

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.

Getting Ready to Celebrate



Saturday Night, March 24

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| SATURDAY, 3 | JUNIOR CONGREGATION LUNCH AND LEARN |
| SUNDAY, 4 | WORLD WIDE WRAP |
| FRIDAY, 9 | FAMILY SHABBAT |
| SATURDAY, 10 | JUNIOR CONGREGATION KADIMA REGIONAL EVENT |
| SATURDAY, 24 | JUNIOR CONGREGATION PASSOVER POKER |
| SUNDAY, 25 | JNF PROGRAM |
| WEDNESDAY, 28 | PURIM SHPIEL |

CHECK OUR WEBSITE: BNAITIKVAH.ORG FOR EVENTS & SCHEDULE UPDATES THROUGHOUT THE MONTH
MAIN OFFICE PHONE: 732-297-0696 - EARLY CHILDCARE CENTER & RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PHONE: 732-297-0295

From the Desk of Cantor Bruce Rockman

PURIM IS COMING



**To Every Person of B'nai Tikvah
the Fun is Coming! the Fun is Coming!
Big or little, young and old,
we'll all have fun!**

**We will CELEBRATE PURIM Wednesday,
February 28th, starting in the evening at
6:15pm. You should wear a costume
(I think it's a law); although some of us
are always funny, your costume really
makes a big, silly difference; it'll make
us all smile!**

We have to wait the entire month of February for the middle of the Jewish month of Adar to arrive so that we can celebrate the joyous holiday of Purim. With this much notice, we have plenty of time to brush up on the meaning of the holiday and to practice and share new recipes for Hamantashen. Somewhere in this issue of Hakol, you will find an excellent recipe for "Pareve Cinnamon Dulce De Leche Hamantashen." I'm sure that the pastry chefs among you are capable of converting this recipe to dairy, too.

If you think that eating delicious cakes and pastries filled with fruit confections and sometimes, prunes is a treat; then we have a really amazing delight for you on Purim night!

Yes, we will have the pleasure of being indulged with "Esther- A Persian Musical," directed by Marty

Angstreich. Worldly actors, some who have actually acted before AND who all are very engaging, will entertain us. Our Purim parody will help to elucidate the Purim story as described in the ancient Megillah.

The play, not the megillah, is re-written with the permission of Lin-Manuel Miranda by Jamie Marx. Here is a sample of the Hamiltonesque dialogue. Anyone want to try rewriting the megillah?

HAMAN How does a Jewish orphan, niece of our Mor-dechai hero, born in the middle of a terrible mess - opotamia, in Shushan, by providence be clever and unspoiled, grow up to be a rockin' Persian royal?

VASHTI This Jewish girl with no father to safeguard her Got a lot farther by thinking a lot harder By being a lot smarter By being a self-starter By the end, they couldn't deny or disregard her.

MORDECHAI When an evil man came and devastation reigned Our girl saw her future drip, dripping down the drain Put her finger to her temple, and used her clever brain And came up with a plan to cause Haman some pain.

KING Well, the word got around, they said, this story's insane, man Put it in the Bible so they'll learn of awful Haman How she sprang the trap for him and made her claim to fame Does the world celebrate her name? What's your name, Miss?

ESTHER Esther, niece of Mordechai. My name is Esther, niece of Mordechai And my story isn't nearly done Just you wait, just you wait In Shushan you can be a new man In Shushan you can be a new man.

Have an awesome Purim, drink (diet Coke of course), eat (Hamantashen), be merry at CBT, and remember those less fortunate than us. (I couldn't help it; I had to be serious for a minute, but really, it is a Mitzvah.)

See you in Shul with loads of Joy!
Cantor Bruce Rockman

HAKOL

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

Published monthly, except July and August. Submissions are welcomed about events, group activities, and anything relevant to the Jewish community. Submissions, subject to available space and editorial constraints, are due by the 12th of the preceding month. Please address all articles and correspondence to Hakol@bnaitikvah.org and try to avoid use of PDF files. Current issues are emailed via the CBT Newsletter. Archives are at bnaitikvah.org/hakol. Editors: Gary Bergman, Ann Gold, Art Biderman, and Janet Weiss. Advertising: CarolAnn Harkavay.

A Message From Rabbi Wolkoff

PURIM IS COMING



Purim is coming, and we are preparing now to read the *megillah*, the Book of Esther. We all know the story. But we don't know it enough. Beside being a wonderful fable for children, it's also one of the most remarkable analyses of the nature of politics ever written.

The villain of the story, Haman, may his name be blotted out, is evil. A genocidal murderer, and we don't have to belabor the point. But Haman is enabled by a buffoon, Ahashverosh. About him, and from him, we can learn a great deal.

First, he is enormously enamored with the raw exercise of power, but he fails miserably at it. The *megillah* begins with a description of all the "noble" people, with their grandiose titles, rubbing elbows with the king. He is literally "drunk" with power. But pomposity and power are not the same thing. The *megillah* emphasizes that "a decree of the king cannot be overturned." Unfortunately for Ahashverosh (but luckily for us), every single decree he issues is, in fact, overturned.

Second, he is utterly corrupt, a pampered child who loves adulation. He will do whatever you want, as long as you feed his ego. And his wallet (remember how Haman "sweetens the deal" to kill the Jews with 10,000 talents of silver?). Ahashverosh is utterly unprincipled. He stands for nothing except the petty political maneuvering that characterizes the sprawling Persian empire, "from Hodu to Kush—one hundred and twenty provinces"—over which he rules. And it should be recalled that almost without exception, it is Ahashverosh's court officials who make the big decisions, not Ahashverosh himself.

Third, he views people as mere pawns to be manipulated and used. To describe Ahashverosh as self-indulgent would be an understatement.

The great irony of the Book of Esther is that the tables are turned, and just as Haman is hung on the very gallows on which he had hoped to hang Mordechai, so Ahashverosh is made subject to the very woman he sought to subjugate.

Fourth, his leadership style—if you could call it that—is disruptive and demeaning. Asking his wife Vashti to dance (probably naked) before his drunken guests; issuing a ruling that all wives shall respect their husbands (yeah, sure); getting saved by Mordechai but promoting Haman, etc. The empire is continually rocked by crazy decrees coming from the palace.

What are we to make of this bizarre, almost comic, character? On the one hand, we learn that there is no place for fools when real evil is afoot. On the other, that character, and failures of character, really do matter. They shape the practical political climate in which one lives (or, in the case of Haman, dies).

According to the Rabbis, Ahashverosh was not to the manor born. He was a commoner who usurped the throne. He had no business being there. And it showed. His repeated episodes of uncontrollable anger, his inability to reason, his inclination toward drunkenness—all of these underscore how unsuited he was for leadership. At the root of it all was a clear feeling of inferiority, and an equally clear need to compensate for that feeling with grandiose proclamations and lavish displays.

All the above stands in glaring contrast to the virtues of Mordechai and Esther—compassion, self-sacrifice, trustworthiness, caution with words, modesty, devotion.

Not bad for a children's story, eh? When we celebrate Purim together, it is not just an event for the kids. "Pediatric Judaism," as they call it. It is a time for us to think clearly about who and what we are, and what we should aspire to become.

Have a joyous Purim holiday!
Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff

From Our President Adrienne Ross

Take a Step Back



The other day, while debriefing one of my clients about some meetings, we began mapping out some key events for the coming year. Suddenly, we realized “it’s only January, and we’re already discussing October”! We then all agreed we should take a step back and celebrate what had been a couple of days of very productive meetings before rushing to all that had to be done.

Take time to smell the roses! It seems we often don’t take time to stop and celebrate all the good things in life but rather spend our energy thinking about what comes next, what still needs to be done, etc.

As we enter our 40th year together as a congregation, taking the time to stop and celebrate our successes is critical. It is only when we reflect on these successes that can we pave the way to strengthen our congregation for the future.

Over the past few months, I often have been amazed at the tireless dedication of the many volunteers who give selflessly of themselves to make CBT a better community. We have so many unsung heroes. They don’t ask for individual recognition but rather gain satisfaction in knowing that they are making a difference in this world.

So, take a sip of tea (or coffee or whatever is your pleasure) and think about a good thing that has happened to you today and “celebrate the moment” with those who helped bring the smile to your face.

I look forward to seeing you all on March 24th as we celebrate CBT together.

Adrienne D. Ross, President

Welcome New Members

Amanda & Harry Uniman



Amanda (nee Dillman) and Harry Uniman grew up at CBT as children. Since Amanda is co-chairing this year’s Gala with Mindy Austein, I thought it would be extra special to feature this couple in Hakol. They are new to our synagogue as a married couple, but their history goes back over three decades!

What is your occupation?

Harry: I work for PSE&G as a Sr. Manager of Contract Administration & Supplier Performance.

Amanda: I work for Verizon as a Manager in the Strategic Sourcing group.

Why did you join CBT?

Harry: I grew up in the synagogue and was fortunate enough to have my wife do the same and we decided we wanted to remain a part of this Jewish community.

Amanda: I was a member of B’nai Tikvah before I was born and feel lucky to have married a member of the same community. There was no discussion about joining CBT – it was just the obvious next step.

What do you hope to gain from membership?

Harry: I hope to make some new friends.

Amanda: I hope to enlarge the footprint of my Jewish social circle and give back to the community.

What is your favorite vacation?

Harry: Adventures anywhere, as long as it’s with my friends.

Amanda: Marco Island, Florida is my favorite place on earth, but anywhere sunny and relaxing will do.

What is your favorite holiday?

Harry: Thanksgiving

Amanda: Hanukkah

Do you have any hobbies to share?

Harry: I compete in triathlons.

Amanda: I have to be busy 24/7. I love to plan, as evidenced by my Co-Chairing this year’s Gala (March 24th!) with the lovely Mindy Austein. I also love to shop!

Give us a fun fact about yourself or your family?

Harry: I completed the Hanukkah trifecta: Born, Bar Mitzvahed and Married all during the same holiday!

Amanda: My opera-singing mother-in-law sang me down the aisle on our wedding day.

B'nai Tikvah Family Trip to Israel

Led by Cantor Bruce & Stacey Rockman

The Trip of a Lifetime

July 2 - 14, 2018

Dozens of congregants and friends have already signed up.
(This incredible event will be closed to the first 60 people.)

Highlights include:

- Talmudic Biblical Experience
- Food tour in the Jerusalem Market
- Meet with Lone Soldiers
- Rafting down the Jordan River
- Mediterranean Boat Cruise
- Archaeological Dig
- And much, much more!

Contact Stacey Rockman 732-735-0480 staceyrocks@yahoo.com (Arranged through www.sabatravel.com)



Jewish National Fund Invites You to the

ANNUAL GARDEN STATE BREAKFAST FOR ISRAEL

Sunday, February 25, 2018
10:00 am

Congregation B'nai Tikvah

1001 Finnigans Lane, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

RSVP required by February 15 at jnf.org/gardenstate

EVENT CO-CHAIRS

Rachal Cohen
Anne & Adrian Kroll
Allison & David Nagelberg
Dr. Naomi Wilko &
Dr. Sidney Goldfarb

CONGREGATION

B'NAI TIKVAH LEADERSHIP
Rabbi Robert Wolkoff
Cantor Bruce Rockman

More Information

Anna Richlin
Senior Campaign
Executive,
Central New Jersey
archlin@jnf.org
973.593.0095 x826



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

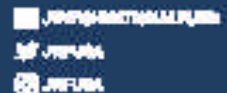
As Chief Executive Officer of JNF Russell Robinson has succeeded in making Jewish National Fund one of the top-rated charities in the United States, and the leading organization for the land and people of Israel.



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FAMILY SHABBAT DINNER AND DAVENING

Open to all ages 0 to 120.

FEBRUARY 9, 6PM
in the Multi-Purpose Room



A fun-filled dinner for families and extended families includes all the rituals of Shabbat in a relaxed atmosphere geared toward anyone! This is a hands-on environment, where those with less experience can learn how to welcome Shabbat with others who feel right at home.

There are fresh vegetables to nibble on before we get started, followed by dinner of baked ziti, macaroni and cheese, plain pasta, and salad. All peanut-free. For special dietary needs, contact Bobbi Binder.

Following the meal is a unique service geared to children up to age 7. Older children are encouraged to attend Friday Night Junior Congregation in the Beit Midrash. Unable attend dinner? Please come to one of our **services at 7pm** followed by Kiddush dessert.

Are you celebrating something special in February? For just \$18 we will make that announcement on your behalf (including that you are sponsoring our Kiddush dessert.)

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

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

Sponsoring Kiddush _____ @ \$18.00 Total \$ _____

Your name: _____ Phone #: _____

Email address: _____

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 February 7

Contact Bobbi Binder 732-690-4779 eemaof3@comcast.net



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If your home is currently listed on the MLS, this is not a solicitation of your listing.



A fun night of dinner, drinks, and dancing, sharing memories with those who helped make B'nai Tikvah a unique community experience.

Saturday, March 24, 2018

Passover Poker Saturday Night February 24th

Back by Popular Demand

Check-in at 7:40pm
Play begins at 7:55pm sharp



It's not really Passover, but it's not Poker either! It's an easy fast, trump type game. You'll learn in just 5 minutes and then play each hand with a different team. (refreshments included)



\$18 for pre-event checks or at bnaitikvah.org/poker (\$25 per person at the door)

Invite your friends in groups of 2 or 4 (please check one box)

Player name(s) _____

Phone# _____ email _____

Send Check for \$_____ payable to Congregation B'nai Tikvah Sisterhood
by February 15 to: Lisa Seidman 397 Halsey Road, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

From the Editor

Let's Hear From You



Got something interesting going on in your life that you'd like to share? Have you witnessed or experienced an event you'd like to comment on? Or perhaps there's someone you'd like to thank publicly for how he or she affected you.

Hakol is your vehicle for expressing your thoughts to the community. Articles must be submitted prior to the 12th of the month in which they are to be published. Send your article in an email to: Hakol@bnaitikvah.org.

A note to those who submit articles on a regular basis: We no longer are accepting PDF files in cases where source materials, such as Word, Publisher, or email text can be obtained. The use of PDFs prevent us from effecting grammatical or other corrections that may be necessary.

To help keep the cost of publication within reason, we reserve the right to abbreviate articles and internal advertising that we normally provide free of charge.

It's a Win Win

You buy gift cards for the supermarkets you already use - - and B'nai Tikvah gets five cents on the dollar.

Here's how it works:

- 1) Pay B'nai Tikvah by cash or check and your dues are reduced by 2 cents for every dollar you spend. (Credit cards accepted but, only CBT will benefit.)
- 2) Once a month, we call you to ask "how much?" and for which store(s): Lox Stock & Deli, Home Depot, Acme, Stop&Shop, Shoprite, or Whole Foods.
- 3) We get your order filled. You call the office (732-297-0696) to arrange a convenient time.

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 Sunday 9am - noon in the school wing
 Free delivery in Monroe Township

That's all there is to it, Simple, easy, and a good deed for our synagogue. Please say "yes" and call to follow through.

Joyce Fishelberg
 609-655-3803

Ann Gold
 609-409-0668



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In Memoriam

Michael Weiss was the dedicated editor of Hakol for seven years. These past two years, he also served us as Vice President of Administration (including catering, house & grounds, and security.) We will remember him as a man who loved to laugh, who was always ready to help and to do, and whose ideas made B'nai Tikvah a better place for the entire community.

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 |

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



South
 Brunswick
 Office

www.JerseyPT.com

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SISTERHOOD



Passover Poker - February 24, 7:40pm

\$18 pp pre-order at bnaitikvah.org/poker (\$25 at the door)

Mail check to: Lisa Seidman

397 Halsey Road, North Brunswick, NJ 08902

April 22, 10 am (save the date)

Sisterhood and Men's Club to present the documentary "AMERICA: Am I My Brother's Keeper?" a Project Witness film. Breakfast will be served. There is no charge to attend, but RSVP to Lynn Biderman at r.lynn.biderman@gmail.com because we need to estimate the amount of food required.

Membership

Please visit the CBT website at bnaitikvah.org/sismember to discover the joy of getting involved in our circle.

Sisterhood would love to welcome you.

Contact: Lisa Seidman 732-297-6950

lssnj9@verizon.net

Gift Shop

Store Hours: Sunday 9 am – 12 noon

February Special: 20% off all jewelry

New items in stock. - 50% off all clearance items.

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

Contact: Serena Blackin 732-390-9515 or 848-702-3445

Torah Fund

Contact: Ann Rosenzweig 732-249-9141

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Mitzvah Baskets

Let us decorate the bima with nonperishable food baskets.

We also deliver the baskets for use at other synagogues.

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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. Visit the CBT website to order your Mitzvah Baskets and Mazel tosses at least one month before your mitzvah.

Contact: Serena Blackin, 848-702-3445

Pareve Cinnamon Dulce de Leche Hamantashen By Jamie Geller

Ingredients For the dough:

- 1 cup margarine
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 Eggs
- 2 1/2 cup flour
- 2 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 tablespoon cinnamon; dash of salt

For the Dulce De Leche:

- 2 cup nondairy milk of your choice (almond, coconut, soy)
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda

Preparation for the Dough

1. Cream margarine and sugar together in a large bowl by hand or with a mixer. Add eggs and mix thoroughly.
2. Add flour, baking powder, cinnamon and salt and stir until dough is formed.
3. Preheat oven to 375 and prepare baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
4. On a lightly floured surface roll out dough 1/4 inch thick. With a 3 inch cutter (I use a glass) cut out as many holes as possible. Fold up corners to form a triangle, leaving a nice empty hole in the center to fill afterwards.
5. Transfer hamantashen to baking sheet, place in the oven and bake for about 20 minutes, until golden brown. Cool and then using a spoon pour in some dulce de leche.

For the Dulce de Leche



Heat milk and sugar in a saucepan over medium heat. Add vanilla and stir until sugar is dissolved. Add baking soda, stir and bring heat down to lowest setting, allowing to cook on a low simmer for about 2 hours, stirring every so often. Once it turns brown and thickens a bit, strain through a strainer and store in the fridge until ready to use.

2017 NEEDY FAMILY PROGRAM

A FEEL GOOD STORY



We recently completed our 16th successful year helping those in need for the holidays. The Needy Family Program provides the basic things to indigent families we all take for granted: winter coats, boots, clothing, blankets, pillows, dishes, silverware and the list goes on and on.

We sponsored 6 families -29 people - and there were at least 47 B'nai Tikvah families who participated in this mitzvah!

Over the years, an increasing number of congregants committed to this program. A lot of thought and attention went into their purchases. Our congregants were purchasing items as if they were buying for their own parents and children. I often was contacted to request a recipient's personal preferences:

- What were the person's favorite colors?
- What was the race of a child so that they could purchase the appropriate doll
- What size clothing do they need?

People who were asked to donate one item would often throw in items they felt the family may need such as hats and gloves. We took these families on as if they were our own families.

Some of the families we sponsored this year:

A mother and 3 children who left a domestic violence situation. Because of their situation, they left their home quickly, consequently with little clothing and no toys. They lived in a homeless shelter for several months and then were transferred to a hotel where the mother and 3 sons lived in one room for 6 months.

When the social worker brought the clothing, household items and toys to their hotel room, the boys were literally jumping for joy as they now had a few toys to play with. The mother was ecstatic with the household items. One week after our delivery, this family got an apartment and within another week, she got a job. Our gifts got them started on a new life!

One mother burst into tears as she saw a completely filled car and trunk with gifts. She became so overwhelmed that the social worker had to stop bringing up the bags of gifts for a while until the mother calmed down. Last year, she and her children did not celebrate, as they had to use their money for food rather than clothing and a few toys.

Another family, who were victims of the hurricane in Puerto Rico, could not believe the generosity and thoughtfulness of strangers. They were particularly thrilled with the warm clothing as they are not accustomed to cold winters.

The stories go on and on. All these families know these gifts were from Congregation B'nai Tikvah. At a time when kindness and caring for others is at a premium, our community continues to pull together to help those less fortunate. We made a difference in the quality of their lives...from having sheets and blankets at night, to the proper clothing to wear in the cold winters...we made a difference.

I will close with a quote from Doris Cruz, the school social worker who I have been working with since the inception of this program:

“Thanks for building bridges among cultures, religions and socioeconomic status. Your kindness is a gift that will remain with these families forever.”

Thank you all for your continued support!
I wish you and your families a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Janice Baer



For an access code
to the synagogue,
see Lynne at the office
or call 732-297-0696



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CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH MEN'S CLUB

SERVING THE SYNAGOGUE AND THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1983



Men's Club night out at Elite Billiards in Edison

where some of our members showed off the skills they acquired from a misspent youth.

World Wide Wrap XVIII Sunday, February 4th, 9:30



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to Norman Berens, Gilda Gildenberg, Joyce Fishelberg, Bill Greenberg, Jay Scheuer and Patricia Rosen for making birthday calls.

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



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| 4 19 Sh'vat World Wide Wrap Religious School Kadima Event Rutgers Promenaders | 5 20 Sh'vat Board of Directors | 6 21 Sh'vat Men's Basketball | 7 22 Sh'vat Luncheon with Rabbi Religious School | 8 23 Sh'vat Youth Commission | 9 24 Sh'vat Lunch out with Rabbi Family Shabbat Dinner & Davening | 10 25 Sh'vat Junior Congregation Kadima Regional Evening Program |
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