

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.

Our Founding Members would love to see you at the Gala on March 24th.



Photo of founding members at the 40th Anniversary Brunch on Sunday, January 28, taken by Mindy Austein

SUNDAY, MARCH 4th

WEDNESDAY, 7th

FRIDAY, 9th

SUNDAY, 11th

MONDAY, 12th

WEDNESDAY, 14th

SATURDAY, 17th

SUNDAY, 18th

SATURDAY, 24th

FRIDAY, 30th

SATURDAY, 31st

PURIM CARNIVAL

PUB CRAWL

LUNCHEON WITH RABBI

FAMILY SHABBAT

MEN'S CLUB / SISTERHOOD

KADIMA EVENT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

LUNCHEON WITH RABBI

JUNIOR CONGREGATION

MODEL SEDER

JUNIOR CONGREGATION

USY REGIONAL Jr/Sr PROM

40th ANNIVERSARY GALA

FIRST SEDER

SECOND SEDER

CHECK OUR WEBSITE: BNAIKVAH.ORG FOR EVENTS AND 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

May I Challenge You to Do More?



The spring is a very exciting time at B'nai Tikvah and in the Jewish calendar. We will be hosting quite a few special events. We begin March with Purim (2/28-3/1), USY Shabbat (3/16-3/17), and continue with our 40th anniversary celebration on March 24th. Passover concludes the month (3/30) and begins April, including our "Third Passover Seder"* on April 2nd.

April continues with the solemn commemoration of Yom Hashoah/Holocaust Remembrance Day (4/12). We will mark the transition of Yom Hazikaron into Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Memorial Day and Independence Day, with "The Falafel Ball" on April 18th. We then continue our celebration of Israel on Sunday April 22nd, with a Federation-cosponsored community event, "Israel's 70th Anniversary Concert" here at B'nai Tikvah.

Are we supposed to be at B'nai Tikvah morning, noon, and night? Well yeah, in a way we should be. Certainly we should be engaged in all of the events listed, plus weddings and b'nai mitzvah celebrations, religious school and its events, plus, most importantly, Shabbat.

We express our gratitude and love for G-d and our sense of wonder and appreciation of G-d's kindness by engaging and participating in our own lives and the lives of our community.

The thoughts that I am expressing are a challenge to you and to me. How in the world can we, busy working or retired people, with so many responsibilities, be continually available for all of this?

Well, if you are reading this, then I know that you care about the issues that impact the lives of our family, our community, and Israel.

As I write, I recognize the burden that you already are carrying. I live with many of the same concerns, challenges, and responsibilities that you are experiencing. I may be asking too much. I am willing to partner with you to accomplish our goal. That goal is to increase our spiritual connection with G-d and our People, through compassionate acts of goodness and kindness.

Which acts should we start with? That's a good question. If you feel as if I am raising a lot of questions with only a few answers, then my advice is; let's talk about it. Just like the past two years, we promise a lively and uplifting journey. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Worship the Lord with Gladness!
Cantor Bruce Rockman

* This B'nai Tikvah tradition will continue. This year, we are offering our "Third Passover Seder." On Monday, April 2nd, at 6pm, Rabbi Wolkoff and I will lead a mostly traditional seder, complete with all the basics. We'll tell the story, sing the songs of the hagadah, and answer a few questions. The specific menu is under negotiation, but will include Gordon's Famous Matzah Ball Soup, gefilte fish, salads, and traditional sides, such as potato kugel.

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

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

“...and we’ve got to get ourselves back to the garden...”



Joni Mitchell; Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young; Woodstock; the Sixties.... I’m dating myself. But, of course, the thought is a lot older than that. A lot older. As in Adam and Eve older. And a lot more universal.

In the Hindu tradition, they pray, “Sweet be the night, sweet the dawn, sweet be earth’s fragrance, sweet be our heaven.” (Rig Veda 1) The human yearning for heaven on earth, a place of tranquility and balance, of harmony and love, is as old and widespread as humanity itself. Indeed, as much as we might be “*homo sapiens*,” “thinking man”, we are equally *homo dormiens*,” “dreaming man.”

Certainly as Jews, yearning for a return to the promised *land*, we have done our share of dreaming.

But the way to make this dream come true is an odd one, indeed. A wise Swedish priest, Erland Svala, once suggested to me that every person studying for the priesthood should spend some time working in manure.

Simply put, if you want to get back to *the* garden, get yourself to *some* garden. Get your hands and feet dirty. Understand, at the most elemental level, what life is all about: the miracle of growth, the necessity of decay, the importance of nurturance, the constancy of fragility, the power of hope, the joy of accomplishment, the delight of satisfaction.

Now, when it comes to actual gardening, I’m as dumb as, well, dirt. I can’t tell weed from wisteria. But this isn’t something I have to do by myself. Greenfaith, our local faith-based environmental organization, is teaming up with Elijah’s Promise, the community organization working to alleviate hunger and poverty, to tend a community garden in New Brunswick. They are looking for volunteers—those who are veteran gardeners, and those who aren’t (yet)—and I will definitely be one. I hope that you will join me.

Please email myrabbi@bnaitikvah.org to let me know you’re “in.”

We might not be standing in manure, but mud will do... Unfortunately, the inaugural Earth Day event, “A Blessing of the Seeds,” falls this year on Shabbat. And as we all know, our tradition teaches us that rest is as important as work—that, too, is a lesson that gardening teaches us. But gardening is not a one-shot deal (this, even I know). We will have many opportunities to work, and learn, and grow.

Continued on page 8

From Our President Adrienne Ross

Fond Memories



The building was abuzz on January 28th, 2018. This was the day we officially “kicked off” our 40-year celebration with an Anniversary Brunch. (Yasher Koach again to Mindy Austein and Amanda Uniman and their committee for all the work!) It truly was a special day as friends, old and new, spent time “essing and fressing” and talking about their own personal reminiscences of the three congregations: Beth Shalom, Shari Shalom, and the Jewish Community of North Brunswick, that came together to form what we fondly call: “Congregation B’nai Tikvah.” We also had the chance to share some stories (shape of our ark, early fundraising programs, and, of course, the role of the growth of suburbia) that have become the folklore of our community. The committee also dug into the archives and brought out scrapbooks that people could peruse, and help identify, some of the congregants from both past and present. [Ed. Note: old issues of Hakol, too.]

The best part of the morning was the energy and sense of community that reverberated in the room. “I remember when” could be heard throughout the morning. We even had the chance to take this issue’s cover photo of those who have been members for 40+ years. Gary Tinkel said it best when he said CBT was a place you joined, and stayed, because it was “home”.

I have fond memories of “the Young Couple’s Club” having had our Annual 4th of July picnic at the home of Dr. Martin and Marcie Kaminker on Davidson’s Mill Road. Many of us who were in the Young Couples Club (and, we all admit, over time, it became “the Couples Club”) are those who we still consider friends and have joined us in the many celebrations here at CBT. Marty and Marcia, while now living in Oregon, still consider CBT as “home.” After all, that is what belonging is all about.

As I pass the six-month mark of presidency, I still get asked, “What were you thinking?.” I admit that sometimes I’m not sure but still believe in the importance of this community and ensuring that it continues to grow in strength. Commitment to the shul is not just a phase in one’s life but a lifetime of belonging and building the community for those who follow. The vision that was set 40 years ago by the Founders of CBT is still true today: a place where the Jewish Community of North and South Brunswick (and adjacent communities) could call home to rejoice together and, when needed, find comfort. I wish all of us more joy and the ability to comfort. I look forward to your joining me as we celebrate B’nai Tikvah at our Annual Gala on March 24th.

Adrienne Ross

בני תקווה B'nai Tikvah

The JCC of North & South Brunswick



PURIM **CARNIVAL**

Sunday, March 4, 2018

12:00pm - 2:30pm

Snack Bar

No Entry Fee
Buy Game Tickets at the Door
\$1 for 4 tickets
\$5 for 25 tickets
\$10 for 50 tickets

Prizes

Carnival Games

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Bounce House

Congregation B'nai Tikvah
1001 Finnegans Lane, North Brunswick, NJ 08902 • 732-297-0696



FAMILY SHABBAT DINNER & DAVENING

For ages 0 to 120.

MARCH 9th, 6pm
in the Multi-Purpose Room



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

NEW THIS MONTH!

There are fresh vegetables to nibble on before we get started, followed by soup, sandwiches, 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.

Celebrating something special in March? For \$18 we announce it 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:

Check payable to "Congregation B'nai Tikvah" indicate "**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 March 6th

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

Celebrating 40 Years of Congregation B'nai Tikvah

More than 50 members gathered to have brunch and to remember the early days of B'nai Tikvah, sharing thoughts and ideas about what brought them to B'nai Tikvah, and how the congregation has changed over the years. Bill Greenberg, Bobbi Binder, and Dave Offenberg helped us take a walk down memory lane.

Bobbi Binder, currently VP of Membership and Treasurer of Sisterhood, has been a member for 29 years. Shortly after she and her husband, Marc, along with their son, Brian, moved to Dayton in 1988, they started a search for a local synagogue. B'nai Tikvah was their first stop and they did not go any further as it quickly became their home.

She spoke about Sisterhood and Sisterhood's relationship to the synagogue. She shared a few stories that brought back many memories:

Not that long ago, one could not simply walk into a store to purchase Kosher for Passover cakes. As a fundraiser, Sisterhood sold Kosher for Passover desserts. People ordered the cakes for pick up at the synagogue. However, the only place to get any kind of quality cake was Brooklyn.

One year, Suse Rosenstock of blessed memory, and Gale Dillman rented a paneled van with a broken door and drove to NY to get the cake in bulk. They then brought the cake back to the synagogue where the room which is now the Beit Midrash, which was then the library, was made Kosher for Passover, and the cake was cut and weighed and packaged for congregants to pick up.

For Purim, Sisterhood did the same thing, driving to Brooklyn to pick of the Hamantaschen for Sisterhood's Purim Box sale. The gift shop operated out of a closet, setting up shop every

Sunday morning in the lobby and then cleaning up and putting it all away after a few hours.

Sisterhood fundraisers have made it possible to contribute generously to the synagogue and there are far too many projects to name, but sisterhood members are very proud of how Sisterhood contributes not only to CBT but to our community partners.

Bill Greenberg spoke about the life of Abe Dobin and Dave Offenberg spoke about how Congregation B'nai Tikvah was established by the merger of three separate congregations; Sharri Shalom, Beth Shalom, and the JCC of North Brunswick. At one point, construction of the building was halted midstream, as funds dried up in the middle of the project. However, many families stepped up to donate additional funds and ten dedicated families personally guaranteed the mortgage.

The original painting of the facility was accomplished by volunteers from the Congregation. Two nameless congregants (undisclosed to save them from embarrassment) deserve special recognition. One stepped into a bucket of paint and the other was left locked in the building, in a darkened sanctuary, on a scaffolding and needed to be rescued.

The offices, sanctuary, and social hall wings were opened in 1983. A time capsule was placed behind the cornerstone and is scheduled to be re-opened on the 50th anniversary of the building. It will then be re-installed along with a new capsule for the next 50 years. May it be G-d's will that we all be present at the 50 year anniversary.

A great time was had by all and we look forward to seeing everyone at the Gala on March 24th.

Rabbi/cont'd from page 3

As we prepare for Passover, the Festival of the Spring, the time when all our seeds begin to sprout and blossom, we should keep all this in mind. It is no coincidence that our single best known blessing is "hamotzi..." "...Who brings forth bread from the earth." G-d doesn't do it by Him/Herself. That's where we come in. See you in the dirt.

Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff

PS: You should know that the Greenfaith activists organizing the garden project met with the new Executive Director at Elijah's Promise—our own Michelle Wilson—and were absolutely glowing in their appreciation for her. This illustrates the essential meaning of *kiddush Hashem*, the sanctification of G-d's name: when we act in such a way that people will say, "How great is the G-d of Israel, whose children show such virtue." *Yashar kochech*, Michelle!

AMERICA: Am I My Brother's Keeper? (A Project Witness Film)

Sunday, April 22nd, 10:00am

This documentary is "a shocking expose of the policy in America during WW-II."

It is especially noteworthy for the unusual and much-lauded coverage of dedicated individuals who used every possible, often unconventional, method and saved countless Jewish lives.

Sponsored by Men's Club and Sisterhood

A CELEBRATION OF



40 YEARS TOGETHER

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

Saturday, March 24th, 2018

REMEMBERING ABE DOBIN

By Bill Greenberg



Abe Dobin was instrumental in the creation of B'nai Tikvah. He was born in 1907 to parents who worked an 83-acre farm, purchased for \$2,600, on Fresh Ponds Road near Pigeon Swamp in South Brunswick. Both had left czarist Russia to live in New York City. Abe grew up speaking only Yiddish and helped on the farm, where the family grew corn, potatoes, berries, and fruit and raised chickens and cows.

After graduating from Dayton Grammar School, he attended New Brunswick High School and went on to study farm management at the agricultural school of Rutgers University, from which he graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1927.

He then worked for the Jewish Agricultural Society in New York City. The Society assisted in settling Jewish immigrants on farms in the metropolitan area and provided expertise and support to new farmers. Abe became an itinerant agricultural instructor. The majority of Jewish farmers in New Jersey raised poultry because less land was needed, it was easier for a family to manage, required less of an investment, and it could prosper even if the soil was not the best. Abe's knowledge and success increased over the years and he learned of a small group of Jewish farmers who were interested in forming a Jewish center. High Holy Day services and celebrations were held in the homes of some farmers at that time.

Abe contacted the group and offered to help organize them with his many contacts in the Jewish farming community.

The first organizational meeting was held on November 30th, 1941, where Abe was elected to the Board of Trustees. Almost all were poultry farmers. An incorporation meeting was held on January 24th, 1942, and the Jewish Farmers Community Center of Middlesex County was created with Jacob Segal as president. In June, 1942, a site was purchased on Old Georges Road near the North Brunswick border and Abe Dobin was elected president. He supervised construction of the Center, in which, though unfinished, the first High Holiday services were held. He remained president for the next 20 years. A Sunday Hebrew School was started in January, 1943. The Jewish Center provided a Jewish identity for atheists and Orthodox Jews alike.

For the first 25 years, congregants no rabbi. Services were led by members. In 1963, the name was changed to the Jewish Community Center of South Brunswick – Sharri Shalom. In 1970, the building was enlarged to include classrooms and living quarters for a full-time rabbi to meet the needs from new housing developments in North Brunswick. Abe became a Bar Mitzvah at age 60 when a rabbi was hired.

Abe became involved in municipal government in South Brunswick during its population growth, serving on the Township Committee, mayor twice, and member of the Planning Board. When the three existing Jewish groups in the area sought to merge and eventually become B'nai Tikvah, Abe was chosen chairman of the merger committee.



Bat Mitzvah
 Hannah Cadoff
 Daughter of
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 March 10th

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Shelly Wistreich



Lori Sookerman

March 11th, 10:30am – Sleep in a bit or come early for Hebrew School pick up, and enjoy breakfast and coffee with us! Our good deed for the month will be volunteering to make ribbons and cut bookmarks for the North Brunswick Domestic Violence Response Team. This important project brings awareness to the community on the subject of domestic violence. Contact Jessica Zink jessicazink@optonline.net 732-715-4765

April 22nd, 10am (save the date)

Sisterhood and Men's Club 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

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
 March Special: 20% off Shabbat items (not candles)
 New items in stock for Purim (Feb. 28th - March 1st) and Passover (March 20th - April 7th).
 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
Andyapt@optimum.net

Mitzvah Baskets

Let us decorate the bima with nonperishable food baskets. We also deliver the baskets for use at other synagogues. Tell your local friends about this service!
 Contact: Teresa Samtur 732-821-8163
msamtur@comcast.net

Mazel Tosses

Enhance the simcha of your child's special day by having Sisterhood provide these bags of soft candy 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

George Street Playhouse - April 8th, 2pm matinee

"Trying," a play by Joanna McClelland Glass*, directed by Jim Jack.

Internationally known Francis Biddle, Chief Judge of the Nuremberg trials, opponent of the Japanese internment camps during WW II, and Attorney General under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, is 81 years old, elegant, cantankerous, and trying to put his life in order". When he hires a young secretary to assist him we see how two strangers at very different places in their lives can unexpectedly influence each other.

*Based on playwright Joanna McClelland Glass' real-life experience as Biddle's secretary.

The Book Club package of \$58.00 includes the performance, a copy of the script, and a study guide. (A ticket to the performance only, without the materials is only \$38.00.)

A section of seats is being held for the B'nai Tikvah Book Club. Call GSP at 732-846-2895 and request seats with Rebecca Biderman on April 8th at 2:00pm. Sponsored by the Book Club



CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH MEN'S CLUB

SERVING THE SYNAGOGUE AND THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1983



Andrew Goldberger

Yom Hashoah

The Men's Club will be distributing the Yom Hashoah Yellow Yahrzeit Candle and accompanying meditation at the Purim Carnival on March 4th. Please pick up your candle and those of friends and neighbors. We will mail the remaining candles, to ensure all congregants receive them prior to Yom Hashoah.

It is customary to light this candle and read the meditation to create a moving ritual to remind us of what happened not so long ago in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. This year, the candle lighting will be on Wednesday evening April 11th.

Placing the candle in the window (safely) is also a way to remind our community. This moment is also an excellent opportunity to begin a discussion of the Holocaust with your children and family.

This is our 26th year of participation in the program. Your generous donations in the past have allowed this program to be self-sustaining. Over the past few years, excess funds have been used to establish a permanent memorial to the Holocaust in the form of the Rescued Torah displayed in our lobby, support for the Anne Frank exhibit, and the Holocaust Remembrance garden located next to the library.

CBT will hold our annual reading of the names of victims of the Shoah on Thursday morning, April 12th, beginning at 10am. The Yom Hashoah service is at 7:30pm.

A First-Person Conversation with Holocaust Survivor Mike Jucowics:

We encourage you to attend a special CBT Men's Club event on Sunday April 8th. Hearing Men's Voices, moderated by East Brunswick Mayor, Brad Cohen.

We hope you and your family will participate in the programs mentioned above. We believe you will find them powerful and meaningful experiences.

We appreciate your support for these annual programs. L'shalom and see you on April 8th and 12th.

Andrew Goldberger
Men's Club President

World Wide Wrap XVIII

The Men's Club thanks all those who attended the World Wide Wrap on Sunday, February 4th.



CALENDAR

March:

- 4th: Purim Carnival (Yom Hashoah Bag Pick-up)
- 11th: Men's Club Meeting @ 10:00am in the Library
- 18th: Yom Hashoah Candle (Boxes Prep)

April:

- 8th: Hearing Men's Voices: 1st-Person Conversation with Holocaust Survivor Mike Jucowics; moderated by Mayor Brad Cohen
- 15th: Men's Club Meeting @ 10:00am in the Library

Visit the B'nai Tikvah Men's Club web and Facebook pages for all events and more details. Download a Men's Club application and join today.

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Linda J. Fellen, Esq.

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All B'nai Tikvah families are welcome along with Religious School parents, grandparents, and Early Childhood Center Families to our



8th Annual Religious School Model Passover Seder
Sunday, March 18th, 10:00am
In the multi-purpose room

Passover is a perfect time to honor loved ones and celebrate family traditions. Please consider making a donation for this special event. A program will be distributed at the Seder noting all donations and tributes.

Please make checks payable to “B'nai Tikvah Religious School.”
Submit the form below by **Sunday, March 11th**, to

Meryl Harris in the Synagogue Office.
732-297-0696 office@bnaitikvah.org

Model Passover Seder
Sunday, March 18th, 10:00am

Name of Oldest Student: _____

Student's Class _____

Number of Guests Attending: Adults: _____

Children: _____

Email: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

We would like to make a donation in honor of/in memory of: _____

DONATION LEVELS

- Matzah Ball Soup Level \$ 18
- Seder Plate Level \$ 36
- Gefilite Fish Level \$ 54
- Hagaddah Level \$ 72
- Elijah's Cup Level \$ 118
- Other \$ _____





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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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Fran & Phil Weinstein, in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Jeff
Schwartz's Bar Mitzvah

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Elisa & Brian Berness, in honor of the birth of Bobbi & Marc
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Susan Miller, in honor of the birth of Bobbi & Marc Binder's
grandson, Matan Levi
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Elisa & Brian Berness, in honor of the birth of Fern & Allan Katronetsky's new granddaughter
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