

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.

Tu B'Shevat "New Year of the Trees"



TUESDAY, 2

SCHOOL RESUMES

SATURDAY, 6

**JUNIOR CONGREGATION
LUNCH AND LEARN**

SUNDAY, 7

MEN'S CLUB

FRIDAY, 12

**BIRTHDAY SHABBAT
FAMILY SHABBAT**

SATURDAY, 20

**JUNIOR CONGREGATION
SONS OF TIKVAH CONCERT**

MONDAY, 22

BLOOD DRIVE

FRIDAY, 26

TU B'SHEVAT SEDER

SATURDAY, 27

**JUNIOR CONGREGATION
LUNCH AND LEARN**

SUNDAY, 28

**PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

WEDNESDAY, 31

RABBI LECTURE 8 PM

From the Desk of Cantor Bruce Rockman

The Trip of a Lifetime July 2-14, 2018



Whether you have been to Israel before or not, consider joining us on this unforgettable multi-generational journey. We will see the country from the north to the south. We will spend a Shabbat on a kibbutz (in a 4-star kibbutz hotel) in the north and a Shabbat in Jerusalem. You will experience famous Israeli breakfasts EVERY DAY! Come and climb Masada, float in the Dead Sea, pray at the Kotel, eat your way through the Carmel and Jerusalem markets and learn about the old and new. We will travel on a private air-conditioned bus with our own guide. We PROMISE it will be an amazing experience for all!

Stacey Rockman

So, Join Us in Israel

I am so excited that you are coming with our family to Israel. Those of you who have spent time in Israel know that when you are in Israel you feel at home, completed, engaged, amazed, invigorated and at peace. Being in Israel informs your very being, from our history to experiencing the growth of a modern society; we feel pride and understand why Israel is at the root of our existence.

Our professional tour guide will assure us of a personal experience and an unforgettable journey. We are assured of good times, delicious food, and distinctive discoveries and treasured memories. For me this will be an exciting and a new understanding of a familiar destination, my knowledge of the land will grow exponentially, seeing Israel through your eyes, thanks to my first guided tour of Israel.

During our time in Israel, we will enjoy a healthy taste of our heritage as well as the exhilarating "vacation" aspect

of our very eclectic home/land. It is a great time to visit. Israel is currently experiencing a boom in tourism. In the past advertising was focused on holy and solemn places, but as Yariv Levin, the Minister of Tourism, points out, the ministry has decided to change its approach with a new successful strategy, to sell Israel as a vacation destination to the world. You may have seen some of the new colorful TV ads extolling Israel's night/life and its magnificent scenery. According to Levin, "We signed agreements with all of the world's tourist giants (such as Expedia). We switched to aggressive competition in advertising - organic advertising that will put us on the home pages of recommended websites, so that someone who wants to travel to Rome will get an offer for Jerusalem."

Tourism in Israel has is currently reaching record levels, Israel is expecting nearly four million visitors in 2018. Politics can always impinge on tourism, but security has not been a deterrent to Israel's growth in tourism. I am confident that you will love our trip of a lifetime to Israel, celebrating 70 years of the modern State of Israel. Keep in touch with Stacey and with me, we would love to share our passion for Israel with you in Israel!

See you in Jerusalem!
Cantor Bruce Rockman
January 2018-Tevet 5778

Outside the United Nations building in New York is a wall bearing the famous words of Isaiah: "He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." Too often the nations of the world forget the words that immediately precede these: "For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

Those words, spoken twenty-seven centuries ago, remain the greatest of all prayers for peace, and they remain humanity's best hope for peace in the Middle East and the world.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

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 (preferably in MS Publisher format) to:

hakol.cbt@gmail.com. View online at bnaitikvah.org and CBT Newsletter. Editor: Michael Weiss Advertising: CarolAnn Harkavay

A Message From Rabbi Robert Wolkoff

Stay In Touch



As I write these words in the middle of the holiday of Chanukah, I am reminded of the true meaning of the word: dedication. Dedication can be an event—our ancestors dedicated the Temple. But it can also be a state of mind, a way to live your life. In this regard, dedication is a blessing, not an obligation. A dedicated person is filled with a sense of purpose. As long as they are focused on the object of their dedication, their life has meaning and direction.

As a person dedicated to our congregation, I can tell you without a doubt: It is tremendously satisfying. Together with the leadership of the congregation, I recently had the pleasure of a performance review. It might seem surprising that I describe this as a pleasure. After all, for some, a performance review is about as welcome as root canal work. But this really was a pleasure. First of all, in many ways, it was a review that my mother could have written. And I want to thank you all for your kind and gracious comments.

Second, and certainly equally important, the review helped us home in on areas that definitely need improvement. Two of these, which in many ways are related to each other, have to do with communication. There was a shared feeling that my response time has not been adequate when people want me to be in touch and that my follow-up, particularly with people who have a long term issue, has been inadequate.

These are matters that need to be addressed, and urgently. To that end, I am instituting certain policies and procedures that should improve things considerably. Here's a partial list:

Phone calls: Messages will be checked first thing in the morning, and again before leaving in the evening.

Calls will be returned within 24 hours under normal circumstances, or 48 hours when I have been out of the office (for example, on Shabbat).
Texts: Will be checked daily, and responded to within the same 24/48 hour time frame.

E-mail: I have arranged with Gary Bergman, our resident tech wizard, to set up a new e-mail account with the address myrabbi@bnaitikvah.org. This account will be open only to congregants, and is intended to be used only for personal communications (no jokes, articles, for sale notifications, etc., please. Well, maybe jokes...). This inbox will be checked like the phone messages, morning and evening, and response time will be the same 24/48.

Long-term contact: This is perhaps the hardest of these organizational tasks, but also the most important. In the avalanche of daily concerns, it is all too easy to put off addressing more lasting issues. For those with ongoing situations (long-term illness, chronic emotional issues, extended mourning) I am arranging with Meryl to have a contact list that will schedule periodic communication so that I can stay in touch.

As anyone who ever walked into my office surely knows, organization is not my strong suit. When someone says, "I don't believe in organized religion," I always laugh and invite them in to take a look. (And, by the way, making the office a more spiritually harmonious place is also on my list!). But, there is a clear cost to that disorganization, and it is getting in the way of my dedicated service to the congregation. This is painful for me, and I am thankful that our leadership is helping me work through this so that I can serve the people I love at B'nai Tikvah that much more effectively.

Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff

PS: The suggestion box is definitely open. If you have thoughts about how to better keep our lines of communication open, by all means get in touch. And I'll get back to you. Promise.

A Message From Our President Adrienne Ross



Happy New Year or, as they say in Israel, Happy Silvestre! As we begin the secular year 2018, we also begin an important year in our modern Jewish History...the 70th Anniversary of the State of Israel.

As I write this article, I am sitting at the airport in Winnipeg for my flight back to NJ, which, per usual, is delayed! I have just spent the week helping my mother move from her home of 70 plus years to a condo...going through over 70 boxes of "stuff" and helping her find just the right place for the many prized possessions in her new home. As I unpacked boxes, there were numerous treasures that required a pause, a review and, needless to say, the opportunity to reflect on many wonderful memories. Some of the things brought floods of memories for both of us.

Amongst the boxes was a journal, written by my grandmother (of blessed memory) on her first (and only) trip to Israel in 1978. I remember how excited my grandparents were that they were going to Israel. What I didn't know was that Nanny, at the age of 70, wrote a journal to describe her emotions and feelings as she and Zaidie visited the land they dreamt of. The first sentence of her journal says it all: "Just can't believe its US flying to Israel. It's a beautiful sunny day – arrived at International Airport Edmonton at 8am."

So, take an escape from the daily routine and, reading the words of my grandmother, imagine the experience that she had. You will see many thoughts coming together as her total being was being assaulted with new experiences:

Wednesday, Feb 18th
Beautiful sunny A.M. on a tour bus to Golan Heights. 1/3 Israel's population is concentrated in

Tel Aviv. Now passing the airport, and from here acres and acres of undeveloped land – it's frozen land, owned privately. Tel Aviv University and to left is a beautiful modern girls school. Also a Country Club and hotel. Jews are accepted.

Never saw so many corn in all direction. Just passing beautiful homes- grown green flowers in bloom acres on both sides covered with plastic to give plants moisture. A beautiful area, complexes that only tourists can buy with American dollars. No Israelis in Natanya. This is a diamond industry they import from S. Africa and cut them here. The guide said here they clean, polish and send you home with empty pockets.

In California Palm Springs, they pray for no frost. Here, In Israel, they're glad to get frost so the trees get moisture. Here very highly experienced in agriculture. Many countries come here to study methods. Now approaching the seashore...large areas of eucalyptus trees brought from Australia. These trees absorb the swamp...

My grandmother was not concerned with sentence structure or punctuation...she only wanted to capture what she saw and felt as she traveled the country and recorded the many factoids her guide told her, which interrupted her thoughts. What was important to her was that she was there, experiencing Israel. So...as we enter the year 2018, think about what *your* journal could say if *you* traveled to Israel this year. There are so many opportunities to do so...but let me highlight two for you. There is the Family Trip to Israel this summer being led by our own Cantor Bruce and Stacey Rockman. The trip is from July 2-14. Contact Stacey at staceyrockman@yahoo.com for more information.

If you are unable to, or prefer not to travel in the summer, think about an October visit (Oct 14-22) and join our Jewish Federation in the Heart of NJ on its mission, "Four Corners of Israel Community Journey." For more information, contact danr@jewishheartnj.org. Make 2018 the year you create your own Israel journal! Can't wait to hear the details!



FAMILY SHABBAT DINNER AND DAVENING

(Open to anyone age 0 to 120 – specifics indicated below)

JANUARY 12, 2018 – NOTE 2ND FRIDAY NIGHT!
6PM – MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

Welcome all families and extended families. This fun-filled dinner includes all the rituals of Shabbat in a relaxed atmosphere geared towards absolutely anyone! This is a hands-on environment where those with less experience can learn how to welcome Shabbat and those who are comfortable will feel right at home.

This peanut free evening includes fresh vegetables to nibble on before we get started, followed by dinner including baked ziti, macaroni and cheese, plain pasta and salad
 (Special dietary needs? Contact Bobbi by 1/10/18 to discuss some options)

Our evening continues after our meal with a service geared towards children up to age 7. Older children are encouraged to attend Junior Congregation Friday night version in the Beit Midrash.

Cannot attend dinner? Please come to one of our **services at 7pm** followed by Kiddush dessert
Celebrating something special in January? For \$18 we will make that announcement on your behalf including that you are sponsoring our Kiddush dessert.

of adults _____ @ \$8.00/adult Amount due\$ _____

of children _____ @ \$0.00/child Amount due \$ _____

Sponsoring Kiddush _____ @ \$18.00 Total due \$ _____

Your name: _____ Phone #: _____

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PLEASE LIST THE NAMES AND AGES OF YOUR CHILDREN AND OTHERS ATTENDING

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

RSVP A MUST BY JANUARY 10, 2018



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10:00 am

Congregation B'nai Tikvah

1001 Finnegans Lane, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

RSVP required by February 15 at jnf.org/gardenstate

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Center Bruce Rockman

More Information

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Featuring Guest Speaker

JOE HYAMS

CEO, HonestReporting

As CEO of non-profit HonestReporting, Joe Hyams works to promote fair and accurate media coverage of Israel. Mr. Hyams has trained thousands of people to identify and counter anti-Israel bias, lecturing on the topic around the world.



Guest Speaker

RUSSELL F. ROBINSON

CEO, Jewish National Fund

As Chief Executive Officer of JNF Russell Robinson has succeeded in making Jewish National Fund one of the top-rated charities in the United States, and the leading organization for the land and people of Israel.



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- Food tour in the Jerusalem Market
- Meet with Lone Soldiers
- Rafting down the Jordan River
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If your home is currently listed on the MLS, this is not a solicitation of your listing.

SAVE THE DATES

Join us for coffee, bagels and a look back at

A HISTORY OF B'NAI TIKVAH

Sunday, January 28, 2018



Join us in celebrating our 40th year with a fun night of dinner, drinks, and dancing at the

ANNUAL GALA

Saturday, March 24, 2018

TO HELP OR GET MORE INFORMATION PLEASE
CONTACT: GALA@BNAITIKVAH.ORG



Nefesh Mountain performed at CBT to a packed house on December 3rd with "back-up singers" from the congregation and lots of audience participation.



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Select Congregation B'nai Tikvah and make sure the location indicates: N Brunswick, NJ.

A Message From the Director of Education Eitan Gutin

Jewish Values On One Foot



At least one Monday a month, and sometimes more, my morning begins in an all-too-predictable way. Perhaps some toys are broken in the Pre-K classroom; maybe there are snacks missing from the pre-school/Religious School supply closet; around mid-morning I may receive an email from the head of Beit Menachem (the school that rents from CBT) that a child's school supplies or books went missing from her desk over the weekend. While it is painful to admit it, most of these things are being done by a (likely small) group of B'nai Tikvah's school-aged children.

What frustrates me about these situations is not the expense. Toys, books, and snacks can all be replaced without spending too much. Rather than being concerned about physical goods I am concerned about how the behaviors that lead to these problems run counter to Jewish values. After all, being Jewish is about more than shared language, ritual, and history; it is also about using the teachings of the Torah and the rabbis to guide us in our lives.

In the nineteenth chapter of the book of VaYikra, God delivers one of the most famous laws in Judaism: VeAhavta lere'akha kamokha, "love your neighbor as you love yourself" (verse 18). How important is this law? It was the only law Rabbi Akiva referred to as a Klal Gadol, a "great" law of the Torah. Maimonides noted that anyone participating in the shaming or hurting of another human being has no place in the "World to Come."

Of course it is not always clear just what it means to treat another with the same love we reserve for ourselves. While the law is deeply meaningful it can be, simultaneously, rather impractical. Jewish tradition offers us a meaningful lesson in making the Torah's teaching more practical when we look to Hillel, who co-led the Jewish community in ancient Israel over 2000 years ago. When a non-Jew asked Hillel to

teach him the Torah while "standing on one foot" Hillel made his famous reply:

"What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow: this is the whole Torah; the rest is the explanation; go and learn."

By switching from something we feel to actions that cause feelings Hillel made the Torah much more practical in our everyday lives. After all, I don't like it when someone goes through my stuff, perhaps damaging or taking some of it, when I am not around. I am pretty sure that most people feel the same way, children included. If I don't like it, then the teachings of the Torah combined with Hillel tell me that I am forbidden from doing such things to someone else's stuff, whether I happen to like or dislike that person, or even if I do not know him or her at all.

Jewish Education, represented by the Religious School and CBT Chai, is one of Congregation B'nai Tikvah's core values. While a large percentage of our time is spent learning Jewish facts and skills, one of the functions of our schools has to be teaching our students about Jewish values. While this is a broad category, including everything from welcoming guests to Jewish peoplehood, there is no question that the lessons of both the Torah and Hillel are essential to our Jewish Values education. While Veahavta Lereakha Kamokha is taught in our classrooms every year, this lesson needs to be revisited from time to time.

As we return from Winter Break this month I will be visiting our classrooms to talk about the issues we come back to some weeks and how these issues relate to Jewish values. We will learn the lessons of VaYikra and Hillel together and, where appropriate, grapple with what kinds of choices we can all make with these lessons in mind. I will be challenging them to not only follow these values in their own behavior but, when appropriate, to remind their friends of these values as well.

I am confident that our students will rise to the challenge.

EITAN Y. GUTIN, Education Director

Marc Rubenstein, PT, DPT, OCS
Doctor of Physical Therapy marcr@jerseypt.com



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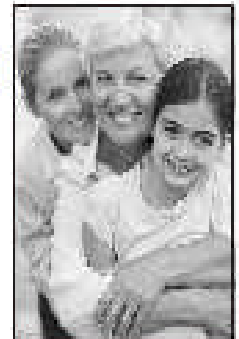
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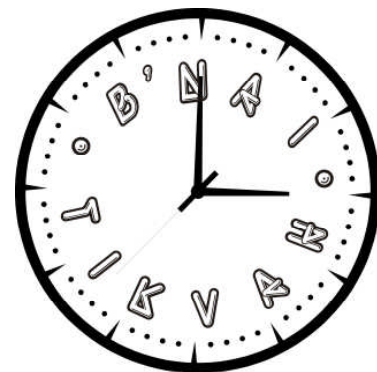
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Please contact Al Woller 732 718 6828.



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



SISTERHOOD



THIS MONTH

January 25th – Prepping for Passover.

Join us for a cooking demonstration with Stacey Rockman. Come out, prep and taste some ideas for Passover. Think ahead to warmer weather, and socialize with a fantastic group of amazing women like yourself. Please RSVP so we can shop accordingly by emailing Sheryl Levine at cdm0710@optonline.net, or text at 732-447-4724.

SAVE THE DATE

February 24, 7:40pm — Passover Poker
See ad in this edition of Hakol

Membership –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 Lisa at 732-297-6950 or at Issnj9@verizon.net

Social Action – Sisterhood's Holiday Social Action project included collecting toiletries and gift cards for families in need. We received a great amount of support at our Paid-Up Membership Brunch. Thank you for your contributions.

Gift Shop

Store Hours:

Sunday 9AM – 12PM

By appointment, please contact Serena Blackin at 732-390-9515 or at 848-702-3445

January Special

All Hanukkah items are 20% off*

*Excludes candles

The Gift Shop only accepts checks or cash at this time.

Torah Fund

For ordering information, please check the Bulletin Board or Contact Ann Rosenzweig at Anndyapt@optimum.net or by phone at 732-249-9141.

Mitzvah Baskets

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 at msamtur@comcast.net or 732-821-8163.

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: Serena Blackin, 848-702-3445. Visit the CBT website to order your Mitzvah Baskets and Mazel tosses. Please have your forms in one month before your mitzvah.

ORDER YOUR 2018 MAH JONGG LEAGUE CARDS TODAY AND HELP SUPPORT SISTERHOOD!



Order your Mah Jongg League cards now for you and your friends and be ready to play with your new 2018 cards by April. Orders will be only be accepted by Sisterhood until January 8, 2018. Help Sisterhood have another successful Mah Jongg year of orders. Checks should be made payable to B'nai Tikvah Sisterhood and **MUST** be sent to:

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and she will assign one to you.

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½ page	3.75" x 10.5" or 8" x 5"	\$525	\$80
¼ page	3.75" x 5"	\$400	\$60
Business card	2" x 3.5"	\$300	\$45

Linda J. Fellen, Esq.

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The Tree of Life is a wonderful way to honor special events in the life of family or friends. Honor a special anniversary (your parents, your grandparents, or yours), commemorate the celebration of a bar or bat mitzvah, honor the birth of a child or grandchild or the marriage of your daughter or son. This beautiful Tree of Life is in the lobby of Congregation B'nai Tikvah.

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- An Acorn \$450
- A Stone \$540

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By Appointment

We gratefully acknowledge and thank the following contributors for their generous gifts. Your special donations make up a part of our synagogue's total income. We rely on you.

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

"Thank You" to Phyllis Pinsky for doing beautiful calligraphy on B'nai Mitzvah and Baby Naming certificates, and to Marlene Buckwald for picking up challahs for Shabbat each week.



DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT IS AVAILABLE

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

CONTRIBUTIONS

If you wish to make a contribution to B'nai Tikvah, please fill out the form below and mail it to us at:
Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 1001 Finnigans Lane, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

In honor of _____

Amount of your donation:

- \$18 \$36 \$54 \$72
- \$118 other

(Please Allocate Donations to:)

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* Please send separate donations for each fund

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Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 14 Tevet NEW YEAR'S DAY	2 15 Tevet Schools Resume Men's Basketball	3 16 Tevet Luncheon with Rabbi Religious School	4 17 Tevet	5 18 Tevet Lunch Out with Rabbi	6 19 Tevet Junior Congregation Lunch & Learn First Round on Rabbi
7 20 Tevet Religious School Men's Club Rutgers Promenaders	8 21 Tevet Board of Directors	9 22 Tevet USY Event Israel Stamp Club Men's Basketball	10 23 Tevet Religious School Luncheon with Rabbi	11 24 Tevet	12 25 Tevet Lunch Out with Rabbi Birthday Shabbat Jan & Feb Family Shabbat Dinner and Davening	13 26 Tevet Ping Pong & Pool
14 27 Tevet No Religious School	15 28 Tevet Office and School Closed Sisterhood Board MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	16 29 Tevet Men's Basketball	17 1 Sh'vat Religious School ROSH CHODESH	18 2 Sh'vat	19 3 Sh'vat USY Freshman	20 4 Sh'vat Junior Congregation USY Dance Sons of Tikvah Concert Shabbaton
21 5 Sh'vat School Board Religious School Sisterhood Rutgers Promenaders Kadima Event	22 6 Sh'vat Blood Drive	23 7 Sh'vat Men's Basketball	24 8 Sh'vat Religious School USY/Kadima Tu B'shvat	25 9 Sh'vat Sisterhood	26 10 Sh'vat Tu B'Shevat Seder	27 11 Sh'vat Lunch & Sing Junior Congregation SHABBAT SHIRAH
28 12 Sh'vat Parent/Teacher Conf. Religious School	29 13 Sh'vat SIP Study Group Ritual Committee	30 14 Sh'vat Board of Education Men's Basketball	31 15 Sh'vat Luncheon with Rabbi Religious School TU B'SHEVAT		Candle Lighting 5 4:28 pm 12 4:35 pm 19 4:43 pm 26 4:51 pm	Shabbat Ends 6 5:31 pm 13 5:38 pm 20 5:45 pm 27 5:53 pm



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