



THE VOICE OF CONGREGATION B'NAI TIKVAH

THE JCC OF NORTH AND SOUTH BRUNSWICK

April, 2018 *16 Nisan - 15 Iyar* 5778

Volume 39 Issue 8

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.



SUNDAY, APRIL 8th

WEDNESDAY, 11th THURSDAY, 12th FRIDAY, 13th SATURDAY, 14th SUNDAY, 15th WEDNESDAY, 18th

THURSDAY, 19th FRIDAY, 20th

SATURDAY, 21st SUNDAY, 22nd

WEDNESDAY, 25th FRIDAY, 27th SATURDAY, 28th YOM HA'SHOAH EVENT **USY/KADIMA EVENTS LUNCHEON WITH RABBI** YOM HA'SHOAH **LUNCH OUT WITH RABBI** JUNIOR CONGREGATION **MEN'S CLUB LUNCHEON WITH RABBI** YOM HAZIKARON YOM HA'ATZMAUT **LUNCH OUT WITH RABBI ALEF CONSECRATION USY REGIONAL CONFERENCE** JUNIOR CONGREGATION **SISTERHOOD ISRAEL 70 CONCERT LUNCHEON WITH RABBI LUNCH OUT WITH RABBI** JUNIOR CONGREGATION **SUNDAES ON SATURDAY** 

**FIRST ROUND ON RABBI** 

CHECK OUR WEBSITE: **BNAITIKVAH.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

## Celebrate Israel at B'nai Tikvah



We are the very proud host of **The Israel 70 Concert**, sponsored by The Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey, on Sunday April 22nd at 7pm. There is no charge for admission and we expect a very large crowd. The concert will be followed by a dessert reception.

The Falafel Ball, B'nai Tikvah's annual celebration of Yom Haatzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, will be celebrated on Wednesday, April 18th. We will begin with a commemoration of Israel's fallen soldiers in our sanctuary. The evening will continue with dinner of falafel and salad, sharing our memories of Israel, enjoying Israeli music, and The Sons of Tikvah Band. We will gather at 5:30pm in the sanctuary.

#### I Have a Question for You.

"Jews have lived in almost every country under the sun. In four thousand years, only in Israel have they been a free, self-governing people. Only in Israel are they able, if they so choose, to construct an agriculture, a medical system, an economic infrastructure in the spirit of Torah and its concern for freedom, justice and the sanctity of life. Only in Israel can Jews speak the Hebrew of the Bible as the language of everyday speech. Only there can they live Jewish time within a calendar structured according to the rhythms of the Jewish year. Only in Israel can Jews live Judaism in anything other than an edited edition. In Israel, and only there, Jews can walk where the prophets walked, climb the mountains Abraham climbed, lift their eyes to the hills that David saw, and continue the story their ancestors began."

#### Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

We are not all as erudite and able to express ourselves and our opinions as well as Rabbi Sacks. Can you express why Israel is so important to you? How do justify Israel as such an important part of your consciousness? Do you think about Israel daily? Why does Israel matter to you?

Beyond the fact that Israel is our reality and a major aspect of our identity, I would like to ask you this question and offer you a blank space to express your answer. Why does Israel matter to you? At B'nai Tikvah, our leadership is very Israel-centric. While we represent a spectrum of points of view, our support for Israel is resolute, Rabbi Wolkoff speaks with passion and immediacy about our homeland. Rabbi Wolkoff and Allison Nagelberg have annually led a growing delegation from CBT to the non-partisan AIPAC conference in Washington DC to enhance our understanding of the issues that confront us and Israel, become more informed about Israel's accomplishments and to lobby for America's unwavering support for Israel.

We continue to support Israel through JNF, Israel Bonds, and regular travel to Israel. My various trips have informed me and changed my life. This summer, Stacey and I will play a part in a most amazing B'nai Tikvah pilgrimage to Israel. We will explore and celebrate our heritage, share and make new memories and enjoy the time of our lives with our community! There is still a little space on the bus; I hope you will consider joining us.

Back to my question, why does Israel matter to you? I will be sending you an email with this question and ask that you respond to me. I would like to collect your thoughts and your inspiration. Then I will learn from you. If you do not receive my email, please send your answer to cantor@bnaitikvah.org.

Worship the Lord with Gladness! Cantor Bruce Rockman

## **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

www.bnaitikvah.org

### From Our President Adrienne Ross

"I don't speak because I have the power to speak; I speak because I don't have the power to remain silent" - Rabbi A.Y. Kook



There's been a lot of talk recently about rabbis being reluctant, or even afraid, to talk about Israel. Some fear that it will have a negative impact on their congregations. Others fear that it will have a negative impact on their careers. But talking about Judaism without mentioning Israel is like talking about respiration without mentioning lungs. Besides, I'm way too politically impolite to refrain from speaking about something that matters, no matter what.

So I've decided to make a small change in our Shabbat morning services. Before we do our weekly prayer for the State of Israel, I'm going to mention something wonderful and miraculous that Israel has done, so that we can revel in the wonder and miracle that Israel is. (Quick example: an Israeli scientist, Rennan Barkana, just offered the first direct proof of the existence of dark matter in the universe. "Let there be dark," I guess. Who knew?).

But at the same time that I want to accentuate the positive. I do want to address the negative. One impression from the recent (amazing) AIPAC conference, that about 20 of us attended, is that concern about "the occupation" is increasing. Particularly among young people. I think it's important to tackle this issue head on, especially because there is so much distortion (not to mention mendacity) about it

So let me mention just one example: water. One hears quite often that the Palestinians labor under Israeliimposed water restrictions. This is undeniably true. What's also true—and what you don't hear at all—is that because of Israel, the Palestinians have more water, better water, and more readily accessible water, than they ever had or would otherwise have had. It's also true that Israel supplies 80% more water to the Palestinians than it is obligated to do by the Oslo accords (53.3 million cubic meters/year, as opposed to the obligatory 31mcm/y).

And it's also true that the Israelis and the Palestinians (together with the Jordanians) just signed a deal to provide another 32 million cubic meters of water to the Palestinian Authority.

Continued on the following page.

## **Celebrating Israel**



This April we have a VERY important day to celebrate...the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the State of Israel. For some of us, we recall the historic date while for others, we have relied on the famous film clip where the State of Israel is declared by David Ben Gurion.

For those of you who have not had the chance to visit Independence Hall in Tel Aviv, it is a "must" for the "bucket list". Sitting in the hall and hearing the voices and vote from 1948, and then the gavel coming down, will echo forever in my mind.

As your synagogue president, I decided I would join the Congregation B'nai Tikvah delegation to the Annual AIPAC Policy Conference. This year's conference theme was "Choose to Lead." While a very fitting theme for the conference, it is perhaps an equally fitting theme for all that we do within our community and the leadership role OUR homeland plays on the world stage.

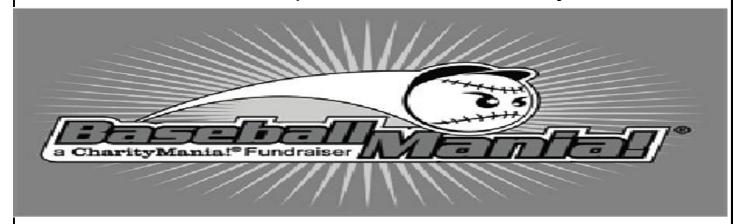
While AIPAC is the Pro-Israel lobby to the government, it also provides an opportunity for us to understand the role Israel plays in "tikun olam" and healing the world.

Did you know, thanks to one of 8 global bone marrow banks in Israel, bone marrow transplant success has gone from 8% to 76% for Jewish recipients? Did you know that Israel has the only guide-dog program in the Middle East to provide "sight" to the "unsighted". The only requirement to receive a guide-dog is need. Did you know that Israid, the Israeli Disaster team, was the first to help with rescues in Nepal...and the last. And, perhaps of greater importance, thanks to Israeli technology, successful rescues have vastly improved due to the ability to locate survivors under rubble.

So...on April 19th, take a moment to "celebrate" the 70 years of Israel. Join us in the community-wide celebration on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at CBT. Celebrate our Jewish Homeland and all that it brings to you personally and to the world overall.

> Adrienne Ross, President

# Baseball Mania Returns! Over \$200 in prizes awarded last year!



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- A new chance to win in each of the 10 weeks!
- Two grand prizes awarded at the end of the season

Contact: Brian Berness - 732-208-7319 - bsberness@verizon.net

#### Continued from page 3.

And it's also true that, by contrast with this wise and hopeful act of cooperation, the Palestinians have refused Israeli help in preventing cement residue from Palestinian factories from polluting water in the West Bank because such efforts would also help Jewish settlements.

You pays your money, and you takes your chance.

It goes without saying (or should, at least) that there is much that is negative about the current situation. Michael Sfard, an Israeli human rights lawyer, points out that Israel, unlike many other occupying powers, is the only democracy involved in an ongoing occupation. Of course, we should be expected to care about the situation that thus arises far more than immoral dictatorial regimes. We do.

When, after all, have you seen an article in a Chinese newspaper lamenting the moral burden of the Chinese occupation of Tibet? How about Russia in Georgia, Morocco in Western Sahara, Indonesia in East Timor, etc. etc. etc. In most cases, these occupations are profoundly questionable, if not clearly illegal. They certainly stand in glaring contrast to Israel's occupation of Judea and Samaria, for which it has both a serious title claim and a moral justification. This underscores the fact that the very expression "the occupation" (as in "We must end the occupation,") is profoundly problematic. *The?* As if it is the one and only? As if it is somehow more significant than all the others? In fact, if "the" occupation is in any way unique, it is unique because of its *morality*, not its immorality.

If you don't think so, ask the Tibetans.

Obviously, things are complicated, and there's not enough space to discuss everything here. But the one takeaway from this article, as we get closer and closer to the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of the State of Israel, is that we need *more* talk about Israel, not less!

Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff



## Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple Choir

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Highland Park Conservative Temple – Anshe Emeth Cantor Mike Weis

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**HAKOL** 

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April 14



Bar Mitzvah Liam Rosen Son of Marc & Rochelle Rosen

April 21



Bat Mitzvah Shayna Jiorle Daughter of Mark Jiorle & Joella Sperber

April 28

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Shelly Wistreich

Lori Sookerman

#### March Mitzvah



Cutting and ribbon making social action project for the North Brunswick Domestic Violence Response Team

#### 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

April specials: All Passover items 20% off Clearance - take additional 50% off

Store Hours: Sunday 9 am – 12 noon

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 Anndyapt@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

## 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."

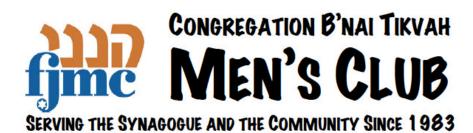
Especially noteworthy for the unusual and much-lauded coverage of dedicated individuals who used every possible, often unconventional, method and saved countless Jewish lives.

Breakfast will be served.

There is no charge to attend, but RSVP to Lynn Biderman R.Lynn.Biderman@gmail.com

Sponsored by Men's Club and Sisterhood

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Andrew Goldberger

#### YOM HASHOAH

You should have received your Yom Hashoah Yellow Yahrzeit Candle and meditation, distributed by the Men's Club.

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 reminds our community. This moment would also be an excellent opportunity to begin a discussion of the Holocaust with your children and family.

This is our 26<sup>th</sup> year of participation in the program. Your generous past donations 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, to support 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.

#### **APRIL CALENDAR**

• 8th: Hearing Men's Voices:

A First-Person Conversation with Holocaust Survivor Mike Jucowics:

We encourage you to attend this special event, moderated by East Brunswick Mayor, Brad Cohen.

- 12th: Reading of Holocaust victim's names
- 15th: Men's Club Meeting @ 10:00am in the Library

The Men's Club thanks all those who helped to build the Yom Hashoah Candle boxes on Sunday, March 11th.

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.

Andrew Goldberger Men's Club President

## 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



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In case of accident or illness, please contact the Bikur Cholim Committee: Bikur@bnaitikvah.org. To reach out to Rabbi Wolkoff, email him at myrabbi@bnaitikvah.org or call the synagogue office.

### Fund Contributions - February 13 thru March 12, 2018

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

Phyllis Pinsky for doing beautiful calligraphy on B'nai Mitzvah and Baby Naming certificates, and Marlene Buckwald for picking up challahs each week for Shabbat Page 15 HAKOL www.bnaitikvah.org April, 2018 16 Nisan—15 Iyar 5778 Volume 39, Issue 8

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Sun		Mon	Tue	Tues		Wed		Thurs		Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 16 Nis	san	2 17 Nisan	3 18	Nisan	4 1	9 Nisan	5	20 Nisan	6	21 Nisan	7 22 Nisan
	N.O.	SCHOOL	Men's Basketball		No Religious School		- A 14		Office & School closed		( VIZKOD )
PASSOVE	NO RII	INTERMED	IATE DAY	SPR SOFPAS			E A K . HAMC	DED )	PASS	OVER VII	( YIZKOR ) PESACH VIII
<b>8</b> 23 N		9 <sub>24 Nisan</sub>	40	5 Nisan		6 Nisan		27 Nisan	13	28 Nisan	14 <sub>29 Nisan</sub>
Religious So Kadima E USY Breaking Yom Ha'shoa	vent g Bread	Executive Committee	Board of E Israeli Star Men's Ba	mp Club	Ra	eon with abbi us School	YOM I	HA'SHOAH		vith Rabbi y Shabbat	Junior Congregation Bar Mitzvah Justin Ockun
15 30 N	Nisan	16 <sub>1 lyar</sub>	<b>17</b> <sub>2</sub>	2 Iyar	18	3 lyar	19	4 lyar	20	5 Iyar	21 6 lyar
Religious So Kadima Reg Event Rutger: Promenad Men's Cl	gional s lers	Sisterhood Board	Men's Ba	sketball	Religio Falat	with Rabbi us School fel Ball ZIKARON		YOM ATZMAUT		t with Rabbi ensecration	Junior Congregation Bar Mitzvah Liam Rosen
Religious S		23 8 Iyar	24	9 lyar	25	10 lyar	26	11 lyar	27	12 Iyar	28 13 Iyar Junior Congregation First Round on Rabbi
Sisterho School Bo Israel 70 Co USY Confe	oard oncert		USY E Men's Ba		Lunch wi	ith Rabbi us School			Bet	vith Rabbi Class & Service	Sundaes on Saturday Bat Mitzvah Shayna Jiorle
<b>29</b> 1	4 lyar	<b>30</b> 15 lyar									
Religious S Rutger Promenad	rs .	SIP Study Group Ritual Committee									



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