about Haredim throwing stones on Shabbat, Beitar Yerushalayim soccer hoodlums throwing racist insults, and secular Jews throwing fits about religious coercion, housing prices, university tuition, etc., etc.

It's hard to think about the heavenly Jerusalem when nearly half of earthly Jerusalem lives below the poverty line.

And yet, and yet... In its essence, Jerusalem is the center of the world. And it reflects the world of which it is the center. If there is religious conflict in the world, there will be religious conflict in Jerusalem. If there is racism in the world, there will be racism in Jerusalem. If there are social and economic ills in the world, there will be social and economic ills in Jerusalem.

Continued on page 14

A Message From Our Co-Presidents

7 Sivan - 6 Tammuz 5777





Allison Nagelberg

Ruth Anne Koenick

Co-Presidents

www.bnaitikvah.org

Everything we need to know we learned as Co-Presidents of CBT.

Well this is not quite right but there is much that we learned in addition to what we have noted during our Yom Kippur speeches over the last four years.

- We learned to share, just like in Kindergarten, and we realized that we both don't have to be at every meeting or take charge of every issue. Not only are there wonderful people who step up when asked, we can continue to email, cc, text and talk multiple times a day to keep each other in the loop.
- We learned that if you don't ask, you don't get.

 Many people are more than willing to help
 with their time and their money, and all you
 have to do is ask! By the same token, sometimes hard as it is you have to learn to take
 "No" for an answer. While many people are
 always willing to step up, for some, it isn't the
 right time or the right job. Still, there is always
 another time and another job!
- We learned to keep our personal differences out of our synagogue work. While we do love each other in a very different way than when we started this journey four years ago, we have also learned to respect our differences.

- We learned that there is always more: more to give, more to do, more funds to raise, more congregants and prospective congregants to meet, more programs to plan, and almost more than 24 hours in a day.
- We learned to value each other's strengths and understand our weaknesses. Allison seems to be able to run on empty, but doesn't seem to realize there are NOT more than 24 hours in a day. Ruth Anne needs more time to accomplish things and more sleep as she has less energy and more physical limitations, but her institutional memory as a President/co-President for EIGHT years is invaluable.
- We learned that when it comes to Ahavat Yisrael

 Love of Israel our community is second to
 none!
- We learned that as much as we love CBT, sometimes our husbands, children, other family, friends and work commitments come first.

 And we learned that these cherished people in our lives are tolerant and supportive beyond measure
- We learned that our professionals our Rabbi and Cantor, Executive Director, administrative staff, school staff and even our custodial staff consider B'nai Tlkvah to be their home.
- We reaffirmed our love for B'nai Tikvah and for all of you who make this congregation the wonderful, warm and generous group it has been and continues to be.

Signing off as your Co-Presidents Ruth Anne Koenick and Allison Nagelberg **HAKOL**



<u>THIS MONTH</u>

Friday, June 9th - Please join Sisterhood, USY and Kadima for the End of Year Dinner and Installation of our new officers. We will start the evening at 6:30 for dinner, followed by services.

www.bnaitikvah.org

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

The gift shop is closed during the summer. By appointment only please contact Serena Blackin at 732-390-9515 or 848-702-3445

I want to thank everyone who supported the gift shop this year and those who purchased tallit at the Gabrieli event in January. Felice, Nancy and I are thrilled to report it the most successful year for the shop to date.

Felice and Nancy a special thanks to you both for your continued support.....I couldn't do this without the two of you!!

Serena

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. 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

The 2017 Mah Jongg League cards are ready for purchase at the Gift Shop, \$8 for regular and \$9 for large cards.



Do you have an accesses code to the synagogue?

Come to the office or call Lynne at 732-297-0696 and she will assign one to you.



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B'nai Tikvah Calendar Fundraiser **September 2017 - August 2018**

The synagogue calendar includes Hebrew/English dates, holidays, school and other special events, meetings, candle-lighting times, and planned activities for the year.

Celebrate your birthdays, anniversaries, and family events! Advertise your business and support our congregation!

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		Name				Yartzeit Dat
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Screening at B'nai Tikvah on June 13th

Preparations on the day of your screening

All ultrasound and heart rhythm screenings:

- Wear a short sleeved shirt that is open at the collar no turtlenecks
- · Wear a comfortable two-piece outfit consisting of loose clothing
- Do not wear pantyhose

Additional preparations:

Abdominal aortic aneurysm

- Fast for 4 hours prior to your screening.
- Make sure the meal you eat 4 hours prior to your screening is a light one (less than 1/2 of what you normally eat of non-gassy food).
- If you are thirsty during your fasting period, you may have 1/2 cup of coffee or tea and a moderate amount of water.
- If you take medication, take it as prescribed.
- If you are diabetic and are not comfortable fasting for 4 hours, limit yourself to a "diabetic meal" (piece of toast, 1 cup of any juice and 1/2 cup coffee or tea). If you are in doubt, please follow your diabetic care plan.

Complete lipid panel (cholesterol)

Fast for 8 hours prior to your screening.

Atrial fibrillation (stroke)

- Do not wear pantyhose.
- Do not wear a watch.
- Keep your cell phone turned off.
- Do not wear lotion or oil.

Glucose (type 2 diabetes)

Fast for 8 hours prior to your screening.



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To The Religious School Committee Members,

Thank you very much for all of your hard work throughout the year. Our annual family events were successful because of your time and commitment.

Thank you for your support of our first annual Zumba fundraiser. Look for similar events in the fall

We look forward to another great year together.

To Jennifer

On behalf of the entire Religious School Committee, words cannot express how thankful we are to have had the opportunity to work alongside you.

We are extremely grateful for your dedication and passion in providing our children with an enriching Jewish education. Thank you for making our children and our families your priority. We will always be grateful for the Jewish experiences we have all shared together. We wish the best of luck to you in your new position. They are lucky to have you.

With love and gratitude, Sharon and Suzanne

Linda J. Fellen, Esq.

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WEEKDAY MINYANS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volume 38 Issue 10

A group of daveners show up every day at B'nai Tikvah. They are here Sunday through Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm. They're also here Thursday mornings at 7:30 am and each Sunday at 9:00 am.

When you are coming to the synagogue for a meeting or to bring your children to Religious School or if you are available at any of these times, your presence in the Beit Midrash could make a real difference by insuring others to be able to say Kaddish for a loved one.

Weekday evening services only take about 15 minutes of your time. Weekday morning services last about an hour. Including time for kibbitzing.

I lovingly gave my niece a kiss on her cheek upon seeing her at a family get-together. Afterwards, I noticed her wiping her cheek. "Are you wiping off my kiss?" I asked her. "No", she smartly replied, "I'm just rubbing it in!"

JBN

JEWISH BUSINESS NETWORK OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY

The Jewish Business Network of Middlesex County is a great opportunity to develop your business skills, share referrals, and meet other like-minded men and women in a relaxing Jewish social environment.

MEETINGS TAKE PLACE THE 2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT: THE ESTATE AT FARRINGTON LAKE 16 PATRICK STR. EAST BRUNSWICK. 7:30 AM START.

CONTACT: AL WOLLER AT 732-718-6828 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

12 Page **HAKOL** www.bnaitikvah.org June 2017 7 Sivan - 6 Tammuz 5777 Volume 38 Issue 10

An uplifting program, filled with song and joy.

Makhelat Hamercaz Jewish Choir of Central NJ

Musical Directors: Cantors Sheldon Levin & Anna West Ott

Piano: Dave Schlossberg



Thursday, June 8, 2017

7:30 pm



This program is funded in part by Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission with assistance thru a grant provided by New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept of State, and the Karma Foundation.

Congregation B'nai Tikvah

1001 Finnegans Lane North Brunswick NJ 08902 Kosher dairy reception will follow

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General Admission \$20 per seat (\$25 at the door) Seniors or Young Adults 35 and younger \$15 per seat (\$20 at the door)

I cannot attend. Included is a contribution to Makhelat Hamercaz Jewish Choir of Central NJ.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER L'dor V'dor

We are thrilled to introduce the following family to the B'nai Tikvah Community...

Name: Jeff and Eileen Eisenberg

Hometown:

Jeff: Brooklyn, NY Eileen: Old Bridge, NJ

Occupation:

Jeff: former Speech and Language Therapist and current Composer/Lyricist of My Perfect Pet, a musical for young audiences opening this fall in NYC.

Eileen: former Executive Vice President of The Carlisle Collection, a highly successful upscale direct sell women's clothing company based in NYC.

Why did you join CBT?: Because of Jodi Marcou and Rabbi Wolkoff. They were both there in a time of need, when my mother passed away. The rabbi, who I'd never met at the time, agreed to come to our home during shiva and lead services. He consoled and comforted me during this difficult time, without knowing us at all. To say we were won over is an understatement!

What are you hoping to gain from your membership?: A sense of community and belonging, as well as to participate and grow within the synagogue

Favorite vacation: Australia/New Zealand and Israel

Favorite holiday: Eileen: Hanukkah, Jeff: Thanksgiving

Fun fact: Excited that our musical for young audiences opens this October in NYC.

Rabbi

Continued from page 3

And if any of those problems will be solved—and, our tradition promises us, they *will* be solved—they will be solved in Jerusalem. And there is no one on this planet more capable of solving them than Jews, the children of Jerusalem

To understand Jerusalem, we need to understand that time is past, present, and future. If we think only of the past—the monuments, the sacred places, the

history—we will be blind to the demands of the present—the tensions, the conflicts, the pressing needs

Peace, in the City of Peace.

May it come quickly, in our day.

But if we only think of the present, we will lose sight of the future—the dream, the redemption, the messianic time

Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff

Cantor

continued from page 2

Thirty-three centuries ago, Moses already knew that Jewish history was and would continue to be unique. No other nation has survived such trials. The revelation of God to Israel was unique. No other religion is built on a direct revelation of God to an entire people as happened at Mount Sinai. Therefore God – the God of revelation and redemption – is known to the world through Israel. In ourselves we are testimony to something beyond ourselves. We are God's ambassadors to the world.

Rabbi Jonathan Sachs

The God of Israel is the God of all humanity. He created the universe and life itself. He made all of us – Jew and non Jew alike – in His image. He cares for all of us: "His tender mercies are on all his works" (Psalm 145: 9).

When Jews behave badly, unethically, unjustly, they create a Chillul Hashem. People say, I cannot respect a religion, or a God, that inspire people to behave in such a way. The same applies on a larger, more international scale.

The prophet who never tired of pointing this out was Ezekiel, the man who went into exile to Babylon after the destruction of the First Temple. This is what he hears from God:

I dispersed them among the nations, and they were scattered through the countries; I judged them according to their conduct and their actions. And wherever they went among the nations they profaned my holy name, for it was said of them, "These are the Lord's people, and yet they had to leave his land." (Ezekiel 36: 19)

God trusted us enough to make us His ambassadors to an often faithless, brutal world. The choice is ours. Will our lives be a Kiddush Hashem, or God forbid, the opposite? To have done something, even one act in a lifetime, to make someone grateful that there is a God in heaven who inspires people to do good on earth, is perhaps the greatest achievement to which anyone can aspire.

Shakespeare rightly defined the challenge: Be not afraid of greatness.

Rabbi Jonathan Sachs

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How Will You Assure Jewish Tomorrows?

As a member of Congregation B'nai Tikvah you support our temple in so many ways, but have you thought to include us in your will or as a beneficiary in your retirement plan or life insurance? By leaving a legacy you can assure that the connection which you feel for the Jewish community and our congregation will exist for future generations.

All of us, regardless of age or wealth, have the ability to leave a legacy.

LEAVING A LEGACY IS SIMPLE

Your legacy gift can be customized and structured to fit your family's needs, your financial situation and your dreams.

Your participation in the community-wide *Life & Legacy* program sponsored by the Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation does not require a cash donation today.

It is simply a non-binding promise of a future gift.

Some future gift options include:

Bequests in a will Beneficiary of a life insurance policy Beneficiary of retirement assets

How do I begin?

Contact Tammy Zimmerman at legacy@bnaitikvah.org or by calling the office at 732-297-0696



Registration is Open for Summer Camp 2017 and School 2017-18

Significant Discounts for Children and Grandchildren of Synagogue Members!





For Information and Registration Materials, contact
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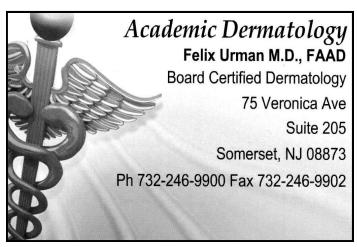
VISIT ISRAEL

Go with Cantor Rockman and his family on an unforgettable 10 day trip to Israel.

July 2018.

Visit sababatravel.com and click the upcoming trips link. Click on Bnai Tikvah for the itinerary and to register. We cannot wait to share our happy place with all of you!!





Hakol Rates Size	Artwork (W x H)	Annual Contract (10 Issues)	Single Issue		
Full page	8" x 10.5"	\$675	\$100		
½ page	3.75" x 10.5" or 8" x 5"	\$525	\$80		
1/4 page	3.75" x 5"	\$400	\$60		
Business card	2" x 3.5"	\$300	\$45		

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I AM BECAUSE OF YOU

On April 23rd, B'nai Tikvah members and guests gathered in commemoration of Yom HaShoah to hear Miriam Dobin, author of the book *I Am Because of You* tell an unusual story of her growing up with the four parents, holocaust survivors who brought her up in America. Miriam's presentation included photographs of her family along with a videotape of her trip in later years to Auschwitz/Birkenau where her grandmother, mother, and aunts were imprisoned. She spoke also about their triumphs in the United States.

Sincere thanks to the many people who helped arrange the program:

Rabbi Wolkoff	Cantor Rockman	Gordon Heit
Ruth Anne Koenick	Allison Nagelberg	Gary Bergman
Michael Weiss	Ann Gold	Kim Riemann
Joshua Oliver	Renee Juro	Lori Sookerman
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Andrew Goldberger	Serena Blackin	Joel Gerbman
Jennifer James	Lynne WeissMarshall	Meryl Harris





Author Miriam Dobin talking to our congregants and guests





READERS

We would like to thank the following people for reading the names of the victums of the Shoah:

Arthur Biderman Joyce Fishelberg Ilene Karp Jackie Master Jay Scheuer Gary Wesalo

Ruth Ann Breitler

Ann Gold

Ruth Anne Koenick

Gail Reinholtz Gary Tinkel Laura Waxman

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A special "Thank You" to Norman Berens, Joyce Fishelberg, Bill Greenberg, Jay Scheuer and Patricia Rosen for making May birthday calls

A special "Thank You" to Phyllis Pinsky for doing beautiful calligraphy B'nai Mitzvah and Baby Naming certificates.

Men's open basketball every Tuesday at 8 pm

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END OF ANOTHER YEAR

Hard to believe but this will be the last issue of Hakol for the year 5777. I want to thank everyone who has helped this past year and to all who have submitted an article or a picture or two.

I especially would like to acknowledge the following people for their help throughout the year:

Gary Bergman
Ann Gold
CarolAnn Harkavy
Janis Hoffman
Meryl Harris
Sandra Sharon
Janet Weiss
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Continued on next page

Hakol Donations April 15 – May 15, 2017

continued

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upcoming wedding

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HAKOL





Bat Mitzvah
Celia Schmeidler
Daughter of
Daniel and Rachel Schmeidler
June 10

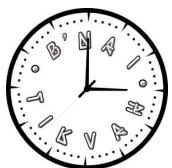


Bar Mitzvah Drew Kaelin Son of David Kaelin and Amy Kaelin June 24



Bar Mitzvah Brian Feldman Son of Bruce and Victoria Feldman July 1





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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	Sun		Mon	T	ues	7	Wed	TI	nurs		Fri		Sat
Cand 2 9	dle Lighting 8:05 pm 8:09 pm	Sha 3	abbat Ends 9:11 pm						7 Sivan	2	8 Sivan	3	9 Sivan
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4	10 Sivan	5	11 Sivan	6	12 Sivan	7	13 Sivan	8	14 Sivan	9	15 Sivan	10	16 Sivan
	ute to Israel arade in NYC Board of Directors		Men's Basketball Rabbi's Lunch I		Lunch a	ıt Giddy's	USY/KADIMA/ Sisterhood Banquet and Installation		Bat Mitzvah Celia Schmeidler				
11	17 Sivan	12	18 Sivan	13	19 Sivan	14	20 Sivan	15	21 Sivan	16	22 Sivan	17	23 Sivan
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18	24 Sivan	19	25 Sivan	20	26 Sivan	21	27 Sivan	22	28 Sivan	23	29 Sivan	24	30 Sivan
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FATHE	ER'S DAY		regational eting	Part	ADIMA Swim y Basketball	First Day of Cale		Calendar Meeting Lunch at Giddy's		alendar Meeting Inch at Giddy's		ROSH	
25	1 Tammuz	26	2 Tammuz	27	3 Tammuz	28	4 Tammuz	29	5 Tammuz	30	6 Tammuz	1 July	7 Tammuz
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